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Caribbean Early Warning System Workshop

Opening Ceremony

08:30-09:00, Thursday, April 14, 2016, Courtyard by Marriott Bridgetown, Barbados

The “Caribbean Early Warning System Workshop” will take place from 14 to 16 April 2016 in Barbados. The overall objective of the workshop is to contribute to an enhanced coordination among EWS partners towards the institutionalization and harmonization of multi-hazard, multi-level EWS in the Caribbean that are inclusive of vulnerable groups. The workshop is organized by UNDP Barbados and the OECS, IFRC (CADRIM) and UNISDR, in close collaboration with CDEMA, under the framework of the 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean.

The opening ceremony will introduce to the relevance of early warning systems in the Caribbean region. The following panelists are invited:

Moderator: **Kaymar Jordan**, CEO & Editor-in-Chief, Barbados Today

Speakers: **Ronald Jackson**, Executive Director
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)

Krystell Santamaria, Disaster Risk Management Programme Coordinator
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

Virginie André, Technical Assistant for the Caribbean
European Commission Directorate-General Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection – ECHO

Chisa Mikami, Deputy Resident Representative
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Barbados and the OECS

Kerry Hinds, Director a.i.
Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

Media will be invited to the opening ceremony.

Guidance for speech preparation:

- Reflect on importance of EWS in the context of the Caribbean region and main elements that need to be addressed to enhance EWS.
- Provide an overview how your organization is contributing to strengthening EWS in the Caribbean region.
- Refer to the workshop and the expected outcomes.
- Speeches will have a duration of 5 minutes.

Workshop objectives:

- Provide an overview on gaps, lessons learnt and good practices in EWS.
- Define institutional arrangements for EWS – including review towards the revision of Standard Operating Procedures with special emphasis on telecommunications, monitoring agencies and non-state actors.
- Contribute to the harmonization of EWS - noting the various alerting methods and levels at which EWS are implemented; various tools available for hazards; integration for multi-hazard application.
- Provide overview and outline necessary requirements of Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) Based EWS with an emphasis on the Caribbean.
- Increase awareness of integration of vulnerable groups in EWS: Roles and considerations for vulnerable groups in EWS.

Workshop outcomes:

- Shared understanding of the status of EWS in the Caribbean and requirements of key partners to successfully implement EWS in the Caribbean.
- Increased awareness and capacity among regional and national partners for the successful implementation of EWS.
- Identification of specific actions that can be considered for integrating vulnerable groups into EWS.
- Deepened understanding of the requirements (technical, human resources) needed to operate and maintain CAP Based EWS.
- Increased technical capacity of CAP Based EWS in the Caribbean.
- Standardised approach to EWS SOPs agreed.