

The Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project

National Workshop: Grenada

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Organization of
American States

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Overview

- Scope: Prevention and Response
- Need to expedite decision-making in disaster response
- Lack of comprehensive legal-institutional framework
- Cross cutting issues: financial, technical, legal and institutional
- Funded by the World Bank; supported by CARICOM



Development Objective

- Build capacity to enhance legal and institutional framework for state of emergency and budget appropriation in CARICOM countries.
- Raise awareness among government decision makers and make recommendations to improve legislative channels and administrative procedures before, during, and immediately after, the occurrence of a natural disaster.



Countries

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- St. Kitts and Nevis
- St. Lucia
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Trinidad and Tobago





Project Implementation

- Components:
 1. *Study to improve legal frameworks related to state of emergency and appropriation powers*
 2. *National and regional validation and outreach completed*
- Main Output
 - **a set of recommendations for the implementation of clear and transparent procedures triggered under a state of emergency**



Overview of Disaster Legislation in the Americas

National Legal and Institutional frameworks

- Emerging challenges
- Trends in the legal approach to disaster response
 - Declaration of state of emergency and emergency powers
 - Establishment and functions of civil protection and emergency management agencies
 - Health
- Change towards an integrated approach: Overview of trends in the legal approach to disaster preparedness in the region
 - Precedents, Hyogo Framework



Overview of disaster legislation in the Americas

Regional legal-institutional frameworks

- Regional Structures and Soft Law Principles
 - Inter-American Committee on Natural Disaster Reduction (IACNDR)
 - Inter-American Strategic Plan for Policy on Vulnerability Reduction, Risk Management and Disaster Response (IASP)
 - Inter-American Emergency Aid Fund (FONDEM)
 - Inter-American Network for Disaster Mitigation (INDM)
 - Inter-American Committee on Hemispheric Security
 - OAS General Assembly Resolutions*
 - Declaration of Santa Cruz + 10

*Most recent resolution approved by the OAS General Assembly on June 4, 2009: EXISTING MECHANISMS FOR DISASTER PREVENTION AND RESPONSE AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AMONG THE MEMBER STATES (AG/RES. 2492 (XXXIX-O/09))



Moving forward

- Ensure that disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation.
- Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks closely and enhance early warning.
- Build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels.
- Reduce underlying risk factors
- Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels



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Thank you!

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