



*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



INTERVENTION BY

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ON BEHALF OF CARICOM

AT THE

CSD-19
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PREPARATORY MEETING

ON

SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

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Mr. Chairman, since 2003, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has participated in setting a regional agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean via five Consultations held on the Marrakech Process. Over this period various issues were prioritized within the context for developing the Ten year framework of Programmes on Sustainable consumption and Production (10YFP-SCP)

At the Fourth Meeting on Sustainable Consumption and Production in Latin America and the Caribbean held in Sao Paulo Brazil in October 2007, the Caribbean highlighted specific priorities for sub-regional action on SCP including:

- Food Security, Water, Climate Change and Diversification of Energy Sources
- Support to Small and Medium Enterprises, Regional Procurement and Fair Trade
- The role of Tourism and Financial Sectors in ecosystems protection
- Institutional Support Mechanisms such as Financing, enforcement, social participation, regulatory frameworks and public and private cooperation at bilateral and sub regional levels.
- Institutional strengthening for implementation at National and Sub-regional Levels

These priorities were captured in the overarching Regional priorities endorsed by the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in Panama City, Panama in April 2010. Further acknowledgement came in September 2010 when the Ministers of Environment of the Caribbean community (CARICOM) endorsed the sub-regional priorities at the Third Joint Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development and the Council for Human and Social Development.

Chair in 2010, a survey was carried out by the Caribbean Policy Development Centre which identified the Main Challenges to Implementation of SCP programmes in the Caribbean sub-region as including among other things:

- The Consumer Lifestyles and Values of our societies
- Lack of Awareness and Knowledge by the General Public and Decision-makers of the 10YFP
- Inaccessibility to Financing for projects and
- Lack of adequate Human Resources to carry out much required research and programming

Despite these challenges Mr. Chair, we do see opportunities for the Implementation of the 10 YFP for SCP in CARICOM. Firstly, Mr. Chair, is the opportunity for the creation of Synergies with MEAS such as POPS and Climate Change - issues which are driven by unsustainable consumption and production patterns. A response to these issues can impact the successful implementation of the Ten year Framework of Programmes. Secondly, with respect to Financial Resources, we believe the several avenues already exist through Development Cooperation Agencies as with the GEF and Climate Financing which can be utilised. What is required is the development of our local, national and Sub-Regional capabilities to mobilise such resources and to deploy them in an effective manner.

Third, the global economic downturn represents an opportunity for our countries to affirm priorities or reprioritize those programmes that promote sustainable consumption and production as necessary in order to improve efficiencies and eliminate wastage.

Fourth, the proposed Caribbean Single Market and Economy creates an opportunity to harmonise production standards and enhance consumer protection systems across the CARICOM-Region.

Fifth, the ascendancy of Social Media and Networks provides a unique platform to get the message across to our various publics. Finally Mr. Chair, the Green Movement in Tourism augurs well for inculcating sustainable consumption and production into the Number 1 industry in Caribbean.

Mr. Chair, the CARICOM Sub- Region is poised to realize many benefits with the implementation of the 10 FYP SCP. To this effect we would wish to see in the short to medium –term a SWITCH-SIDS which is similar to EU-SWITCH-ASIA but adapted to include a SIDS specific Interregional Focus. Such an initiative Mr. Chair will require financial and technical support of our development partners with the ultimate intention of realizing tangible outputs by the end of the 10 Year Framework in 2021.

This initiative would be tailor-made to suit SIDS Economies and is in tune with Paragraph 9 of UN general Assembly Resolution 49/122, of December 1994, which called for inter alia, the development of the Small Island Developing States Technical Assistance Programme (SIDS-TAP). Further it will deliver on the priorities and promise of the BPOA and MSI and has strong demonstration potential for the implementation of globally agreed commitments in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and Agenda 21 with respect to SIDS-SIDS cooperation. Such an initiative has the potential to affirm that Global SCP programming is SIDS-appropriate while giving credence to the recognition at the 5 – year Review of the Mauritius Strategy that North-South, South –south and cooperation among SIDS and triangular cooperation is needed to achieve successful implementation of the BPOA and MSI.

In closing Mr. Chair, Our Region has been participating in the Global Partnership on Sustainable tourism one of the mechanisms arising out of the Marrakech process. There are other groupings which are as timely and relevant to Caribbean Economies including inter alia the Panels on sustainable lifestyles, Sustainable Building and Construction and Education for SCP to name just a few. These are avenues we look forward to as we prepare to launch the 10 YFP.

I thank you Mr. Chair