**Dr. Christopher J. Walton**
Secretary-General

**Dr. Marcia Brandon**
Former Secretary-General

INTRODUCING OUR PROJECT PARTNER

# BARBADOS ASSOCIATION OF NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION

***Tell us about BANGO and provide a brief description of your work in Barbados.***

The Barbados Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (BANGO) is the recognised umbrella organisation for non-profit organisations in Barbados. BANGO was started in 1997, spearheaded by its founder, Mr. Roosevelt King. The organisation was registered as a charity in 2005.

Our mission is to structurally improve and support the social and economic advancement of the non-profit sector through good governance.

**BANGO is committed to consistently promote trustworthiness through the principles of honesty, love, responsibility, and fairness: FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION.**

**OUR WORK FOCUSES ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT AND IS BOLSTERED BY EIGHT PROGRAMMATIC AREAS.**

***What is the role of the General-Secretary in the Multi-Actor Partnerships (MAPs) project?***

The General-Secretary, BANGO serves as Barbados' national coordinator for the MAPs project. As such, I work with the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC), a Non Governmental Organisation, by helping to monitor project activities to ensure that the activities undertaken in Barbados are of high quality and relevant to the needs of the sector. I support with transparency and accountability in partnering CPDC and it's donors by providing the required supporting documentation as requested to justify the spending of monetary support and as proof that project activities were carried out and completed as required. My role within the project is mobilising relevant stakeholders, promoting awareness of the project, as well as contributing to policy development and other issues, though leadership, building partnerships, and capacity development under the project.

***What role does BANGO serve in combating the effects of climate change in the region?***

BANGO plays a pivotal role in combatting the effects of climate change on the region through policy advocacy, as well as advancing social and economic support to the frontline non-profits who work directly to combat these effects. We advance support through networking and connecting non-profits to each other, the private sector, international partners and government. We also mobilise resources to assist non-profits in their work.

***How can the region adapt to the impact of climate change/natural hazards?***

The region will need to consistently balance the common concerns of adaptation and disaster risk reduction, practically and within workable policy frameworks. Disaster risk reduction is an adaptation strategy and cannot be seen as separate and apart. The strategy must always be approached as a comprehensive risk management plan, with all aspects of the plan developed with vigorous input from the various stakeholders. The plan must be implemented, tested, reviewed and revised periodically to evaluate "fitness for purpose". It cannot be static.

The financing available for adaptation measures must be utilised innovatively to help countries to adapt and implement these plans and help their people to build resilience through creativity, knowledge sharing and learning. A major part of helping countries to adapt to climate change is to help all its people to understand the nuances and how to cope.

The outcome of utilising a disaster risk reduction model and different CDRFI instruments is to ensure that disasters are reduced, livelihoods saved and increased, and sustainable development is realised.

***What role do you think Climate and Disaster Risk Finance and Insurance (CDRFI) can play in building resilience in the region?"***

CDRFI instruments can help Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and individuals as a social and economic safety net. These types of mechanisms, especially for MSMEs, are not available in the region to serve sustain livelihoods and restart quickly after a disaster. With this type of cost-effective, reliable social and economic safety net, many businesses could become more confident in their abilities to scale and grow and, even in the face of adversity, to hire employees and build business, as well as innovate to bring new products to the market and new benefits for consumers. Ultimately, the region's people could benefit from CDRFI as it could help provide life and livelihoods coverage against disasters, especially for the poor and vulnerable, who will need it the most.