



*Permanent Mission  
of Barbados to  
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

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MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT  
OF BARBADOS

TO THE

15<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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Mr. Chairman,

Over the last decade, Barbados has continued to meet its international obligations to the multilateral environmental agreements to which we are signatory and to the sustainable development agenda.

Barbados, despite our vulnerabilities, and being graduated from concessionary financing has achieved significant progress using our own resources. We are well on the way to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and we have articulated a number of macro-policy frameworks notably a National Sustainable Development Policy, a National Strategic Plan for the period 2006-2025, a Physical Development Plan and most recently an Energy Policy encompassing:

- ❖ An underlying ethic and emphasis on conservation, efficiency, equity, participation and overall improvement of quality of life;
- ❖ A shift to renewable energy with time-bound targets irrespective of whether fossil fuel costs become lower; and
- ❖ A transition to a low-carbon economy using natural gas as the preferred fossil fuel.

These critical policy elements have now been integrated into national policy through the implementation of the first phases of our Green Economy policy enunciated by the Prime Minister. We are pursuing all this despite being low emitters of greenhouse gases.

Mr. Chairman,

Since the 1970s, the Government of Barbados has invested in a Solar Water Heater Industry based on private sector entrepreneurship and innovation, government commitment, and creation of a regulatory and fiscal incentive framework which has stimulated the development of an industry with the highest per capita penetration in the world. This CSD forum has recognized the Barbados initiative in its matrix as an example of best practice.

Barbados remains committed to providing technical assistance and cooperation to other developing countries and particularly SIDS in the furtherance of solar water heater development worldwide and would wish to reiterate its willingness to participate with the GEF through the Solar Water Heater Market Transformation and Strengthening Initiative which is to be

implemented through the UNDP and UNEP. Given our experience, Barbados has much to offer and is keen to participate and we look forward to a response from the relevant agencies to our expression of interest.

It is noteworthy that CSD is moving from articulation to implementation, and Barbados supports this. We are however concerned that year after year there is continuous tinkering with the language of the text which only results in repetition of previously agreed outcomes. Is it too much to hope that tangible support in the form of long promised funds might also accompany the implementation effort?

After years of participation, SIDS are experiencing extreme frustration as a result of continued marginalization. This frustration may very well be reflected in the small number of Caribbean Ministers present at CSD 15.

Mr. Chairman,

We call on CSD to ensure it remains relevant to the common person and all its constituencies. The time for action is now. Thank you.