



STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT

ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ECOSOC:
ECOSOC ANNUAL MINISTERIAL REVIEW

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM aligns itself with the remarks given by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; by the Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States and with the remarks made by Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC).

CARICOM Member States recall the decision taken to establish a universal, intergovernmental high-level political forum on sustainable development, to replace the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) made by Heads at the Rio+20 Conference. The convening of this Ministerial segment finds us at a critical juncture when negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda are reaching the final stage. We anticipate that over the coming days this Forum will afford us the opportunity to engage in discussions on how best to review progress towards the successful attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the overall Development Agenda.

As CARICOM Member States stated during last week's segment, we view the HLPF as an integral part of the review and follow-up process of the Post-2015 Development Agenda that will comprise a multi-layered approach to aggregating relevant inputs starting first from a national level and moving upwards through the regional and international levels so as to develop a clear outline of the full scope of progress in implementation. In this regard, we reiterate the importance of the HLPF conducting its work in a manner that is flexible, dynamic and solution-oriented. In addition to assessing progress in implementation the HLPF must be forum for providing momentum in support of implementation of the agenda.

At the international level, we have agreed in resolution 67/290 that the HLPF will conduct regular reviews on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation. Additionally, we anticipate that other inputs, including from other intergovernmental entities and other stakeholders, will be taken into consideration.

CARICOM Member States reiterate our resolve from the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development "The Future We Want" to strengthen the science-policy interface through inclusive, evidence-based and transparent scientific assessments, as well as access to reliable, relevant and timely data in areas related to the three dimensions of sustainable development, building on existing mechanisms.

Accordingly, as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), we use this opportunity to reiterate the important role the HLPF can play in the review and follow-up of the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. We firmly believe that the Forum, in accordance with its mandate, must devote adequate time to the discussion of sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, such as those in CARICOM, in the unique position of being both SIDS and Middle Income Countries (MICS). Some of these challenges include our small, vulnerable economies which are exacerbated by their narrow bases, limited product and market diversification, lack of economies of scale and high dependency on international trade, vulnerability to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Access to

concessionary and grant-based financing which is hindered by solely using GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per capita to define development.

CARICOM wishes to use this opportunity to emphasise the importance of capacity-building for Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including in conducting their own monitoring and assessments. We also highlight the importance of tailored support for SIDS in strengthening statistical systems in support of evidence-based decision making. We hope that going forward, Member States will be able to actively engage in the preparatory process to inform the content of the programme.

Mr. President,

In closing, CARICOM Member States welcome the regular Annual Ministerial Reviews of the High Level Segment of the Council to be conducted by the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC commencing next year on the follow-up of the post-2015 development agenda our leaders will agree to in September this year.

I thank you.