

## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

A reliable and efficient system of communications is an essential aspect of disaster mitigation, preparedness and response. Emergency management personnel must be able to send and receive relevant and timely information in support of decisions on courses of action. There must also be some means of rapidly disseminating information and instructions to the general public on necessary action to prevent or minimize loss of life, injury and property damage.

It is in recognition of this fact that the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA) has undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at consolidating the communication resources of the region. It is in this context that this current exercise was commissioned.

This report is divided into a number of main sections. Sections three (3) through to section six (6) present information on the background and justification, the Terms of reference and methodology of the study respectively.

Section seven (7) present a summary of the information gathered from the several agencies visited and documents reviewed. This section is further sub-divided into the different groups of agencies involved in disaster management. The groups include the National Disaster Organisations, Telecommunications Service Providers, Government Telecommunications Departments, Broadcast Media, Regional and International Agencies.

An analysis and interpretation of the findings is presented in section eight (8). This analysis include discussions on the benefits to be accrued from the use of *state-of-the-art* technology and the factors impeding the further use of such equipment.

Section nine (9) present the conclusions arrived at from the study, while section ten (10) identifies the recommendations. Section eleven (11) outline the recommended strategies to realize the benefits of use modern telecommunications equipment.