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**STRENGTHEN INTEGRATED AND COHESIVE PREPAREDNESS CAPACITY AT A REGIONAL, NATIONAL
AND COMMUNITY LEVEL IN THE CARIBBEAN**

Prepared through knowledge and planning

Draft Programme Outline for the Regional Model National MHEWS Policy Workshop

November 12, 2019, Saint Lucia

1.0 Background

Over the last 15 years in the Caribbean, there have been observed improvements in early warning systems. There are a growing number of tools, equipment and capacities and these vary both by hazard and in space. Despite the continued investment in Early Warning Systems (EWS) and notable progress in some regions, including the Caribbean (Collymore 2016; UNISDR 2015), movement towards integrated multi-hazard warning systems, though evident, may be characterized as slow (Collymore, 2016). One area requiring improvement is the governance framework for EWS, and specifically the absence of policy, noting the results of the application of the MHEWS Checklist in 4 CDEMA participating states¹ and the priority areas for attention outlined in their national MHEWS roadmaps. Recent experiences with catastrophic hazards events, together with the availability of guidance for setting up EWS policy, including from Caribbean regional assessments and findings (such as the checklist reports) among others, present an optimum watershed opportunity to craft a model national MEWHS policy that is evidence-based and anchored in the CDM approach.

Under the “Strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at a regional, national and community level in the Caribbean” Project funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) (ECHO) which is implemented by United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (IFRC), two initiatives are underway to strengthen the governance framework for MHEWS in the region – the development of a national model MHEWS policy and adaptation guide that will allow for the first MHEWS policy through the adaptation of the policy for Saint Lucia and the formal establishment of the Regional Early Warning Systems Consortium (REWSC) that will provide oversight for MHEWS developments and monitoring in the region.

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



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The purpose of EWS policies is to establish authority for system administration, control, access, maintenance and use of disaster alert, notification and warning systems. A critical priority for effective EWS is *'better integration of early warning (and related disaster risk reduction and management) into development processes and public policies'* (EWIII, 2006). An integrated EWS policy would include, motivating long-term political commitment, developing legislation and institutional frameworks with defined roles and responsibilities and sustainable budgets, training, better linking of early warning in national economic planning, and optimising performance through standards and targets (EWSIII, 2006). These are particular gaps in CDEMA PS (Collymore, 2016; UNDP, 2017). EWS policy is critical to good governance as it is a matter for government to ensure public safety, the protection of human lives and protection of the nation's resource base and productive assets. A multi-hazard approach to EWS policy increases efficiency, and consistency of warnings (UNDRR, 2017).

2.0 OBJECTIVES

1. To provide the context of the Draft Model National MHEWS Policy development process.
2. To present and obtain feedback on the Draft Model National Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) Policy and Adaptation Guide
3. To agree on the steps for the enhancement and piloting the adaptation of the Draft MHEWS Policy.

3.0 TARGET AUDIENCE

Regional and National Early Warning Systems Partners

4.0 PROGRAMME

0830 – 0900 am Registration

0900 – 0930 am **OPENING SESSION**
Host Country, CDEMA, UNDP Regional Hub, ECHO,
Consultant

0930 – 1040 am OVERVIEW OF WORKSHOP

PLENARY 1: Context and Issues Informing National MHEWS Policy Guidance

Jeremy Collymore, Disaster Risk Management Specialist/Consultant



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1040 – 1100 am **B R E A K**

1100 – 1245 pm **PLENARY 2: Presentation and Discussion of the Draft Model National Multi-Hazard Early Warning System Policy**
Jeremy Collymore, Disaster Risk Management Specialist/Consultant

1230 – 1330 pm **L U N C H**

1330 am – 1500 pm **WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS: Enhancing the Draft Model National MHEWS Policy**

1500 – 1545 pm **WORKSHOP SYNTHESIS, CONCLUSION AND IDENTIFICATION OF NEXT STEPS**
CDEMA CU; Jeremy Collymore, Disaster Risk Management Specialist/Consultant

1545 - 1600 pm **CLOSING SESSION**
Host Country; CDEMA; ECHO, UNDP Regional Hub