

## **11.0 STRATEGIES TO REALIZE THE IDENTIFIED BENEFITS**

- (1) Increase dialogue between the governments, Telecommunications service providers, disaster personnel, the various donor agencies and regional organizations. This involves a slightly different approach. Firstly, all the different organizations and agencies involved in every aspect of disaster preparedness and response, should come together and determine and consolidate their specific telecommunications requirements. Then, the various telecommunications services providers are approached with the list of requirements from the first stage and an appropriate tariff structure be discussed. In so doing, the collective demand for services may be used as additional leverage in the tariff negotiations. The fact that C&W is present in most of the CDERA states will make this dialogue easier to implement.

This dialogue should achieve the following objectives;

- (a) To determine what the specific telecommunications requirements are for the various entities as it relates to communications for disaster preparedness and response.
- (b) To determine the costs of these requirements.
- (c) To arrive at a compromise with regards to the provision of special tariffs for these services.
- (d) To necessitate the co-ordination of the projects of the regional organisations with a view to maximizing the assistance given by the various donor agencies.

This dialogue can be initiated through various Seminars and workshops on 'Telecommunications services for disaster preparedness and response'. Perhaps, CANTO's proposed seminar for next year can act as an initial forum.

- (2) Harmonize telecommunications policy and regulations in the region. Due to the monopolistic nature of the telecommunications sectors of the Caribbean islands, this will seek to ensure that any perceived weakness in some of the telecommunications legislation are not exploited. In addition, continue to participate fully in the ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences and support resolutions beneficial to the region.
- (3) The government leaders should be sensitized to the value of telecommunications as a resource and its linkage to the overall development of the Region. Perhaps they need to see the earnings potential of telecommunications. This can be done through seminars and workshop under the auspices of the CTU.
- (4) Forge linkages with other Caribbean states for the purpose of exchanging information. This linkage will assist in identifying areas for technical assistance particularly from the more advanced members of the ACS. This will also assist in identifying the telecommunications services that may be available.