

Antigua and Barbuda Declaration School Safety in the Caribbean

First meeting of Ministers of Education and High-level Authorities of the Education Sector on the Implementation of the Worldwide Initiative on School Safety and the Comprehensive Safe School Framework

3rd April 2017

We, the Caribbean Ministers of Education, High-level Officials of the Education Sector and interested stakeholders, having participated in the Caribbean Safe School Forum on 3-4 April 2017 in Antigua, examined critical issues impacting disaster risk management and its relevance to the education sector in the Caribbean region:

1. Reaffirm the right to quality and inclusive education for all.
2. Recognise that our Caribbean region's geographical location and development opportunities influence our exposure and vulnerability to natural anthropogenic or socio-natural hazards that can potentially cause disasters.
3. Recognise the threats that climate change and climate variability pose to the countries of the Caribbean and to the education sector in particular.
4. Acknowledge the opportunities that climate change and climate variability present for driving sustainable development.
5. Reaffirm the recommendations of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Caribbean Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) Strategy and Programming Framework 2014-2024, the Samoa Pathway, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and other relevant declarations.
6. Embrace the Comprehensive School Safety Framework and the Caribbean Model Safe School Programme as internationally recognised approaches to reducing risk to various hazards in the education sector.

7. Note the progress made by Caribbean countries to incorporate disaster risk management in the curriculum at all levels which highlights the development of appropriate teaching skills and materials
8. Underscore the importance of embracing harmonized approaches that strengthen disaster risk reduction in the education sector by using coherent methodologies and tools that are adapted to the context of Caribbean nations.
9. Emphasize the need to implement policies that ensure new and existing educational infrastructure and school facilities are
 - i. Fully accessible to all, particularly for persons who are differently abled;
 - ii. Constructed and maintained to conform with national, regional and international risk management guidelines, standards and building codes.
10. Acknowledge the need to provide adequate follow-up to track and measure progress on the implementation of the points identified on the Road Map on School Safety.

Based on the foregoing, we, the Caribbean Ministers of Education and High-level Officials with interest in the Education Sector, commit to:

1. Engage in the multi-stakeholder “Worldwide Initiative for Safe Schools (WISS)”, by supporting the implementation of the Comprehensive Safe School Framework and the Model Safe School Programme in the Caribbean for public and private facilities at all levels.
2. Build resilience in the education sector.
3. Source financial and other resources from the national, regional, and the international community, from public and

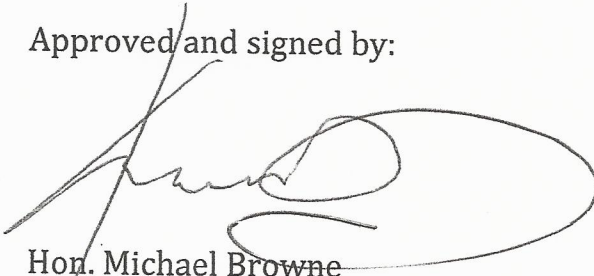
private sectors, to be channeled towards strengthening efforts in DRR linked to the education sector.

4. Coordinate with national and regional disaster management bodies to integrate the tenets of Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM) into education policies and plans and to ensure alignment with existing national and regional disaster risk reduction and climate change resilience building strategies.
5. Strengthen the coordination and cooperation mechanisms among stakeholders at the community, national, regional and international levels.
6. Build stronger collaboration among the Ministries of Education in the Caribbean with relevant private sector entities, non-governmental organisations as well as other regional and international entities.
7. Define and put in place a framework to track and measure progress on the implementation of the actions identified in the Road Map on School Safety to be authorized by the Minister of Education.

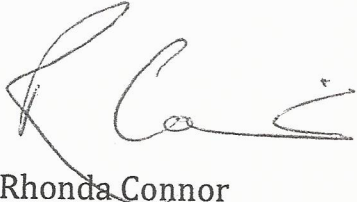
We express our appreciation to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in particular to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology as well as CDEMA Coordinating Unit, IFRC, OECS, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNISDR, Save the Children, the Inter-Agency Network of Education in Emergencies (INEE), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Netherlands, for organizing this Forum and call on them to make every effort to disseminate and support this Declaration and Regional Road Map on School Safety in the Caribbean region.

We approve this Declaration and Road Map on School Safety, committing ourselves to its agreements, on the 3rd of April 2017, in Antigua.

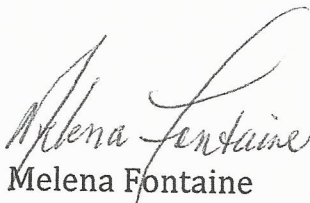
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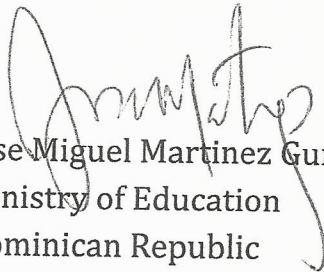
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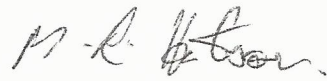
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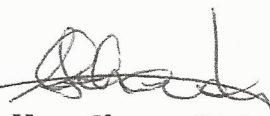
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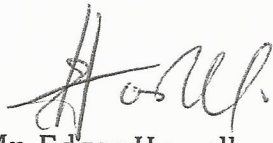

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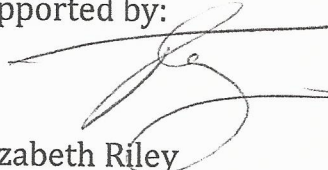


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