



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

**CHAPTER 18.15**  
**DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**

**Revised Edition**  
showing the law as at 31 March 2018

This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Revised Edition of the Laws Ordinance.

This edition contains a consolidation of the following laws—

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**

Ordinance 20 of 2015 .. in force 13 June 2016 (L.N. 37/2016)

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No Subsidiary Legislation has been made under this Ordinance





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**CHAPTER 18.15**  
**DISASTER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**  
*(Ordinance 20 of 2015)*

AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR COMPREHENSIVE DISASTER MANAGEMENT; AND FOR CONNECTED PURPOSES.

**Commencement**

*[13 June 2016]*

**PART I**

**PRELIMINARY**

**Short title**

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Disaster Management Ordinance.

**Interpretation**

2. (1) In this Ordinance—

“All Clear” means an official notification emanating from the department that a hurricane, tropical storm or other disaster has passed, or no longer poses a threat;

“Community Emergency Response Team” means a Community Emergency Response Team established by the Director under section 18;

“community group” means a community group established under section 36;

“comprehensive disaster management” means the management of all hazards through all phases of a disaster management cycle by prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and rehabilitation by public and private sectors, civil society and the general population;

“critical facilities” means the primary physical structures, technical facilities and systems which are socially, economically or operationally essential to the functioning of a society or community, both in routine circumstances and in extreme circumstances of an emergency;

“declaration of a disaster” means a declaration of a disaster under section 53;

“Department” means the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies established under section 5;

“Director” means, the person appointed as Director of Disaster Management under section 9;

“disaster” means a progressive or sudden, widespread or localised natural or human occurrence specified in Schedule 2 which—

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(a) causes—

(i) death, injury or disease; or

(ii) damage to property, infrastructure or the environment; or

(b) disruption of life to a community; and

(c) is of a magnitude that exceeds the ability of those affected by the disaster to cope with its effects using only their own resources;

“disaster management” includes planning for and responding to disasters, by carrying out both pre and post disaster activities which refer to both the risk and the consequences of a disaster;

“disaster mitigation” means structural and non-structural measures taken to reduce the loss of life, livelihood and property by disasters, either by reducing vulnerability or by modifying the hazard, where possible;

“disaster preparedness” means measures to be taken to reduce, to the minimum level possible, the loss of human lives and other damage through the organisation of prompt and efficient actions of response and rehabilitation;

“district” means the community boundaries demarcated by the Director for the purpose of disaster management;

“early warning system” means the set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organisations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss;

“emergency” means any instance for which in the determination of the Governor, on the advice of the Director, assistance is needed—

(a) to supplement the efforts and capabilities to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety; or

(b) to lessen or avert the threat of a disaster in any part of the Islands;

“Executive Policy Committee” means the Executive Policy Committee established under section 28;

“Government department” means a department established within the public service and includes any other organ or branch of the public service;

“hazard” means a dangerous phenomenon, substance, human activity or condition that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption or environmental damage;

“hazard inspector” means a hazard inspector appointed pursuant to section 9;

“island committee” means an island committee established under section 36;

“listed premises” means premises listed on the shelters list;

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- “marine shelter” means a place giving protection from an emergency or disaster to ships established and maintained under section 17;
- “medical shelter” means a place giving protection from an emergency or disaster to persons who are considered medical high risk by the Government’s chief medical officer;
- “Minister” means the Minister responsible for disaster management;
- “National Disaster Advisory Committee” means the National Disaster Advisory Committee established under section 30;
- “National Disaster Management Plan” means the National Disaster Management Plan prepared under section 13;
- “National Disaster Management Policy” means the National Disaster Management Policy referred to in section 29;
- “National Disaster Management Strategy” means the National Disaster Management Strategy prepared under section 13;
- “National Emergency Broadcast System” means the National Emergency Broadcast System under section 52;
- “National Emergency Operations Centre” means a National Emergency Operations Centre established under section 40;
- “National Emergency Operations Centre Director” means the Permanent Secretary responsible for disaster management;
- “National Multi-Hazard Alert System” means the National Multi-Hazard Alert System established under section 51;
- “National Operations Group” means the National Operations Group established under section 34;
- “Permanent Secretary” means the Permanent Secretary with responsibility for disaster management;
- “Ports Authority” means the Turks and Caicos Islands Ports Authority established under section 3 of the Ports Authority Ordinance;
- “Register of Volunteers” means the register required to be maintained under section 18(1);
- “resilience” means the ability of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, accommodate to and recover from the effects of a hazard in a timely and efficient manner;
- “shelter list” means the list of premises under section 17;
- “shelter manager” means a shelter manager assigned in accordance with section 17;

“shelter officer” means a shelter officer assigned in accordance with section 11;  
 “state of emergency” means, a declaration of a state of emergency made by the Governor pursuant to section 3 of the Emergency Powers Ordinance;

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“statutory body” means a body which has been established by or under an Ordinance.

(2) For the purposes of this Ordinance, a disaster alert exists when—

- (a) the Governor makes a declaration of a disaster under section 53;  
or
- (b) the National Emergency Broadcast System broadcasts or otherwise publishes a formal announcement warning under section 52.

**Application**

3. Where there is any conflict or inconsistency between the provisions of this Ordinance and the provisions of the Hurricane Relief Ordinance, this Ordinance prevails.

**Force of law**

4. (1) The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency Agreement set out in Schedule 1 has the force of law in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

(2) Where the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency Agreement is amended, the Minister shall, by Order amend Schedule 1 to give effect to the amendment to the Agreement.

**PART II**

DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCIES

**Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies**

5. There is established a Department to be called the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies.

**Object of the Department**

6. The principal object of the Department is to advance a comprehensive disaster management system by facilitating and coordinating the development and implementation of integrated disaster management systems in the Islands.

**Functions of the Department**

7. (1) The Department shall have the following functions—

- (a) to act as the national coordinating and monitoring body for disaster management and promote a uniform approach to disaster

management among Ministries, Government departments, island committees, community groups, statutory bodies, communities, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations including the adoption of common standards and best practices;

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- (b) to prepare—
- (i) a National Disaster Management Plan and Strategy having regard to among other things the national disaster policy and disaster management plans and strategies prepared by Ministries, Government departments, island committees, community groups, statutory bodies, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations; and
  - (ii) such other plans, strategies, procedures and guidelines as the Director considers necessary or as recommended by the Committee;
- (c) to coordinate the implementation of the national policy;
- (d) to develop guidelines to inform the preparation of disaster management plans and related strategies by Ministries, Government departments, island committees, community groups, statutory bodies, private sector entities, communities, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations;
- (e) to provide on request, technical assistance to Ministries, Government departments, island committees, community groups, statutory bodies, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations in preparing disaster management plans and strategies in accordance with guidelines developed under paragraph (d);
- (f) to review and give advice on the disaster management plan and business continuity plans of each Ministry, Government department, island committee, community group, community, private sector entity, non-governmental organisation, faith based organisation and statutory body;
- (g) to monitor the implementation of the National Disaster Management Plan and the disaster management plan of each Ministry, Government department, island committee, community group, community, private sector entity, non-governmental organisation, faith based organisation and statutory body;
- (h) to develop and monitor guidelines to be followed by Ministries, Government departments, island committees, community groups, communities, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations, faith based organisations and statutory bodies for the purpose of integrating risk reduction and mitigation in development projects and other initiatives;

- (i) to monitor, coordinate and give advice regarding mitigation and preparedness measures to be taken by Ministries, Government departments, island committees, community groups, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations;

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- (j) to collaborate with relevant agencies, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations and such other bodies or persons as the Department thinks necessary in—
- (i) identifying, analysing and mapping hazards and conducting related research into their effects and developing responses; and
- (ii) the conduct of vulnerability and risk assessments and investigations as may be required to determine vulnerable areas for each hazard;
- (k) to encourage and support the development of community based sustainable development programmes and interventions aimed at reducing the risk and impact of hazards and disasters and harness community resources for disaster preparedness, response and recovery;
- (l) to encourage and support the establishment of resilience critical infrastructures;
- (m) to plan and coordinate specialised training programmes for persons involved in disaster management including volunteers;
- (n) to provide business continuity planning advice and assistance to the private sector as resources permit;
- (o) to evaluate the preparedness at all Ministries, Government departments, island committees, community groups, communities, statutory bodies including an evaluation of related facilities, equipment and personnel for the purpose of responding to any threat of disaster or disaster and give directions, where necessary, for enhancing preparedness;
- (p) to coordinate response in the event of a threat of a disaster or an emergency;
- (q) to organise and execute at least one disaster exercise annually and a full scale exercise every three years;
- (r) to advise, assist and coordinate the activities of Ministries, Government departments, island committees, community groups, statutory bodies, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations;
- (s) to coordinate the conduct of assessments following a disaster;
- (t) to promote general education and awareness in relation to disaster

management and use such mechanisms as necessary to stimulate public interest in disaster management and in securing public cooperation and participation in achieving planned objectives;

- (u) to act as a repository and conduit for hazard and other disaster related information and collaborate with relevant agencies, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations and

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such other bodies and persons as it thinks necessary in the collection, processing and analysis of such information;

- (v) to develop and maintain a database on disaster related information including climate change and other new and emerging threats and ensure access to the database by stakeholders;
- (w) to develop, monitor and review a National Risk Reduction Strategy; and
- (x) to provide advice to relevant agencies and other entities in the planning of mass crowd events.

(2) The Department shall, to the greatest possible extent consistent with the performance of its functions, under this Ordinance, consult and co-operate with Ministries, Government departments, island committees, community groups, communities, statutory bodies, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations having functions related to, or having aims or objects related to those of the Department.

#### **Powers of the Department**

8. The Department shall have power, for the purpose of carrying out its functions, to do all such acts as appear to it to be requisite, advantageous or convenient for or in connection with the carrying out of its functions or to be incidental to their proper discharge and may carry on any activities in that behalf either alone or in association with any other person or body.

#### **Director and staff of the Department**

9. (1) The affairs of the Department shall be managed by a Director who shall be a public officer.

(2) In the performance of his functions, the Director shall be assisted by such officers (including officers appointed or designated to discharge the functions of hazard inspector under this Ordinance) whose posts shall be public offices.

(3) The Department shall provide each staff member with a distinctive badge, tag or other identification device which shall be carried by him while engaged in the performance of his duties under this Ordinance.

#### **Functions of the Director**

10. The Director shall have the following functions—

- (a) to provide advice to the Governor and Minister on matters relating to disaster management;
- (b) to review and assess the various programmes and activities of the Government which have an impact on disaster management in the Islands and make recommendation to the Governor and the Minister on the effect that the programmes and activities are likely to have;

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- (c) to develop and recommend to the Executive Policy Committee national policies to foster and promote disaster management;
- (d) in collaboration with Government departments or other agencies, participate in programmes to conduct investigations, studies, surveys, research and analysis relating to ecological systems and environmental quality and document and define changes in the natural environment as they relate to the likelihood of the occurrence of disasters in the Islands;
- (e) in collaboration with Government departments or other agencies, participate in programmes to analyse and interpret the information gathered under paragraph (d) for the purpose of determining whether such conditions and trends are interfering or are likely to interfere, with the achievement of disaster management;
- (f) in collaboration with Government departments or other agencies, participate in programmes to prepare and review disaster risk assessments;
- (g) conduct programmes of public information and education on disaster management;
- (h) liaise with persons and organisations inside and outside of the Islands for the purpose of exchanging information and facilitating the harmonisation of the policies of such persons and organisations with those of the Government relating to disaster management in the Islands;
- (i) to consult with the National Disaster Advisory Committee in the preparation or review of the National Disaster Management Plan ;
- (j) to provide technical advice to facilitate the development of Regulations relating to disaster management in the Islands;
- (k) to require any Ministry or Government department or statutory body to make available to the Department, such vehicle, property, plant, equipment or personnel as are available for the purposes of response to, rescue or relief in a disaster;
- (l) to establish and maintain a disaster management database, including mechanisms for the exchange of information to inform policy formulation, planning and decision making within the public and private sectors;



- public and private sectors,
- (m) to compile and to submit reports on damage assessments to the Governor and Minister as soon as practicable after receipt of such report; and
  - (n) such other related functions as may be provided for under this Ordinance.

