



*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

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PRIME MINISTER OF BARBADOS**

AT THE

**UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR THE ADOPTION
OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

OF THE

70TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

25 SEPTEMBER, 2015

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

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Mr. President,
Heads of State,
Heads of Government,
Distinguished delegates:

There are defining moments in human affairs when differences dividing countries and cultures are laid aside in pursuit of a higher, common purpose, that of benefitting all humanity. Our modern era has witnessed two such moments: the Millennium Development Declaration in 2000, and now the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The gathering of world leaders to adopt eight international development goals, some 15 years ago, represented unprecedented hope at the dawn of a new millennium. The MDGs highlighted the intention of the global community to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, and to promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development.

Since independence in 1966, Barbados has pursued the goal of eradicating many of the social and economic contradictions which we inherited from our colonial past. In that connection, the administration over which I have the honour to preside has crafted the vision of creating "*a Barbados that*

is socially balanced, economically viable, environmentally sound and characterised by good governance." That vision brings us squarely in line with the ideals embodied in the international development agenda, which this special session of the United Nations has been convened to endorse.

Mr President,

The Caribbean Community, CARICOM, developed a set of region-specific MDGs to cater to the unique realities of our region and member states. Gender, violence, and chronic non-communicable diseases were, and are, among our priorities. Though buttressed by our dreams, our progress in achieving the MDGs was, regrettably, limited by our capacity to finance our development objectives.

With the citizens of the world impatient for progress, we must invest our collective intellectual capital, and the technology at our disposal, to design the tools and devise the mechanisms to realize the promise of our stated goals.

Agenda 2030 for sustainable development provides us with the blueprint to achieve the transformation we seek. But that blueprint must

be translated into reality, and take us seamlessly from the 8 Goals and 18 targets of the MDGs to the 17 Goals and 169 Targets of the SDGs.

The unprecedented scope of ***Agenda 2030*** rises to the challenges facing today's interconnected world, and is firmly rooted in the three dimensions of sustainable development - the economic, the environmental and the social. Importantly, it is undergirded by a people-centred and planet-sensitive ethos, with People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership at its core.

Mr. President,

The outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the ***Addis Ababa Action Agenda***, specifies the policies and actions to finance the sustainable development of our countries. Now is the time for us to address the need to develop transparent measurements of progress that reach far beyond the narrow scope of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita. Small Island Developing States like ours should not be punished for the limited development that we have been able to achieve, very often against stubborn and unyielding odds.

The Third International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held last year in Samoa, built on the platforms of the prior Barbados Programme of Action (1994) and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (2005). It reinforced unequivocally the status of SIDS as a special case for sustainable development, in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities.

The long-term effects of climate change, including the ravages of more frequent, intense and destructive natural disasters, pose an existential threat to Small Island Developing States. The recent devastation of our sister country Dominica by Tropical Storm Erika is a stark reminder of this.

Barbados and other CARICOM countries are firmly of the view that climate change can only be tackled by a comprehensive international effort, grounded in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). For us, sustainable development and climate change are inextricably linked. Let us use the momentum of this Summit to ensure the adoption of a meaningful and ambitious Accord in Paris at the 21st Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC.

Mr. President,

Our region desperately requires a strategy of debt relief in order to create more fiscal space and engineer much-needed economic development in order to realise the goals set out in **Agenda 2030**. A re-examination of the bases for the graduation of the countries of our region from access to concessional finance remains an urgent necessity. As we look towards the future, it is important, indeed necessary, for previously agreed commitments to be kept.

The United Nations, on the strength of its universal membership, legitimacy, and comprehensive mandate, will play a pivotal role over the next fifteen years towards the goal of sustainable development.

But we cannot put new wine into old wineskins. As we consider the post-2015 development agenda, adequate, consistent, and predictable financial support must be mobilised and allocated for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The acid test of the value of these Goals will be their impact on the quality of life of ordinary men, women and children, everywhere.

Mr President,

The United Nations was created at a time when the world was grappling with the political and economic consequences of a global war. Seventy years later, though much has changed, we have failed to eliminate the scourge of war. Development cannot be achieved in the absence of peace.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda is our compass as we continue on the journey towards a better world for all. With political will and dedicated action, **Agenda 2030** will ensure a safe and secure future for current and future generations. We cannot allow this historic opportunity to slip from our grasp.

I thank you.