



Meeting with His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations and
Caribbean agencies engaged in climate
change and disaster risk management



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Raison D'être

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations met with Caribbean organisations working to co-ordinate climate action at a meeting hosted by and held at the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) in Barbados. The agencies were the CDB, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC); Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH); Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF). The objective of the meeting was to hear from agencies about their work and key priorities. The agencies shared updates on the nature and impact of their work, while indicating critical areas and interventions which can enhance their effectiveness. The Secretary General applauded the region for its contribution and engagement on climate change and affirmed the importance of regional institutions in actively keeping on the front burner, their concerns about the impact of climate change on the Caribbean. The Secretary-General was in Barbados from Wednesday, 1 July, to Friday, 3 July, to address the opening of the 36th Summit of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). During his visit, he opened the Caribbean Sustainable Development High-level Dialogue, which focuses on partnership between the United Nations and CARICOM on the Post-2015 development agenda and climate change.

This report contains the statements delivered at the meeting.

His Excellency,
Mr. Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations



Distinguished Heads of regional agencies,

I am pleased to meet with you at this critical time.

2015 is a historic opportunity – a year for global action to set the world on a sustainable development pathway. We have the chance to finalize a framework of the Financing for Development Conference, the Post-2015 Development Agenda and a meaningful, universal climate change agreement.

Regional organizations are critical to moving this agenda forward – and realizing the development priorities of the Caribbean.

In spite of important progress, the development picture is complex in the Caribbean.

The region has made progress in achieving the MDGs – but a number of challenges including a high debt to GDP ratio, low growth and youth unemployment.

At the same time, the impacts of climate change are not only environmental but social and economic, exacerbating economic challenges that face the region, regardless of the fact that many Caribbean countries are middle income countries.

GDP does not tell the whole story.

Despite these challenges the region is still standing ahead of others. Strong regional institutions are a critical ingredient to this progress.

As we look to the immediate horizon, we see a post-2015 development agenda coming into view. It will be a transformational and people-centred agenda, with the proposed 17 SDGs the likely core of the plan.

The UNFCCC process continues in parallel. The Paris Climate Summit will be an important opportunity to highlight the region's concerns. Regional entities with a much more focused understanding of the issues will have a very important role in this process.

The SAMOA Pathway process highlighted the key roles that the regional entities play in advancing SIDS priorities.

As we go forward, the UN stands ready to support your organizations and to work in concert to advance the goals and aspirations of the Caribbean region.

We rely on you as the bridge builders between local concerns, the regional landscape, and the international arena.

Once again, I thank you for your dedication to the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway, the SDGs and the Post-2015 development agenda, as well as to the challenges of Climate Change in the Caribbean region.

For my part, you can count on me to continue to champion SIDS issues in the international arena, including in my engagements with other leaders from both government and the private sector.

I will be working with the G7 leadership and the COP Presidencies of France and Peru to ensure the prioritisation of SIDS and LDCs on the road to Paris.

Today I want to hear from you the priorities of the region and how the UN system may assist.

Thank you.

Dr. ^{Wm.} Warren Smith
President
Caribbean Development Bank



Mr. Secretary General, thank you for this opportunity to engage in dialogue as we prepare to launch the most comprehensive framework to promote sustainable development for all beyond 2015.

The significance of the post-2015 Development Agenda is not lost on Caribbean people.

The increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards is already our reality.

The predicted impacts of climate change will magnify the already sizeable economic losses in our countries in the short to medium term.

CARICOM countries face serious structural, economic and social challenges that must be addressed as we build resilience to climate change. We have been relying on a regional approach to address common needs, including capacity building and strengthening of institutions to provide direction and coordination. The CARICOM institutions here, today, are the outcomes of this regional approach.

Climate change presents us with many challenges; but also opportunities to put our economies on a more competitive and sustainable growth path. For example, electricity tariffs in our Region are among the highest in the world despite our rich endowment of affordable renewable energy and sustainable energy solutions.

Transforming the energy sector from its current dependency on diesel to increased reliance on renewables is desirable. Our goal is to increase the contribution of renewable energy to power generation from 8% in 2012 to 47% by 2027.

Let me note here that the Caribbean embraces the Sustainable Energy for All objectives, and the initiatives under the Decade for Sustainable Energy for All (2014-2024), which has renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access as its focus.