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### **Powers of the Director**

**11.** (1) Where a state of emergency or disaster has been declared or exists, the Director shall, after consultation with the National Disaster Advisory Committee, have power to require public officers to respond and assist as directed.

(2) Subject to consultation with the relevant chief executive officer of that agency or body, in order to assist in both planning and response, the Director may temporarily deploy staff from statutory bodies as he sees fit.

### **Directions by the Minister to Director**

**12.** The Minister may, having consulted with the Governor, give directions, through the Permanent Secretary, to the Director of a special or general character in relation to the policy to be followed in the exercise of the powers conferred and the duties imposed on the Director by or under this Ordinance.

### **National Disaster Management Strategy, Plan and sub-plans**

**13.** (1) The Director shall prepare a National Disaster Management Strategy which shall contain—

- (a) measures for the prevention of disasters and mitigation of their effects;
- (b) measures to be taken for the integration of risk reduction and mitigation in development plans and projects, nationally and by sector; and
- (c) measures to be taken for disaster preparedness and capacity building to effectively respond to the threat of a disaster or an emergency.

(2) The Director shall prepare a National Disaster Management Plan comprising the statement of the contingency arrangements under the coordination of the Director for responding to the threat or event and aftermath of an emergency or a disaster in the Islands whether or not the threat of the emergency or disaster is such as to prompt the issuance of an alert, a declaration of a disaster or a declaration of a state of emergency.

(3) The Director shall submit the National Disaster Management Strategy and the National Disaster Management Plan to the Governor who shall cause

them to be reviewed by the Executive Policy Committee and after such review, the Governor shall submit the Strategy and the Plan and the recommendations of the Executive Policy Committee to the Cabinet for approval.

(4) The Director shall in consultation with the Executive Policy Committee and the National Disaster Advisory Committee review the National Disaster Management Plan annually and the National Disaster Management Strategy every three years, and may, with the approval of the Governor in Cabinet, make amendments to the Plan and Strategy.

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- (5) The National Disaster Management Plan shall include—
- (a) procedures related to disaster management of Ministries, Government departments, statutory bodies and other organisations or persons who perform functions under this Ordinance;
  - (b) procedures for coordinating the implementation of the National Disaster Management Plan and implementation of disaster response plans of persons and bodies in paragraph (a);
  - (c) procedures for informing persons in paragraph (a) and the public in the Islands and elsewhere of the existence of a disaster alert, a disaster, a state of emergency or the existence of an emergency or disaster;
  - (d) procedures for preparing and maintaining inventories of services and systems;
  - (e) procedures for mobilising services and systems for disaster management during a disaster alert or a disaster, including procedures for staffing emergency operations centres;
  - (f) procedures for protecting and restoring communications, both nationally and internationally, during a disaster alert or a disaster;
  - (g) procedures for procuring, releasing, distributing and replenishing contingency stores of supplies of food, water, clothing and medical supplies during a disaster alert or a disaster;
  - (h) procedures for providing shelter for persons during a disaster alert or a disaster;
  - (i) procedures to apply in the event that the evacuation of the residents of an area is considered to be necessary if there is a disaster or state of emergency;
  - (j) procedures established by the Minister responsible for health for safeguarding against epidemics during an alert, a declaration of a disaster, a declaration of a state of emergency or in the event or the aftermath of an emergency or a disaster;
  - (k) procedures established by the Government chief fire officer for safeguarding against fires during an alert a declaration of a

subsequent to an alert, a declaration of a disaster, a declaration of a state of emergency or in the event or the aftermath of an emergency or a disaster;

- (l) procedures for cooperation with international organisations and governments of countries outside the Islands during an alert, a declaration of a disaster, a declaration of a state of emergency or in the event or the aftermath of an emergency or a disaster;
- (m) procedures for accepting and facilitating the distribution of volunteer services and relief supplies during an alert, a declaration of a disaster, a declaration of a state of emergency or in the event or the aftermath of an emergency or a disaster;

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- (n) procedures to apply in the event that the requisitioning of private property is considered to be desirable during an alert, a declaration of a disaster, a declaration of a state of emergency or in the event or the aftermath of an emergency or a disaster including procedures for assessing and paying compensation;
- (o) procedures for protecting life and property from the dangers of looting and riotous behaviour during an alert, a declaration of a state of emergency or in the aftermath of an emergency or a disaster;
- (p) roles and responsibilities of Ministries, statutory bodies, island committees, community groups and other stakeholders in respect of the measures specified in paragraphs (j) to (k);
- (q) procedures for prioritising recovery interventions;
- (r) procedures for maintaining a national disaster information system;
- (s) strategies, policies and programmes for the management and development of the vulnerable areas and for protection of the population in the vulnerable areas; and
- (t) other procedures to be followed during an alert, a declaration of a disaster, a declaration of a state of emergency or in the event or the aftermath of an emergency or a disaster.

(6) The National Disaster Management Plan may communicate strategies, policies, standards and designations by means of maps and diagrams.

(7) The Director shall prepare other plans which must contain details of arrangements under the coordination of the Director for matters relating to hazard mitigation and risk assessment.

#### **Communications link**

14. (1) The Director shall—

- (a) develop and maintain a directory of Ministries, Government departments, statutory bodies, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations that are or should be involved in disaster management in the Islands

showing—

- (i) their names, telephone and fax numbers and physical, postal and electronic addresses;
  - (ii) particulars of their involvement in disaster management; and
  - (iii) the nature, capacity and location of emergency and relief services under their control; and
- (b) establish effective communication links with contact persons identified by the Ministries, Government departments, statutory bodies, private sector entities, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations.

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(2) The directory shall include particulars of—

- (a) all Ministries, Government departments and statutory bodies involved in disaster management;
- (b) non-governmental organisations involved in disaster management;
- (c) disaster management experts in the Islands;
- (d) private sector entities with specialised equipment, skills or knowledge relevant to disaster management;
- (e) private sector voluntary agencies involved in disaster management;
- (f) foreign non-governmental organisations and international organisations involved in disaster management in the Islands; and
- (g) faith based organisations.

(3) The Director shall, in addition to subsection (1), develop and maintain an emergency contact list showing the names and the organisations and the designated persons, telephone numbers, fax numbers and electronic addresses and any other relevant contact information and the contact list shall be updated annually.

(4) The Director shall establish communication links with foreign disaster management agencies, including institutions performing functions similar to those performed by the Department, to exchange information to have access to international expertise in and assistance in respect of disaster management.

#### **Disaster management information system**

15. (1) The Director shall—

- (a) collect information on all aspects of disasters and disaster management;
- (b) process and analyse the information collected under paragraph (a);
- (c) develop and maintain an electronic database organised under

(c) develop and maintain an electronic database envisaged under subsection (2); and

(d) take steps to disseminate such information, especially to communities that are vulnerable to disasters.

(2) The electronic database developed by the Director must contain extensive information concerning disasters that occur or may occur in the Islands and disaster management issues, including information on—

(a) phenomena, occurrence, and circumstances that cause or aggravate disaster;

(b) risk factors underlying disasters and ways and means to reduce such risks;

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(c) recurring occurrences that result in loss, but which are not classified as disasters under this Ordinance;

(d) prevention and mitigation;

(e) early warning systems;

(f) areas and communities that are particularly vulnerable to disasters;

(g) indigenous knowledge relating to disaster management;

(h) the directory under section 14 and the names and particulars of contact persons;

(i) emergency response resources and capacity in the Ministries, Government departments and in the non-government sectors, including the location and size of, and other relevant information relating to—

(i) police stations;

(ii) hospitals, clinics and other health institutions;

(iii) emergency medical services;

(iv) school, church and public buildings and other facilities that could be used as emergency shelters or hospitals in the event of a disaster;

(v) fire-fighting services; and

(vi) airports, airstrips, harbours and seaports;

(j) emergency response resources and capacity in neighbouring countries and relevant international relief agencies;

(k) emergency preparedness in the different Ministries and Government departments; and

(l) research and training facilities for disaster management disciplines.

(3) The Director shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the database is electronically accessible to any person free of charge.

(4) Subsection (3) does not prevent the Director from—

- (a) establishing security safeguards to protect the database from abuse; and
- (b) classifying parts of the database as restricted areas in consultation with the Governor, and limiting access to those parts authorised by the Governor.

### **Prevention and mitigation**

16. (1) The Director shall give guidance to Ministries, Government departments, statutory bodies, private sector entities, non-governmental

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organisations and faith based organisations, communities and individuals to assess and prevent or reduce the risk of disasters, including—

- (a) ways and means of—
  - (i) determining levels of risk;
  - (ii) assessing the vulnerability of communities and households to disasters that may occur;
  - (iii) increasing the capacity of communities and households to minimise the risk and impact of disasters that may occur; and
  - (iv) monitoring the likelihood of, and the state of alertness to disasters that may occur;
- (b) the development and implementation of appropriate prevention and mitigation methodologies;
- (c) the integration of prevention and mitigation methodologies with development plans, programmes and initiatives; and
- (d) the management of high-risk developments.

(2) The Director shall promote formal and informal initiatives that encourage risk-avoidance behaviour by Ministries, Government departments, statutory bodies, island committees, community groups, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations, communities and individuals.

### **Shelters**

17. (1) The Director shall establish and maintain a list of premises available and suitable for use as shelters, including marine or medical shelters, during a declaration of an emergency or an alert or in the event or the aftermath of an emergency or a disaster.

(2) The Director shall in the shelter list—

- (a) distinguish between shelters in Crown occupation and any other shelter;

- (b) list the facilities available at each shelter;
- (c) indicate the suitability of each shelter for use during a declaration of emergency or an alert or in the event or the aftermath of an emergency or a disaster; and
- (d) indicate the periods for and the conditions under which the shelter would be suitable for use in the instances in paragraph (c).

(3) The Director shall subject to subsection (4) assign to each shelter, a shelter manager charged with the responsibility of managing the shelter during any period where the premises are being used for that purpose and may designate shelter officers to assist a shelter manager.

(4) Where a shelter is not in Crown occupation, the designation of shelter managers or shelter officers for those premises shall be subject to the agreement of the owner of the shelter.

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(5) The owner or occupier of any premises listed as a shelter in the shelter list is not liable to any person taking shelter on the premises for any injury to such person or damage to or loss of any person's property, which injury, damage or loss arises from the condition of the premises, where the use of the premises for shelter was within the listed limits of suitability of the premises under subsection (2)(c).

(6) The provisions of subsection (5) are without prejudice to any other right or remedy which the person suffering damage or loss may have—

- (a) other than a right or remedy against the owner or occupier of the premises; or
- (b) against the owner or occupier of the premises for damage or loss arising otherwise than from the condition of the premises.

(7) The Director shall develop and publish at each shelter such rules and guidelines as may be necessary for the proper management of the listed premises that are being used for the purposes of this Ordinance.

(8) A person seeking admission to a shelter shall provide information in such form as the Director may require for registration, to assist in the tracking of persons accommodated during the shelter operation.

(9) A shelter manager may suspend or expel from a shelter any person who commits a serious breach or persistently breaches any of the rules or guidelines, and may enforce the suspension or expulsion by the use of reasonable force.

(10) The Director shall, after consultation with the head of the Government department responsible for marine and coastal resources, assign to premises listed as a marine shelter in the shelter list, a marine shelter master charged with the responsibility of managing the premises during any period where the premises is being used as a shelter and may assign marine shelter officers to assist any marine shelter master.

(11) The Director shall, in the case of the marine shelter list indicate—

- (a) the maximum draft and length of boats and other vessels allowed in the listed place;
- (b) the types of boats and other vessels that shall not be allowed in the listed place;
- (c) the mooring arrangement to be complied with, while the listed place is being used for the purposes of this Ordinance; and
- (d) the maximum period for which persons are permitted to stay in a listed place while the listed place is being used for the purposes of this Ordinance.

(12) The Director shall inspect shelters annually in collaboration with the Government department responsible for public works, the Government department responsible for environmental health and the Government department responsible for marine and coastal resources.

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(13) The Governor may enter into agreements with the owners of premises used as shelters where these are not in occupation.

