

Co-facilitators,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community and align with the statements of the Group of 77 and China and the Alliance of Small Island States.

At the outset, allow me to recall how the CARICOM views the three chapters on SDGs, MOI and Follow-up and Review. We have stated that these chapters are distinct from the Declaration. The Declaration provides the political imprimatur for the Agenda as a whole and serves as its political anchor. It speaks to vision and aspirations rooted in principles and commitments and borne of the recognition of challenges we face but the opportunities to make a transformative difference. The following three chapters are the operational parts of the Agenda – the global goals and targets we will aspire to and integrate at the national level [Chapter II]; the means of implementation and the revitalized global partnership that will serve as the tools for realizing those goals [Chapter III]; and the follow-up and review processes [Chapter IV] that will ensure that we all stay on track and support each other in doing so. In these chapters, we have spoken to the need to reflect the political commitment but also key elements for operationalization. In this way, these chapters are different in scope and nature from what is contained in the Declaration. They are not duplications.

Means of Implementation

Given the importance of means of implementation and a revitalized global partnership for development as set out in the SDGs, it is important for this chapter to carry similar political and operational weight as does the preceding chapter II and chapter IV. The revisions including the political commitment, addressing the relationship between the MOI targets and the SDGs themselves, the reference to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda based on the agreement reached in paragraph 19 of that Agenda, provide the appropriate context and guidance for its implementation. We support the additional tweaking proposed on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the AOSIS.

The member states of the CARICOM consider that the paragraphs 61 and 62 are a fair reflection of the compromise that our governments have only recently agreed to and that the General Assembly has now endorsed. We think it suffices for reasons already stated then to have a footnote reference to the relevant General Assembly resolution.

Follow-up and Review

The CARICOM wishes to provide inputs on the sub-section in Chapter IV dealing with the Global Level.

In **paragraph 78**: We consider that the first sentence accurately reflects the role of the HLPF as agreed in resolution 67/290. With this, the second sentence becomes redundant. We would therefore call for the **deletion of the second sentence**.

In **paragraph 79**: In line with our view on a methodical and systematic approach for identifying suitable numerical values for targets as we stated yesterday and in furtherance of the comments made by the Group of 77 and China and the proposal from the Alliance of Small Island States, we request the insertion of the following phrase in the second sentence after “national policy space,”: “in addition to the outcomes of the additional work to be undertaken for the development of baseline for those targets where national and global baseline data does not yet exist,”. With this new language, the sentence would read:

Global indicators, recognizing national policy space, **in addition to the outcomes of the additional work to be undertaken for the development of baseline for those targets where national and global baseline data does not yet exist**, will provide guidance to national statistical authorities in their development of national indicators.

In the last sentence of the same paragraph, we propose the addition of the word “**frequency**” before the words “scope and methodology”.

Co-facilitator, in light of the CARICOM proposal for **a new 49 bis** in the Declaration that addressed the dedicated ECOSOC Forum agreed at paragraph 132 in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, we do not see the necessity of **paragraph 82** and therefore **call for its deletion**.

Finally, on paragraph **86**, we note that the scope of the mandate now being extended to the Secretary-General goes to the question of agenda setting, an issue that is the prerogative of Member States to determine. We therefore propose **reverting to the previous formulation** of the first sentence with the tweak from the Group of 77 and China and we would call for the deletion of the second sentence.

We request the Secretary-General to provide a proposal, for consideration by member states, on the organizational arrangements of state-led reviews at the HLPF under the auspices of the ECOSOC, including recommendations on a voluntary common reporting format.

Co-facilitators,

The Member States of the Caribbean Community have taken every measure to be reasonable and focused in our inputs to the 26 July draft. Accordingly, we have attempted to demonstrate a willingness to work with all Member States and stakeholders:

- on the Preamble, upon which we have expressed our concerns on redefining the SDGs and for overshadowing the Declaration, we have demonstrated a way forward
- on the Declaration, where we have expressed concerns for balance and accuracy, we have demonstrated various ways forward

- on the SDG Targets, where we have flagged fundamental concerns for re-opening and re-negotiating, we have demonstrated a way forward
- on the Means of Implementation and the Follow-up and Review, we have maintained that respect for the outcomes of intergovernmental processes including the most recent Addis Ababa Action Agenda is the way forward

At the closing of last week's session, you, co-facilitators expressed concerns that delegations seemed to be entrenching their positions. I can assure you this has not been the approach of the CARICOM.

We will continue to work in good faith to finalize, this Friday, the outcome that all our leaders will endorse.

The member States of the Caribbean Community look forward to receiving the next revision and we trust 'close to final' revision of the draft outcome.

Thank you.