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Adaptation Guide for the Model Comprehensive Disaster Management Legislation

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Introduction

This Adaptation Guide is submitted as part of the Consultancy to review and refine the Model CDM Legislation (2010) and the draft of the implementing Regulations to the Model CDM Legislation (2010). This Adaptation Guide is submitted also against the background of the efforts of three CDEMA Participating States¹ to implement the Model CDM Legislation (2010) and the draft of the implementing Regulations. The underlying objective respecting the preparation of this Adaptation Guide is to provide guidance to a Participating State to modify the Model CDM Legislation and Regulation 2013, if that Participating State desires to establish a department of the Government, rather than a statutory authority, for the purpose of disaster management².

The countries of the Caribbean, including the CDEMA Participating States³, are exposed to a gamut of natural and anthropogenic hazards. Consequently, the Caribbean is one of the most disaster prone regions in the world⁴. It is generally accepted that the economic, social and environmental advances achieved by these Participating States in the post-independence period of development are threatened by the far reaching consequences of hazard impacts.

The Participating States, mindful of their vulnerability to the impact of disasters, have embraced a Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) approach in respect of disasters. The CDM approach in respect of disasters is characterised by, among other things, risk reduction, resilience building at all levels and the development of the maintenance of sound response and recovery mechanisms.

A critical component of the CDM approach in respect of disasters is the adoption of the Enhanced Comprehensive Disaster Management Strategy and Programming Framework 2007-2012. This enhanced Strategy is intended to emphasise, among other things, disaster loss reduction through disaster risk management.

It is anticipated that the approach of fully integrating Comprehensive Disaster Management into sustainable development planning, along with the diversity of actions and responsibilities required, will increasingly be incorporated into the development policies, plans and projects of every CDEMA Participating State.

The CDEMA has, among other things, piloted the drafting of two model legislative frameworks in respect of disaster management, namely the CDEMA Model Disaster Legislation (1996) and the Model CDM Legislation and Regulations (2010).

The CDEMA Coordinating Unit engaged the Consultant to review and refine the Model CDM Legislation and Regulations (2010), and the accompanying Adaptation Guide to address some lingering gaps related to, among other things, issues of climate change and gender, volunteerism and information technology.

¹ The Commonwealth of Dominica, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Virgin Islands.

² The Adaptation Guide is only a guidance document for any country generally attempting to adapt the Model Legislation or the Regulations. The contents of any country specific legislation will be informed the unique characteristics and peculiarities of that country.

³ Anguilla, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Haiti, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands.

⁴ The British Overseas Territories in the Caribbean which are CDEMA Participating States are not independent counties.

1.0 A Brief Introduction to Legislation

This section presents some basic information on common legislative terms, specifically:

(I) Bill, (ii) Act and (iii) Subordinate Legislation.

A **Bill** is a proposed Act of Parliament that has been introduced into the Parliament⁶. Until a Bill is introduced into Parliament, it is a confidential document. However, in some cases the Minister or member proposing the Bill may release it to the public for consultation before presenting it to Parliament. A Bill becomes a new Act of Parliament (or amends an existing Act) when assented to by the Governor-General⁷ after having passed through both Houses⁸. Many Acts come into force on a later date than the date of assent (for example, after detailed regulations required to support their operation are prepared).

The principal stages in the consideration of Bills by each House are as follows:

- (a) first reading: the introduction of a Bill;
- (b) second reading: consideration of the general principles and purposes of a Bill;
- (c) committee stage: when a Bill may be considered in detail and may be amended;
- (d) third reading: final consideration of the Bill.

An **Act of Parliament** or Act is a Bill that has been enacted by Parliament and assented to by the Governor-General⁹ [President or Governor]. An Act is

a public document and is not confidential. An Act is essentially a sequence of provisions containing statements and rules designed to give effect to a particular policy. What is achieved by the Act depends on the interpretation of the provisions. An Act generally deals with all matters of importance for the implementation of a particular policy. Matters of detail and matters likely to experience frequent change are generally contained in subordinate legislation.

