



# Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MIREX)

## Project Proposal

### “Disaster Management, Prevention and Mitigation in the Caribbean”

A proposal framed in the HOPEFOR Initiative: a global cooperative framework to improve the effectiveness of military and civil defence assets in relief operations

January 2013

Santo Domingo  
Dominican Republic

## Project Draft

<b>Project Title:</b>	Disaster Management, Prevention and Mitigation in the Caribbean, a proposal framed within the HOPEFOR Initiative to improve the coordination between civil and military assets in disaster response.
<b>Regional Development Priority:</b>	In different international forums, The Dominican Republic and the countries of the region have committed themselves to taking action designed to improve the response toward the negative impact of climate change and natural disasters
<b>Purpose:</b>	To improve the effectiveness of military and civil defence assets in relief operations.
<b>Expected Outcome(s):</b>	To Improve the Disaster Management and capabilities in the Caribbean
<b>Implementation Partner:</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic (MIREX), relevant local and regional institutions in the Caribbean.
<b>Responsible Parties:</b>	Partners of the HOPEFOR Initiative, namely Qatar, Turkey and the Dominican Republic, UN OCHA and relevant local authorities.

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### I. ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

## Context

Due to the tangible effects of climate change and the occurrence of natural disasters, it is predicted that humanitarian emergencies will happen more frequently and on a greater magnitude. This awareness raises the question on how to strengthen and improve local, national, regional and international capacities to respond to them. This would also include a better development of mechanisms at regional and subregional levels to facilitate and accelerate aid from one neighboring country to another, especially in the use of military and civil defense assets.

The Dominican Republic, under the leadership of former President Leonel Fernandez, has united its voice with Turkey and Qatar at the United Nations in order to address the need for a joint response to natural disasters. To this effect, on its 65<sup>th</sup> Session, the UN General Assembly adopted the Resolution entitled “Improving the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disasters response” co-sponsored by the three countries which marked the beginning of a process leading to the creation of Centers of Excellence that will enable countries and regions to improve their capacities on natural disasters response. The HOPEFOR Initiative to which this resolution refers, aims to improve humanitarian civil-military coordination and ensure that the use of military and civil defence assets in support of natural disaster relief operations is undertaken in an appropriate, effective and coordinated manner, in accordance with the principles contained in the Oslo Guidelines and it is called to fulfill the need to address this issue and provide support to United Nations actions in humanitarian operations due to natural disasters.

## Definition of the Problem

There is sufficient evidence that the existing mechanisms of coordination between civilian and military organizations and assets at the regional and subregional levels are ineffective. The lack of guidelines to facilitate the provision of foreign military assistance to disaster relief operations in the Caribbean to complement other regional initiatives need to be addressed by relevant authorities with the participation of the United Nations, including the OCHA.

There are insufficient resources at the local, national, regional and international levels for prevention, mitigation and response to disasters.

The agencies responsible for responding to disasters need to be

strengthened in order to provide an effective humanitarian response.

There is also evidence that the legal systems in some of the countries of our region need to strengthen the institutions involved in risk management. For this reason, it is necessary to adjust them by bringing about changes in laws, thereby empowering them to respond more effectively, as well as to modernize the legal and operational structures of the institutions related to the subject of disaster management.

Therefore, it is recommended that such agreements are promoted, with the technical support of OCHA, within the countries in the Caribbean region.

For this purpose, this plan includes the presentation, for further discussion, of a draft document entitled “Caribbean Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations” which should be non-binding guidelines to be endorsed among the Caribbean countries hopefully during the III Conference on the HOPEFOR Initiative which will be held in Santo Domingo in December 2013.

## **II. RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK**

### Purpose

The overall purpose is to improve the capabilities in disaster management in the Caribbean, particularly through the improvement of the effectiveness of civil and military assets in relief operations management.

### Expected Outcomes

1.- To Improve the overall Capacities of Disaster Management in the Caribbean, particularly the effectiveness and coordination of military and civil defence assets for natural disaster response.

2.- The countries in the Caribbean region will endorse a set of non-binding regional guidelines for the use of foreign military assets in natural disaster response which will serve as a reference for Member States who may need to use foreign military support for international disaster response, in order to establish a basic framework for the effective and efficient use of foreign military assets in International Disaster Response Operations in support of an Affected State (s) in the Caribbean Region.

### **Outcome 1. Training Plan**

This outcome will identify the needs of existing capacities and identify concrete

measures for improving the overall training and doctrine of military actors, local operations centers and civil and humanitarian defense, in order to work more efficiently in disaster response operations.

**Activity 1.** Ensure a specialized training plan, directed toward civilian forces, local operations centers and military personnel involved in disaster response.

**Actions:**

- 1.1. Identify the training needs of the countries in the region
- 1.2. Develop a regional training plan
- 1.3. Agree on the training plan

**Outcome 2. Improved Operational Capacities. Pool of Experts**

This outcome will improve the exchange of information and lessons learned between military and humanitarian actors involved in responding to natural disasters.

The global group of experts on civil-military coordination will be improved and expanded.

The coordination structure between civilians and military personnel will be improved to increase the effectiveness of early response to disasters.

**Activity 2.** Develop Functional Mechanisms

**Actions:**

- 2.1. Preparation of an operating manual
- 2.2. Development of regional contingency plans
- 2.3 Development of an early warning system
- 2.4 Identify experts and potential new regional experts in

civil-military coordination

2.5 Develop a regional agreement that includes civil-military coordination

Mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of response

### **Outcome 3. Disaster Preparedness Model.**

This outcome will identify initiatives in information, preparedness, agreements and procedures necessary to improve the request, reception and use of foreign military assets in natural disaster response operations.

**Activity 3.** Define rapid and effective tools to request, receive and use external resources effectively.

#### **Actions:**

3.1. Preparation of a manual on procedures for requesting and receiving aid

3.2. Develop and define action guide for fieldwork

3.3. Implement the manuals and guides that have been developed

### **Outcome 4. Center of Excellence**

This outcome will design and implement a center of excellence to improve civil-military coordination, keep the parties involved up to date on training and prevention issues, exchange information about lessons learned and best practices and serve as a regional center for experts in civil-military coordination and training, including joint trainings.

**Activity 4:** Establish a Center of Excellence

**Actions:**

- 4.1. Conduct a survey and analysis of possible locations
- 4.2. Design the Center of Excellence
- 4.3. Perform civil engineering and/or renovations
- 4.4. Implement teaching model
- 4.5. Implement teaching curriculum
- 4.6. Acquire technological equipment and early warning sensor
- 4.7. Acquire regional communication equipment
- 4.8. Develop administrative and academic operations manual for the Center of Excellence
- 4.9. Implement thematic documentation center
- 4.10. Acquire teaching materials
- 4.11. Acquire information management systems
- 4.12. Design and implement the “Storage Center”
- 4.13. Acquire Supplies for the “Storage Center”
- 4.14. Purchase equipment for simulations and training models
- 4.15. Acquire operating equipment for searches, collapsed structure rescues, floods, field coordination, etc.
- 4.16. Acquire interconnecting system to allow regional centers to share information about risks of hurricanes, tsunamis, seismic and volcanic activity.

**Comments to this document should be sent to:**

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