

# Caribbean Early Warning System Workshop

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## Session 4a and 4b: Harmonization of EWS towards Multi-Hazard Application

Friday, April 15, 09:00-13:00

### Session Background

Early warning systems (EWS) are prioritized as life-saving measures within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the global level and within the CARICOM regional framework and the CDM Strategy 2014-2014 at the regional level. It is recognized that EWS need to be people-centred comprising four key elements: knowledge of the risks; monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the hazards; communication or dissemination of alerts and warnings and local capabilities to respond to the warnings received<sup>1</sup>. While the regional and global perspective provide the necessary governance architecture for reducing losses, implementation at national and community level is also critical as highlighted in the CDM Strategy at outcome 4.3 Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS), integrated, improved and expanded that contributes to 'Strengthened and sustained community resilience through CDM'.

The Oxford dictionary defines harmonization as making systems or rules similar in different countries or organizations. High levels of harmonization are undoubtedly needed to operate an effective EWS as cooperation and understanding relating to Early Warning and to this end; harmonization monitoring networks, data exchange, and further institutional co-ordination and co-operation among technical agencies, is a prerequisite for achieving full organizational potential. Compatibility or consistency within EWS can be explored and potentially achieved to varying degrees with each of the four (4) components of EWS. This level of compatibility is informed inter alia by the type of hazard with this session seeking to explore the spaces to strengthen compatibility within the components of EWS.

Harmonisation therefore building on existing strengths, helps to avoid potential confusion generated when several systems communicate conflicting messages about the same event.<sup>2</sup>

### Objectives of the Session

The objectives of the session are:

1. To identify some best practices with an emphasis on harmonization
2. To identify areas where the harmonization of EWS currently exists
3. To identify spaces where the harmonization of EWS can be advanced going forward -

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<sup>1</sup> UNISDR (2009). "Early Warning System." *Terminology*. from

<http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/terminology/v.php?id=478>.

United Nations (2015). *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*. Sendai, Japan: 37.

<sup>2</sup> OECD Reviews of Risk Management Policies Mexico 2013 -  
[https://books.google.com/books?id=AALWpdQyvSoC&pg=PA122&lpg=PA122&dq=harmonisation+and+Early+Warning+Systems&source=bl&ots=wD0KxX3oFb&sig=QLJsj0gCYx\\_oqZ8aFbZJFO06iPA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi7l8-i\\_o3LAhXlIaz4KHTPVAOcQ6AEINTAD#v=onepage&q=harmonisation%20and%20Early%20Warning%20Systems&f=false](https://books.google.com/books?id=AALWpdQyvSoC&pg=PA122&lpg=PA122&dq=harmonisation+and+Early+Warning+Systems&source=bl&ots=wD0KxX3oFb&sig=QLJsj0gCYx_oqZ8aFbZJFO06iPA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwi7l8-i_o3LAhXlIaz4KHTPVAOcQ6AEINTAD#v=onepage&q=harmonisation%20and%20Early%20Warning%20Systems&f=false)

## Expected Outcomes:

Noting the objectives of the session, the expected outcomes are:

- Best Practices and Strategies identified for harmonizing EWS
- Areas of existing harmonization in EWS identified
- Spaces where the harmonization of EWS can be advanced going forward identified

Methodology	Description	Resources
<b>Session 4a: Presentation by partners and countries of regional, national and local EWS; EWS Caribbean Best Practices (09:00 – 10:00)</b> This sub-session seeks to identify some good practices relating to EWS evident in the Caribbean with an emphasis on harmonization in existing risk knowledge, dissemination and communication and response capabilities. The methodology for this session will be two (2) 10 minute presentations from partners/agency/country representatives on their specific EWS. The presentations will be followed by questions from the audience.		
1. Best Practice presentations	Regional/national partners (partners involved in risk knowledge, dissemination and communication and response capabilities) relating to EWS.  Association of Caribbean States (ACS) - <b>Ms. Nnyeka Prescod</b>  French Red Cross – <b>Mr. Pierre Scholl</b>	Two (2) – 15 minute presentations  <u>Personnel Required</u> Session Chair (Mr. Marlon Clarke UNDP Barbados and the OECS)  Rapporteur
2. Discussion	Meeting participants will ask questions based on presentations	10 - 20 minutes  <u>Personnel Required</u> Session Chair
<b>Session 4B: Harmonisation in Existing EWS (10:30 – 13:00)</b> This sub-section seeks to present and discuss some of the concepts relating to harmonization across hazards as well as within the four (4) components of a reliable EWS. Expert panelist will then speak to harmonization specific to a particular component within EWS. Through group work meeting participants will further discuss harmonization based on the presentation by the panelist		
1. Presentation	Presenter/Session Chair will set the context for the session through a 10 minute presentation on distilling the meaning of the term harmonization relating to the four components of EWS	<u>Personnel Required</u> Session Chair/Presenter (Mr. Jeremy Collymore) Rapporteur
2. Panel	Five (5) Panelist will be given 10 minutes presentation on Integration of EWS as outlined below: Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology - Institutional perspective on harmonization around hazards and harmonization between the EWS components (emphasis on risk knowledge as well as monitoring components) – <b>Dr. David</b>	50 minute panel discussion

	<p><b>Farrell (tbc)</b>                  Seismic Research Centre - Institutional perspective on harmonization around hazards and harmonization between the EWS components (emphasis on risk knowledge as well as monitoring components) – <b>Mr. Lloyd Lynch</b>                  Department of Emergency Management - Perspective on harmonization around hazards and harmonization between the EWS components (emphasis on dissemination and communication component) – <b>Ms. Kerry Hinds</b>                  Perspective on harmonization around hazards and harmonization between the EWS components (emphasis on response component) – <b>Mr. Fitzgerald John</b>                  CDEMA - Presentation on institutional arrangement that support and impact on harmonization – <b>Ms. Donna Pierre</b></p>	
3. Discussion	Meeting participants will be invited to ask questions	Session Chair will lead this session (20 minutes)
4. Group work	Further discussion on potential areas of harmonization.	Group work (45 minutes)  Personnel Required Group leader Group rapporteur
5. Plenary	Presentation of results  All groups will present findings followed by questions from the audience.	(5 minutes each – 20 minutes)  Personnel Required Rapporteur  Collection of worksheets