(14) No liability shall attach to the Government, shelter managers, shelter officers, Government employees or agents or the owner or occupier of listed premises in respect of—

- (a) accidental or negligent loss or damage to property brought into the shelter by a person seeking protection; or
- (b) persons who leave the shelter prior to the issuance of an All Clear.

(15) A person shall not assault or obstruct a shelter manager or a shelter officer in the execution of his duty in relation to the function of the shelter manager or shelter officer under this section.

(16) A person who contravenes subsection (15) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000 or to a term of imprisonment of twelve months, or to both.

### **Volunteers**

**18.** (1) The Director shall maintain a register to be known as the Register of Volunteers.

(2) A person who wishes to volunteer for the purposes of assisting in an emergency or a disaster shall submit his name to the Director for registration as a volunteer and the Director shall, after undertaking a screening process and if he sees fit, register the person as a volunteer in the Register of Volunteers.

(3) The chairperson of each district disaster management committee shall submit in writing to the Director on or before 31 March in each year, the names of the members of his committees and the Director shall include the names of these members as volunteers and register their names in the Register of Volunteers.

(4) The Director shall maintain the Register of Volunteers.



(4) The Director may amend the register of volunteers.

(5) The Director may engage a volunteer who is not on the Register of Volunteers, if, whilst during a disaster it is practicable to do so and any person so engaged shall be deemed to be on the Register of Volunteers.

(6) The Director shall provide training and incentives to all volunteers.

(7) The Director shall provide each volunteer with a distinctive badge, tag or other form of identification which shall be carried by each volunteer while engaged in the performance of his duties as a volunteer under this Ordinance.

(8) A volunteer who exercises the duties assigned to him pursuant to this Ordinance in good faith shall not be liable for injury to persons or loss to property caused as a result of those duties.

(9) The Cabinet shall effect and maintain policies of insurance in respect of the injury or death of all volunteers on the Register of Volunteers.

(10) The Director may, in consultation with the National Advisory Committee, establish Community Emergency Response Teams for the purpose

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of assisting in the preparation for and the response to a disaster that may occur in any of the districts throughout the Islands.

(11) The Community Emergency Response Teams shall support the National Disaster Management Plan and the Department through assistance in the following areas—

- (a) preparation, mitigation, response and recovery in their community;
- (b) determining needs and requests for assistance;
- (c) receiving, recording and distributing resources;
- (d) assisting in damage assessment; and
- (e) communicating relevant information from the district to the National Emergency Operations Centre.

#### **Functions of hazard inspector**

19. The functions of a hazard inspector are—

- (a) to inspect premises for the purpose of entering such premises on the shelter list; and
- (b) to inspect premises which, in the opinion of the Director, appear to pose a reasonable danger of serious injury to persons inside or outside if a disaster has happened, is happening or is likely to happen.

#### **Inspections by hazard inspector**

20. (1) A hazard inspector may, where he reasonably believes that the conditions of any premises are reasonably suspected of posing a danger or serious injury to persons in or outside the premises in the event of a disaster.

enter premises at a reasonable time with consent of the owner or occupier for the purpose of carrying out the functions conferred under this Ordinance.

(2) Where the consent of the owner is not obtained under subsection (1), the inspector shall apply to a Magistrate for a warrant for the purpose and where the Magistrate is satisfied, on evidence on oath by the hazard inspector, that the conditions of any premises is reasonably suspected of posing a danger of serious injury to persons inside or outside of the premises in the event of a disaster, the Magistrate may issue a warrant authorising the hazard inspector to enter and inspect the premises for any hazard.

(3) A warrant issued under subsection (2) expires not later than thirty days after the date on which it is made, and may be renewed before expiry for one or more periods each of which shall not exceed thirty days.

(4) A hazard inspector who exercises a power under this section shall identify himself to any person in control of the premises to be inspected at the time of the inspection, by producing the hazard inspector's badge, tag or other form of identification issued pursuant to section 9 and the warrant of the

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Magistrate issued pursuant to subsection (2), and shall explain the purpose of the inspection to the person.

(5) A warrant under this section may be issued or renewed on application notwithstanding that no notice of the application is given to any person who may be affected by the warrant.

(6) A hazard inspector shall prepare a report on the results of any inspection carried out under this section indicating the instances when the agent, owner or occupier cannot take the remedial action and shall submit a copy of the report to the Director.

(7) The Director shall—

- (a) provide to the agent, owner or occupier of the premises in respect of which a report is submitted a copy of the report submitted by the hazard inspector; and
- (b) if the report submitted by the hazard inspector reveals that the condition of any premises poses a reasonable danger or serious injury to persons inside or outside the premises on the occurrence of a disaster, and the condition of the premises which gives rise to the danger constitutes a violation of any law, submit to the relevant Ministry, Government department or body responsible for that law, a copy of the report submitted by the inspector.

(8) Where the Director receives information pursuant to subsection (6) from the hazard inspector, the Director shall request that the agent, owner or occupier of the premises take remedial action within a specified period of time, subject to subsection (7), with or without the assistance of the Department.

(9) The assistance of the Department may be obtained by the agent, owner or occupier on payment of a fee as specified by the Director.

(10) An owner, agent or occupier of premises who fails to comply with a request made pursuant to subsection (8) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000 or to a term of imprisonment of twelve months, or to both.

(11) A report of a hazard inspector under this section is admissible in any legal proceedings as evidence of the truth of the report's findings of fact, whether or not the Crown is a party to such proceedings.

(12) A person shall not assault or obstruct the Director or hazard inspector in the execution of his duty in relation to the functions of the Director or hazard inspector under this section.

(13) A person who contravenes subsection (12) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000 or to a term of imprisonment of twelve months, or to both.

(14) When the Director or hazard inspector is obstructed in the execution of his duty, the Director or hazard inspector may request the assistance of a police officer to exercise his functions under this Ordinance.

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**Power to require owner to raise, remove or destroy vessel, or other obstruction**

21. (1) Where the Director with responsibility for the environment and maritime considers that any vessel or other object sunk, stranded, abandoned or grounded in the territorial waters, coastal areas or marine shelter or the approaches thereto is, or is likely to become an obstruction, impediment or danger to navigation or to the safe and convenient use or operation of a marine shelter or poses an environmental threat, he may, by notice in writing, require the owner or agent of the vessel or object to raise, remove or destroy the whole or any part of such vessel or object within such time as may be specified in the notice.

(2) Any notice that is served under subsection (1) shall be considered sufficiently served if addressed to the owner or agent of the vessel or object, as the case may be, and—

(a) transmitted by fax or registered post to the last known place, residence, business or registered office of the owner or agent of the vessel or object; or

(b) affixed to a conspicuous part of the vessel or object.

(3) A person who fails to comply with a notice under subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000 and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine of \$2,000 for every day or part of a day during which the notice is not complied with.

(4) In the case of any vessel or other object sunk, stranded or abandoned in ports, harbours or tidal waters under the control and jurisdiction of the Ports Authority, the notice under subsections (1) and (2) shall be transmitted and served by the Ports Authority.

### Power to raise and remove vessel or other obstruction

22. (1) Where a vessel or object is not raised, removed or destroyed within such time as may be given in the notice under section 21, the Ports Authority may—

- (a) take possession of and raise, remove or destroy the whole or part of such vessel or object;
- (b) light, mark or buoy such vessel or object until the raising, removal or destruction thereof; and
- (c) sell, in such manner as it considers necessary, the vessel, or object.

(2) The Ports Authority may use the proceeds of the sale under subsection (1)(c) to reimburse itself for the whole of the expenses incurred by it in the exercise of its powers under this section and to defray any related expenses incurred thereby.

(3) The Ports Authority shall notify the owner or agent of the vessel or object of any surplus and shall, on request, pay the surplus of the proceeds of the sale under subsection (1)(c) to the owner or person entitled to it, and if no

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request is made by the owner or any person entitled to the surplus within twelve months from the date of such notice, the surplus shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

(4) If the proceeds of the sale under subsection (1)(c) are insufficient to reimburse the Ports Authority for the whole expenses incurred, the Ports Authority may recover the balance from the owner or agent of the vessel or object as a debt in any court of competent jurisdiction.

(5) If any vessel, object or any part thereof is destroyed by the Ports Authority under subsection (1)(a), the owner or agent of the vessel or object shall reimburse the Ports Authority for the expenses incurred in such destruction.

(6) Any expenses incurred by the Ports Authority under section 21 or this section shall be paid from the Consolidated Fund.

(7) Where the owner or agent of the vessel or object is not known, the Ports Authority shall cause a notice to be published in the *Gazette* for the purposes of subsection (3).

(8) For the purposes of this section, “vessel” includes every article or thing being or forming part of the tackle, equipment, cargo, stores or ballast of a vessel as the case may be.

### Consultation prior to evacuation

23. The Director shall for the purposes of evacuation assess the potential for loss of life and injury to persons where there is a threat of a hazard or where a disaster has occurred in the Islands or in a part of the Islands and shall consult

with the Governor.

#### **Notice of evacuation**

**24.** (1) If an evacuation is considered necessary under section 23, the Governor shall subject to subsection (2), issue a notice of evacuation.

(2) A notice of evacuation pursuant to subsection (1) shall specify the nature of the disaster, the area of the Islands required to be evacuated and the potential harm to persons.

(3) Where a notice is issued pursuant to subsection (1), the Director shall coordinate the evacuation in accordance with Regulations with the assistance of agencies involved in emergency and disaster management, including the Police Force and the Turks and Caicos Islands fire and rescue services.

(4) A person shall comply with a notice of evacuation issued pursuant to this section.

(5) A person who contravenes subsection (4) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$3,000 or to a term of imprisonment of six months, or to both.

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#### **Employees who assist in emergency situations**

**25.** (1) Where the Director certifies in writing that the services of a person is needed by the Department for the performance of tasks are related to response and recovery from an emergency during a specified period, the employer of that person shall pay the salary and all benefits to which the employee was entitled for the period specified.

(2) The period the Director may specify under subsection (1) shall, in no case, exceed a continuous period of seven days for a particular emergency.

(3) An employer who fails to comply with subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$3,000.

#### **Annual report**

**26.** (1) The Director shall not later than three months after the end of each financial year, submit to the Governor an annual report on—

- (a) the activities of the Department during the financial year;
- (b) the results of monitoring risk reduction and mitigation matters;
- (c) the status of implementation of the National Disaster Management Plan;
- (d) the classification, magnitude and severity of disasters occurring in that financial year and any challenges encountered in dealing with them, including implications for existing policies, strategies, plans and guidelines;

- (e) the finding of surveys during that financial year to determine the state of readiness of all stakeholders involved in disaster management;
- (f) the status of shelters; and
- (g) the status of the implementation of the strategy and action plan.

(2) The Governor shall not later than one month after he receives the annual report present it to the Cabinet and the Cabinet shall cause the annual report to be submitted to the House of Assembly as soon as practicable.

### PART III

#### DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

##### *National Disaster Management Organisation*

#### **National Disaster Management Organisation**

27. The National Disaster Management Organisation shall comprise—

- (a) the Executive Policy Committee;
- (b) the National Disaster Advisory Committee;

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- (c) the National Operations Group; and
- (d) the Island Committees.

##### *Executive Policy Committee*

#### **Establishment and composition of the Executive Policy Committee**

28. (1) The Cabinet shall establish an Executive Policy Committee on disaster management which shall consist of—

- (a) the Governor, who shall preside at meetings of the Executive Policy Committee;
- (b) the Deputy Governor;
- (c) the Premier;
- (d) the Minister;
- (e) the Attorney General;
- (f) the Permanent Secretary, Finance;
- (g) the Commissioner of Police;
- (h) the Permanent Secretary; and
- (i) the Director.

(2) The Governor, the Premier or the Minister and four other members

shall constitute a quorum for a meeting, unless time or circumstances do not permit, in which case the Governor and the Premier or the Minister shall constitute a quorum for a meeting.

(3) In the absence of the Governor from any meeting of the Executive Policy Committee, the Premier shall preside at the meeting.

(4) The Governor, or the person presiding over a meeting of the Executive Policy Committee in his absence, may, acting in his discretion, invite any public officer or other person to a meeting of the Executive Policy Committee whenever he considers the presence of that officer or other person desirable, but such officer or other person shall not have a right to vote in the Executive Policy Committee.

