



STATEMENT

BY

**AMBASSADOR JANINE COYE- FELSON DEPUTY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELIZE**

ON BEHALF OF CARICOM

AT THE

**INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE PLENARY ON THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE POST-
2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

Discussion on Means of Implementation

July 24, 2015

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

The member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) commend the co-facilitators for the improvements to this Chapter. It now appears to **strike a better balance of guidance** to the United Nations system and Member States without being overly prescriptive.

We endorse the suggestions made by the Group of 77 and China and AOSIS for further refinement to this final chapter and would like to provide the following additional inputs:

1. Similar to our reflections on the nature of Chapter 3, we likewise consider that Chapter 4 is the operational part of the agenda.

It, therefore, should at the outset have leaders commit to follow-up and review of implementation of the agenda followed thereafter by the objectives as set out in paragraph 56. We note that paragraph 56 does not provide for an essential function of follow-up and review that is to **“track progress”**. We therefore ask for this inclusion. Since this paragraph is applicable generally it would not be appropriate to address accountability to citizens in this context. We propose that this concept would be better placed under the section on **National Level**. With these suggested improvements the paragraph could thus read:

We commit to systematic follow-up and review of implementation of this Agenda as well as the means of implementation in a manner that is robust, effective, inclusive, [participatory], [people-centred] and transparent, with a view to track and maximize progress in implementation, [promote accountability to our citizens], foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning, mobilize support to overcome challenges and identify new and emerging issues. ...

2. We are comfortable with the formulation in paragraph 58 with the additions from AOSIS. We also wish to suggest that the paragraph could reflect the dynamic nature of the global indicator framework. As you will recall, the UN Statistical Commission in the report on its forty-sixth session stressed that the development of a robust and high-quality indicator framework is a technical process which requires time and needs to be conducted in stages, including the possibility of future refinements as knowledge evolves [For reference see Decision 46/101]. Accordingly a possible reformulation of the last sentence could be:

We acknowledge the need for the development of a robust and high-quality indicator framework which could be refined as knowledge evolves.

3. Our concerns on paragraph 59 to ensure that the commitment to support countries in special situations has been addressed by AOSIS in its statement. We simply wish to underscore the importance of having that commitment in this operational part.

4. Similarly, in paragraph 62, we reiterate that, in the Latin American and Caribbean region a strengthened regional commission that can effectively address the needs of our sub-region is critical. We therefore fully support the proposal from AOSIS on this paragraph.

5. At the **Global Level**, we note that the co-facilitators have attempted to reflect the understanding reached in resolution 67/290 on the functions of the high level political forum. This section can benefit

from re-structuring to address first the role of the HLPF, the nature of reviews, followed then by the inputs to the HLPF.

For this operational part, we do not see the need for embellishment of the HLPF's function. CARICOM proposes that language from operative paragraphs 8 and 11 of the aforementioned resolution (67/290) could be used to tweak this paragraph along with the suggestions from the AOSIS.

OP 8 reads Decides that the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. [For ease of reference only]

OP 11 reads Decides that the meetings of the forum shall devote adequate time to the discussion of the sustainable development challenges facing developing countries, including the most vulnerable countries, in particular the LDCs, SIDS, LLDCs, and African countries, with the aim of enhancing engagement and implementing commitments and [For ease of reference only]

It would be appropriate then for paragraph 66 which sets out the nature of the HLPF reviews to follow on from 64. We suggest further tweaking paragraph 66 so that it reflects more accurately sub-paragraphs (a)-(c) of the operative paragraph 8 of 67/290.

~~We reaffirm that the HLPF, under the auspices of the ECOSOC, shall carry out regular reviews of progress in line with Resolution 67/290. Reviews will be voluntary, while encouraging reporting and include developed and developing countries as well as relevant UN entities. They shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants. They shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.~~

A new paragraph could then follow which would elaborate upon specific areas of focus for the HLPF. That paragraph could read:

The HLPF will facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development. It will focus on the assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries as well as new and emerging issues.

These three paragraphs can then be followed by the inputs expected to feed into the HLPF – 65, 67 and 68.

