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. This 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 of Caribbean SIDS on Climate and Security***: Whilst it is accepted that Climate Change will have implications for Security, there is a need for a better understanding of the relationship between Climate Change and Security by key stakeholders within the context of Caribbean SIDS. In order to support evidence-based decision making at multiple levels, **an accessible body of knowledge** as well as a **community of identified thematic experts** would be required to ensure adequate knowledge generation, dissemination, and application.

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 including through the Multi-National Civil Military Coordination Cell. Within Participating States of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) the Regional Response Mechanism for response coordination exists and there is a space to build upon these existing coordination arrangements to expand the geographical coverage regional coordination.

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. Regional priorities will include the development of value chains for root and tuber crops and direct addressing of the issue of planting materials. In addition, the utilization of bid data for planning, risk, forecasting and insurance must be examined. The Standardized Audit Instrument developed by the CARICOM Agriculture Thematic Group on Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, for the Integration of Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation is therefore a key resource in moving this area forward.

4. ***Advance Water Security within the Context of a Changing Climate***: There is diversity between Caribbean States with regard to the security, production and use of water. 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. In addressing water security, treatment must also be given to water demand since supply and demand are two sides of the same coin. Demand considerations include water quality and water quantity, economic growth and population growth.

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. Energy is of vital importance for all small island states because it is present in so many facets of the economy. Small island states are heavily dependent on fossil fuels which create a strategic external dependency. Shifting to renewable energy also reduces this dependency, improves the balance of payments and facilitates stabilisation of the currency. This strengthens the internal economy and fosters a circular economy which can facilitate development. Whilst there is a large focus on countries who possess oil and natural gas, the Caribbean possess is rich in energy sources possessing an abundance of non-renewable sources such as biomass, water, solar, wind, waste and geothermal. These need to be quantified and enhanced cooperation is required at the regional level on methodological approaches. Many countries are already exploring and utilising renewables and these opportunities can be harnessed and capitalised. It is recognised that the supply of energy is not always state controlled but at the national level policy and strategic guidance is required to provide a road map for all energy producers in the fossil and renewable energy mix to ensure that this is reliable and affordable.

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***.***

Priority Area	Actions
1. Strengthen Capacity and Knowledge of Caribbean SIDS on Climate and Security	1.1 KNOWLEDGE GENERATION - Promote applied research on Climate Security in Caribbean SIDS within Caribbean knowledge and research institutions.
	1.2 KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION - Establish an activity (with a corresponding onlinespace) within the Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management to 1) share experiences on Climate and Security issues in the Caribbean and 2) monitor progress in the implementation of the Planetary Security Initiative in the Caribbean (integrated into current PMF of the CDM strategy and framework).
	1.3 KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION – Identify thematic experts that can expand the integration of Climate and Security into **teaching at educational institutions** within Caribbean SIDS.
	1.4 KNOWLEDGE APPLICATION - Identify thematic experts that can expand the integration of Climate and Security into **policy making bodies and practice** within Caribbean SIDS
2. Strengthen regional coordination in support of humanitarian crises	2.1 Extend existing regional coordination and cooperation arrangements for humanitarian action to non-CARICOM Caribbean SIDS
	2.2 Develop a regional civil-military architecture to support humanitarian assistance and disaster response between partner nations

Priority Area	Actions
	2.3 Identify and advance opportunities to build Civil-Military capacity within Caribbean SIDS as well as with partner nations
	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 evidence-based Agricultural DRM Policies and Plans that are supported by appropriate climate smart food security enabling framework (within 5 years)
	3.2 Adopt agro-ecological approaches to build sustainable value chains to mitigate the impacts of climate change
	3.3 Advance Public investment in research and other enabling services
	3.4 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

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	4.3 Assess the possibility of establishing a water-sharing mechanism to safeguard and enhance water security during emergencies
	4.4 Strengthening of early warning systems concerning the impacts of meteorological and hydrological droughts in CDEMA Participating States (PS)
	4.5 The identification of potential projects which require financing for the improvement of water and wastewater management in CDEMA PS
	4.6 Advance regional initiatives which promote the implementation of technologies supporting efficient water consumption and conservation.
5. Advance the Renewable Energy transition of Caribbean SIDS within the Context of a Changing Climate.	5.1 Establish regional cooperation to review good renewable energy and energy efficiency practices
	5.2 Advance regional initiatives to promote the establishment of national energy policies geared at promoting energy efficiency and inclusion of renewable energy in the energy-mix.
	5.3 Establish agreed codes and protocols to govern the design and development of resilient micro-grids which are reachable by vulnerable communities
	5.4 Develop and implement energy storage strategies that will support off grid applications when disasters lead to power black-outs
	5.5 Promote the inclusion of the demand-side (users) in the planning of the national energy system

Priority Area	Actions
	5.6 Specify technology endurance matrices and develop zoning maps for Caribbean SIDS based on data analysis to inform renewable energy manufacturers, installers and project developers
	5.7 Promote the establishment of a Caribbean chapter of IRENA leveraging existing national arrangements to strengthen renewable energy arrangements for Caribbean states
	5.8 Advance models of integration of renewable energy to ensure that it is reliable and affordable
6. Advocate for stronger political support for the Regional Climate Security Agenda	6.1 Use the CDM conference in Dec 2019 as a regionally inclusive platform for reviewing and adopting actions on climate and security in the Caribbean Region, also aiming at the appointment of a Caribbean Special Envoy.
	6.2 Adopt a Caribbean SIDS Regional Resilience Framework giving consideration to the CDEMA Resilience Pathway