





CTU GSOA VIRTUAL WORKSHOP

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS GROUND REALITIES

ARTICLES XIII & XIX – The Legal Foundation

CDEMA

The CU shall:

- (d) Establish and maintain an efficient and reliable system of communications with sub-regional operational focal points in order to facilitate the mobilization, deployment and coordination of disaster response supplies and services;
- (e) Establish and maintain a reliable system of communication with the heads of national disaster management agencies and ensure that their disaster response capabilities are maintained at agreed level of operational efficiency;

The PSs shall undertake to:

- (f) Establish and equip a suitable emergency operations centre capable of handling emergency telecommunications and coordinating emergency response involving relevant services;
- (g) Develop and maintain an emergency telecommunications system based on the most appropriate technology to ensure the coordination of emergency operations among stakeholders



The Melissa Wake-Up Call

Hurricane Melissa – Jamaica

- 41% of GDP lost – Approximately US\$ 12.2 Billion
- The after-action review and other findings:

Finding	Implication
The Public Procurement Act did not immediately facilitate emergency procedures to procure Starlink	"Extreme times require extreme actions"
60% of terminals remained in storage after Hurricane Melissa	The technology was appropriate : Logistics & planning require strengthening
Emergency spectrum licenses issued after landfall	A need to address this pre-impact

The Four Layers – No Single Magic Box

Layer	Mission	Technology
1	Critical monitoring & early warning	Dedicated GEO backhaul
2	Strategic backbone / govt continuity	GEO
3	Tactical response	LEO (Starlink)
4	Public communication	Wifi Broadcast Direct-to-device / satellite-to-cell



The false choice between Starlink and any single GEO operator misses the point. We need all four.

The HISPASAT Case Study – Generous Offer, System Not Ready

What HISPASAT offered after Melissa:

- 55 sites – 145 Mbps (110 Mbps down & 35 Mbps up per site)
- – 6 months free – US\$500K value

What HISPASAT explicitly noted:

- "Energy systems not considered by HISPASAT"
- "Depends on local logistics"
- "Import permits required from Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) and Spectrum Management Authority (SMA)"

What initial Melissa and the AA Report confirmed:

- Power: Severe generator/solar shortage
- Personnel: Severe shortage of trained staff
- Logistics: Ad-hoc, inconsistent, security concerns

Power is required for the satellite terminal to be effective.

Equipment delayed in Customs – Did not assist in addressing the challenges.



Five Gaps – All Fixable

Gap	Fix
No emergency spectrum reserve	Caribbean Emergency Spectrum Reserve – pre-cleared, auto-triggered
Fragmented cross-border licensing	Mutual recognition among CARICOM states
Procurement & customs procedures to be revised and strengthened for emergencies	Disaster Emergency Procurement Protocol – pre-approved catalogues
Satellite-to-cell unregulated	Regional D2D protocol – pre-approved MNO partnerships
Tampere not designed to address internal failures	Strengthen CDEMA framework – first line of defence

Ref. Strengthen CDEMA framework

ARTICLE XXVIII – TRANSIT OF PERSONNEL, EQUIPMENT AND PROPERTY

Participating States shall, at the request of either the requesting State or the sending State, take all measures necessary to facilitate the transit through their territory of duly notified personnel, equipment and property involved in rendering assistance to or from a requesting State.

Tampere Convention – Extra Regional & International compliment

What Works

- ETC coordination (64 facilities, 24,265 beneficiaries)
 - Asset transfer to national ownership
 - Centralized UAS registration
 - CETT



JAMAICA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

4 WINCHESTER ROAD
 KINGSTON 10
 MAILING ADDRESS:
 PO BOX 8986
 C.S.O. KINGSTON

ANY REPLY OR SUBSEQUENT REFERENCE TO THIS COMMUNICATION SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, AND NOT TO ANY OFFICER OF NAME AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCE QUOTED:

DFS-086

November 1, 2025

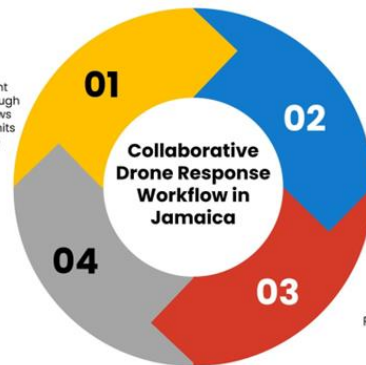
Dr. Valrie Grant
 Managing Director
 Jamaica Flying Labs
 44 Cowper Drive
 Kingston 20.

Dear Dr. Grant,

Three Months Island Wide Permit: Use of small UAS for Aerial Mapping

Government of Jamaica
 Defines priority incident areas for mapping through ODPEM/NERGIST, reviews & approves drone permits through the JCAA to support mapping process

Esri
 Coordinates data sharing & supports analysis with civil society partners



Jamaica Flying Labs
 Leads drone mapping coordination in priority areas, supported by HOT, UWI, local drone operators & global drone industry partners.

WeRobotics & Flying Labs Network
 Coordinates drone data processing, processes drone imagery & shares data products



The Asks

To this Workshop & the ITU

- Endorse



A Caribbean Emergency Spectrum Reserve –
pilot 3–5 states in 12 months

- Agree to Explore



A 'low cost' Regional bulk procurement for
solution for LEO & GEO – with locked
emergency pricing.

- Recognize



Multi-orbit, multi-vendor framework – GEO
+ MEO+LEO+D2D, plus procurement
reform

- For the ITU & WRC-27
specifically:

- Pilot the Emergency Spectrum Reserve as a SIDS model
- Protect spectrum for early warning sensor backhaul
- Develop guidelines for temporary MNO-satellite spectrum sharing
- Support simplified cross-border licensing and
- advocate for special SIDS disaster pricing mechanisms.

Closing – The System Around the Tech

In closing :

- The technology = ready.
- Satellite operators = ready.
- The ETC model = works.
- UAS coordination = works
- CARICOM Emergency Telecommunication Team = works.

- ❖ System around the tech = Has to be readied
 - Appropriate Back-Up Power
 - Consistent maintenance of equipment
 - Deepen skills of and access to personnel
 - Modify procurement procedures to facilitate emergency action
 - Spectrum licenses to be treated prior to emergency events

Final Closing – Effective Communication Is the Backbone

1. Effective communication is the backbone of any good response.
2. Pro-active planning and execution is required - including legislation.
3. Melissa's lessons offer the opportunity to modify the current system, rebuilding on strengthened legislation, regulations and governance
4. CDEMA is here to assist.



THANK YOU

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