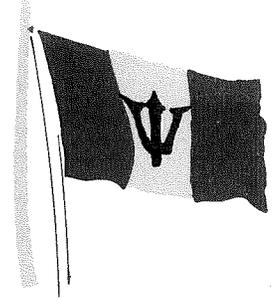




*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

**MS. JOYCE BOURNE
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**FIRST SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

ON BEHALF OF

BARBADOS AND THE BAHAMAS

ON

MARCH 15, 2013

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

Please check against delivery

Co-Chairs,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Barbados and The Bahamas. We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China, as well with the Permanent Representative of Guyana on behalf of CARICOM.

We also wish to join with others in extending hearty congratulations to the Co-Chairs on your election.

Co-Chairs,

Barbados and The Bahamas indeed welcome this first meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. We view the substantive discussions that we have had thus far, including those during the Panel discussion yesterday, as a clear indication of the strong emphasis we have placed on creating Sustainable Development Goals. This will allow us, at once, to address longstanding and emerging global challenges, while being directly relevant to local, national and regional priorities. We have also acknowledged the critical

importance of addressing sustainable development in all its three dimensions, while ensuring a single integrated post-2015 development framework.

As we heard yesterday, the CARICOM region is in the process of refining some key areas that could be considered as we move forward on this most important albeit complex task. Accordingly, Barbados and The Bahamas wish to highlight a few additional areas as follows:

While the Sustainable Development Goals must promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, any framework that we adopt must not depend on GDP as the sole indicator of development. For Caribbean SIDS, there must be a broader discussion on how we measure economic growth and development to ensure true universality in approach.

We also consider that the issues surrounding youth, including employment, employability and entrepreneurship, should feature prominently in our discussions.

Lastly, since we are largely dependent on marine resources for our food, livelihood, maritime transport, and energy, we would seek to have the

consideration of Oceans and related issues included in the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Co-Chairs,

We will continue to participate constructively in this process and we look forward to the advancement of our work.

I thank you.