National Emergency Telecomunications Mechanism
Dominican Republic
NETM

(for its acronym in Spanish)

Final version, submitted and approved by the Board of Directors on 9 January 2019 and sent by communication 19001058 dated 28 January 2019 to the Director of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)
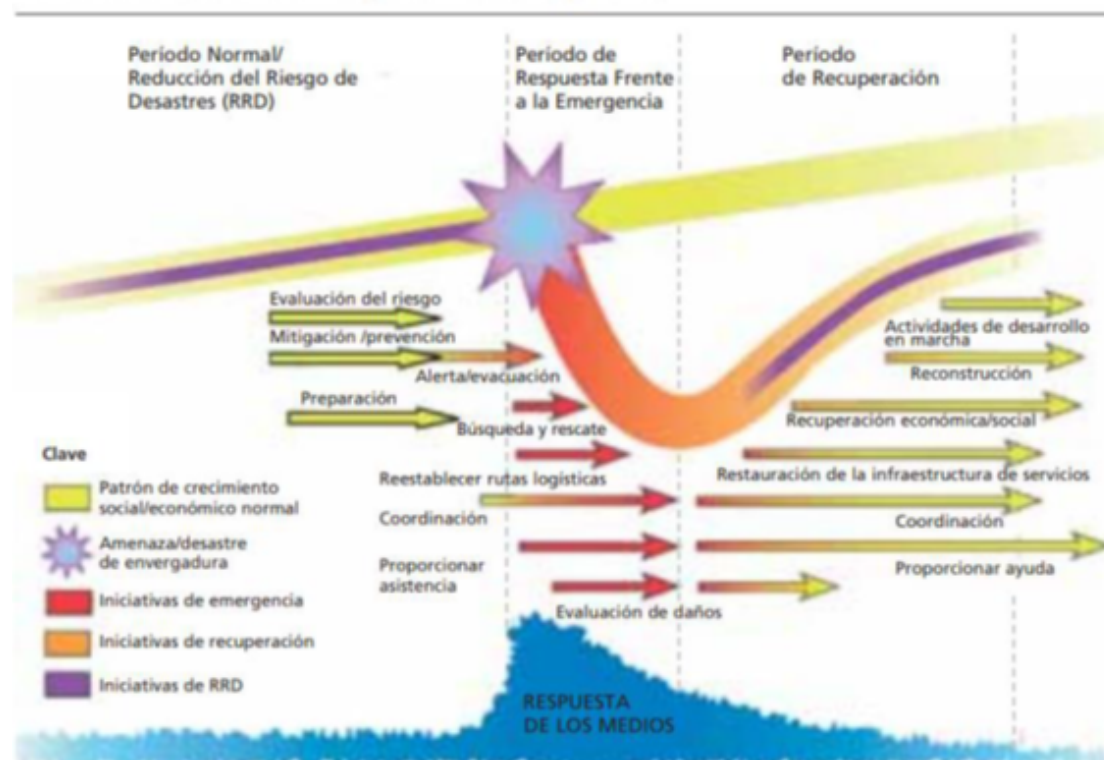
NETM Double role

The launch of the NETM:

- Recognizes telecommunications as a tool in the effective management of all phases of an emergency; and also,

- Recognizes telecommunications as a strategic cross-cutting sector in the Dominican Republic's economy.

It recognizes that, during an emergency, **telecommunications can help minimize economic losses and can primarily help saving lives.**

NETM and Sendai

Marco de la Gestión del Riesgo de Desastres (MGRD)

