



Foreign Affairs and
International Trade Canada

Affaires étrangères et
Commerce international Canada

Canada

Humanitarian
Affairs Section

Section des
Affaires humanitaires



Government of Canada Response to Natural Disasters Abroad



Canadian International Response and Disaster Risk Reduction – WHY?

- **Large number of people affected**
 - * In 2008, 321 disasters killed 235,816 people, affected 211 million others and cost a total of US\$181 billion.
- **Disasters undermine development**
 - * Houses, assets and incomes are lost
 - * “We lost in 72 hours what [has] taken more than 50 years to build”. (Hurricane Mitch, Honduras 1998, President Carlos Flores)
- **Canadian humanitarian tradition and interests**
 - * Public’s interest in helping crisis-affected people/countries
- **Responsibility to provide consular support to Canadians abroad**



Conditions for Response

1. Request for assistance from the government of the affected country
2. Needs assessments identifying priority sectors for response
3. Official appeals by trusted humanitarian partners on the ground



Objectives of Canadian Humanitarian Action

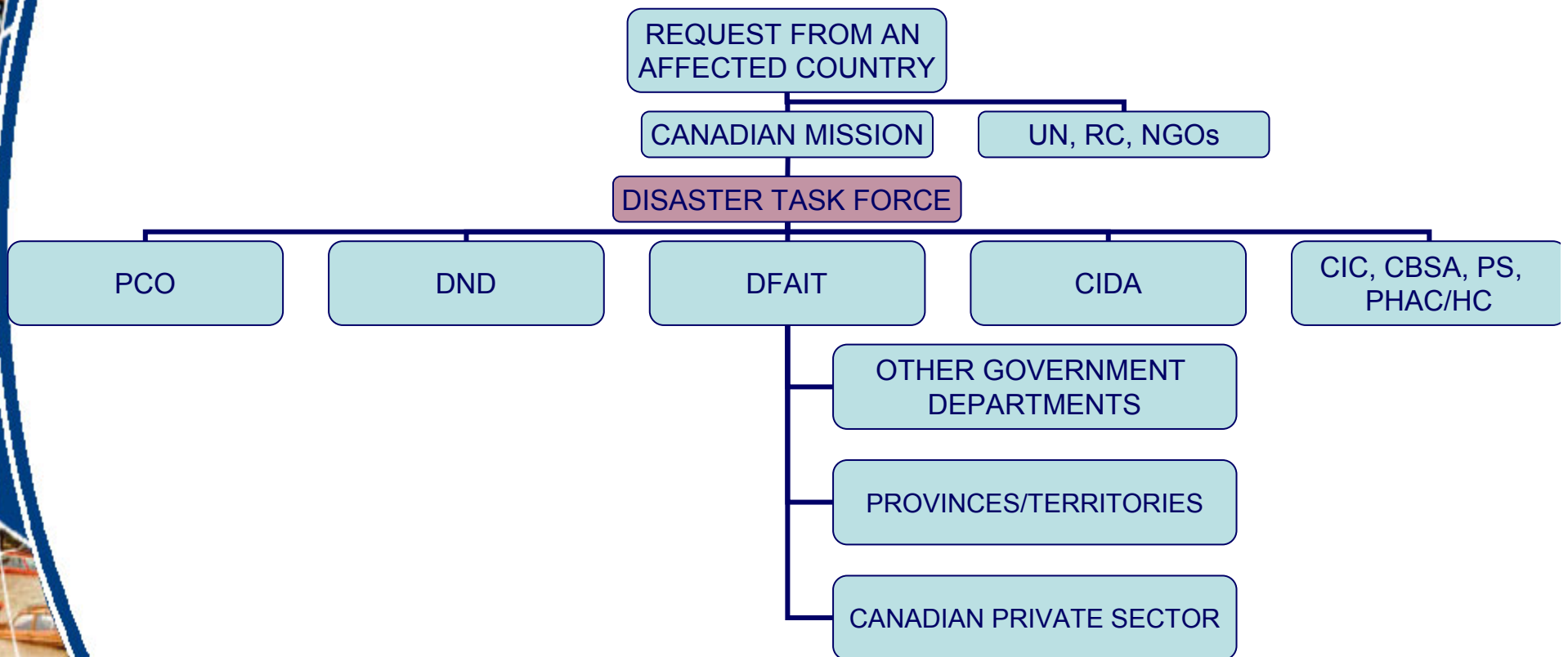
1. To meet humanitarian needs: save lives, alleviate suffering, and maintain human dignity;
2. To ensure a coherent, coordinated and timely humanitarian response, consistent with Good Humanitarian Donorship principles;
3. To ensure consistency with international legal obligations and principles; and
4. To support effective disaster risk reduction efforts (prevention, preparedness, mitigation, etc).



