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STATEMENT

BY

Ms. Ruenana Haynes,

Second Secretary

Permanent Mission of Trinidad and Tobago,

to the United Nations,

on behalf of CARICOM

At the close of the 13th Session of the Open Working Group

on the Sustainable Development Goals

United Nations, New York
19 July, 2014

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM wishes to express its appreciation for the able manner in which you and your Co-Chair have guided the work of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals over the last year and a half. The process has been a challenging one and we have accomplished the task we were set by Heads in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, "The Future We Want".

CARICOM associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Bolivia on behalf of the G77+China as well as with the statement and concerns expressed by Nauru on behalf of AOSIS on this document.

Mr. Chair,

As is the case with other delegations, there are aspects of the document that CARICOM believes could be improved. It is not perfect. We believe that it could be strengthened in many areas. Nevertheless, on balance, we are of the view that it constitutes a good basis on which to proceed when the intergovernmental process of elaborating a post-2015 development begins. After 18 months and 13 sessions, it is our view that we have come too far, and put too much hard work into this document, to entertain a process which will lead to its unraveling and guarantee that our work in the past months has been for naught.

For these reasons, and notwithstanding our own concerns, we would not support a re-opening of this painstakingly developed document.

This work of the OWG-SDGs was an integral part of what we anticipate will be an ongoing and dynamic conversation aimed at finalising a development agenda that will redound to the benefit of our citizens.

CARICOM wishes to underscore its commitment to continue working in a constructive manner with other Member States to advance the international development agenda.

As with many other delegations we stand ready pass this text to the General Assembly for adoption.

In closing, allow me to reiterate our appreciation for your work in guiding us throughout this process. You have our support.

I thank you.