Subordinate legislation, also known as delegated legislation, is law made by the executive branch of government with the authorization of Parliament. Subordinate legislation includes **regulations**, **rules**, **by-laws**, **certain policies**, **proclamations and notices**. These laws are made under an Act of Parliament. The power to make law is delegated by an Act of Parliament to the Governor-General⁹ [President or Governor] or another authority. Hence, the use of the descriptions "subordinate legislation" and "delegated legislation".

The Act of any CDEMA Participating State **must be read together** with its subordinate legislation for a full picture of the written law of the Participating State on a particular topic. In the case of the CDM Model Legislation 2013, the National Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy will be a certain type of subordinate legislation. It bears noting that a policy of the Government may be implemented in many ways that may or may not require legislation. For example, a policy may be implemented by

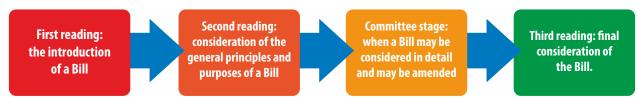


FIGURE 1: THE STAGES IN THE PROCESS OF ENACTING LEGISLATION

⁶In the case of the British Overseas Territories, the Legislature is called the House of Assembly.

⁷The President in the case of Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago; while in the case of the British Overseas Territories it is the Governor.

⁸Most of Independent CARICOM countries have a bicameral system that is two houses of Parliament, the House of Representative comprising of elected members and a senate comprising of nominated members. Dominica and the British Overseas Territories have a single House of Assembly comprising of both elected and nominated members.

⁹See for example f. n. 7.



agreements or industry codes of practice or by administrative action of a government agency. It is generally accepted that legislation will be required or chosen for the implementation of a policy if—

- existing rights and obligations are to be modified;
- 2. the policy is to have long term operation; or
- 3. the policy is of a very high level of importance.

Most Acts of Parliament (enactments) are "committed" to a Minister. This means that a particular Minister is given responsibility for the administration of the Act (enactment). The Minister to whom the administration of an enactment is committed will also be responsible for all subordinate legislation made under the enactment.

2.0 The Legislative Process

This section explains the process by a piece of legislation is developed and enacted.

The process is driven by the Ministry sponsoring the Bill. First, the Cabinet of Ministers must approve the policy for which legislation is needed and issue directions to the Office of the Attorney General to draft the proposed legislation. In countries where the process is formalised, the Cabinet of Ministers may set a legislative agenda.

Secondly, the sponsoring Ministry must designate a senior member of its staff to provide more detailed instructions to the legislative drafter. This officer becomes the **Instructing Officer**. In the case of adapting the Model CDM Legislation and Regulations¹⁰ the legislative drafter may meet with the Instructing Officer to agree on the basic and logical steps that the country will consider taking to complete the adaptation process. These steps may include the preparation of a Cabinet Paper and the scheduling of meetings and public consultations, if needed. Such steps would enable the country to progress from the Model Bill to a country specific "Parliament Ready" Bill.

3.0 Overall objectives of the Bill

The Comprehensive Disaster Management Bill when enacted into law in a Participating State will do the following—

- reform the law respecting disaster management to better reflect the goals and principles of Comprehensive Disaster Management and the international agreed best practices respecting disaster risk management;
- (ii) provide a comprehensive mechanism for disaster risk management in the Participating State:
- (iii) provide for the rights and obligations of the Participating State under the Agreement Establishing the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency;
- (iv) where applicable, repeal the current legal framework related to disaster management in the Participating State; and
- (v) provide for other matters related to disaster risk management in the Participating State.

4.0 Overview of the Model Bill

The Model Bill comprises eighty-three clauses and three Schedules. The eighty-three clauses of the Model Bill (the Bill) are organised into eleven Parts, namely Part I to Part XI.

Part I of the Bill comprises clauses 1 to 5 which constitute the Preliminary Provisions. Clause 1 provides for the short title and commencement of the legislation. Clause 2 provides for the definition of certain terms used in the legislation. Clause 4 is the application section which expressly provides that the provisions of the Bill when enacted into law shall prevail in case of inconsistency between those provisions and the provisions of another enactment. Clause 5 incorporates the Agreement establishing the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency into the domestic laws of the relevant Participating State.