(5) The Executive Policy Committee shall—

- (a) advise and make recommendations to the Cabinet on the development of a National Disaster Management Policy, Plan and Strategy aimed at ensuring comprehensive disaster management by all Ministries, Government departments, statutory bodies, island committees, community groups, private sector, non-governmental organisations, faith based organisations, communities and individuals;
- (b) be accountable to the Cabinet and shall report to it on the coordination of the National Disaster Management Policy among Ministries; and

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(c) advise and make recommendations to the Cabinet on issues relating to disaster management.

(6) In performing its functions under subsection (5), the Executive Policy Committee shall create a partnership among the Government, non-governmental agencies and communities so as to facilitate an integrated approach to disaster management and to ensure that disaster management and more particularly risk reduction is incorporated into development procedures and policies with Government, non-governmental agencies and communities to promote comprehensive disaster management.

(7) The Executive Policy Committee shall prescribe its own rules of procedure.

#### **National Disaster Management Policy**

29. (1) The Executive Policy Committee shall provide a coherent, transparent and inclusive policy on disaster management appropriate for the Islands that reflects a proportionate emphasis on disasters of different kinds, severity and magnitude that occur or may occur in the Islands and places emphasis on measures that reduce the vulnerability of disaster-prone areas, communities and households.

(2) The Executive Policy Committee shall ensure that the National Disaster Management Policy—

- (a) guides the development and implementation of disaster

- management envisaged by this Ordinance;
- (b) establishes prevention and mitigation as the core principles of disaster management;
  - (c) facilitates the joint establishment of joint standards of practice;
  - (d) determines the relationship between the sphere of government exercising primary responsibility for the coordination and management of a disaster and the spheres of government performing supportive roles;
  - (e) allocates specific responsibilities in this regard to the different spheres;
  - (f) guides the development and implementation of disaster management within Ministries on a cross-functional and multi-disciplinary basis and allocates responsibilities in this regard to different Ministries;
  - (g) facilitates the involvement of the private sector, non-governmental organisations, faith based organisations and volunteers in disaster management;
  - (h) facilitates community participation in disaster management;
  - (i) facilitates partnership between Ministries, the private sector, non-governmental organisations, faith based organisations and communities;

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- (j) facilitates disaster management capacity building, training and education, including in schools, and provide incentives for such capacity building, training and education;
- (k) promotes disaster management research;
- (l) guides the development of a comprehensive information management system;
- (m) takes into account indigenous knowledge relating to disaster management;
- (n) provides a framework within which Ministries may fund disaster management with specific emphasis on preventing or reducing the risk of disasters, including grants to contribute to post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation and payment to victims of disasters and their dependants;
- (o) addresses the requirements for co-operation and coordination between the different Ministries, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and faith based organisations; and
- (p) provides key performance indicators in respect of the various aspects of disaster management.

*National Disaster Advisory Committee*



### **Establishment and composition of the National Disaster Advisory Committee**

**30. (1)** There shall be a National Disaster Advisory Committee which shall consist of—

- (a) the Deputy Governor, as Chairperson;
- (b) the Permanent Secretary, Finance;
- (c) the Permanent Secretary;
- (d) the Director;
- (e) the Commissioner of Police;
- (f) the Director with responsibility for physical planning;
- (g) the Director with responsibility for the environment and maritime;
- (h) the Director with responsibility for health services;
- (i) the Chief Environmental Officer;
- (j) the Chief Engineer;
- (k) the Chief Fire Officer;
- (l) the Head of the Governor's Office;
- (m) the Deputy Attorney General;
- (n) the public officer with responsibility for district administration;

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- (o) the district Commissioners;
- (p) a representative from the Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross;  
and
- (q) such other public officer or other person from statutory bodies or private organisations as the Deputy Governor thinks fit.

(2) The Director shall be the Secretary of the National Disaster Advisory Committee.

(3) The Chairperson and seven members shall constitute a quorum for any meeting of the National Disaster Advisory Committee.

(4) All questions for discussion at a meeting of the National Disaster Advisory Committee shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting.

(5) The Chairperson shall have an original vote, and in the event of an equality of votes, he shall have a second or casting vote.

(6) The Secretary shall ensure that minutes of all meetings of the National Disaster Advisory Committee and all decisions taken are recorded and that copies of such minutes are presented for confirmation by the members as soon as practicable, to allow adequate time for consideration at the next following meeting of the National Disaster Advisory Committee.

(7) Subject to this Ordinance, the National Disaster Advisory Committee shall determine its own procedure.

### **Functions of the National Disaster Advisory Committee**

**31.** (1) The National Disaster Advisory Committee shall have the following functions—

- (a) to review and provide comments to the Executive Policy Committee on the National Disaster Management Plan and annual reports submitted by the Director; and
- (b) to promote consultations with a wide range of governmental and non-governmental representatives and stakeholders in disaster planning and management.

(2) In addition to performing its functions under subsection (1), the National Disaster Advisory Committee may advise any Ministry, Government department, statutory body, island committee, community, private sector, non-governmental organisation or faith based organisation on any matter relating to disaster management and shall—

- (a) make recommendations to the Director with respect to the preparation of the National Disaster Management Plan;
- (b) provide technical guidance and assistance to the Executive Policy Committee with respect to the formulation of policy guidelines in relation to the coordination of disaster management; and
- (c) consider such other matters as may be requested by—

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- (i) the chairperson of the National Disaster Advisory Committee;
- (ii) any two members of the National Disaster Advisory Committee;
- (iii) the Executive Policy Committee; or
- (iv) the Director; and

### **Convening of meetings of the National Disaster Advisory Committee**

**32.** The Chairperson shall convene a meeting of the National Disaster Advisory Committee—

- (a) within the months of January to April and September to November in every calendar year;
- (b) within forty-eight hours of the coming into existence of a threat of a disaster, a disaster or an emergency;
- (c) as soon as the Chairperson considers practicable in the event of a disaster or emergency which has not been preceded by a threat of a disaster; or

(d) at any other time for any other purposes.

#### **Establishment of sub-committees**

33. (1) The National Disaster Advisory Committee may establish sub-committees charged with particular responsibilities for functional areas.

(2) A sub-committee appointed under subsection (1) shall consist wholly or partly of members of the National Disaster Advisory Committee as may be necessary for the proper carrying out of its responsibility and the National Disaster Advisory Committee may co-opt to such sub-committees such specialised personnel as the National Disaster Advisory Committee thinks fit.

(3) A sub-committee appointed under subsection (1) shall meet once every three months or whenever an alert, a declaration of a disaster or a declaration of a state of emergency is issued or in the event or aftermath of an emergency or a disaster.

(4) Each sub-committee appointed under subsection (1) shall be led by a Chairman who reports to the Deputy Governor.

#### *National Operations Group*

#### **Establishment and composition of the National Operations Group**

34. (1) There shall be a National Operations Group which shall consist of—

- (a) the Permanent Secretary, as Chairperson;
- (b) the Director, as Deputy Chairperson;
- (c) the Deputy Commissioner of Police;

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- (d) the Director of the Civil Aviation Authority;
- (e) the Director of the Airports Authority;
- (f) the Director with responsibility for health services;
- (g) the Chief Environmental Health Officer;
- (h) the Director with responsibility for social services;
- (i) the Director with responsibility for public works;
- (j) the Director with responsibility for the environment and maritime;
- (k) the Director with responsibility for physical planning;
- (l) the Director with responsibility for survey and mapping;
- (m) the Director with responsibility for education;
- (n) the Director with responsibility for immigration;
- (o) the Director with responsibility for information technology;
- (p) the Collector of Customs;
- (q) the Government Information Officer;

- (r) the Government Chief Fire Officer;
- (s) the Director of Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross;
- (t) a representative of the Turks and Caicos Amateur Radio Society;
- (u) a representative of the Tourist Board; and
- (v) the Director of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency.

(2) The Chairperson, or any person presiding over a meeting of the National Operations Group, may invite any public officer or other person to a meeting of the National Operations Group who he considers can provide scientific and technical advice or support to disaster management or whenever the business before the National Operations Group renders the presence of that officer or other person desirable.

(3) The National Operations Group shall be organised into sub-committees and each sub-committee assigned responsibility for functional areas.

(4) Each sub-committee shall be led by a Chairperson who reports to the National Emergency Operations Centre Director.

### **Functions of the National Operations Group**

35. (1) The National Operations Group is the body that coordinates the disaster response and relief efforts and provides the necessary technical direction for the response phase of the emergency until the National Emergency Operations Centre is deactivated.

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- (2) The National Operations Group shall—
- (a) control and coordinate actions based on the standard operating procedures, national plans and orders from the Executive Policy Committee;
  - (b) provide direction for the response;
  - (c) organise logistical support; and
  - (d) plan ahead for the response and initial post disaster requirements.

### *Island Committees and Community Groups*

#### **Establishment of island committees and community groups**

36. (1) The Governor shall establish island committees for the purposes of this Ordinance.

(2) The Director shall establish community groups for the purposes of this Ordinance.

### Composition of island committees and community groups

37. (1) An island committee shall consist of—

- (a) the District Commissioner for that island, who shall be Chairperson; and
- (b) any other person appointed by the Governor, on the recommendation of the Director in consultation with the District Commissioner for that island, as may be required to carry out the functions of the island committee.

(2) A community group shall consist of persons who submit their names as volunteers to the Director.

### Functions of island committees and community groups

38. Each island committee and community group has the following functions—

- (a) to ensure that disaster management in the district is consistent with the National Disaster Management Plan;
- (b) to develop and coordinate an effective disaster management plan for the district and regularly review and assess the plan; and
- (c) to report to the Department on matters related to disaster management.

### Regulation of procedure

39. An island committee and community group shall regulate its own procedure.

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## PART IV

### NATIONAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

#### National Emergency Operations Centre

40. (1) The Director shall be responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a National Emergency Operations Centre and where necessary, supplementary emergency operations centres, whether distributed according to geographical location or any other factor.

(2) The National Emergency Operations Centre serves as the headquarters of the activities undertaken in response to a disaster alert or disaster.

(3) The Governor shall where necessary designate another building to be used as the National Emergency Operations Centre following a disaster.

(4) The National Emergency Operations Centre shall comprise an executive group as well as five sections which shall operate under the incident command system.

(5) The five sections referred to in subsection (4) include command, logistics, operations, planning, and finance and administration.

(6) The executive group shall exercise the overall direction and control of disaster operations.

(7) The command section shall coordinate—

- (a) the emergency or disaster response and relief efforts and activities as directed by the Director; and
- (b) damage assessments.

### **Object of the National Emergency Operations Centre**

**41.** The principal object of the National Emergency Operations Centre is to coordinate the efforts among lead agencies in disaster response with a view to minimising duplication and to achieve the ultimate goal of saving life and reducing human suffering by—

- (a) mitigating the negative effects of hazard impacts or major incidents;
- (b) disseminating official information;
- (c) managing disaster relief;
- (d) providing relevant briefings and reports to the Cabinet;
- (e) coordinating on-the-ground efforts of external agencies in emergency or disaster response; and
- (f) providing a smooth transition to recovery if required.

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### **Functions of the National Emergency Operations Centre**

**42. (1)** The functions of the National Emergency Operations Centre are—

- (a) to provide centralised coordination and control of emergency or disaster response and operations on a twenty-four hour per day basis if necessary;
- (b) to keep the public informed of the emergency or disaster in a timely and factual manner through briefings and bulletins;
- (c) to control and coordinate actions generated as a result of orders from the Executive Policy Committee;
- (d) to provide direction and support to the disaster site manager;
- (e) to arrange for logistic support to site personnel;
- (f) to plan ahead to meet the requirements that will follow a disaster;
- (g) to ensure the efficient movement, assimilation and dissemination of information from disaster sites to the resource managers and to

of information from disaster sites to the resource managers and to the public;

- (h) to issue disaster alerts and give direction to the public which may necessitate the installation of remote broadcast connections through radio and television stations;
- (i) to issue special bulletins or newsletters;
- (j) to maintain display devices within the National Emergency Operations Centre so that agencies can quickly comprehend what actions have been taken and what resources are available;
- (k) to ensure the timely preparation and dissemination of situation reports which should be shared with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency;
- (l) to maintain official logs, other records and reports;
- (m) to give directives to public officers and guidance to the public as necessary;
- (n) to prioritise and organise requests for external assistance;
- (o) to coordinate external assistance as it is received;
- (p) to function as the local point of contact for regional and international organisations; and
- (q) to be responsible for the implementation of emergency policy, strategy and programmes through supervision and coordination of all agencies involved in emergency or disaster management.

