**Planetary Security in the Caribbean Region: A Roadmap to Climate Resilience**

**Plan of Action (Draft)**

***Preamble:***

The Regional Planetary Security Conference in the Caribbean was convened in Aruba on December 13, 2018 to share knowledge and experiences within Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) on Climate and Security, explore possible solutions and develop a Plan of Action for building resilience in Caribbean SIDS to the human security challenges faced as a result of a changing climate.

Climate Change poses an existential threat to SIDS and by extension to human security within these states. The expanded concept of human security which encompasses traditional security as well as economic development, social protection and environmental security demands global action to bolster resilience, for instance as part of the 2019 United Nations Secretary General’s Summit on Climate Change. The cost of inaction will likely be much more than the cost of undertaking critical actions to advance resilience in Caribbean States. The participants of this meeting also recognized that the increase in extreme weather events may exacerbate underlying security issues, lead to a deteriorating situation in the region related to maintenance of law and order and potentially contribute to instability and other negative geopolitical consequences. They call for the United Nations Security Council to pay more attention to such climate related security risks.

Caribbean SIDS continue to suffer extensively from the destructive impacts of natural hazards, many of which are exacerbated in intensity by climate change including hurricanes, severe weather events, drought and sea level rise. Recent disasters in the Caribbean have resulted in the emerging challenges of human displacement and migration as was evidenced post the devastating impact of Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017. This event also brought to the fore that disasters may lead to breaches in law and order and increase the need for humanitarian and security assistance from within and external to the region.

The body of evidence of a changing climate in the Caribbean is growing. Rising temperature is anticipated to increase the long-term risks of coastal flooding and impacts on populations, infrastructure and assets. Tropical regions, including SIDS, are expected to experience the largest increases in coastal flooding frequency, with the frequency of extreme water-level events projected to double by 2050. Climate-related risks to health, livelihoods, food security, water supply, human security, and economic growth are projected to increase with global warming. Within the Caribbean, specific areas of concern with respect to climate and security include: citizen security, food and water security, financial considerations and economic resilience, community, infrastructure and ecosystem resilience and clean energy. Actions in these thematic areas must be supported by building the appropriate enabling environment and governance frameworks, capacity strengthening, social protection measures, evidence-based decision making, education, information, public awareness and political support.

A strengthening of the integrated approach to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation is therefore required to build resilience in Caribbean SIDS. The latter demands collective action towards the resilience pillars such as those adopted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), namely, Social Protection for the Marginal and Most Vulnerable, Safeguarding infrastructure, Enhancing Economic Opportunity, Environmental Protection and Operational Readiness.

Climate actions undertaken by Caribbean SIDS are within the context of the 2030 agenda, the Samoa Pathway 2014, the UN Secretary General’s Summit on Climate Change, the Caribbean Strategy on Comprehensive Disaster Management 2014-2024 and in support of the Planetary Security Initiative launched by the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 2015. Within this context, Caribbean SIDS set out a Plan of Action for building resilience in Caribbean SIDS to the human security challenges faced as a result of Climate Change.

Agreement was reached to advance Coordination among Caribbean SIDS in the following areas:

1. ***Strengthen Capacity and Knowledge on Climate and Security in the context of Caribbean SIDS***: Whilst it is accepted that Climate Change will have implications for Security, there is a need to build the body of knowledge on the relationship between a Climate Change and Security within the context of Caribbean SIDS to support evidence-based decision making as well as a community of identified thematic experts that can be engaged.
2. ***Strengthen regional coordination in support of humanitarian crises***: Climate change is anticipated to result in the intensification of extreme weather events including excess rainfall in severe weather events, rainfall deficits and greater intensity in tropical cyclones. This creates a higher need for disaster response capacity and better civil-military cooperation.
3. ***Advance Food Security within the Context of a Changing Climate***: Climate change is recognized as a major threat to food security at the global level and within Caribbean SIDS. Since the Caribbean imports most of its food, there is increased vulnerability to shocks to the supply chain.
4. ***Advance Water Security within the Context of a Changing Climate***: Climate change is anticipated to modify precipitation patterns in Caribbean SIDS resulting in longer dry seasons. In contrast, extreme flooding is also anticipated as a result of severe weather events. The latter have severely interrupted water sector infrastructure, distribution lines and by extension water supply in present day extreme events. This, along with sea level rise and resulting salt water intrusion to ground water aquifers pose a severe threat to water supply. Prolonged drought and resulting implications for water quantities available have already resulted in civil unrest in some Caribbean SIDS. Investment in water security is therefore a priority. In addition, climate change threatens the ocean and its coastal and marine ecosystems through sea-level rise, acidification, and changes in weather patterns and water temperatures. These changes will affect coastal development, ocean shipping, coastal recreation and marine activities such as oil platforms and aquaculture.
5. ***Advance the Renewable Energy transition of Caribbean SIDS within the Context of a Changing Climate***: Renewable energy is one of the most effective tools in the fight against climate change. Since almost all Caribbean SIDS import most of their energy by way of fossil fuels, there is increased vulnerability to shocks to the supply chain.
6. ***Advocate for stronger political support for the Regional Climate and Security Agenda:*** The collective voice of Caribbean SIDS can be a powerful agent of global influence and change***.***

***Plan of Action on Regional Climate Security***

| **Priority Area** | **Actions** | **Lead**  **Agency** | **Supporting Agencies** | **Possible Source of Funds** |
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| ***1. Strengthening Capacity and Knowledge on Climate Security in the context of Caribbean SIDS*** | 1.1 Promote research on Climate Security in Caribbean SIDS within Caribbean research institutions |  |  |  |
| 1.2 Establish a space within the Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management to share experiences on Climate and Security issues in the Caribbean and monitor progress in the implementation of the Planetary Security Initiative in the Caribbean |  |  |  |
| 1.3 Expand the integration of Climate and Security into teaching at post-secondary institutions within Caribbean SIDS |  |  |  |
| ***2. Strengthen regional coordination in support of humanitarian crises*** | 2.1 Expand the geographical scope of existing regional coordination and cooperation arrangements for humanitarian action |  |  |  |
| 2.2 Establish arrangements for civil-military coordination and collaboration between friendly nations of the Caribbean in support of humanitarian actions |  |  |  |
| 2.3 Identify and advance opportunities to build capacity within Civil and Military entities within Caribbean SIDS on Civil-Military Coordination in humanitarian crises. |  |  |  |
| 2.4 Develop regional cooperation guidelines to address mass displacement and mass migration resulting from climate change and associated instability |  |  |  |
| ***3. Advance Food Security within the Context of a Changing Climate*** | 3.1 Develop and implement Agricultural DRM Policies and Plans  3.2 Adopt an agro-ecological approach to build sustainable value chains to mitigate the impacts of climate change  3.3 Utilize existing and south-south cooperation arrangements to strengthen capacity in Caribbean SIDS for implementing programmes to mitigate and adapt to changes in the climate |  |  |  |
| ***4. Strengthen Water Security in the Context of a Changing Climate*** | 4.1 Establish a regional cooperative mechanism to safeguard water security and protect the ocean around - Caribbean SIDS |  |  |  |
| 4.2 Promote information exchange and best practices |  |  |  |
| ***5. Advance the Renewable Energy transition of Caribbean SIDS within the Context of a Changing Climate.*** | 5.1 Establish agreed codes and protocols to govern the design and development of resilient micro-grids which are reachable by vulnerable communities |  |  |  |
|  | 5.2 Develop and implement energy storage strategies that will support off grid applications in the event of extreme weather systems |  |  |  |
|  | 5.3 Specify technology endurance matrices and develop zoning maps for Caribbean SIDS based on data analysis to inform renewable energy manufacturers, installers and project developers |  |  |  |
| ***6. Advocate for stronger political support for the Regional Climate Security Agenda*** | * 1. Lobby the UN Secretary-General to appoint a Special Adviser on climate change and security. |  |  |  |
| * 1. Adopt a Caribbean SIDS Regional Resilience Framework giving consideration to the CDEMA Resilience Pathway adopted by CARICOM Heads of Government |  |  |  |