¹⁰ Every CARICOM Member State has in draft form a drafting manual setting out in detail the step to be followed. However, these steps may be modified depending on the circumstances.

of a National

Comprehensive Disaster

Management Plan and

other plans, which

address preparing for

and responding to the

threat of emergencies

and disasters, recovery

in the aftermath of

such events and

mitigating risk, is

provided for in Clause

24 of the Model Bill.

Part II of the Bill which comprises clauses 6 and 7 relates to the establishment and the role of a policymaking and advisory body called the Inter-Ministerial Committee. The Committee is empowered to advise and make recommendations to the Cabinet (i) on the development of a National Comprehensive Disaster Policy Management aimed at ensuring Comprehensive Disaster Management in the relevant

Participating State and (ii) on issues relating to disaster risk management including climate change and gender issues.

Clause 7 directs the Inter-Ministerial Committee to provide a coherent, transparent and inclusive policy on Comprehensive Disaster Management appropriate for the relevant Participating State. The Inter-Ministerial Committee is given guidelines regarding the scope and the contents of National Comprehensive Disaster Management Policy.

Part III of the Bill comprises clauses 8 to 16 and makes provision for the

establishment of the National Disaster Management Technical and Advisory Council (the Council). The Council provides a mechanism for the key stakeholders in disaster risk management to consult with each other and to coordinate their actions on matters relating to disaster management.

Part VI of the Bill contains clauses 17 to 43 and addresses the establishment, functions and other matters relating to the management and administration of the Disaster Management Agency (the Agency).

The Agency is empowered, among other things—

- to act as the national coordinating and monitoring body for disaster management;
- to encourage and support the development of community based sustainable development programmes and interventions aimed at

reducing the risk and impact of hazards and disasters and harness community resources for disaster preparedness, response and recovery;

- to encourage and support the establishment of resilience critical infrastructures:
- to plan and coordinate specialized training programmes for volunteers and persons involved in disaster The development

management; and

provide business continuity planning advice and assistance to the private sector.

Clause 23 provides for directions to be given to the Director in relation to the policy to be followed in the exercise of functions and duties imposed on the Director. Clause 24 provides for the preparation of the National Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan and other plans which shall comprise a statement of the contingency arrangements for responding to the threat or

aftermath of an emergency or disaster in the relevant Participating State. Clause 25 empowers the Director to establish a communications link under which the Director is required to develop and maintain a directory of the public and private entities which are involved in disaster risk management.

Clause 28 provides for the functions and operations of a National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) and, where necessary, supplementary emergency operations centres. The National Emergency Operations Centre ensures the centralized coordination and control of emergency or disaster response and operations and thereby reduces confusion and duplication of efforts amongst lead agencies in disaster management.

Clauses 29 and 30 provide for emergency shelters. Clause 31 deals with volunteers. Persons who wish to volunteer for purposes of assisting in emergency



or disaster situations are required to submit their names to the Director for registration. Clauses 32 and 33 provide for the functions and conduct of hazard inspectors including inspection of premises for purposes of registering the premises on the list of shelters.

Clauses 34 and 35 deal with **evacuation**. Clause 34 provides for the issuing of notices of evacuation which must indicate the nature of the disaster and the area of the relevant Participating State to be evacuated. Clause 36 makes provision for employees who assist in emergency situations. The employees are given a statutory right to payment by their employers for the period for which they have worked during the emergency situation, but that period must not exceed two weeks.

Part V of the Bill contains clauses 44 to 47 and provides for the establishment, functions and powers of **District Disaster Management Committees or other local equivalent**. The functions of the District Disaster Management Committees include (i) making recommendations with respect to preparation of the National Comprehensive Disaster Management Plan and (ii) providing technical guidance with respect to formulation of policy guidelines related to coordination of disaster risk management.

Part VI of the Bill comprises clauses 48 to 51 and deals with **specially vulnerable areas** and the safeguard mechanisms to be followed regarding the designation of such areas. Clause 48 empowers the Cabinet to designate, on the recommendation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee, an area as specially vulnerable to disasters. Clause 49 authorizes the Director to prepare, for approval of the Cabinet, special area precautionary plans for the mitigation and prevention of disasters in specially vulnerable areas.