WHAT IS CDB DOING?

Building resilience to natural hazards and climate change is central to CDB's mandate to reduce poverty in this Region.

Our primary responsibilities include:

- Mobilising and improving the flow of concessional resources;
- Building technical and institutional capacity to develop and implement national and regional climate action agendas; and
- Building effective partnerships with the development community to support implementation of climate action work programmes.

Dr. Ulric Trotz
Deputy Executive Director and Science Advisor
The Caribbean Community
Climate Change Centre



CARICOM countries have considerable concerns about the severe threats posed by a changing climate to their development efforts and have come to the conclusion that both adaptation and mitigation options will require a significant and sustained investment of resources that Member States will be unable to provide on their own. These concerns are reflected in the Liliendaal Declaration which the CARICOM Heads have endorsed in July 2009. The Declaration defines the national and international position of CARICOM member States and makes a number of declarations which can only be achieved by transformational change. Inter alia the declaration calls for a global agreement that limits global GHG emissions at levels which will ensure that global average surface temperature increases will be limited to below 1.5° C of preindustrial levels, that Adaptation and capacity building be prioritized and a well financed framework established within and outside the UNFCCC to address the immediate and urgent, as well as long term adaptation needs of Small island and Low Lying coastal Developing States and the Least Developed countries. The Declaration emphasised that dangerous climate change is already occurring in all SID regions including the Caribbean requiring urgent ambitious and decisive action by CARICOM States and by the international community.

CARICOM Heads agreed to the establishment of a regional climate change centre tasked with the responsibility for giving leadership to and coordinating the region's efforts to build resilience to climate change risks. Since it became functional in 2005 the centre has been executing a wide range of climate change activities aimed at building the capacity of the region to incorporate climate risks into national development planning, to quantify those risks and articulate response measures to mitigate their impacts on the development agendas of the respective countries. The Centre has also coordinated a regional consultative process to develop a Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change and its accompanying Implementation Plan. Both the Regional Framework and the Implementation Plan were endorsed by CARICOM Heads of Government.

The Regional Framework provides a roadmap to action by member states and regional organisations and builds on the ground work laid by the Centre and its precursor programmes and projects in climate change adaptation. It also builds on the extensive work undertaken by governments, regional organizations, NGOs and academic institutions in recent years assessing the impacts of a changing climate.

Building climate resilient low carbon economies in the Caribbean will require a transformational change by national governments, regional organisations, NGOs, the private sector and civil society supported by an unprecedented level of financial and technical assistance from the developed world. The Implementation Plan acknowledges that a transformational change in mindset, institutional arrangements, operating systems, collaborative approaches and integrated planning mechanisms are essential to deliver the strategic elements and goals of the Regional Framework. The Implementation Plan:

- Seeks to guide the identification and priorities of actions by regional and national stakeholders under each strategic element and goal area of the Regional Framework through the use of risk management approaches to decision making;
- Considers responsibilities and functional co-operation between regional organisations and national governments;
- Recognises that there are existing significant resources and capacity challenges that hold back the region's sustainable development and growth and proposes building on a process known as the 'three-ones' to assist in resource mobilisation and co-ordination of actions; and
- Proposes a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework

In conclusion the region has a well-defined roadmap for pursuing a development pathway which is resilient to climate change. To be successful in meeting this challenge it needs significant financial and technical support and to this end it will explore the development of strategic partnerships with the international donor community inclusive of the relevant UN organisation

Mr. Isaac Anthony
CEO, CCRIF SPC
Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility



CCRIF SPC — provides hurricane, earthquake and excess rainfall insurance for 16 Caribbean governments and starting this month we will be providing coverage for Nicaragua with other Central American countries to follow. The facility has repeatedly demonstrated the value of providing this quick financial assistance to countries affected by a natural disaster. To date, CCRIF has made 12 payouts for hurricanes, earthquakes and excess rainfall totaling approximately US\$35.6 million to 8 member governments. All payouts were transferred to the respective governments within 14 days.

Globally CCRIF continues to gain recognition as a reproducible model – especially as it relates to the paradigm shift in the way governments treat hazard risk. At the recently held G-7 meetings, actions to support efforts by vulnerable developing countries to manage climate change-related disaster risk through insurance were announced, and this initiative is expected to build upon existing risk insurance facilities such as CCRIF.