The NETM was designed accommodating the 4 priorities set out in the Sendai framework for disaster risk reduction:
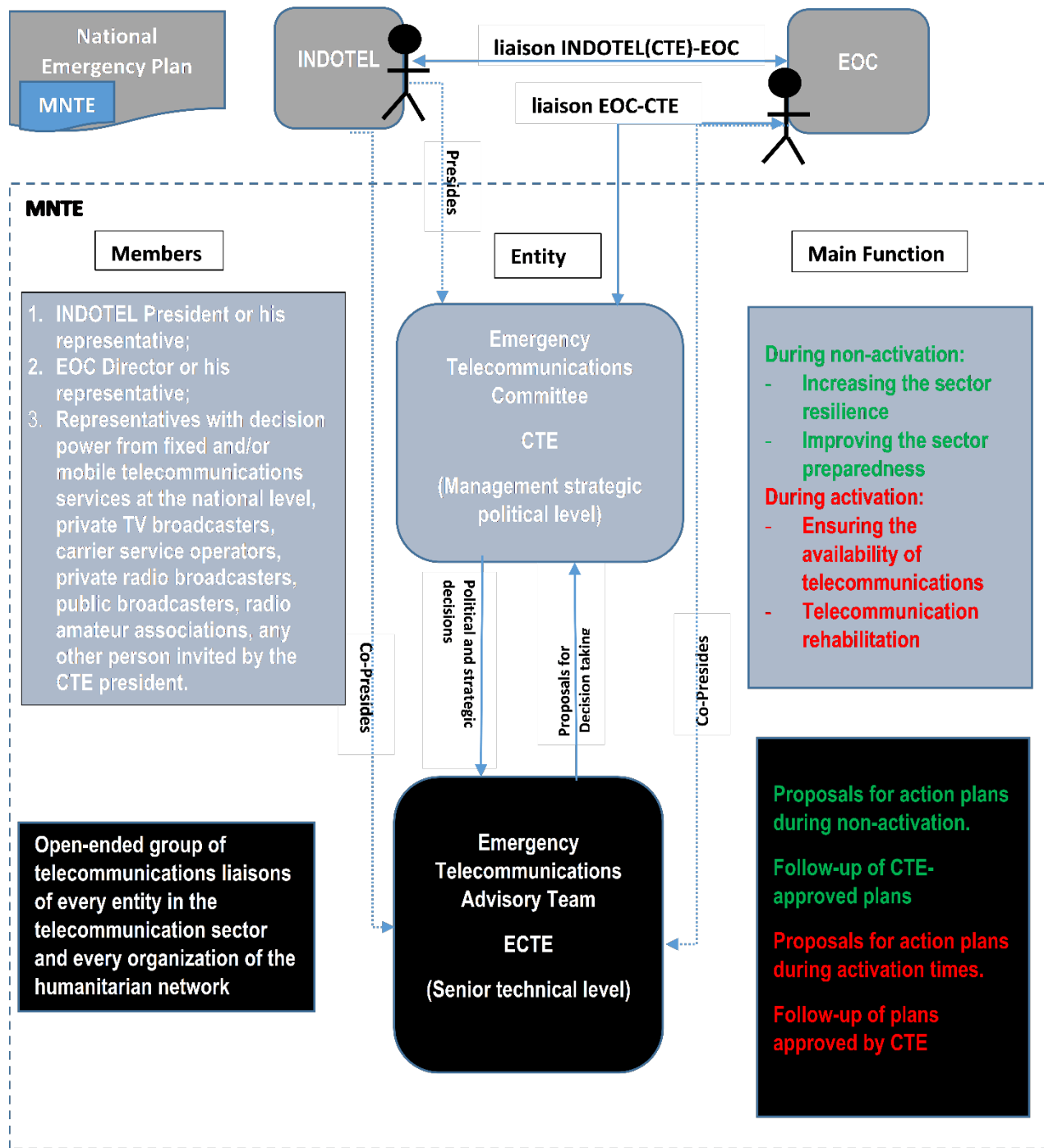
- Understand disaster risk;
- Strengthen disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk;
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience;
- Increase disaster preparedness to provide an effective and "better rebuild" response in the areas of recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

NETM process

- Started during 2014, when between ITU, INDOTEL and COE produced the first draft, based on experiences around the world and the wealth of knowledge accumulated by ITU, COE and INDOTEL.

- It was a marathon full of meetings and communications exchanges that we successfully completed in January 2020.

- In September 2015, we held a joint workshop between the ITU, EOC and INDOTEL with the participation of the Dominican humanitarian network.