Clause 50 directs the Cabinet to cause the draft of a **special area precautionary plan** to be published in the Gazette for purposes of inviting the public to submit comments on the draft plan before approving the special area precautionary plan. Clause 51 sets out further procedures which must be followed before a

special area precautionary can be transmitted to the Cabinet for approval. Clauses 50 and 51 can be considered as safeguard provisions having regard to the protection provided to property under the Constitution.

Part VII of the Bill contains clauses 52 to 57 and provides for the establishment, management and application of the **Emergency Disaster Fund**. The Fund shall comprise (i) monies appropriated by the House of Assembly, (ii) grants and (iii) donations. The Fund shall be administered by a Fund Committee comprising the Financial Secretary, the Director and not more than four persons appointed by the Minister [Governor] after consultation with the Minister responsible for finance. Clause 53 provides for the application of the Fund which is for recovery efforts.

The establishment of such a fund can be considered as critically important to the post-disaster recovery efforts. Clause 55 places restrictions respecting the withdrawal of moneys form the Fund. Money shall only be withdrawn from the Fund on the authority of a warrant under the hand of the Minister. Clause 57 empowers the Director of Audit to audit the accounts of the Fund. The Director of Audit may, for that purpose, have access to the all books and records and returns or other documents relating to the accounts. The provisions of Part VII of the Bill speak to the issues of accountability, integrity and transparency.

Part VIII of the Bill which contains clauses 58 to 65 addresses the obligations of persons involved in disaster risk management. Clause 58 mandates every head of government or statutory entity to ensure that there is a **liaison officer** for purposes of communicating with the Director in relation to disaster risk management. Clause 59 directs every head of government or statutory entity and critical facility agency to prepare a Comprehensive Disaster Management plan and to review and update the plan annually. Clause 60 provides for the preparation of policy, strategy and monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework by the head of every government or statutory entity and every District

Disaster Management Committee for purposes of implementation of the individual Comprehensive Disaster Management plan.

Clause 61 mandates the conduct of annual training and exercises related to disaster risk management for all staff members of every department of government

or statutory entity and every critical facility agency. Clause 65 directs certain persons who intend to exercise any power related to disaster preparedness and response under this law to first consult the Director before exercising the power.

Part IX of the Bill contains clauses 66 to 69 and provides for the National Multi- Hazard Alert System and declaration of disasters. The National Multi- Hazard Alert System for relevant Participating State shall be operated under the supervision of the Director. Clause 69 empowers the Director, a member of the Police Service (Force) or a person acting under the authority of the Director to limit public access to

any area when a declaration of a disaster or disaster alert is issued in respect of the area. In sum, this Part seeks to address the fundamental issue of inculcating in persons the importance of responding on a desired manner to specific information about disasters.

Part X of the Bill makes provision for international humanitarian assistance. This Part has been informed by the Model Act for the Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance.

Part XI of the Bill comprises clauses 75 to 83 and deals with miscellaneous matters. Clause 76 provides for protection of persons who in good faith exercise powers, duties or obligations under this law. Clause 77 provides for compensation to any person authorized under this law who has suffered personal injury, loss or damage to property in the course of performing functions under the law. Clause 78 criminalizes certain anti-social conduct. Clause 82 is the Regulations-making provision of the Bill.

5.0 Agency versus **Department?**

The bill makes

provision for

international

humanitarian

assistance. This Part

has been informed

by the Model Act

for the Facilitation

and Regulation of

International Disaster

Relief and Initial

Recovery Assistance.

This section discusses options for establishing national disaster management agencies. The legislative scheme of the Model Comprehensive Disaster Management Bill (2013) follows the

> standard legislative scheme for the establishment of a statutory body. Not all of the CDEMA Participating States will want to take this approach, due to limitation of resources, whether human or otherwise. It is possible however to adapt the relevant clauses in the Model to allow countries to establish other types of organisations (Refer to Section 8 of this guide for auidance).