(2) In order to carry out the function under subsection (1)(h) the National Emergency Operations Centre Director may make advance arrangements with radio or television stations, cable, satellite providers, internet radio stations, cellular and landline communication providers.

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(3) Depending on the nature of the emergency or disaster, the National Emergency Operations Centre Director may establish special security at the National Emergency Operations Centre.

(4) A situation report required under subsection (1)(k) shall include a list of casualties, the physical damage experienced and the needs of the Islands.

## PART V

### OBLIGATIONS OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT

#### **Liaison officer**

**43.** Every Permanent Secretary, head of a Government department and statutory body shall ensure that there is at all times a senior person designated as the liaison officer for communication with the Director in relation to the procedures of the Ministry, Government department or statutory body.

### **Preparation of strategy**

44. Every Permanent Secretary, head of Government department, statutory body, island committee and community group shall implement the National Disaster Management Strategy and the National Disaster Management Plan.

### **Disaster management plan**

45. (1) Every Ministry, Government department, statutory body, island committee and community group shall prepare a disaster management plan and review and update the plan annually in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the Department.

(2) The disaster management plan prepared under subsection (1) shall be in compliance with the National Disaster Management Plan under section 13.

### **Annual exercises and training of staff**

46. Every Ministry, Government department and statutory body shall conduct annual exercises and training for staff in relation to disaster management.

### **Resources**

47. (1) Every permanent secretary, head of Government department, statutory body and the chairpersons of island committees and community groups shall supply to the Director, in the manner and by such date as may be required by the Director, such information as may reasonably be requested by the Director.

(2) Every permanent secretary, head of Government department, statutory body and critical facility agency shall ensure that resources available for use or identified for use in disaster management are maintained so as to be ready for use.

(3) Every permanent secretary, head of Government department and statutory body and critical facility agency shall submit a list of the available

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resources that may be used for or are identified for use in disaster management to the Director to facilitate the compilation of a national inventory database.

(4) The Director shall, in collaboration with every Ministry, Government department, statutory body and relevant private sector entity, develop and maintain a national inventory database of available resources for use in disaster management.

(5) Where a vehicle is required under this section and that vehicle is not made available, the vehicle may be commandeered by the Director for such period as may be necessary.

(6) Schedule 3 stipulates the list of critical facility agencies.

### **Supply of information**

48. (1) Every Ministry, Government department, statutory body, island committee and community group shall supply to the Director in the manner and



committee and community group shall supply to the Director in the manner and by such date as may be required by the Director, such information as may be requested by the Director.

(2) Every permanent secretary, Government department and statutory body shall cause response and continuity plans for his Ministry, Government department or statutory body to be prepared and reviewed by the Minister not later than 30 April each year and then submitted to the Director who shall provide the Cabinet with a copy of every such plan.

#### **Reporting of damage assessment**

49. (1) Every Ministry, Government department, statutory body, island committee and community group shall prepare a report on damage assessment in the aftermath of a disaster.

(2) A report prepared under subsection (1) shall be submitted to the Director within such time as may be required by the Director.

#### **Director to be consulted**

50. (1) Before any person other than the Governor exercises any disaster preparedness and response related powers under this or any other Ordinance, that person shall subject to subsections (2) and (3), consult with the Director.

(2) The obligation to consult under subsection (1) does not apply—

(a) during a disaster or an emergency, where the person exercising the powers under subsection (1) considers that the urgency of the matter or difficulties of logistics makes such consultation impracticable; and

(b) in respect of the exercise of any power in relation to which a waiver by the Director of his right to be consulted is in effect under subsection (3).

(3) The Director may, with the approval of the Governor, waive his right to be consulted under subsection (1).

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(4) A waiver under subsection (3) may relate to the exercise of any power or category of powers or to the exercise of a power in a specific instance.

## **PART VI**

### **NATIONAL MULTI-HAZARD ALERT SYSTEM AND DECLARATION OF DISASTERS**

#### **National Multi-Hazard Alert System**

51. (1) There shall be a National Multi-Hazard Alert System for the Islands.

(2) The National Multi-Hazard Alert System shall be operated under the supervision of the Director and shall consist of—

(a) a National Emergency Broadcast System (Radio Turks and Caicos and the Government Information Service);

- and the Government Information Service),
- (b) telecommunications;
  - (c) siren warnings; and
  - (d) such early warning systems as may be prescribed.

### **National Emergency Broadcast System**

52. (1) The National Emergency Broadcast System shall enable the Government to broadcast emergency announcements of the threat of a disaster of a kind specified in Schedule 2 directly from the National Emergency Operations Centre to the public on such frequency or in such manner as is specified in the memorandum of understanding between the Government and a person who is licensed to operate a telecommunications station in accordance with the provisions of any existing law.

(2) An announcement shall not be broadcast on the National Emergency Broadcast System unless it is in writing and approved and signed by the Governor, acting after consultation with the Director.

(3) Subject to subsection (7), a person who contravenes subsection (2)—

- (a) commits an offence and is liable, on summary conviction to a fine of \$5,000; and
- (b) is, without prejudice to the power of the court to make any order or grant any other relief, liable in civil proceedings to pay damages to any person who suffers injury, loss or damage as a result of relying on the announcement.

(4) The Director shall keep an original signed copy of all announcements broadcast on the National Emergency Broadcast System and shall, upon application in writing, provide any person with a certified copy of any original signed copy.

(5) Judicial notice shall be taken of an original signed copy of a certified copy referred to in subsection (4).

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(6) All announcements broadcast on the National Emergency Broadcast System shall be presumed to be broadcast in accordance with subsection (2), unless notice to the contrary is subsequently given by an announcement broadcast on the National Emergency Broadcast System or by an advertisement issued by the Director and published on the Department's website and one issue of one newspaper in general circulation in the Islands.

(7) A person with whom the Government has entered into a memorandum of understanding referred to in subsection (1)—

- (a) shall be entitled to presume that all announcements being broadcast on the National Emergency Broadcast System are being broadcast in accordance with subsection (2); and
- (b) is not liable under subsection (3),

unless he knew or had reason to believe that the announcement was not being broadcasted in accordance with subsection (2).

(8) Where a disaster alert exists and the Governor, after consultation with the Director, is satisfied that the lives of the residents in any part of the Islands would be at risk when the disaster occurs, the Governor may cause an announcement advising those residents to evacuate that part of the Islands in the interest of their own personal safety—

- (a) to be broadcast on the National Emergency Broadcast System;
- (b) to be made by loud speaker in that part of the Islands by members of the Police Force; or
- (c) to be made by the Director by any means available.

(9) Notwithstanding this section, the Governor may, after consultation with the Director, declare that notwithstanding the formal announcement made by the National Emergency Broadcast System, a disaster alert does not exist in respect of the Islands and such an announcement shall not constitute an offence for the purposes of this Ordinance.

### Declaration of disaster

53. (1) The Governor may declare a disaster for the Islands, or a part of the Islands, if he is satisfied—

- (a) after being notified by the Director that there is a substantial prospect that a disaster of a kind in Schedule 2 will strike; or
- (b) that a disaster has happened, is happening or is likely to happen in the Islands,

and that it is necessary for the Department or a person authorised under this Ordinance to exercise disaster management powers under this Ordinance, to prevent or minimise loss of human life, illness or injury to humans, property loss or damage to the environment.

(2) A declaration of a disaster under subsection (1) shall include—

- (a) the time and date of the declaration; and

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(b) the area in respect of which the declaration is made.

(3) A declaration of a disaster under this section shall, as soon as practicable, be published by Notice in the *Gazette*.

(4) A disaster—

- (a) commences when it is declared under subsection (1); and
- (b) ends when the Governor, on the advice of the Director, declares that it has ended.

(5) A notice may extend, or from time to time further extend, the period of the disaster.

(6) A notice extending or further extending the period of the disaster—

(6) A notice extending or further extending the period of the disaster

- (a) shall state the period by which the disaster is extended; and
- (b) expires at the end of the stated period unless it is sooner revoked or it expires under subsection (7).

(7) The Governor shall by Notice in the *Gazette* declare the end of a disaster if it is no longer necessary for persons exercising disaster powers under this Ordinance to do so.

#### **Public access**

54. (1) On the declaration of a disaster alert, hazard alert or disaster, the Director, a police officer or any person acting under the authority of the Director, may, in order to limit the extent of the disaster, totally or partially prohibit or restrict public access, with or without vehicles, to any road or pathway within the Islands affected or likely to be affected by the disaster.

(2) An owner of land or his agent shall allow the Director, a police officer or any person acting under the authority of the Director during a hazard alert or disaster, passage onto the land in order to clear any channel for water to flow freely, so as to limit the extent of the effects of the disaster.

(3) A person shall not, during a disaster alert, hazard alert or disaster, obstruct the work of the Director, a member of the Police Force or any person acting under the authority of the Director, and shall obey instructions to stay away from any disaster management works.

(4) A person who contravenes the provisions of this section commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000 or to a term of imprisonment of six months, or to both.

#### **Curfews**

55. (1) On the declaration of a disaster alert or disaster, the Governor may publish a curfew order in the *Gazette*.

(2) A curfew order under subsection (1) may require a person to remain for periods specified in the order, at a place so specified in the order.

(3) A curfew order may specify different places or different periods for different days.

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### PART VII

#### MISCELLANEOUS

#### **Donations and grants to the Department**

56. Moneys received by the Department in the form of donations and grants for the purpose of funding projects and programmes in relation to the mitigation of, preparedness for and response to and recovery from emergencies and disaster shall be set aside in the Development Fund established under the Public Finance Management Ordinance to be used solely for that purpose.

**Protection from liability**

57. An action or proceeding shall not be brought against the Department, its employees or any authorised personnel in the exercise or performance in good faith of his powers, duties, or obligations under this Ordinance.

**Compensation**

58. Where the Director, any public officer or person appointed under this Ordinance suffers any physical injury, or loss or damage to any personal property in the course of his duties under this Ordinance, he shall be entitled to receive compensation paid out of public funds in respect of the expenses incurred in the treatment of the injury and the value of such property loss or damage.

**Compensation for damage to property**

59. (1) Compensation for any interference, damage to or destruction of property in terms of sections 47(5) and 54(2) shall be paid only if—

- (a) the owner has not volunteered his property without compensation; and
- (b) the property is interfered with, damaged or destroyed for purposes of coping with a disaster or emergency, and its interference, damage or destruction is ordered by the Director.

(2) A record of all property interfered with, damaged or destroyed in terms of sections 47(5) and 54(2) shall be made and transmitted to the Director.

(3) A person claiming compensation under this section shall file a claim with the Director within 180 days of the occurrence of that event.

(4) In case of dispute as to the amount to be paid for any damage to the property, the Director shall at once refer the dispute to the Permanent Secretary, Finance for determination.

(5) A person aggrieved by the decision of the Permanent Secretary, Finance may appeal to the Governor within twenty-one days of notification of the decision by the Permanent Secretary, Finance.

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**Police powers**

60. Notwithstanding any other law, a police officer has the powers of a shelter manager.

**Penalties**

61. Any person who commits an offence under this Ordinance for which no penalty has been provided under this Ordinance or any Regulations is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$10,000 or to a term of imprisonment of two years, or to both.

### Ordinance binds the Crown

62. This Ordinance binds the Crown.

### Amendment of Schedules

63. The Governor may by Order published in the *Gazette* amend the Schedules to this Ordinance.

### Regulations

64. (1) The Governor may make Regulations generally for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Ordinance.

