

**Intervention by
Mr. Kurt Davis, Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations,
at the event on “Global policy processes and outcomes of relevance to disaster displacement”
hosted by Morocco and the EU
as Co-Chairs of the
Group of Friends of the Platform on Disaster Displacement
Wednesday, 17 November 2021**

Jamaica hosted the VII Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean (RP21) from 1st to 4th November 2021 under the theme ***Building Resilient Economies in the Americas and the Caribbean***. We welcomed the support and collaboration from the UNDRR as well as the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Agency (CDEMA) in executing the event; and thank the various partners whose support enabled us to host it – I note in particular the EU, Switzerland and the GIZ, among others.

The Conference comprised 4 High Level Sessions, 8 Parallel Sessions, 4 Learning Labs, 1 Special Session on the Regional Risk Assessment Report and a range of Side Events.

While there were no dedicated Conference Sessions specific to "displacement", the issue arose in various contexts throughout the discussions which gave special attention and concern to issues of displacement. These discussions strongly encouraged and reiterated the need for upscaling social protection mechanisms, redefining vulnerable groups and their vulnerabilities, and partnerships among the humanitarian community for tracking displacement and migration.

Given more recent climate change predictions and concerns Jamaica and the region must anticipate increased displacement/migration and ensure same is embedded in preparedness and recovery programmes. The recent volcanic eruptions in St. Vincent and the Grenadines starkly highlight displacement at a country level, for example. And we can anticipate that as disasters intensify and multiply in frequency, the question of addressing displacement will become even more pertinent.

Jamaica is now partnering with IOM Jamaica to launch a project geared towards adapted implementation of Migrants in Countries in Crises (MICIC) Initiative. The project is being titled: Strengthening Jamaica's Disaster Risk Management and Preparedness Capacity. The project will seek to deliver 7 outputs over a 2 year period. The project is in its kick-off phase.

In terms of the outcomes of the Regional Platform, the Ministerial Declaration specifically recognizes displacement as a result of disasters and calls for concerted action to address risks and impacts.

The Regional Action Plan then addresses the matter for action to be taken under the four priorities. This includes for example, a commitment to “Strengthen cross-sectoral, coordinated action to address the diverse and region-specific challenges of human mobility in the context of disasters and climate change.”

Regional Action Plan (RAP):

Priority One - Items # 1 and 5

Priority Two - Items # 11, 12 and 14

Priority Three - Items # 17, and 22

Priority Four - Items # 24, 25 and 28

The fourth Parallel Session of the Conference concentrated on the need for disaster-related displacement to be addressed from a cross-sectoral perspective, including at the local, national and regional levels.

Stakeholders, including States and civil society organizations, were called to make a concerted effort for the implementation of the Sendai Framework to include the assessment and reduction of displacement risks. Specifically, efforts should include the framing of innovative and necessary approaches by agencies responsible for migration management, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction.

We thank the GoF of the Platform on Disaster Displacement for this opportunity to share on the outcomes of the VII Americas Regional Platform. We look forward to galvanizing action amongst the international community to safeguard the rights and welfare of all people facing these challenges, and trust that in the various processes ahead, this important matter will be reflected in the discussions and outcomes agreed by the global community.