

Caribbean Civil-Military Relations High Advisory and Strategic Workshop Commitment

Caribbean Islands

December 1st, 2023

Considering,

FIRST: That in 2022 the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) initiated the Caribbean through Interreg Caribbean 360, PIRAC and European Commission funding whose objective is to contribute to improve disaster response preparedness in the Caribbean Region, as well as to share its results with the entire American continent.

SECOND: That it will be possible to achieve this objective by strengthening the existing regulatory, organizational, and regional and sub-regional institutional capacities that constitute the systems for integrated disaster management in the countries of the area.

THIRD: That the IFRC's Civil-Military Relations Program for the Americas Region originated between 2011 and 2012, as a result of the identification of an important change in the development of governments and, specifically, in the involvement of their armed forces in response actions to disaster and crisis situations through the use of their bespoke military capabilities, placed at the service of saving lives, supporting those affected, among other important missions according to the level of affectation of the communities and territories.

FOURTH: The general objective of this workshop has been to generate a space for dialogue on civil-military issues of today that included Climate change, migration, disaster response, , not only among the members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, but also with its partners in the region. To identify regional challenges and opportunities and share experiences and practices that can be started from today until the next workshop.

FIFTH - That it has also made it possible:

- To get to know more regional and sub-regional actors involved in disaster and crisis response actions, specifically in civil-military relations, as well as some cross-cutting functions and areas within the framework of their competencies.
- Identify and discuss current challenges and next steps for the region in areas that either now or in the future will utilize civil-military relations, sharing lessons learned; and,
- Continue a process with the High-Level Workshop Terms of Reference and foundations of a group of regional experts on civil-military and new issues that will in the present or future need support

from civil and military actors, in order to identify solutions to new challenges, enhance the use of the capabilities of each of the actors and avoid duplication of efforts.

Within this framework,

WE DECLARE

1. That the partners in attendance commit to continue opening spaces for dialogue, training, advice and exchange of lessons learned at least once every two years.
2. That the partners commit where possible to coordinate their efforts in the areas of Civil-Military Relations and Climate Change, Migration, disaster response, logistics, engineering, and other lifesaving efforts in order to ensure coherence and avoid duplication.
3. To conduct, on an bi-annual basis, follow-up meetings, monitoring and validation of this non-binding resolution derived from this second workshop and make every attempt to ensure a third presential workshop in the next two years.

The Caribbean Islands, December 1st , 2023.