

**Statement delivered by H.E. Mrs. Janine Coye Felson, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations to the informal meetings of the plenary on stocktaking in the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, pursuant to resolution 69/244 and decision 69/550**

**20 January 2015**

***Integrating SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda***

Before discussing the sub-topic, I wish to reflect on your opening question: how did we get here? And tweak it just a bit to ask more appropriately how did we get to these Sustainable Development Goals?

After a two year process which engaged governments, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders, the epistemic community and the United Nations system, and after several iterations to capture the various inputs, developed **and** developing countries agreed upon an ambitious set of goals and targets which the General Assembly has already accepted as the basis for the integration of sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda.

Having thus agreed, the CARICOM is unconvinced that we need to engage once again in a similar process to develop a set of sustainable development goals and targets for the post 2015 outcome. We very much agree with Member States who spoke yesterday that we should avoid the duplication of efforts and, we would add, the *undoing of efforts*. Let us build on progress.

For CARICOM the question of “integrating SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda” is not about “what to integrate” but “**how to integrate**”. We would also propose a further consideration and that is, having thus integrated the SDGs in the outcome that is to be the post-2015 development agenda, how do we then integrate that global agenda into each country’s national development agenda.

On the first issue, CARICOM considers that **cohesion across all components** is critical but more specifically cohesion **between each component of the outcome and the set of 17 goals and 169 indicators is a sine qua non** for the post-2015 development agenda. Therefore, the post-2015 outcome should articulate clearly the interlinkage between the political commitment to a transformational sustainable development agenda, the means of implementation that will support that agenda and the follow-up and review process.

To put this in context, as we have stated, the **Declaration** would establish the political imprimatur for the SDGs. The **Means of Implementation** would directly address the set of goals and targets and specifically support or cooperation for their implementation.

And, the **follow-up and review process** would provide the platform through which we inter alia evaluate progress, incentivize ambition and catalyze further action.

On the second issue relating to **integrating the global and the national**, we begin from the premise that development is ultimately a national responsibility. Thus, until the global development agenda is relevant or linked to national development priorities and sensitive to national circumstances, we will not be able to ensure the effective integration of the SDGs. In this respect, CARICOM is of the view that **capacity building** will be critical for engendering this link.

Finally, we heard the suggestion yesterday that the process of developing the agenda should be **evidence based** and **guided by implementation science**. This brings me to the second question you raised. What makes this process different? We have agreed that this new agenda will be different in that it will be universal and based on an integrated and coherent approach to sustainable development. At the global level where the development agenda has largely been pursued in distinct silos, it is questionable whether there is any relevant evidence that can be brought to bear on the process at hand. Moreover even if we could identify examples of integrated approaches, we are ever mindful that the development process is context specific with multiple variables at play that may not be easily controlled for robust scientific analysis or replication at a global scale. At best, we could look to *a good practices* exercise within the context of a review and follow up process but not for the purpose of prescribing goals and targets.

In any case, we have completed the exercise of goals and targets setting. Our next step is to refer to technical expertise to develop a set of indicative indicators that countries could consider in integrating the SDGs in their respective development agendas.

I thank you.