(2) Regulations made under subsection (1) may prescribe—

- (a) that notice of the availability of a report may be given by advertisement in the *Gazette* or local newspaper where attempts to identify or find an occupier, for the purpose of providing the report or notifying its contents, have not succeeded after one month or such longer period as may be prescribed;
- (b) minimum standards for shelters;
- (c) guidelines for a national systematic shut down;
- (d) warning systems;
- (e) that use of any listed premises by persons taking shelter in the premises shall apply during the period when the premises are in use as shelters; and
- (f) provision for securing the essentials of life to the community.

(3) Regulations made under subsection (2) for listed premises which are not in the occupation of the Crown may be made after consultation with the occupier of the premises.

(4) Regulations made under subsection (2) may confer on shelter managers and shelter officers, authority to—

- (a) refuse admission of persons to a shelter to prevent overcrowding;
- (b) prohibit the bringing of pets or other animals into a shelter;

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- (c) prohibit the bringing of weapons or hazardous materials into a shelter;
- (d) limit by weight or bulk the luggage or other property to be brought into a shelter by persons taking shelter;
- (e) disclaim, as a condition of permitting persons using a shelter to bring luggage or other property into the shelter, responsibility for the safety of such property, including responsibility for negligent damage to such property;

- (f) refuse entry of any person to a shelter unless that person submits to a search of any luggage or other property to be brought into the shelter;
- (g) allocate the use of the space and the facilities of a shelter among different users thereof, and to impose reasonable charges to cover the cost of providing telephone and other services beyond the allocation of physical space;
- (h) regulate the use of musical instruments and other equipment which may disturb other users of a shelter by noise or light;
- (i) prohibit or regulate the consumption of alcoholic drink and the use of tobacco products in the shelter premises;
- (j) require persons to observe safeguards in the interests of the health of other persons;
- (k) require persons using a shelter to take precautions against the outbreak or spread of fire, including participating in fire drills requiring temporary evacuation and assembly;
- (l) set minimum standards of conduct in shelters in the interests of decency and public morality;
- (m) set minimum standards of cleanliness and tidiness to be observed in shelters;
- (n) require persons taking shelter to clean areas within a shelter which they occupy; and
- (o) enforce the criminal law and the regulation and prohibition of prescribed matters by suspension or expulsion from a shelter, and to use reasonable force for this purpose, independently of any proceedings in respect of an offence under this Ordinance.

(5) Where the use of reasonable force is permitted under subsection (4)(o), the shelter manager or shelter officer may request the assistance of any other persons in the use of such reasonable force, and neither the shelter manager or shelter officer or person rendering assistance shall be liable, whether by criminal or civil suit, by virtue of using such reasonable force.

(6) Where a person is forcibly detained under subsection (4)(o), the detention may not be continued beyond the first reasonable opportunity to hand over custody of the person detained to a police officer.

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(7) Regulations made under this Ordinance may create offences and prescribe penalties for such offences within the limits in section 61.

(8) During a hazard alert, any threat of a disaster or emergency, Regulations made under this Ordinance, other than Regulations required under subsection (10) to be published in the *Gazette*, may be published either—

- (a) by announcement in any radio, television or wireless transmission media licensed for transmission and reception in the Turks and Caicos Islands pursuant to the law in force in the Turks and

Caicos Islands pursuant to the law in force in the Turks and Caicos Islands; or

- (b) by notice affixed to the outside of every Magistrate's Court and every police station located in the area to which the Regulations apply.

(9) A publication under subsection (8) is considered sufficient compliance, for the duration of any period of hazard alert or disaster emergency, with any requirement of publication under this Ordinance or any other law.

(10) The means of certifying the authenticity of Regulations published under subsection (8) shall, unless otherwise prescribed by Regulations published in the *Gazette*, be—

- (a) in the case of media announcements under subsection (8)(a), certification by voice of the Governor, Deputy Governor, Premier, a permanent secretary, the Director or a head of a Government department; and
- (b) in the case of posted notices under subsection (8)(b), certification by the actual or facsimile signature of the Premier, Governor, a permanent secretary, the Director or a head of a Government department.

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**SCHEDULE 1**

*(Section 4)*

**AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE CARIBBEAN DISASTER  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (CDEMA)**

**THE STATES PARTIES:**



**CONSCIOUS** that the fragile economies and ecosystems of Caribbean States are extremely vulnerable to natural and man-made disasters including hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, droughts, floods and landslides;

**RECALLING** that during recent decades a succession of natural disasters including hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, landslides and volcanic eruptions adversely affected many States within the Caribbean Region;

**RECOGNIZING** the work of the Caribbean Disaster Response Agency in disaster preparedness and response;

**DESIROUS** of establishing the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency to replace and advance the work of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency to ensure the sustainable development of resilient communities within the Caribbean Region;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

## ARTICLE I

### DEFINITIONS

In this Agreement, unless the context otherwise requires—

“affected Participating State” means a State in the territory of which a disaster has occurred;

“CARICOM” means the Caribbean Community;

“CDEMA” means the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency established under Article II;

“Coordinating Unit” means the administrative and cooperate organ of CDEMA;

“Council” means the Organ of CDEMA referred to in Article VI;

“disaster” means the exposure of the human habitat to the operation of the forces of nature or to human intervention resulting in widespread destruction of lives or property, but excludes events occasioned by war or military confrontation;

“disaster management” means the development and implementation of regional and national policies to prevent and mitigate the effects of disaster;

“Executive Director” means the Executive Director of CDEMA appointed under Article VII;

“Fund” means the Emergency Assistance Fund established under Article XXVI;

“Management Committee of the Council or MCC” means the Committee established and appointed by the Council under Article VII;

“National Disaster Management Agency” means the government agency responsible for disaster management;

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“Participating State” means a State party to this Agreement;

“requesting State” means a Participating State which has made a request under this Agreement;

“sending State” means a Participating State which has responded to a request for assistance under this Agreement;

“State” includes a non-politically independent territory of the Caribbean

“TAC” means the Technical Advisory Committee referred to under Article X; and

“Treaty” means the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) signed at Nassau, The Bahamas on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2001.

## ARTICLE II

### ESTABLISHMENT OF CDEMA

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) is hereby established with the organs, membership, structure, and functions herein set forth.

## ARTICLE III

### LEGAL PERSONALITY

1. CDEMA shall have international legal personality and such legal capacity as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfillment of its objectives.

2. CDEMA and its staff shall enjoy all the usual rights, privileges and immunities of Agencies which have international legal personality.

## ARTICLE IV

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of CDEMA shall be open to -

- (a) the States and territories listed in the Annex; and
- (b) other States within the Caribbean Region recommended for membership by the MCC under Article XXXIX.

## ARTICLE V

### OBJECTIVES

CDEMA shall have the following objectives:

- (a) mobilising and coordinating disaster relief;
- (b) mitigating or eliminating, as far as practicable, the immediate consequences of disasters in Participating States;
- (c) providing coordinated response by means of emergency disaster relief to any affected Participating State;

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(d) securing, coordinating and providing to interested inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations reliable and comprehensive information on disasters affecting any Participating State;

(e) encouraging –

- (i) the adoption of disaster loss reduction and mitigation policies and practices at the national and regional level;
- (ii) cooperative arrangements and mechanisms to facilitate the development of a culture of disaster loss reduction; and
- (f) coordinating the establishment, enhancement and maintenance of adequate emergency disaster response, capabilities among the Participating States.

## ARTICLE VI

### ORGANS OF CDEMA

CDEMA shall have the following Organs with the powers and functions specified in this Agreement:

- (a) The Council;
- (b) The Technical Advisory Committee; and
- (c) The Coordinating Unit.

## ARTICLE VII

### THE COUNCIL

1. The Council shall consist of the Heads of Government of the Participating States.
2. Each member of the Council shall be entitled to nominate any other competent person to represent that member at meetings of the Council.
3. The Council shall meet in ordinary session at least once in every calendar year and shall convene in extraordinary sessions at the request of three-quarters of the Participating States.
4. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be elected from among members of the Council.
5. The Chairperson shall preside over the meetings of the Council and the MCC.
6. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall serve for a period of one year and shall be eligible for re-election.
7. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Deputy Chairperson shall preside over meetings of the Council and the MCC.
8. In the absence of both the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson, the Members of the Council present may elect any member to act in the position of Chairperson.
9. The Council shall regulate its own procedure.

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## ARTICLE VIII

### FUNCTIONS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council shall—

- (a) determine the policies of CDEMA;
- (b) receive and approve the annual budget and the contribution of the Participating States to CDEMA;
- (c) designate national disaster and disaster management organizations as Sub-Regional Disaster Emergency Operational Units with the prior consent of the Governments of the Participating States involved;
- (d) appoint the Executive Director on the recommendation of the MCC;
- (e) consider and make decisions based on the recommendations of the TAC;
- (f) perform such other function as it deems necessary or expedient to achieve the objectives of this Agreement.

#### ARTICLE IX

##### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL

1. There shall be established a Management Committee of the Council whose members shall be appointed by the Council.
2. The membership of the MCC shall comprise—
  - (i) four persons, each representing one of the sub-regions of CDEMA, one of whom shall be Chairperson of the Council;
  - (ii) the Chairperson of the TAC; and
  - (iii) the executive Director.
3. The Terms of Reference of the MCC shall be determined by the Council.

#### ARTICLE X

##### THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1. The Technical Advisory Committee shall consist of the national disaster coordinators of the Participating States.
2. Notwithstanding paragraph 1, persons may be selected by the TAC from regional institutions engaged in activities related to disaster management to participate in meetings of the TAC.
3. The Chairperson of the TAC shall be elected from amongst its members and shall not be elected to serve as Chairperson for more than two consecutive terms.
4. The Chairperson shall convene the meetings of the TAC which shall meet at least once in every calendar year and convene extraordinary meetings at the request of not less than one-half of its members.
5. The Executive Director shall be the Secretary of the TAC.
6. The TAC shall regulate its own procedure.

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#### ARTICLE XI

##### FUNCTIONS OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The TAC shall...

**THE TAC SHALL**

- (a) act in an advisory capacity to CDEMA on matters relating to strategies for resource mobilization, work programme review and programme development;
- (b) recommend standards and procedures for the fair and equitable deployment of resources for disaster management made available by Participating States;
- (c) recommend the standards and procedures for triggering the disaster response mechanism;
- (d) develop and recommend procedures for mobilizing national resources to provide assistance in a timely and efficacious manner;
- (e) recommend guidelines for establishing systems for maintaining and sharing inventories of critical resources likely to be needed by Participating States in the event of a disaster;
- (f) make recommendations for the rapid access of financial resources to cover the cost of mobilization in the event of disaster in a Participating State;
- (g) recommend protocols to facilitate the movement of resources originating in or transiting in a Participating State having regard to the requirements of immigration and customs authorities;
- (h) recommend and regularly review pro forma lists of the likely requirements of Participating States in the event of disasters;
- (i) advise CARICOM institutions and national institutions on matters relevant to its functions;
- (j) forward its recommendations to the Council for its consideration; and
- (k) perform such other functions as the Council may determine.

**ARTICLE XII****THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE COORDINATING UNIT**

The Coordinating Unit shall have its headquarters where the Council decides.

**ARTICLE XIII****FUNCTIONS OF THE COORDINATING UNIT**

1. In addition to any other functions which the Council may specify, the Coordinating Unit shall—

- (a) develop and maintain a reliable damage assessment system and procedures to facilitate rapid and effective evaluation of national disasters;
- (b) develop and maintain a comprehensive and reliable data base of key relevant resources necessary to achieve the objectives of CDEMA and a system for updating the database.