With regard to paragraph 65, we would like to ensure that there is no primacy given to any of these documents for purposes of the HLPF deliberations. These inputs as well as the inputs from national and regional processes will feed into the HLPF. These other inputs could also be recognized in this paragraph.

At paragraph 70, CARICOM proposes in addition to the suggestions of the Group of 77 and China that explicit language on “the participation of **international organizations and other actors whose actions impact upon the development agenda**” could be added.

Finally, the CARICOM shares the view that it would be appropriate for the final statement in the chapter to reinforce the political commitment to this important Agenda.

Co-facilitator,

As this is the last opportunity before the next iteration of the draft outcome, we wish to record our principal concerns. As you will recall we had listed five at the start of this session:

- The Preamble
- The manner in which the political commitment to the agenda and its implementation are reflected
- The integration of the SAMOA pathway in the agenda
- The revision of targets
- The MOI

We have listened closely to those who have spoken in favor of a simple narrative of the agenda that easily communicates what our agenda is all about. As has been evident from comments to the Preamble thus far, a reductionist approach to an agenda as comprehensive as the one our leaders’ will adopt has its shortfalls. That is why we feel confident that the Declaration itself can accomplish the objective of a clear and concise narrative infused with the political imprimatur to give it credibility. Nonetheless, we anticipate that you will try your hand once again at a rewrite of the Preamble. In this next step, we look forward to seeing a more concise reformulation that serves as an introduction only to the Declaration itself so as not to overshadow it. As a basis the first paragraph could be used and adjusted to reflect the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced and coherent manner and the principles underpinning the Agenda in particular the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, CBDR.

Throughout the agenda we expect to see the articulation of a firm unequivocal political commitment to the agenda, its implementation and its follow-up and review.

That political commitment should extend also to the outcomes of the conferences of the United Nations on countries in special situation. For the member States of the CARICOM, it is critical that these outcomes and especially the SAMOA Pathway should be recognized as an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda.

With regard to the revision of targets, the CARICOM like others consider that we must maintain the integrity of the SDGs and their associated targets. For our member states there are yet unanswered questions on the fundamental purpose of this insistence on revision. Our regional secretariat, together with many of our capitals having studied the full set of goals and targets have flagged issues; but, we have not raised them, based on the understanding that the SDGs constitute a package that is not up for

re-negotiation. We simply cannot therefore subscribe to any argument based on concern for optics and that “anything is better than nothing”. To do so, begs the question, whose interests are being served?

This agenda is much too important to treat with issues lightly, to satisfy the interests of a few and with scant regard for observance of the highest standards possible.

If there is to be any movement in the discussion on targets so far integrated in the agenda, then it can only be with respect to x variables and we must agree that 1) targets should be measurable; 2) they should not be diluted or re-interpreted; 3) no timeline should be revised that would result in the reduction of ambition; and 4) there shall be no derogation from international law. A separate consideration that CARICOM has also accepted relates to editorial or factual changes as in the case of 11.b and 17.2. We would be grateful for clarification on what the co-facilitators meant by the suggestion on Wednesday of the need to address the concerns of LLDCs in the SDGs and targets. Shall we expect to see new revisions?

On Chapter 3, we stand firmly behind the position that this chapter is a necessary component of the agenda. It must manifest our leader’s commitment to the implementation of the agenda and to a revitalized Global Partnership for Development in accordance with the SDGs and their associated targets. It should welcome Addis but it must clarify the relationship between Addis and the post-2015 development agenda in accordance with paragraph 19. We cannot support the annexing of Addis for all the reasons we have already stated.

Finally on the issue of climate change – this phenomenon is a fundamental threat to sustainable development. But the Declaration fails to address the relationship of climate change and sustainable development adequately or accurately. It also misses the opportunity to garner political commitment towards a meaningful outcome in Paris, recognizing that that outcome will constitute the framework for our actions towards averting dangerous climate change. We have missed one opportunity already to send the right signals on the magnitude of the threat of this phenomenon to our development efforts and the urgency of ambitious and decisive political commitment to respond. Addis could not deliver on that score. Let us not miss another opportunity here.

We look forward to the revised version of the draft. CARICOM reaffirms its confidence in you and assures you of its firm commitment to work with you and all Member States as well as stakeholders to conclude our discussions on 31 July.

Thank you.