

## **9.0 CONCLUSIONS**

The following are the conclusions arrived at;

- (1) Modern communications technology is not used as extensively on a daily basis for disaster preparedness and response.
- (2) Although a number of new services are becoming available in the region, their costs have not been worked out. In any event, the response to these services will depend on the costs.
- (3) There is a need for the continued strengthening of the communications capabilities of CDERA and the various NDOs. It is expected that this will be accomplished through the use of the INMARSAT C terminals by CDERA.
- (4) There is a need to harmonize the various telecommunications Acts in the CDERA states and update them if necessary to make provisions for disaster communications.
- (5) The various telephone entities are willing to discuss the services that they can make available during a disaster and the applicable costs.
- (6) The outcome of a number of projects is going to affect the availability of modern communications equipment. They include the UN network, SIDSNET, DERMS and SUMA.
- (7) The UNESCO solar powered transmitters can be used extensively at the National and Divisional communications levels.
- (8) The ITU resolution can also provide equipment free of cost to developing countries if it is carried at the next Plenipotentiary Conference.
- (9) A number of areas are still to be explored. They include;
  - (i) The services available from the non-English speaking Caribbean island.
  - (ii) Information on the availability of excess transponder capacity from satellite services providers, particularly, VSAT Systems. Countries should include Mexico and the other members of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).
  - (iii) Discussing the possibility of getting special tariffs from INMARSAT.
- (10) The telecommunication service providers are positioned to offer all *state-of-the-art* communications technology to the region and their services can be exploited if the price is right.
- (11) The human resources in telecommunications must be developed to meet the challenges of the *state-of-the-art* communication technology.