In March, World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim announced plans of the World Bank to develop a pandemic emergency facility that would be fashioned after CCRIF and trigger payouts as a result of biological threats through epidemics or pandemics. CCRIF is currently a member of this committee. Also, at the end of the third annual UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction held in March this year, a whitepaper on Developing Regional Insurance for Climate Change Adaptation in the Pacific called for the development of a scheme like CCRIF for the Pacific region. Indeed, the UN-organised Expert Meeting on Climate Resilience, held in Geneva only last week, went further to conclude that the potential exists for the South Pacific Island to obtain climate insurance more cost-effectively through becoming members of CCRIF, given its segregated portfolio company structure, and that this could be achieved in a relatively short timeframe.

On Climate Change

CCRIF recognizes the impact that a changing climate will potentially have on our members and has been involved in climate change research and outreach for several years. In 2010, CCRIF, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, conducted a study on the potential economic impacts of climate change in 8 Caribbean countries – the ECA Study,

This study showed that annual expected losses from wind, storm surge and inland flooding already amounts to up to 6% of GDP in some countries and that climate change has the potential to greatly exacerbate these risks, and could increase expected loss by 1 - 3% of GDP by 2030. Climate change thus poses one of the most serious threats to development prospects in the Caribbean.

Depending on each country's characteristics, the ECA Study showed that risk mitigation initiatives can cost-effectively avert up to 90% of the expected loss by 2030 under a high climate change scenario. Risk transfer or insurance measures such as CCRIF will play a key role in addressing the financial consequences of low-frequency, high-severity weather events such as once-in-100-year catastrophes.

Scaling up Coverage of members... A Critical Priority...

Currently, we recognize that “adequate” coverage levels might be in the range of 20 to 25% of the overall government exposure to earthquake, hurricane and excess rainfall risk and that this is the level at which CCRIF coverage would play its most effective role within an overall sovereign risk management framework. Most of our members are well below “adequate”, and a substantial increase in coverage levels (and therefore required premium) is justified in many cases.

Climate change and the increase in number and severity of storm events calls for upscaling of coverage by member countries and for coverage by non-member countries which are vulnerable to these hazards.

Potential areas for support include:

- Support from donors for further capitalization of CCRIF for current or future products or direct country support for purchase of premium
- Support for governments in identifying and delineating public and private responsibilities for DRM
- With respect to the ECA Study, CCRIF requires technical support for the implementation of Phase 2 – validation of initial results in the 8 pilot countries and identification of potential areas for more detailed work; as well as technical support for the
- Implementation of Phase 3 – application of the methodology throughout the Caribbean region or at least for interested countries.

Mr. Ronald Jackson
Executive Director
The Caribbean Disaster
Emergency Management Agency



The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) has developed and promotes the practice of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) as an innovative concept for reducing the risk and loss associated with natural and technological hazards. CDM focuses on all phases of a hazard, involves all sectors of the society, and concentrates on all types of hazards.

The mechanism for implementation of CDM is the CDM Strategy which now in its third iteration, having been initially developed in 2001. The current 2014 - 2024 CDM Strategy was developed through a process of extensive stakeholder consultation, and is the vehicle for advancing the Sendai Framework.

The priorities of the CDM Strategy are institutional strengthening; knowledge management; mainstreaming of CDM in key economic sectors; and building disaster resilience at the community level. These outcomes guide the mobilisation of resources by the CDEMA Coordinating Unit (CU) on behalf of the Participating States; as well as the development of multiyear CDM Country Work Programmes.

Specific areas for technical and financial resources mobilization under the current Corporate Plan covering the period 2014-2017 are:

- Strengthening evidence based decision making through the undertaking of risk assessments to inform risk profiles;
- Support to implementation of CDM programming for key social and economic sectors;
- Enhancing regional operational readiness and responsiveness;

- Promoting national, sectoral & local level knowledge & awareness of resilience issues;
- Strengthening human resource capacity in National Disaster Offices for delivery of CDM; and
- Expansion of the application of Information and Communication Technologies to Disaster Management.

