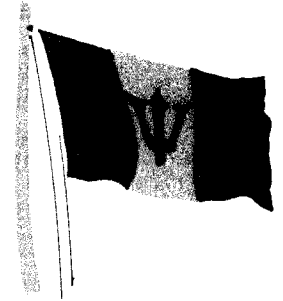




*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

ON SESSION 9

**OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ECOSOC: THE SMALL
ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES ACCELERATED MODALITIES OF
ACTION (S.A.M.O.A) PATHWAY:
TRANSLATING VISION INTO ACTION**

JULY 1, 2015

CARICOM Statement on Session 9 of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Under the Auspices of ECOSOC: The Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway: translating vision into action
July 1, 2015

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 and with the remarks made by the Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). Like others, we would wish to thank you, Mr. President, for arranging this session within the programme of the HLPF which will allow Member States to engage in an interactive dialogue on the full implementation as well as the follow-up and review of the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)- We would wish to use this opportunity therefore to thank the panellists for their thought provoking presentations on SIDS-specific issues.

The SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway builds on the foundation laid by the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation (MSI). The S.A.M.O.A. Pathway provides a renewed vision and roadmap towards our sustainable development. It also highlights the “unique and particular vulnerabilities” of SIDS that continue to make them “a special case” for sustainable development and must be taken into consideration at this crucial moment

when we find ourselves in the midst of negotiations on a Post-2015 Development Agenda. Some of these are, inter alia, the challenges of the small, vulnerable economies of SIDS which are exacerbated by their narrow bases, limited product and market diversification, lack of economies of scale and high dependency on international trade even in the face of the erosion of trade preferences and vulnerability to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change. Access to concessionary and grant-based financing is also hindered by solely using GDP (Gross Domestic Product) per capita to define development which is disadvantageous to many SIDS which are also highly-indebted Middle Income Countries (MICS).

Along this vein, as we think of how the HLPF can play a role in elevating the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway from mere words on paper to a truly transformational document, CARICOM Member States emphasise the importance of capacity-building for Small Island Developing States, including in conducting their own monitoring and assessments, and for a propitious international enabling environment attentive to our specific needs. Accordingly, we emphasise the importance of tailored support for SIDS for strengthening statistical systems in support of evidence based decision making. In this regard, we would have appreciated the opportunity for a ventilation of views by Member States on data collection, disaggregation and interpretation during this session of the HLPF.

We anticipate that the HLPF will aggregate the inputs from the national and regional to the global of developed and developing countries. Additionally, we expect that other inputs, including from other intergovernmental entities and other stakeholders, will be taken into consideration. This will be of significant importance if Member States are to allow the HLPF to play a role in the review and follow-up of partnerships.

CARICOM Member States welcome the Comprehensive Review of the UN System support for SIDS currently underway. The review was called for in the SAMOA pathway and we anticipate that the report will form the basis for helping SIDS, in partnership with the UN System, with the blueprint for the full realisation of the SAMOA Pathway and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Mr. President,

In closing, we must not allow the SAMOA Pathway to be stymied by a lack of appropriate follow-up and review. We have done our best to ensure that SIDS priorities, as set out in the S.A.M.O.A. Pathway, are also reflected in the sustainable development goals and integrated in the follow-up of the Post-2015 development agenda. The SIDS programme documents must therefore be seen as the basis for promoting solutions at the international level to support the sustainable development of SIDS and their fulfilments of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We see a key role for the HLPF in this regard.

CARICOM Member States will continue to call on the HLPF to devote adequate space and attention to SIDS issues and priorities as we move towards a Post-2015 world.

I thank you.