Managing Risks of Natural Hazards:
Risk sharing and Risk transfer arrangements of Natural Disasters
Preparatory Workshop for the First Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities of Sustainable Development

Activity: Organization of Workshop

Venue: Jamaica

Tentative Date: April 18-19, 2006

Background: This workshop is the second of a series of workshops organized under the responsibility of the Department of Sustainable Development, in order to prepare for the First Inter-American Ministerial Meeting on Sustainable Development, to be held in Bolivia in the second semester of 2006. The ministerial meeting will identify and advance concrete partnerships at the regional and hemispheric level to integrate environmental considerations into development, poverty alleviation, social and economic policies. The Bolivia meeting will take into account progress in implementing sustainable development, including, inter alia, the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the 1996 Santa Cruz Summit on Sustainable Development, and the 2002 Johannesburg UN Conference on Sustainable Development. The meeting will identify specific opportunities for cooperation among OAS member states in integrating environmental management within core economic development, poverty alleviation and related goals. Environmental ministers and/or senior officials will be the main constituency of the meeting.

In order to achieve MDG’s policy objective to build “a comprehensive approach and a coordinated strategy, tackling many problems simultaneously across a broad front” the meeting shall identify practical, replicable project and policy lessons integrating the three pillars of sustainable development that is, economic development, social issues and environmental protection. The meeting will examine three areas:

- Integrated Water-Resource Management;
- Risk sharing and Risk transfer arrangements of Natural Disasters;
- Sustainable Agriculture, Sustainable Forestry and Tourism

Description:

The workshop will be organized by the Department of Sustainable Development and a national counterpart if interested as part of the preparatory process for the meeting on sustainable development.

Focus of the working document assigned to the experts:

The document will be entitled, “Development Policies and Practices to Reduce the Impact of Natural Disasters” and will analyze the themes of policies and operational projects that will address the vulnerability of populations and their economic and social infrastructure, the analysis of the costs and benefits of investing in natural hazard vulnerability reduction to mitigate risk, and the initiatives and practices to manage risk at the regional and sub-regional levels.

Objectives of the workshop: (i) Identify projects, policies and cooperative partnerships that make progress in both risk mitigation and risk transfer, (ii) Strengthen economic analysis associated with the benefits and costs of risk mitigation and risk sharing, (iii) Identify best practices in the adoption of risk mitigation technical standards, (iv) Identify specific risk sharing
and risk transfer initiatives at the regional and sub-regional levels, including through insurance pooling.

**Main themes:** (i) early warning systems (ii) vulnerability identification, (iii) disaster response, (iv) response coordination.

**Cross-cutting issues:** the workshop will analyze four cross-cutting issues in each of the four agenda items, such as: (i) public and citizen participation, (ii) good governance, (iii) gender equality, (iv) and inclusion and respect of indigenous people.

**Organizations and entities that will be invited to attend:** the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Andean Development Corporation, International Monetary Fund, Caribbean Development Bank, World Meteorological Organization, the Centro Internacional para la Investigación del Fenómeno de El Niño, and the Caribbean Community, among others to be identified during the preparatory process of the meeting.

**Expected outcome:** Contribute to the development of strategies to move from disaster response after hurricanes, floods, earthquakes and wildfires, to reducing the vulnerability of countries and communities to natural hazards events before they take place.