



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



**STATEMENT  
ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

**by**

**H.E. AMBASSADOR GEORGE TALBOT  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**at the  
Inaugural Meeting  
of the Open Working Group  
on Sustainable Development Goals**

**MARCH 14, 2013**

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Mr. President,

I deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China.

I wish to extend congratulations to the co-facilitators on their election to guide this critical process and to express appreciation to you Mr. President for your efforts in leading us to this point.

CARICOM has consistently advocated for an urgent start to the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we embark on the substantive phase of our deliberations it is our hope that we will gain early momentum which will move us toward the timely completion of our work in accordance with paragraph(s) 245 to 251) of the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want".

Mr. President,

CARICOM wishes to recall the mandate given by Heads of State and Government at the Rio+20 Conference to take urgent action to achieve sustainable development. The elaboration of global sustainable development goals is central to attaining this objective.

We reaffirm that the process of defining the goals must be open, inclusive and transparent and that it should also uphold the decision made at Rio+20 for a group of 30 representatives to coordinate the development of the SDGs. With the group now fully constituted, it is our view that we have made great strides toward achieving this objective and it is now up to the Group to make final decisions concerning its working arrangements.

Mr. President,

We agreed at Rio+20 that the process of developing the sustainable development goals must be coordinated and coherent with other processes in the context of the Post 2015 development agenda. For CARICOM this would mean redoubling efforts to attain the MDGs by 2015, determining how to treat with those MDGs which would not have been achieved by 2015 and elaborating the SDGs. In our view the successful implementation of any SDGs will depend to a large degree on the extent to which the elaboration of MDGs and SDGs can be comprehensively reconciled within the context of the broader post-2015 development agenda.

If we envision the Post 2015 development agenda as a single integrated framework which addresses sustainable development in all its three dimensions then there can be no question that those objectives set by the MDGs for which there has been limited success with implementation, will be appropriately addressed, and no country will be left behind.

As we begin our work on the SDGs we must also look ahead and ensure that adequate provision is made for their integration in any follow up process for the MDGs. To this end, an intergovernmental process to design the single development agenda is indeed critical.

Mr. President,

For CARICOM, sustainable development goals must be universally applicable people centred and be directly relevant to national priorities and respectful of country ownership. SDGs must continue to track progress for poverty eradication, and promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth for all. As Small Island Developing States, the CARICOM will endeavour to provide a SIDS perspective on the SDGs, mindful that while universal the goals will

necessarily be flexible to allow for differentiated approaches and measures for achieving them. We also anticipate that through this process as well as the broader process for post 2015 development agenda, mainstreaming sustainable development across the entire UN system will be a firm objective.

The SDGs and the broader post-2015 development agenda, of which they will be a part, must also be designed in a manner which will achieve the objective of mainstreaming sustainable development across the entire UN system.

The CARICOM region is in the process of refining some key areas that could be considered in the elaboration of sustainable development goals. These include the linkages between energy, food and water. We consider that health may be treated in a more holistic manner addressing both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Other areas of import include education, in terms of access and enhancing the quality of education, enhancing resilience through strengthened measures to address disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

Accompanying the goals must be a strong framework for enabling implementation and cooperation at the national, regional and multilateral level.

This should include the mobilisation of adequate means of implementation, including through traditional and alternative sources of financing and determining means of supporting vulnerable economies, particularly in small, highly indebted vulnerable countries, in their efforts to secure economic sustainability and resilience, should also feature as a core theme in the development of the SDGs.

Mr. President,

We look forward to a successful process for the elaboration of the SDGs that will be well coordinated within the context of a Post 2015 development agenda and redound to the benefit of both present and future generations. You can count on the support of our delegations toward this end.

I thank you.