Building more resilient Caribbean states is the unifying theme for the 2014 to 2024 implementation period. The focus for achieving this is a more strategically aligned and integrated risk management approach, where disaster risk management and climate change considerations are integrated into the planning processes for priority economic sectors, allowing for the application of more appropriate development interventions. The Development Community in the Region has bought into the CDM Approach and have sought to align their disaster management programming for the region accordingly.

A major challenge in this regard going forward is been the graduation of a number of CARICOM small island developing states from being able to access concessional financing from the International Financial Institutions while facing a number of constraints over which they have limited or no control.

The space therefore exists for the facilitation of direct access to UN technical and financial assistance by CARICOM Regional Institutions which play a key role in addressing gaps associated with the lack of a “critical mass” at the national level through pooling of technical personnel.

There is also opportunity to strengthen the extent and nature of collaboration between CARICOM Regional Institutions and the specialised agencies of the UN in order to facilitate greater efficiency in addressing regional developmental priorities.

Finally, CDEMA would wish to encourage a continued explicit recognition of and emphasis on the unique conditions of SIDS in international processes, particularly with respect to the threats posed by climate change and disaster risks. A key fora for this to be addressed are the Summit on Sustainable Development which will be convened at the United Nations in September 2015, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference (COP21), Paris, France, December 2015.

Dr. David Farrell
Principal
Caribbean Institute for Meteorology
& Hydrology



CIMH Relationship with the UN System

- CIMH, formerly CMI, established in 1967 through a partnership between regional governments [now Caribbean Meteorological Organization Member States (CMO)], the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

Goal:

- To build regional and national capacity in meteorological and climatology and related sciences through training and research programmes to support the development of national and regional activities in:
 - i. aeronautical meteorology
 - ii. agro-meteorology
 - iii. climatology (including climate data management)
 - iv. hydrology
 - v. meteorological and climatological observations;
- Original programme has been expanded through annual subventions from Member States, continued investment from UN Agencies and, in recent years, grants from donor countries.
- CIMH views UN Agencies as key partners in the implementation of its programmes and achievement of its aspirations.

Core UN Partnership Areas

- Capacity Building (WMO);
- Service delivery related to meteorology, climate and hydrology (WMO, UNDP, FAO, WHO);

- Resource mobilization (WMO, UNDP, FAO);
- Technology, knowledge and data transfer (WMO, UNDP, FAO);
- Facilitation of global and regional partnerships (WMO, UNDP, FAO)

CIMH/CMMO Relationship with WMO

- CIMH continues to implement many WMO training and research programmes in the Caribbean including pioneering work in the development of online continuing professional development training in operational meteorology and hydrology. This has increased the competence of persons providing operational meteorological and hydrological services in the region at a reduced cost.
- WMO continues to provide funding to CMO Member States and CIMH to support regional training initiatives.
 - In recent years the level of funding for training within the region has been challenged by cost considerations and the region's graduation. This threatens regional programmes in civil aviation, disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and water resources management.
- CIMH staff participate in the WMO Executive Committee as well as many WMO panels, WMO Commissions and Executive bodies.
- The region continues to benefit from WMO programmes supporting climate data management and it continues to make daily contributions to WMO global weather and climate databases.
- CIMH continues to work with WMO and other UN Agencies to build South-South Partnerships. Cooperation through such partnerships formed the basis for the 17th WMO Congress to adopt its first resolution requesting the WMO Secretary General to provide support targeted to SIDS.
- CIMH has partnered with WMO to develop strong climate service delivery programmes in the region including the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) and the Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum which brings together producers of climate information and consumers of such information.

GFCS in the Caribbean: Achievements

- GFCS implementation in the Caribbean commenced in May 2013 with support from the WMO GFCS Office;
- Operational climate services delivered under the GFCS and related programmes have begun to improve planning and decision-making in climate sensitive socio-economic sectors in the Caribbean;
- Delivery of operational climate services in IBCS agreed 5 thematic areas has commenced

- i. agriculture and food security
- ii. disaster risk reduction
- iii. health
- iv. water resources management
- v. energy

*A 6th thematic area, "tourism", has been identified by the Caribbean region;

- Six regional organizations are in the process of establishing the Early Warning Information System Across Climate Time Scales (EWISACTS) Consortium that will support the propagation of early warning climate information into the 6 climate sensitive socio-economic sectors mentioned above;
- Funding from several sources received to advance GFCS implementation in the Caribbean until to 2017;
- A WMO Regional Climate Centre (RCC in Demonstration Phase) for the Caribbean has been established at CIMH. The RCC is tasked to develop targeted user-driven operational climate products and services for climate sensitive sectors with the support of the new co-located Caribbean Centre for Climate and Environmental Simulation (CCCES);
- GFCS recognized by CARICOM as an important programme that integrates with, and strengthens, existing regional climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes;
- The South Pacific has requested supported from the Caribbean in the implementation of its GFCS programme.

