



STATEMENT

BY

HER EXCELLENCY LOIS MICHELE YOUNG
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELIZE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE

PREPARATORY MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO
SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOAL 14: CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS
AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

15 FEBRUARY 2017

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Distinguished Co-Presidents, Co-facilitators, Excellencies and Colleagues,

It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community. We align ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (G77 and China) and the Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

CARICOM joins in expressing appreciation to the co-presidents, ably represented by the Ambassadors of Fiji and Sweden, and the co-facilitators, Ambassador Alvaro Mendonca Moura of Portugal, and Ambassador Burhan Gafoor of Singapore, for their work in advancing the preparatory process for the Oceans Conference. The overarching theme of the Conference is “Our Oceans, our future: partnering for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14”. We assure you of our full commitment to work with you and other colleagues to ensure that the preparation for the Conference is in keeping with the modalities resolution 70/303 and the timeline set out therein.

CARICOM is grateful to the Secretary-General for the background note which will greatly assist us with making good and timely progress on settling on the themes for the partnership dialogues.

Themes for the Partnership Dialogues

Like others, CARICOM welcomes the Secretary-General’s proposals of possible themes for the seven partnership dialogues to be conducted during the Oceans Conference.

The suggestions are largely in keeping with the SDG 14 targets and the overall theme of the Conference which, as its name suggests, has as its focus partnering for the implementation of these very targets under SDG 14.

Given the special case of SIDs in the context of the larger 2030 Agenda and specifically with respect to Goal 14, we underscore the importance that this special case be treated in a cross-cutting manner in the partnership dialogues.

Finally, CARICOM recalls that pursuant to said resolution 70/303, the Secretary-General is requested to prepare concept papers on each of the themes that are finally agreed upon, taking into account relevant oceans-related processes of the General Assembly.

The resolution also extends an invitation to stakeholders to submit inputs for the concept papers. In order that our regional stakeholders can have input into the concept papers to be developed, it would be useful to have an indicative timeline for the collection of submissions and preparation of the concept papers.

Trust Fund

In a similar vein, CARICOM recognizes the importance of fostering the participation of all States in the Oceans Conference. To this end, we urge all States as well as international organizations, the private sector, and other donors which are in a position to do so, to contribute to the voluntary trust fund to support the preparations for the Oceans Conference and to finance the participation of representatives of developing countries. We therefore look forward to the launch of the Ocean Conference Registry of Voluntary Commitments on SDG 14 later today

Thank you