

First meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development

GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS INTERVENTION

Thank you Co-Chair.

We first wish to associate ourselves with the statement made on behalf of G77 and China.

The building of a Green Economy in the Barbadian context is rooted in the country's National Strategic Plan and more recently in its medium term planning framework.

The Green Economic policy thrust is a reaffirmation of Barbados' commitment to mainstreaming the national sustainable development principles. Those are economic efficiency, equity, conservation of natural resources, participation, and quality of life.

It emphasizes the need for an integrated approach to production, distribution, consumption and waste assimilation. Further, the Green Economy reflects the vulnerabilities of our country as a small island developing state as the basis for strategic investment choice. It focuses on building Barbados' human capacity, our country's greatest resource, while facilitating export market development for indigenous services.

The framework further articulates objectives and strategies in the areas of natural resources management, land use planning, water resources, energy, transport, and disaster management.

At its core, the supporting economic and fiscal instruments aim to develop and support a resilient and competitive small and medium sized enterprise culture; promote value-added avenues in agriculture; establish sustainability as the standard in the building and construction, tourism and retail sectors. The intent is to promote new public and private sector investments as a means of mainstreaming SIDS-relevant environmentally sound technologies, heighten corporate social and environmental responsibility and accountability, as well as embed sustainability in

technical, vocational, academic and professional capacity building systems thereby promoting new career pathways and job opportunities for Barbadians.

Mr. Chairman, the Government's sharpened focus on community engagement in public policy via the establishment of Constituency Councils provides a new pathway to ensure the Green Economy tackles poverty in a direct manner. This mechanism is essential for a bottom-up approach to designing sustainable local economic development strategies that create new employment windows. The policy is therefore timely as we seek to, in our SIDS context, to navigate the current parallel global crises of our time.

The Barbadian Green Economic model therefore embraces partnerships among societal stakeholders and promotes convergence of the three pillars of sustainable development.

At the global level, what is required is the policy space for countries to interpret and design their own approach to building green economies in the context of sustainable development. It requires further, delivery of the agreed to means of implementation if we are to truly recapture the spirit of Rio. South-South cooperation and the Bali Strategic Plan must not be confined as a buzz word in our many deliberations, but both must be enabled to truly resonate with the peoples in the developing world.

Last Mr. Chairman, in Rio, full recognition was given to SIDS as special category of countries within the UN architecture. No doubt the inclusion in Agenda 21 of 17(G) on the Sustainable Development of SIDS was indeed a landmark achievement. This was followed in the convening of the **First UN Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS** held in Barbados in April/May 1994. As we prepare for the High Level review on the MSI/BPOA, it is critical that the outcomes of this September's forum connects to the current Rio+20 Preparatory process, and equally important, that the development of Green Economic models provide a viable policy modality for achieving sustainable development in small island developing states.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.