Partnership with the UNDP and CDEMA

- CIMH maintains an active partnership with the UNDP through which products and services are delivered to CARICOM Partner Institutions and Member States and through which CIMH receives resources to advance its programmes:
- Early Warning Decision Support Systems:
 - The Caribbean Dewetra Platform that support fusion of hazard information (weather, climate and hydrological) with vulnerability and socio-economic data to estimate exposure, potential impacts and risk prior to events (funded by the Government of Italy which also facilitated technology transfer);
 - Implementation of Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) systems in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and Saint Lucia;

- o Provision of technical support for the activities of the Eastern Caribbean Partner Donor Group - Disaster Management (ECPDG-DM) co-chaired by the UNDP and CDEMA prior to events and during the post event phase;
- CIMH, in partnership with UNDP and other regional partners, has established a sustainable South-South Partnership with South Pacific SIDS that has facilitated technical exchange (including training) and the transfer of know-how

Partnership with the FAO and CARDI

- CIMH maintains an active partnership with the FAO and regional partner the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) through which products and services are delivered to CARICOM Partner Institutions and Member States
 - o Support for capacity development in agriculture and food security through workshops and technical assistance programmes that advance the integration of climate information into the management of agricultural and food security systems;
 - o Support for climate monitoring systems that provide critical weather and climate information to the agricultural and food security communities;
 - o Development of policy frameworks to guide the integration and use of climate and agro-meteorological information by the agricultural sector. Policies related to the development and use of drought products have been particularly successful and are transforming farm management during periods of drought.

Emerging Partnership with WHO/PAHO/CARPHA in Health

- CIMH is in the process of developing a working relationship with WHO/PAHO through the joint WMO/WHO Office which supports the delivery of climate services to the health sector. In November 2015, CIMH will work with WHO/PAHO to initiate a pilot activity in Dominica aimed at delivering climate services to the health sector.
- CIMH will work with WHO/PAHO and regional partners (including CARPHA) to explore the establishment of a Sand and Dust Storm Early Warning Centre for Pan-America at CIMH which, among other things, will support studies aimed at understanding the impact of atmospheric

Integrated Regional Platforms for Sustainable Development

- Achieving sustainable development in a globally competitive environment subject to the vagaries of climate change, increasing climate variability and extreme weather events requires mapping of complex inter-related systems and fast and effective

decision making processes that integrate a diverse amount of data drawn from different sectors and agencies. SIDS, Least Developed Countries and Developing Countries will have to address this challenge.

- Regional Institutions have recognized this challenge and have started to realize significant benefit in the areas of disaster risk reduction, adaptation to long term climate change and adaptation and mitigation of the impacts of increasing climate variability and extreme weather through data integration platforms and portals including the Caribbean Dewetra Platform and the Caribbean Impacts Database;
- However, much historical data at national levels has not been converted into electronic formats due to resource constraints (human and technological) and limited know-how;
- Increasing support for data capture will be required if such countries are to maximize benefits in the near future in the emerging information age. In addition, new or updated policies governing the sharing and exchange of data, products and services will be required.
- UN Agencies in partnership with national and regional agencies will have to work collaboratively to address the problems of data availability and accessibility along with the capacity development required to integrate and analyze data if SIDS, Least Developing Countries and Developing Countries in the region are to maximize the benefits of Big Data and analytics in their planning and decision making processes as they try to build resilience and achieve national and regional sustainable development targets.



Dr. Warren Smith greets H. E. Ban Ki-Moon



H. E. Ban Ki-Moon greets Dr. David Farrell, Mr. Ronald Jackson and Dr. Ulric Trotz

Photographs are available at:

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