



*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



INTERVENTION BY

H.E. Mr. Keith Marshall
Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations
on behalf of CARICOM

at the

CARICOM Intervention at the First Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Science,
Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum)

of the

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**CARICOM Intervention at the First Annual Multi-Stakeholder Forum on
Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development
Goals (STI Forum)**

June 6, 2016

Mr. Co-chair,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen (14) member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We align ourselves with the statements delivered by the Permanent Representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic on behalf of CELAC.

CARICOM joins with others in expressing appreciation to the President of ECOSOC and well as the two Co-chairs for convening this **first annual Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals (STI Forum) for Sustainable Development and Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)**. We wish also to thank the speakers for their informative presentations.

CARICOM countries have invested in the deployment of information and communication technology (ICT) in order to support the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals through, among other things, strengthening frameworks for the delivery of public services in order to overcome constraints caused by poverty, remoteness and gender inequality.

We have seen firsthand how expansion in the use of the STIs in key areas gives an added impetus to Governments' efforts in fostering growth and long-term development in multiple sectors. We further note that the development and transfer of clean technologies will play a critical role in supporting global ambition to achieve the required transition to low emission and climate resilient development in order to tackle climate change. We therefore continue to work on improving initiatives in the field of fostering technology development and innovation both at the national and regional levels.

Notwithstanding these positive advancements, CARICOM Member States, as small states with vulnerable economies characterized by fiscal deficits and high debt to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratios, do not possess the technical or human resource capacity to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by ICT development.

For CARICOM, therefore, science, technology, innovation and capacity building are key and cross cutting enablers for the implementation of the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** in all three dimensions of sustainable development and should be accorded our full and committed consideration. Both in the context of the development of a technology transfer mechanism as an element of the means of implementation of **Agenda 2030** and in the broader sense of the promotion of science, technology and innovation in the FFD discussions as a necessary update for the global Means of Implementation policy framework.

Mr. Co-Chair,

CARICOM has participated actively in the debates and dialogues organized under the auspices of the United Nations on these critical issues and wishes to note that the experience in our region demonstrates that there are still major factors that constrain technology development and transfer. This includes the need for concrete guidelines on the dissemination and transfer of technologies to developing countries on favorable terms, in particular of environmentally sound technologies, including on concessional and preferential terms, in order to close the technology gaps that still exist among countries. This Forum should also address and provide guidance for:

- Onerous terms for accessing technology including costs and restrictive clauses applied to the use of the technology;
- Limited local capacity to manage and effectively use the technology;
- Unsuitability and non-adaptability of technology to local conditions resulting in poor performance
- Failure to account for the social and cultural factors in the countries where the technology is to be utilized. Closely related to that is the need to address the issue of scale and appropriateness of existing technologies to specific circumstances of States. Addressing the issue of scale and appropriateness is of particular relevance for the Caribbean because it in turn impacts upon access.

Mr. Co-Chair to conclude, CARICOM thanks you for all your efforts and hopes for a very successful Forum. We remain committed to working with you, our colleagues and other stakeholders as we move forward.

I thank you.