- In 2018 we had a new tripartite meeting between ITU, EOC and INDOTEL,

- September 2019, when we held an NETM socialisation workshop on the COE premises.

- In the last 100 metres, i.e. in October-November 2019, stakeholder feedback was received

- Cross the finish line in January 2020 with different bilateral meetings between the COE-INDOTEL duo and other relevant actors.

NETM functional diagram

MNTE

Members	Entity	Main Function

National Emergency Plan
MNTE

INDOTEL — liaison INDOTEL(CTE)-EOC → EOC

liaison EOC-CTE

Presides

Members
1. INDOTEL President or his representative;
2. EOC Director or his representative;
3. Representatives with decision power from fixed and/or mobile telecommunications services at the national level, private TV broadcasters, carrier service operators, private radio broadcasters, public broadcasters, radio amateur associations, any other person invited by the CTE president.

Entity

Emergency Telecommunications Committee

CTE

(Management strategic political level)

Co-Presides

Political and strategic decisions

Proposals for Decision taking

Co-Presides

Main Function

During non-activation:
- Increasing the sector resilience
- Improving the sector preparedness

During activation:
- Ensuring the availability of telecommunications
- Telecommunication rehabilitation

Open-ended group of telecommunications liaisons of every entity in the telecommunication sector and every organization of the humanitarian network

Emergency Telecommunications Advisory Team

ECTE

(Senior technical level)

Proposals for action plans during non-activation.

Follow-up of CTE-approved plans

Proposals for action plans during activation times.

Follow-up of plans approved by CTE

NETM Adoption and Legal Framework

- The Dominican Constitution sets as a national high priority objective "To organize and sustain effective systems that prevent or mitigate damage caused by natural and technological disasters.

- Law 147-02 on risk management ratifies the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) as responsible for the coordination for disaster preparedness and response, of which INDOTEL is a part.

- Article 7 of the General Telecommunications Law (153-98), it is for the Executive to issue the guidelines to be complied with by the providers and users of telecommunications services in cases where national security and defence may be compromised or in case of emergency or catastrophe.

- EOC, together with INDOTEL, coordinate the preparation and organization of the entities involved in the telecommunications sector in order to provide an effective response in emergencies.

- The NETM became as an annex, an integral part of the National Emergency Plan, described in article 16 of the law No. 147-02 on Risk Management

NETM implementation

ACTIVITY	PLANNED DATE [EFFECTIVE DATE] dd.mmm.yyyy
1st regular meeting of the ECTE	last week of January 2020 [one week before CTE]
1st regular meeting of the CTE	1-15 Feb 2020. [during May 2020]
2nd regular meeting of the ECTE	last week of May 2020
2nd regular meeting of the CTE	1-15 Jun 2020. At the beginning of the cyclonic season.
3rd regular ECTE meeting	3rd week of November 2020
3rd regular meeting of the CTE.	Last week of November or in the 1st week of December 2020

NETM Implementation

ACTIVITY	PLANNED DATE [EFFECTIVE DATE] dd.mmm.yyyy
INDOTEL President may designate his/her Representative to the Presidency of the CTE	Before the 1st regular meeting of the CTE
INDOTEL designates the person responsible for providing secretariat services to the CTE	Before the 1st regular meeting of the CTE
INDOTEL designates the person who will be Co-president of ECTE.	Before the 1st regular meeting of the ECTE
INDOTEL secures the funding to discharge its responsibilities within the NETM	During 2020
INDOTEL will designate the person responsible for providing secretariat services to the ECTE	Before inviting to the 1st regular meeting of the ECTE
INDOTEL will designate the person(s) to liaise with COE during non-activation and activation	Before the 1st regular meeting of the CTE
INDOTEL creates a Risk Analysis and Management Unit	During year 2020