> Agreement provides as follows—

The undertakings of Participating States under the CDEMA Agreement are set out in Article XIX of the CDEMA Agreement. In particular, paragraphs (c) and (d) of Article XIX of the CDEMA

"Without prejudice to the requirement to discharge any other obligations assumed under or in connection with this Agreement, Participating States undertake to—

- (c) provide national disaster management agencies with adequate support including named emergency coordinators, liaison officers within key government Ministries, emergency services and access to utilities;
- (d) ensure that national disaster management agencies and their coordinators with specific functions and responsibilities to ensure the development of an adequate response capability to support adequate responses to national disasters;" [Emphasis added1

The expression "national disaster management agency" appearing in article XIX of the CDEMA Agreement ought not to be construed restrictively to mean a statutory body. The expert



view is that that expression ought to be construed broadly to mean either a statutory body or a department of government. In other words the CDEMA Agreement does not appear to place any limitation as to the form and structure of the "national disaster management agency" within the meaning of Article XIX of the CDEMA Agreement.

6.0 Status of the public office of Director

This issue is closely related to the question of whether to establish a statutory body or a department of government. The term "department of Government" although widely used does not appear, in practice, to have a uniform meaning. In the independent Participating States, several departments of Government are established by the Constitution. Example of these departments of Government include the Department of the Attorney General, the Department of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Department of the Chief Elections Officer and the Department of the Director of Audit. A few departments of governments have been established by statutes. However, most of the departments of government appear to have been established by executive authority. That method of establishment is a direct as a result of the colonial evolution of the system of government of these countries.

It is accepted that the Director of Disaster Management will be the Chief Executive Officer of any body responsible for the day-to-day administration of disaster management, whether such a body is established as a statutory body or a department of government. For operational reasons, the Director would be required to have direct access to the Executive Authority and the political authority of the Participating State as well as the senior managers of the Participating State including the Commissioner of Police and the Chief Fire Officer.

Consequently deep and critical thought must be given to the status of the office of the Director of Disaster Management within the organizational structure of the Public Service having regard to the need to facilitate and maintain operational efficiency

of the Department. It is recommended that the public office of the Director of Disaster Management ought to be equivalent in status to the public office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Chief Elections Officer or the Director of Audit.

7.0 Adapting the Model to Establish a Department

A Participating State is mandated to fine-tune or adapt its domestic legislation so as to address and adjust to its unique challenges and circumstances.

With that in mind, where, for the purpose of disaster risk management, a Participating State desires to establish a department of the Government rather than a statutory authority, the changes specified in following paragraphs are recommended to be made to the various sections of the Model Comprehensive Disaster Management Bill 2013. The numbers of the relevant clauses/sections are indicated in each instance, for easier reference.

Also, a recommended full legislative scheme (structure) for a Comprehensive Disaster Management Bill, in which a department of government is established for disaster management, has been set out in the Annex to this Adaptation Guide.

Meaning and use of terms [sections 17(2) and 18]: The term "Agency" should be replaced with the term "Department". Consequently the expression "Disaster Management Agency" wherever it appears should read "Disaster Management Department" or "Department of Disaster Management" and the definitions of the term "Agency" should be deleted. Finally the term "Department" should be defined as follows—

""Department" means the Disaster Management Department established under section 17;"

Legal Personality [sections 17(2) and 18]: The Agency possesses its own legal personality separate from that of the Government of the relevant Participating State. *The Department would not possess a separate legal personality*. Consequently, the

Consultant would recommend the deletion of sections 17(2) and 18 of the Model Bill. It bears noting that there are several departments of government established by statutes that are governed by a Board. In that regard, a Participating State may consider retaining the Board.

Appointment of staff of the Department [sections 22]: The appointment of the Director and other members of staff of the Department must be done in accordance with the Constitution of the relevant Participating State. If it is the policy of the Government to place the Director on the same level as a Permanent Secretary, it is advisable to make specific mention of the provision of the Constitution relating to appointment of Permanent Secretaries.

Expenses of the Department [clauses 38 to 44]: The expenses of the Department would be provided and accounted for in accordance with the established practice and procedures governing the appropriation, expenditure and accounting of public revenues by departments of government. Consequently, clauses 38 to 44 inclusive must be replaced by the appropriate national provision dealing with the resources and expenses of a department of government. An example of such a standard provision follows—

"Expenses.