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- (c) establish, equip and maintain a coordinated emergency operations system capable of responding to emergency situations;

- (d) establish and maintain an efficient and reliable system of communications with sub-regional operational focal points in order to facilitate the mobilisation, deployment and coordination of disaster response supplies and services;
- (e) establish and maintain a reliable system of communications with the heads of national disaster management Agencies and ensure that their disaster response capabilities are maintained at agreed levels of operational efficiency;
- (f) establish arrangements with regional media houses designed to ensure the dissemination of reliable information on national disasters to the public;
- (g) establish arrangements with the CARICOM Committees of Ambassadors in the metropolitan centres in order to ensure the dissemination to them of reliable information on national disasters in Participating States and their cooperation in mobilising disaster relief resources on a timely and structured basis;
- (h) establish arrangements with regional airlines and shipping lines in order to ensure access to their facilities on a priority basis in the event of a disaster;
- (i) establish and maintain relations with international relief organisations in order to facilitate accessing their resources in the event of a disaster;
- (j) mobilise and organise technical assistance from interested national and international bodies to assist in the development of disaster response capabilities of Participating States;
- (k) provide a clearing house for relevant information and intelligence in all matters relating to disasters including current research being undertaken in all related regional institutions;
- (l) on the basis of a distress call or on such other request as may be agreed after consultation with, Sub-Regional Disaster Response Operational Units be capable of triggering the mechanism;
- (m) provide assistance on request to the heads of national disaster management Agencies in the event of a disaster;
- (n) on request liaise with the disciplined forces of the sending States both in the planning and response stage of any operation mounted after the activation of the triggering mechanism;
- (o) assist in the development of comprehensive disaster management capabilities and review periodically the disaster response capabilities of Participating States giving due consideration to the availability of resources for immediate and timely response to disaster situations;
- (p) establish collaborative arrangements and mechanisms with regional disaster management stakeholders to promote disaster loss reduction; and
- (q) prepare the administrative and emergency budgets of CDEMA for submission to the MCC.

2. The Coordinating Unit shall have the following programming areas—

- (a) education, research and information;

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- (b) finance and administration;

- (c) preparedness and response;
- (d) mitigation and research; and
- (e) any other programming area which the Council may determine.

#### ARTICLE XIV

##### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. There shall be an Executive Director who shall manage the Coordinating Unit and be the Chief Executive Officer of CDEMA.
2. The Executive Director shall be appointed for a term not exceeding three years and is eligible for reappointment.
3. A Deputy Executive Director shall be appointed by the MCC on the recommendation of the Executive Director for a term not exceeding three years and is eligible for reappointment.
4. The Executive Director and the Deputy Executive Director shall be appointed from among persons with experience in matters relating to emergency relief operations, social welfare and management.

#### ARTICLE XV

##### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. The Executive Director shall have the following responsibilities—
  - (a) implementing the policies of CDEMA;
  - (b) the administration and coordination of activities and programmes of CDEMA;
  - (c) the control of the revenue and expenditure of CDEMA as approved by the Council;
  - (d) the creation and implementation of special programmes and projects where necessary;
  - (e) ensuring that correct procedures are followed with respect to all matters within the competence of CDEMA;
  - (f) prepare an administrative budget biennially;
  - (g) cause the accounts of CDEMA and the Fund to be audited annually by external auditors approved by the MCC;
  - (h) submit annually the audited financial report of CDEMA and the Fund and the budget of CDEMA to the Council for its consideration;
  - (i) submit an annual report to the Council on the work of CDEMA;
  - (j) appoint the staff of the Coordinating Unit except the Deputy Executive Director;
  - (k) subject to the approval of the MCC, the determination of the terms and conditions of service of the staff of the Coordinating Unit; and

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- (i) the performance of any other function or duty in pursuance of the objectives of CDEMA.

2. In the performance of their duties the Executive Director and staff of CDEMA shall seek to maintain their independence and shall not engage in any activity or function in a manner which would compromise the functional independence of CDEMA.

## ARTICLE XVI

### SUB-REGIONAL DISASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE OPERATIONAL UNITS

1. Where, pursuant to paragraph (e) of Article VII, the Council has designated Sub-Regional Disaster Emergency Response Operational Units, such bodies shall-

- (a) acquire and maintain on an updated basis comprehensive information on the facilities and services available in each of the Participating States for which they have responsibility;
- (b) maintain and test on a regular basis communications with the Coordinating Unit and with critical response agencies under the control of national relief organisations;
- (c) maintain independent fuel and power supplies and ensure that relevant physical facilities are in a condition to withstand a major disaster; and
- (d) keep and maintain at the operational focal point in serviceable and optimal working condition an equipment package containing essential items determined by the TAC.

2. In making a designation referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article, the Council shall identify the States for which the Sub-Regional Disaster Response Operational Unit concerned shall have responsibility.

## ARTICLE XVII

### THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

1. CDEMA shall establish an administrative budget, the funds of which shall be used to defray the ordinary expenses incurred in administering its affairs.

2. Participating States shall contribute to the administrative budget in accordance with a scale of assessment recommended by the MCC and approved by the Council.

3. A Participating State whose economy has been severely affected by a natural disaster may request a waiver of assessed contributions to the budget of CDEMA.

4. The Executive Director, with the approval of the Council, shall establish financial regulations for CDEMA and the Fund in accordance with international accounting standards.

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## ARTICLE XVIII

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FUND

1. CDEMA shall establish an Emergency Assistance Fund (hereinafter referred to as "the Fund") which shall be used solely to defray expenses incurred in connection with the rendering of assistance in the event of a disaster occurring in a Participating State.
2. Participating States shall contribute to the Fund in accordance with a scale of assessment recommended by the MCC and approved by the Council.
3. A Participating State whose economy has been severely affected by a natural disaster may request a waiver of assessed contributions to the budget of the Fund.
4. The Executive Director may accept contributions to the Fund from external sources on such conditions as may be prescribed by them and agreed by the MCC for the benefit of all Participating States.

## ARTICLE XIX

### UNDERTAKINGS OF PARTICIPATING STATES

Without prejudice to the requirement to discharge any other obligations assumed under or in connection with this Agreement, Participating States undertake to—

- (a) establish or maintain, as the case may be, national relief organisations capable of responding swiftly, effectively and in a coordinated manner to disasters in Participating States;
- (b) establish emergency disaster planning groups and define national policies and priorities in the event of disasters;
- (c) provide national disaster management agencies with adequate support including named emergency coordinators, liaison officers within key government Ministries, emergency services and access to utilities;
- (d) ensure that national disaster management agencies and their coordinators with specific functions and responsibilities to ensure the development of an adequate response capability to support adequate responses to national disasters;
- (e) define the role and functions of key agencies including the Security Services, Health and Public Works in disaster emergency response management and establish a system for regular review of their procedures to ensure coordinated response;
- (f) establish and equip a suitable emergency operations centre capable of handling emergency telecommunications and coordinating emergency response involving relevant services;
- (g) develop and maintain an emergency telecommunications system based on the most appropriate technology to ensure the coordination of emergency operations among stakeholders;
- (h) establish and strengthen procedures for coping with major disaster threats and maintain review systems for testing the procedures through drills and simulations;

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- (i) review and rationalize legal arrangements for disaster mitigation and emergency action;
- (j) review and catalogue past disaster events and list credible future emergency event responses and identify and map areas with special problems and peculiarities such as flood or landslide prone areas;
- (k) establish data bases of key resources, both human and material, and a system for keeping them current and to computerise and integrate them into an automated emergency information system;
- (l) develop, in collaboration with competent governmental agencies, an emergency shelter policy and programme involving the full participation of local officials from community-based organisations;
- (m) develop and review a system for community participation, local mobilisation and counter disaster action in the event of isolation;
- (n) develop strategies for loss reduction in the public and private sectors focusing on vital economic activities and critical facilities;
- (o) develop a system and procedures for damage assessment in order to facilitate rapid and effective post impact evaluation;
- (p) develop and implement a comprehensive disaster public awareness, information and education programme involving media houses, schools, voluntary agencies, and other institutions in order to ensure public participation and community involvement in the disaster management system;
- (q) develop and implement appropriate training programmes for persons involved in the disaster management system;
- (r) identify and seek participation in bilateral and multilateral technical cooperation programmes designed to develop disaster management capabilities;
- (s) identify and maintain in a state of readiness and make available immediately on request by the Executive Director relevant material and human resources in the event of disaster.

## ARTICLE XX

### RELATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS

1. CDEMA may conclude agreements with Governmental, Inter-Governmental and non-Governmental Organizations or Agencies in order to achieve its objectives.
2. Unless the Council decides otherwise, the Executive Director may negotiate and conclude such Agreements on behalf of CDEMA.

## ARTICLE XXI

### DISCIPLINED FORCES

1. Where, in response to a request for assistance by any affected Participating State, members of the disciplined forces of another Participating State are despatched to any part of the territory of the requesting State, the Executive Director shall, subject to the express prior

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agreement of the competent authorities of the requesting State, designate a Special Coordinator from among the senior officers of such forces, acting after consultation with the Chiefs of Staff or Commanding Officers of the disciplined forces concerned.

2. The Special Coordinator shall be charged with responsibility for coordinating the disaster relief efforts of the disciplined forces in the affected Participating State.

3. No member of the disciplined forces of a Participating State shall be despatched to the territory of an affected Participating State without the express prior consent of that State.

4. In the absence of a contrary agreement between the requesting State and the sending State to that effect, members of the disciplined forces of the sending State shall be under the control and disciplinary authority of their commanding officer.

## ARTICLE XXII

### DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF ASSISTANCE

1. Subject to paragraph 2, the overall direction, control, coordination and supervision of assistance despatched to a requesting State shall be the responsibility within its territory of the requesting State.

2. Where the assistance from a sending State involves personnel other than disciplined forces, the sending State shall designate in consultation with the requesting State the person who should be in charge of, retain immediate operational supervision over the personnel, equipment and supplies provided by it. The person so designated shall exercise such supervision in cooperation with the competent authorities of the requesting State.

3. The requesting State shall provide to the extent of its capabilities local facilities and services for proper and efficient administration of communications assistance. In particular, the requesting State shall ensure that any ground stations brought into its territory for the purpose of rendering assistance shall be duly licensed to transmit and receive information in accordance with its domestic laws and regulations.

4. In the absence of a contrary agreement, ownership of equipment and materials despatched to a requesting State by a sending State during periods of assistance shall be unaffected and their prompt return shall be facilitated at the request of the sending State.

5. The requesting State shall ensure the protection of personnel, equipment and materials brought into its territory for the purpose of rendering assistance during times of disaster.

## ARTICLE XXIII

### COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND CONTACT POINTS

1. In the absence of a contrary indication from a Participating State the competent authority and contact point authorized to make requests for and accept offers of assistance in the event of a disaster shall be the head of the National Disaster Management Agency.

2. The Coordinating Unit shall be immediately informed of any change of the contact and focal points of Participating States.

3. The Coordinating Unit shall expeditiously inform Participating States and relevant international organizations with the information referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this Article.

**ARTICLE XXIV****CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS**

1. Participating States their officials and the staff of CDEMA shall respect and not disclose any confidential information received by them in connection with assistance requested in the event of a disaster and the information shall be used exclusively for its intended purpose.
2. The sending State shall use its best endeavours to coordinate with the requesting State before releasing information to the public on the assistance provided in connection with a disaster.

**ARTICLE XXV****COSTS OF PROVIDING ASSISTANCE**

Except as may otherwise be agreed between them, the expenses incurred by a sending State in providing assistance to a requesting State shall be defrayed by the sending State.

**ARTICLE XXVI****TERMINATION OF ASSISTANCE**

1. The Executive Director shall, subject to paragraph 2, after consultation with the requesting State, determine the period of response to a disaster.
2. The requesting or sending State may, at any time, after appropriate consultation and by notification in writing terminate the receipt or provision of assistance received or provided under this Agreement.

**ARTICLE XXVII****PRIVILEGES, IMMUNITIES AND FACILITIES TO BE ACCORDED  
A SENDING STATE AND ITS PERSONNEL**

1. The requesting State shall accord to personnel of the sending State and personnel acting on its behalf the necessary privileges, immunities and facilities for the performance of their functions in rendering assistance.
2. Subject to prior notification by the sending State and acceptance by the requesting State of the personnel of the sending State or personnel acting on its behalf, the requesting State shall:
  - (a) grant to such personnel immunity from arrest and detention;
  - (b) grant to such personnel immunity from legal process in respect of words spoken or written and in respect of all acts and omissions in rendering assistance and the immunity shall continue notwithstanding that the period of assistance has been terminated;
  - (c) grant to such personnel exemption from taxes, duties or other charges, in respect of the performance of their functions in rendering assistance, as is accorded to diplomatic personnel in accordance with international law;
  - (d) facilitate the entry into, stay in and departure from its territory of personnel so notified and accepted.
3. The requesting State shall—

- (a) accord the sending State exemption from taxes, duties or other charges on equipment and property brought into the territory of the requesting State by the sending State for the purpose of rendering assistance;
  - (b) confer immunity from seizure, attachment or requisition of such equipment and property and ensure their return to the sending State; and
  - (c) as far as possible, facilitate access to medical care of sick or injured personnel deployed during the period of assistance.
4. Persons enjoying privileges and immunities under this Article shall respect the law and regulations of the requesting State and shall not interfere in its domestic affairs.

