Regional Coordination Cell

In some situations where regional organizations deploy teams to coordinate assets deployed from  their regional member states, it may be useful  to establish a dedicated Regional Coordination Cell. Several regional organizations have trained teams, e.g., the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (EUCP),  the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Emergency Response and Assessment Team (ERAT), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), who may deploy and establish a local coordination mechanism to coordinate regional assistance, i.e., assistance from their respective member states to the affected country. Rather than setting up parallel structures, an integrated approach through a Regional Coordination Cell would be advisable.

The Regional Coordination Cell will complement the work of the other cells,  offering a possibility to members of regional organizations to be fully included in the framework of the overall response, rather than establish their own coordination centre. This cell will not overlap with existing ones. It will be a service provider to the members of different organizations. It will ensure a structured information exchange from and to responders. At the same time, it aims at offering more tailored and coordinated operational services to aid providers and the recipient government and other responders.

Members of regional organizations may still liaise directly with other cells within the OSOCC. Being integrated into the OSOCC will allow regional organizations to be more proactive in operational coordination of their own interested members by offering liaison with requisite OSOCC cells or providing support with assessment, analysis, and information management, ensuring proper exchange of information in the OSOCC. This will facilitate interoperability between systems and discourage the establishment of parallel structures.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for interoperability between the OSOCC and regional organizations already exist within some regions and should be consulted when establishing an OSOCC. See also Chapter O. which offers further guidance on specific approaches per region. In addition, other coordination cells can be created for any purpose at the discretion of the OSOCC Manager.