



*Permanent Mission  
of Barbados to  
the United Nations*



INTERVENTION BY

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ON BEHALF OF

THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE  
2ND PREPCOM OF UNCSD

ON

THE GREEN ECONOMY IN THE CONTEXT OF SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION

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United Nations Headquarters  
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Mr. Chair

We wish to associate with statements made by Argentina on behalf of G77 and China, and by Grenada on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island Development States

Already many countries of CARICOM have developed or, are in the process of developing sector policies, sustainable development strategies, strategic and medium term plans and natural resource management frameworks that serve as the basis for a greener, low-carbon economic transition that at the same time addresses the issue of poverty eradication and the broader goal of sustainable development.

Mr. Chair,

In September 2010 the Ministers of Environment of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at the Third Joint Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development and the Council for Human and Social Development **noted** and I quote:

“that several Member States were actively engaged in implementing Green Economy strategies namely - the Barbados Green Economy Strategy, the Dominica Organic Isles Initiative and the Guyana Low Carbon Development Strategy.”

Further, the Ministers:

“called upon UNEP to support these efforts including the mobilisation of resources for a regional initiative on Green Economy transformation” End quote

That decision Chair, highlights the fact that the region is already a part of the global discourse on a Green Economy. It shows that individual member countries have and are interpreting the green economic concept according to their individual sustainable development priorities and national economic and social conditions. The decision also recognized the vital role of international support and cooperation as it called on a UN system entity to work in partnership with our countries. These issues are critical to the dialogue today, en route to Rio+20 and beyond.

Mr. Chair our region believes that the development and implementation of a green economic strategy must be consistent with the 1994 Barbados Programme of Action and the 2005 Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, as well as the regional development platform as laid out in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, the legal framework governing our community.

Many of the key elements that would be part of a regional Green Economy strategy are already imbedded in the Revised Treaty of Chagaramas including:

- A community Industrial Policy in Article 52 that pursues inter alia “enhanced industrial production on an environmentally sustained basis”
- Sustainable Tourism in Article 55

- A Community Agricultural Policy in Articles 56 and 57 which calls for among other things “ sustainable exploitation of the Region’s natural resources including forests and the living resources of [our] EEZ’s”
- Fisheries management and Development at Art 60
- Forest Management and Development at Art 61
- Research and Development at Art 64) and
- Environmental Protection at Art 65

Mr. Chair,

Our Region must ensure that new investments associated with green economic activity impact positively the very pillars of the sustainable development architecture and goals captured in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas:

1. Firstly the economy, via new sustainable financial revenue streams, new job-led growth for our 6,000,000 plus citizens, improved productivity and increased competitiveness for our micro, small and medium sized enterprises will be paramount;
2. Secondly, we envisage a healthier, more educated, more caring, culturally aware, integrated and happier society. Our Caribbean heritage is rich, diverse and represents a proud people. Therefore a green economic future must be built on our region’s evolving “social project”; and
3. Thirdly, a CARICOM green economic space must ensure ecosystem protection, rehabilitation and preservation **as a basis for social and economic development for local communities, farmers, senior citizens, school children, women, indigenous people workers and business. Our fragile Caribbean ecosystem, marine and terrestrial, is paramount to our survival.**

Mr. Chair the CARICOM Region views the Green Economy as one of many approaches to achieving Sustainable Development. We firmly believe that the key outcomes in 2012 must address fundamental sustainable development challenges crucial to achieving a green economy including

- Sustainable Consumption and Production,
- Technology transfer
- Integrated approaches to planning
- Climate Change, and
- Provision of the means of Implementation – Finance, technology transfer and capacity building

It must offer an opportunity for small island developing states to interact with the international development agenda in a meaningful and harmonized manner. As such, the 2<sup>nd</sup> theme of the Rio + 20 process is inextricably linked to the success of the green economy.

If we cannot have effective and efficient institutions at the national and regional levels to design, implement, govern and monitor sustainable development programming, Chair, we fear the Green Economy will be the first globally heralded buzz word of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. And we stress “buzz-word”.

Sustainable financing, adequate human resources, shared stakeholder visioning platforms and real-time policy-based sustainable development indicators are essential for a CARICOM Green Economic programme. This is where the outcomes of the Rio+20 process must be focussed.

On the point of indicators, during September 17-19 2009, in Bridgetown, Barbados, the CARICOM region participated in an Expert Group Meeting on “Institutionalizing Sustainable Development Indicators for Measuring Progress of National Strategies”. This meeting was hosted by the Government of Barbados in partnership with UNDESA. A key recommendation of that regional meeting was the development of “An accepted set of indicators that guide national and regional Sustainable Development.” The group went on to elaborate that “an information management system that promotes efficiency, is user-friendly, accessible, and allows for clear interpretation should be developed.” The participants also called for “ a precise, reliable and verifiable set of indicators built into the national decision-making process.”

Mr. Chair we look forward to the implementation of these recommendations in partnership with the UNDESA and its SIDS Unit particularly as said recommendations remain relevant for green economic policy formulation and execution. We call on our development partners to support national information systems in SIDS since without functioning statistical and information systems, our sustainable development polices remain rudderless.

Mr. Chair

The BPOA and follow-up MSI were born in Rio in 1992. We believe that the 20 year review should be an avenue for recommitment by the international community to engaging as well as meeting the special development needs of the CARICOM SIDS and our island brothers and sisters around the world.

As we move toward Rio +20, CARICOM will want to ensure that the Green Economy thematic dialogue and outcomes are consistent with the elements of a global enabling environment necessary for paving the way for the full implementation of the MDGs, the BPOA and the MSI.

I thank you Mr. Chair