#### ARTICLE XXVIII

##### TRANSIT OF PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY

Participating States shall, at the request of the requesting State or the *sending State*, take all measures necessary to facilitate the transit through their territory of duly notified personnel, equipment and property involved in rendering assistance to or from a requesting State.

#### ARTICLE XXIX

##### CLAIMS AND COMPENSATION

1. Participating States shall cooperate in order to facilitate the determination of legal proceedings and the settlement of claims under this Article.
2. In the absence of an agreement, the requesting State shall, in respect of death or injury to persons or damage to or loss of property or damage to the environment caused within its territory or under its control or jurisdiction by personnel of the requested State in the course of providing the assistance—
- (a) not bring any legal proceedings against the sending State or persons or other legal entities acting on its behalf;
  - (b) assume responsibility for dealing with legal proceedings and claims brought by third parties against the sending State or against persons or other legal entities acting on its behalf except in cases of wilful misconduct or gross negligence;
  - (c) hold the sending State or persons or other legal entities acting on its behalf harmless in respect of legal proceedings referred to in sub-paragraph (b);
  - (d) compensate the sending State or persons or other legal entities acting on its behalf for death or injury to personnel of the sending State or persons or other legal entities acting on its behalf; and
  - (e) for loss of or damage to non-consumable equipment or materials brought to the requesting State for the purpose of rendering assistance except in case of wilful misconduct or gross negligence by personnel of the sending State.
3. Nothing in this Article shall be construed to prevent compensation or indemnity available under any applicable international agreement or national law of a Participating State nor to require the requesting State to apply paragraph 2 of this Article, in whole or in part, to its nationals or permanent residents.

### ARTICLE XXX

#### PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES OF CDEMA

1. CDEMA its property and assets wherever located and by whomsoever held shall enjoy immunity from every form of legal process except in so far as in any particular case the Executive Director has expressly waived its immunity. Any waiver of immunity shall not extend to any measure of execution.

2. Save as provided in paragraph 1 the property of CDEMA wherever located and by whomsoever held shall be immune from search, acquisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference, whether by executive, administrative or judicial action.

3. This Article shall not be construed as preventing the Government of a Participating State from taking appropriate action in connection with the investigation of accidents involving motor vehicles belonging to or operated on behalf of CDEMA.

### ARTICLE XXXI

#### ARCHIVES OF CDEMA

1. The archives of CDEMA shall be inviolable wherever located.

2. Proprietary data, confidential information and personnel records shall not be placed in archives open to public inspection.

### ARTICLE XXXII

#### FACILITIES IN RESPECT OF COMMUNICATIONS

1. CDEMA shall enjoy in Participating States freedom of communication for its official communications.

2. The official correspondence and all other forms of official communications shall be inviolable.

3. CDEMA shall have the right to use codes and to dispatch and receive correspondence by courier in sealed bags, which shall not be searched or detained unless the competent authorities have reasonable grounds to believe that the sealed bags do not only contain articles, correspondence or documents for the exclusive official use of CDEMA, in which case the bag shall be opened only in the presence of an officer of CDEMA.

4. This Article shall not preclude the adoption of appropriate security measures in the interest of a participating State or its Government.

### ARTICLE XXXIII

#### REPRESENTATIVES AND STAFF OF CDEMA

Representatives Of Participating States Attending Meetings Of The Council, The MCC Or The TAC As Well As The Executive Director And Other Staff Of CDEMA Shall Enjoy In The Territory Of Each Participating State—

(a) immunity from legal process with respect to acts performed by them in the exercise of their functions, except to the extent that the State which they

represent or CDEMA as appropriate expressly waives this immunity in any particular case;

- (b) where they are not nationals of that Participating State, the same exemptions from immigration restrictions, alien registration requirements and national service obligations, the same facilities as regards exchange restrictions and the same treatment in respect of traveling facilities as are accorded by that Participating State to the representatives, officials and employees of comparable rank of other Participating States.

#### ARTICLE XXXIV

##### EXEMPTIONS FROM TAXES AND CUSTOMS DUTIES

1. CDEMA, its assets and property, income, operations and transactions shall be exempt from all direct taxation and goods imported or exported for its official use shall be exempt from all customs duties. CDEMA shall not claim exemption from taxes which are no more than charges for services rendered.
2. Where purchases of goods or services of substantial value necessary for the official activities of CDEMA are made by or behalf of CDEMA, and where the price of the goods or services includes taxes or duties, appropriate measures shall, to the extent practicable, be taken by Participating States to grant exemptions from such taxes or duties or provide for their reimbursement.
3. Goods imported or purchased under an exemption provided for in this Article shall not be sold or otherwise disposed of in the territory of the Participating State granting the exemptions, except under conditions agreed with that Participating Member State.
4. No tax shall be levied by Participating States in respect of salaries, other types of emoluments or any other form of payment made by CDEMA to the Executive Director and staff of CDEMA as well as experts performing missions for CDEMA.
5. Paragraph 4 does not apply where the Executive Director or the staff member of CDEMA is a national of the Participating State where CDEMA is located.

#### ARTICLE XXXV

##### SUSPENSION OF RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP

1. A Participating State which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contribution to the administrative budget of CDEMA shall have no vote in the Council or the MCC if the amount of the arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two financial years.
2. A Participating State which has violated the obligations assumed under this Agreement may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the Council.
3. A determination within the meaning of paragraph 2 of this Article shall be made by the Council.

**ARTICLE XXXVI**

**ARBITRATION**

1. Any dispute between a State Party and CDEMA arising out of the interpretation or application of this Agreement, which is not settled by negotiation or other agreed mode of settlement shall be referred for final decision to an arbitral tribunal of three arbitrators at the instance of either party.

2. Each party shall be entitled to appoint one arbitrator within fifteen days following the request of either party and the two arbitrators shall within fifteen days following the date of their appointments appoint a third arbitrator who shall be the Chairperson of the arbitral tribunal.

3. Where any party fails to appoint an arbitrator under paragraph 2 the other party may request the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community to appoint an arbitrator within ten days.

4. Where the two arbitrators appointed under paragraph 2 fail to appoint a third arbitrator either party may request the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community to appoint an arbitrator within ten days.

5. The arbitral tribunal shall establish its own rules of procedure.

**ARTICLE XXXVII**

**SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION**

The Agreement shall be open for signature by the States listed in the Annex to this Agreement and shall be subject to ratification in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.

**ARTICLE XXXVIII**

**ENTRY INTO FORCE**

This Agreement shall enter into force when Instruments of Ratification have been deposited by at least seven of the States listed in the Annex.

**ARTICLE XXXIX**

**ACCESSION**

1. This Agreement shall be open to accession by any Caribbean State which on the recommendation of the MCC has been admitted to membership of the CDEMA by the Council on such terms and conditions as the Council may decide.

2. A State admitted to membership in accordance with paragraph 1 shall deposit an Instrument of Accession with the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community.

**ARTICLE XL**

**DEPOSITARY**

1. The original of this Agreement and any amendments thereto shall be deposited with the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community.



2. The Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community shall notify the Coordinating Unit of CDEMA of the Deposit of Instruments of Ratification or Accession, as the case may be and forward certified copies of such Instruments to the Coordinating Unit.

#### **ARTICLE XLI**

##### **AMENDMENTS**

1. Any Participating State may propose amendments to this Agreement.
2. Any proposal for an amendment to this Agreement shall be submitted to the Coordinating Unit which shall transmit it to the MCC with its comments.
3. The MCC shall consider the proposal together with the comments of the Coordinating Unit and make a recommendation to the Council.
4. The Council shall consider the proposal for amendment and may adopt it with such modifications as it deems necessary.
5. Amendments shall enter into force when ratified by all Participating States.

#### **ARTICLE XLII**

##### **WITHDRAWAL**

1. Any Participating State may withdraw from CDEMA.
2. Any Participating State wishing to withdraw from CDEMA shall give to the Coordinating Unit twelve months' written notice of its intention to do so and the Executive Director shall immediately notify the other Participating States.
3. The notice given under paragraph 2 of this Article may be withdrawn at any time prior to the date on which withdrawal is to take effect.
4. A Participating State withdrawing from CDEMA shall honour any financial obligations duly assumed by it during the period of its membership.

#### **ARTICLE XLIII**

##### **PROVISIONAL APPLICATION**

Seven or more of the Participating States listed in the Annex to this Agreement may, upon signature, or at any later date before this Agreement enters into force, declare their intention to apply it provisionally.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF** the undersigned representatives, being duly authorised by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

## ANNEX

Anguilla  
Antigua and Barbuda  
The Bahamas  
Barbados  
Belize  
British Virgin Islands  
Dominica (the Commonwealth of Dominica)  
Grenada  
Guyana (Cooperative Republic of)  
Haiti  
Jamaica  
Montserrat  
Saint Christopher and Nevis  
Saint Lucia  
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
Suriname  
Trinidad and Tobago  
Turks and Caicos Islands

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**SCHEDULE 2***(Section 53(1)(a))***DISASTERS**

- 1. Geological Hazards**
  - a) Earthquakes
  - b) Volcanic eruptions
  - c) Landslides
  - d) Tsunamis
  - e) Seiches
- 2. Hydro-Meteorological Hazards**
  - a) Tropical cyclones
  - b) Floods
  - c) Droughts
  - d) Extreme temperatures
  - e) Severe storms
  - f) Hailstorms
  - g) Tornadoes
  - h) Heavy snow
- 3. Chemical Hazards**
  - a) Explosions
  - b) Spills
  - c) Fires
  - d) Gas leaks
  - e) BLEVE
  - f) Radioactive emissions
- 4. Health-Ecological Hazards**
  - a) Intoxication
  - b) Poisonings
  - c) Epidemics
  - d) Plagues
  - e) Air pollution
  - f) Water pollution
  - g) Soil contamination
  - h) Extinction of flora and fauna species
- 5. Social-Organisational Hazards**
  - a) Wars
  - b) Meetings and demonstrations
  - c) Thefts
  - d) Sabotage
  - e) Interruption of services (blackouts, water supply, communications, etc.)
  - f) Terrorism
  - g) Crowds (because of sports matches or religious gatherings)
  - h) Accidents (cars, railroads, planes, etc.)
  - i) Bomb threats
- 6. Chained Hazards to include but not limited to:**
  - (a) Fires generated by earthquakes, explosions etc.
  - (b) Floods generated by hurricanes.

## SCHEDULE 3

(Section 47(6))

## CRITICAL FACILITIES AGENCIES

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECTOR GROUPS	CRITICAL FACILITIES AGENCIES	CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE RESOURCES
<b>Information and Communications Technology</b>	Radio Stations, Television Stations, Cellular/Internet/Land Line Providers, Cable Television/Satellite Providers, Computer Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Telecommunications, Broadcasting Systems, Hardware, Network and Internet</li> </ul>
<b>Finance and Economy</b>	Financial Services Commission, Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board, major Hotels i. e. occupancy of 20 or more guests, Banking and Insurance Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Banking, Financial Services and Economic Resources: Banking, Securities, Investments and Country Economic Resources</li> </ul>
<b>Water and Environment</b>	Water Department, Sewerage Board, major Hotels i.e. occupancy of 20 or more guests, Banking and Insurance Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Supply-drinking and Waste Water Management</li> <li>Environmental Protection, desalinization Plant, Incinerator</li> </ul>
<b>Transportation</b>	TCIAA  TCI Ports Authority  Public Works Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airports</li> <li>Sea Ports</li> <li>Roads</li> </ul>
<b>Safety</b>	Attorney General's Chambers, Supreme Court, Magistrate's Court, Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, TCI Fire and Rescue Services, HM Prisons, HM Customs, Immigration Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law Enforcement Services</li> <li>First Responders</li> <li>Emergency Services Public Safety</li> <li>Relief Emergency Shelters</li> </ul>