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Project Name: Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project (TF 091037)

Funding Agency: International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Implementing Agency: Organization of American States

Project Value: US \$350,000.00

Project Duration: 17 months (extended from original 12 month timeline)

Project Document: Semester IV Report: August 2010-January 2011

1.0 Brief Project Description:

The Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (GS-OAS), with the support of the World Bank ('the Bank'), is the executing agency for the Caribbean Emergency Legislation Project ('CELP'). The objective of the project is to build legislative capacity to enhance legal and institutional frameworks for state of emergency and budget appropriation in eleven CARICOM countries and the Dominican Republic. Further, the project aims to make recommendations on how to improve legislative channels and administrative procedures during, and immediately after, the occurrence of a natural disaster.

Pursuant to these objectives, the project will assess current legal-institutional frameworks in the Caribbean applicable under a state of emergency, review global best practices, and promote dialogue with national and regional stakeholders, in order to ascertain areas for improvement and make recommendations that are best suited for the Caribbean region.

2.0 Project components and Expected Outcomes:

The project consists of the following components:

1. Improving the Legal and Institutional Frameworks Related to State of Emergency



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The activities of this component will support the development of recommendations to improve the legal and institutional frameworks related to state of emergency, and budget appropriation and execution in emergency situations by: (a) analyzing the existing legal and institutional frameworks in the countries; (b) conducting a comparative analysis of these frameworks in other regions; and (c) identifying best practices and formulating recommendations to revise state of emergency legislation and administrative procedures. The expected outcome from the execution of these activities is that needs will be identified and recommendations made to improve legal and institutional frameworks during a state of emergency.

2. National and Regional Outreach and Validation of Findings

This component involves initiating dialogue at both the national and regional levels on how to improve state of emergency legislation. The dialogue will be guided by the analytical findings and recommendations arising out of Component 1, and will manifest through: (a) conducting national workshops in select countries, with experts engaged in natural disaster emergency management, budget appropriation, and legislative reform; and (b) conducting a regional workshop to discuss: the findings and recommendations of the legal and institutional framework analysis, and the steps that may be taken to implement reforms. It is expected that activities under this component will yield a participatory assessment of the state of the legal and institutional frameworks in the Caribbean, with recommendations for improvement offered.

2.1 Description of Results

The following is a summary of the results achieved at the outcome level and related to project governance between August 2010 and January 2011.

2.1.1 Improving the Legal and Institutional Frameworks Related to State of Emergency

During the reporting period, the OAS-DSD composed a final draft report with detailed findings of the study to improve the legal and institutional frameworks related to state of emergency (Annex I). Additionally, the OAS-DSD drafted a legislative checklist for the consideration of lawmakers in mainstreaming project findings at the national level (Annex II). The checklist identifies key issues and challenges, corresponding recommendations and identifies legislative provisions from other countries as useful examples. It is anticipated that law and policy makers will rely on this checklist to ensure that all legal and institutional considerations necessary for effective disaster and emergency management are accounted for and duly implemented. The checklist is also helpful for quick and easy reference/guidance. Finally, country profiles summarizing the project findings at the national level were prepared for each country for easy access and



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quick consultation. All profiles are available on the project's website: <http://www.oas.org/dsd/EnvironmentLaw/CaribbeanLegislationProject/DefaultCLP.htm> .

2.1.2 National and Regional Outreach and Validation of Findings

Considering the need to foster cooperation and collaboration with relevant stakeholders, and in view of the OAS-DSD's work on the CELP, and given that the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is a member of the project's Steering Committee, CDEMA invited the OAS-DSD to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Review of the Existing Model Disaster Legislation and Regulations. Thus, informed by the findings of the CELP, the OAS-DSD often provided feedback on initiatives concerning the revised draft model.

Further, during the reporting period, the OAS-DSD, as part of its outreach efforts, participated, upon the invitation of CDEMA, in the workshop on the Review of the Model Disaster Legislation, conducted in Barbados. The participants in the workshop included all the beneficiary countries of the CELP. The OAS-DSD prepared and distributed at the meeting, a draft executive summary of the findings of the CELP study. Moreover, a few participants in the workshop indicated to the OAS-DSD, an interest in discussing follow-up activities such as assistance in drafting regulations to complement national disaster management legislation. This interest demonstrated by representatives from beneficiary project countries is consistent with recommendations offered in the CELP study and from the participants in the national and regional workshops of the CELP, to aid the effective implementation of disaster and emergency legislation.

The OAS-DSD continued its outreach efforts during the reporting period by presenting on the findings of the CELP at the Fifth Annual Caribbean Disaster Management Conference, conducted in Montego Bay, Jamaica. The meeting included participants from across the Caribbean region including those from CELP's beneficiary countries.

3. Conclusion

During reporting period, in addition to preparing the final draft of the CELP study the OAS-DSD primarily focused on outreach and continued validation of the project's findings. Thus, it capitalized on various opportunities to share the findings of the project with national and regional stakeholders involved in reform efforts, and disaster and emergency management generally. The OAS-DSD also collaborated with CDEMA to support their work on updating the Model Disaster Legislation by participating on its Advisory Committee and providing feedback on deliverables submitted by their consultants.



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The OAS-DSD intends to continue dialogue with project countries and relevant stakeholders on how best to support them in applying/implementing the many findings from the CELP on a national level.

Annex 1

http://www.oas.org/DSD/EnvironmentLaw/CaribbeanLegislationProject/Documents/Condensed%20CELP%20report_finalrev.pdf

Annex 2

http://www.oas.org/dsd/EnvironmentLaw/CaribbeanLegislationProject/Documents/FINALChecklist%20_WORD_.pdf