The expenses required for the purposes of this Act shall be paid out of such sums allocated by Parliament [House of Assembly]."

Institutional arrangement for administration of the Bill [section 6 and Part III]: The Model Bill provides for the establishment of a "Inter-Ministerial Committee", and "National Disaster Management Technical and Advisory Council" in addition to the Agency as the administrative structure for the administration of the Bill when enacted into law. However, a Participating State may, for diverse reasons not, be in a position to establish such a complex administrative structure. For example, a Participating State may decide not to establish an "Inter-Ministerial Committee". In such a situation, the

functions and powers of the "Inter-Ministerial Committee", and "National Disaster Management Technical and Advisory Council" may be combined and assigned to a single body.

District Disaster Management Committees [sections 45 to 48]:

The term "District" appearing in the expression "District Disaster Management Committee" does not necessarily mean a local government district. Some Participating States have organised communities in such manner that would facilitate the provision and delivery of specific services. In Dominica, for example, some of these districts include (i) "health districts" for the purposes of the Ministry of Health, (ii) "education districts" for the purposes of the Ministry of Education, (iii) "agricultural districts" for the purposes of the Ministry of Agriculture, (iv) "magisterial districts" for the purposes of the Magistrate's Court, (v) "police districts" for the purposes of the Police Service, and (vi)"local government districts" for the purposes of the Department of Local Government. The boundaries of these districts do not necessarily coincide.

The information to date coming from the Office of Disaster Management in Dominica is that a recommendation has been made to utilise the local government district of the local government system as the basis for the disaster districts in Dominica. Other Participating States may use terms such as "zone" or "community". One British Overseas Territory, the Virgin Islands, has made use of the zonal system of that Territory.

It is recommended that Participating States should seek to make use of a grouping of communities that would best facilitate the bottom-up approach to disaster risk management envisaged under Comprehensive Disaster Management. It therefore bears noting that the use of the term "district" seeks to capture a principle of managing disaster events first and primarily at a local (that is to say, the district or community) level.



Regulations respecting disaster management

The comments contained in the preceding paragraphs respecting the meaning of the terms, including the meaning of the term "District" in the expression "District Disaster Management Committee", are equally applicable to the regulations made under the Comprehensive Disaster Management law.

8.0 General Considerations for the Adaptation Process

There are several key stakeholders who ought to be involved in the adaptation process. Those who should be involved at the different stages of the adaptation process will be determined, in part, by the policy objectives of the individual country.

The skill sets or knowledge areas which the various stakeholders that should be involved at each stage of the adaptation process depend on the activities required to be performed. At the minimum, the National Disaster Office ought to draft the Comprehensive Disaster Management policy document on the basis of a consultative process. The time for completing the process is irrelevant.

The Lead person in the adaptation process would be the Instructing Officer from the sponsoring Ministry or Department. Generally, the Instructing Officer is expected to possess the requisite knowledge about Comprehensive Disaster Management.

The legislative drafter engaged in the adaptation process is required to research the exercise on the basis of the drafting instructions provided so as to avoid developing a national CDM legislation that "clashes" with existing national legislation. Every competent legislative drafter should be able to utilise the appropriate techniques so as to address potential areas of inconsistency between the various pieces of legislation.

However, consideration ought to be given to the participation of representatives from the following— Prime Minister's [Premier's] Office: (a) (k) Department of Fisheries; (b) (1) Attorney General's Chambers; Department of Agriculture; (c) Telecommunications Regulatory Commission; (M) **Pepartments of Public Works**; (d) Utility companies and other service (n Departments of Town and Country Planning: providers; National Security Services including the (o) (e) The media and press; Police, Fire and Rescue Services; **(f)** Ministry of Health; (p) Shipping Registry; (g) Ministry of Tourism; (q) Non-governmental organizations and faithbased organizations; and (h) **Pepartments of Community Development**; Local volunteer groups including the Red Cross. (i) Departments of Environmental Health; Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, Cadet Corps. (i) **Pepartments of Conservation**;

Annex

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE SCHEME

in respect of

A DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT FRAMEWORK MODEL

DRAFT MODEL COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT BILL

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