



STATEMENT

BY

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OF BELIZE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE

INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE PLENARY PROCESS OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 69/244
AND DECISIONS 69/550 AND 69/555

22 May 2015

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Co-facilitators,

CARICOM Member States are grateful for the *Food for Thought* paper on the technology transfer facilitation mechanism. It demonstrates a good faith effort to capture the various views expressed in our last discussion and hopefully we can all agree is a positive step forward in advancing our discussions on this key issue.

It starts from the premise that our efforts to achieve the high ambition of the post-2015 development agenda and other sustainable development commitments will be greatly enhanced with the availability accessibility and deployment of environmentally sound technologies.

It also addresses the overriding concerns of avoiding duplication, overburdening the system and Member States, and promoting cooperation.

Finally it provides the outline of an enabling environment at the international level that conduces to address gaps and needs as well as coordination and networking and to stimulate innovation, diffusion and promotion of partnerships.

On these three grounds, CARICOM can support the general thrust of the proposal but wish to address areas where improvements can be made.

As we have previously stated, CARICOM considers that the global technology facilitation mechanism can create an enabling regime to allow for access to technology on appropriate terms and fitting to local context and national priorities. We proposed core features to be: a centralized information repository to connect needs with technology assistance available, a platform to address issues of scale and appropriateness and a multi-layered institutional arrangement to address issues of coherence and capacity building.

The online hub and knowledge-sharing platform would satisfy our interests for a centralized information repository. Further details on locus and process for collating information will be necessary.

With regard to the proposed STI Forum, CARICOM considers that this is an important addition but would like to propose a further rationalization of its function. As presented, it appears to serve multiple purposes – networking, multi-stakeholder dialogue, partnerships, inter-governmental dialogue, monitoring and evaluation. Such a hybridized forum has the potential to produce multiple outcomes but not necessarily guidance. In our view, the primary focus of such a forum should be to facilitate dialogue and assist in providing solutions to the challenges of technology innovation, transfer, and diffusion. It will then be for us to determine whether these objectives would best be served through political dialogue or technical level engagement with full participation of all stakeholders including private sector, academia and others. A third point for clarification is how this Forum can contribute to the wider discussion of means

of implementation for the post-2015 development agenda and the review and follow up arrangements under the Post 2015 or those to be determined for FfD. Finally on this issue, CARICOM notes the suggestion to hold the forum back to back with other UN STI related conferences citing the Commission on Science and Technology. That Commission meets in Geneva. We would wish to remind that CARICOM does not have full representation in Geneva. While conceptually convenient, for those who are not represented, it is practically inconvenient and would neuter the value of the Forum for want of participation.

On the proposed interagency group on STI, here again CARICOM appreciates the proposal as it would address our concern for institutional arrangements that address the need for coordination but we consider that the tasks identified for the group could be expanded. We propose that in addition to its focus on coordination, the group should also address the issue of coherence not only across agencies but also coherence between national, regional and global levels. In our view, this group should be focused on ensuring coherence in the approach of the UN system to the provision of support including technical assistance and capacity building support in the field of technology.

Finally, the capacity building programme is a useful and necessary feature. We would envision the programme to be more than a coordination platform. We would in this connection like to explore whether the programme could support entrepreneurs in developing appropriate technologies for instance to meet the small-scale technology needs of SIDs.

Co-facilitator,

As we complete this chapter of our deliberations, allow me to extend to you and your co-facilitator, CARICOM's sincere gratitude for the support you have provided to all of us, through helpful background papers, incisive comments and even-keeled approach to our deliberations.

CARICOM very much appreciate as well the exchange over the course of these five sessions with our colleague Member States and with the major groups. We have listened attentively and are eager to continue constructively building a strong ambitious agenda that will be the rising tide that lifts all boats.

Before we close, we would like to recall our key impressions on the chapters of the zero outcome:

For us the leader's declaration is the beacon of the agenda - signaling the political commitment to transformative action and a clarion call for all to contribute in our efforts to eradicate poverty and secure sustainable development for all.

The second chapter is the core of the agenda and CARICOM supports the integration the

sustainable development goals package in this chapter of the zero draft. We can all agree that the package is not perfect. But as has been evident in your best attempts to tweak, we will be pulling at threads and slowly unraveling what Member States and a wide range of stakeholders painstakingly put together over the course of close to two years as a delicate political compromise. It was useful to hear from Mr. Pullinger on the work that the IAEG-SDG is doing and the comprehensive and methodical approach they are taking to address all goals and targets. It was particularly illuminating to learn of the three-tiered approach to categorizing indicators. We may wish to look to the work of the Statistical Commission in this regard to determine a way forward but certainly we should not feel pressure to take any decisive step on tweaking until the forty-seventh session of the Commission.

The third chapter – means of implementation – is the “nuts and bolts” of the agenda. Here again, CARICOM supports the integration of the MOI addressed in the sustainable development goals package as the third chapter of the leader’s outcome together with the conclusion of the technology facilitation mechanism. There are important interlinkages with the FfD outcome that also reflect the MOIs of the SDGs and we will have to agree on how to reflect these in our agenda. We are not there yet. But CARICOM recalls what the G77 stated yesterday, that notwithstanding the interlinkages, the post-2015 development agenda is distinct in scope and substance from the FfD. As such, we should use caution when addressing the interlinkages such that the FfD is not assimilated in the Post 2015 development agenda in a manner that dilutes its distinct and fundamental objectives.

This leads then to the issue of review and follow-up. We all agree that this is an important final chapter for the leader’s outcome. For CARICOM it will provide the checks and balances for implementation of the agenda. There appeared to us to be significant convergence on principles and objectives that should be reflected in the zero draft. There also appeared to be significant convergence that the leader’s outcome does not have to get into the details of how the HLPF will conduct its work or the institutional or the organizational arrangements to support the HLPF.

Co-facilitator,

We once again thank you for all your efforts and assure you of our confidence in you and our commitment to work with you, our colleagues and other stakeholders as we move forward.