NETM Implementation

ACTIVITY		PLANNED DATE [EFFECTIVE DATE] dd.mmm.yyyy
COE designates the person to liaise with the CTE		Before the 1st regular meeting of the CTE
COE designates the person who will be Co-president of ECTE.		Before the 1st regular meeting of the ECTE
COE will designate the person responsible for providing secretariat services to the ECTE		Before the 1st regular meeting of the ECTE
COE secures the funding to discharge its responsibilities within the NETM		During 2020
Have the representatives of: - fixed and/or mobile telecommunications services at the national level, - private TV broadcasters,	- carrier service operators, - private radio broadcasters, - public broadcasters, - radio amateur associations. To integrate the CTE.	Before the 1st regular meeting of the CTE

NETM vis a vis the Global Guidelines recommendations

Done **To be met**

Recommendation 1: The NETP should take into consideration current capabilities, coordination challenges, planned resiliency requirements, with an understanding of the country's overall risk for telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and contingency planning, taking into account that hazards and vulnerabilities…

Recommendation 2: The NETP should include a description of the phases of disaster management based on the national disaster risk management plan adopted within the country and describe how telecommunication/ICT will be supported/enabled in each of these phases.

Recommendation 3: The NETP should include clear administrative structures, processes and communication protocols essential to the satisfactory implementation of the plan, taking into account the specific needs, laws, regulations, institutions and other characteristics particular to a given country

NETM vis a vis the Global Guidelines recommendations

Done

To be met

Recommendation 4: Legislation and regulation regarding telecommunication/ICTs for disaster management should be in place or put in place and described in the NETP.

Recommendation 5: The NETP should contain information on all existing telecommunication/ICT networks (public and private) available for use in a disaster event, a vulnerability and risk analysis of these telecommunication/ICT networks

Recommendation 6: Multi-hazard early warning systems should be designed and deployed, linking all hazard-monitoring systems when possible to take advantage of economies of scale and enhance sustainability and efficiency through a multipurpose user-centric framework.

NETM vis a vis the Global Guidelines recommendations

Done • **To be met**

Recommendation 7: The NETP should include a description of, and reference to, all international cooperation and coordination treaties and bilateral agreements that the country has signed regarding disaster management.

Recommendation 8: The NETP should include a mechanism for enhancing training and capacity building for both the administrators leading emergency responses and the wider community using and providing telecommunication/ICTs in emergencies.

Recommendation 9: The NETP should detail how to support continued availability of multiple forms of telecommunication/ICTs to provide messages and inform/alert impacted people, including those with specific needs, and marginalized communities.

NETM vis a vis the Global Guidelines recommendations

Done

To be met

Recommendation 10: Cybersecurity planning, defined to include prevention, detection, response, and recovery, should be included as a foundational requirement to ensure the confidentiality, integrity and availability of communications services to support emergency operations

Recommendation 11: Annual exercises should be held and the NETP should be updated after every drill and operation to incorporate lessons learned, and be fully reviewed at least every three to five years.

NETM vis a vis the Global Guidelines

Similarities

- It follows more than 50% of the recommendations.
- National emergency telecommunication plan: Step by step
- National disaster management
- Telecommunication/ICT legislation and regulation

Difference

- It is a Mechanism. Not a Plan.
  - More dynamic & permanent and less complete. The NETM will comply with the rest of the recommendations eventually.

To complete through the NETM.

-Telecom/ICTs for emergencies. Some done.

-International cooperation and coordination. Some done.

-Development of capacities and drills. Identified.

-Support for people with specific needs.

Lessons learned

- As expected, Political support at the highest possible level is critical
- There is a need to take into account the country development on National Emergency Plans and integrate telecommunications into it.
- Dual role of telecommunications. As a tool to respond to all phases of emergencies and as a critical infratruture. Usually it is already considered within EOC infrastructure situation table.
- There is a need to identify the different entities, which intersection is where Emergency Telecommunications responsibility lays.
- It is appropriate to follow the Sendai Framework. Activation and non activation times and their differences.
- There are 2 levels: Technical and political-strategic, with different objectives.
- There is a need to customize to local context
- A mechanism which fires up a plan-execution cycles towards more resilience & capabilities might be simpler than a more complete plan which may take longer.
- The articulation of the Emergency community and the Telecommunication community can have different positive external effects born from a NETP or NETM

Thank you!