Government of Canada Coordination Mechanisms

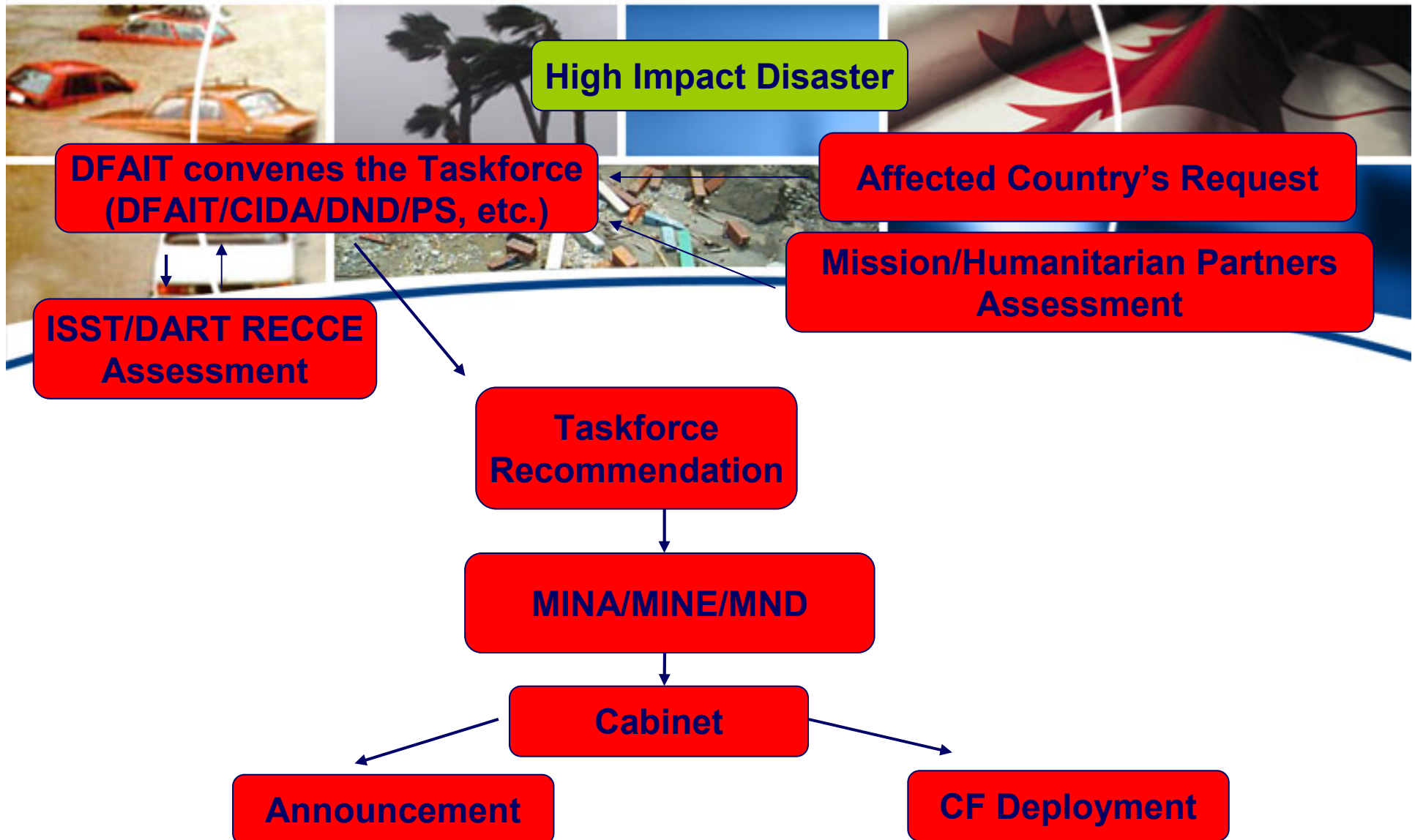
- Standard Operating Procedures in Response to Natural Disasters Abroad (“SOPs”)
 - **24/7 stand-by** and response capacity
- Standing Interdepartmental Task Force
- After-action Reviews (lessons learned)

How it comes together





Natural Disasters- Decision making principles



Government of Canada Response Toolkit

- Cash contributions in response to appeals
- Deployment of relief supplies
- Deployment of Canadian experts
- Canadian Forces assets
- Other special measures





This WoG Approach has Ensured:

- That responses to natural disasters abroad are timely, effective, needs-based and appropriate.
- That our work demonstrates commitment to high standards of effectiveness and efficiency.
- That we remain oriented toward tangible results and continuous learning.