

Mr. Chairman

The Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island developing States, noted that the disposal of wastes is a serious constraint to sustainable development since both land and sea-based sources of pollution require urgent attention. The Government of Barbados recognizes the critical role that environmentally sound management of waste plays in the protection of human health and environmental resources. Considerable human and financial resources have been channeled into waste management and waste minimization and significant efforts have been made to encourage recovery, recycling and reuse of a number of waste types.

Some of the areas where we have made significant strides in fostering sustainable waste management include:

- the development and implementation of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan
- A Returnable Containers Act
- The construction through a Public –Private Partnership (PPP) of a waste transfer station for separation of solid waste and sorting to recover recyclable materials, reducing the waste reaching the landfill
- An emerging recycling industry particularly for PET bottles, glass and cans
- Public education and awareness programmes on recycling, composting, the implications of marine litter

While attention to providing infrastructure and services for waste collection and disposal has played an important role in our development; there still remains room for improvements through continued investment in regulatory, financial and technical resources for waste management infrastructure with a greater focus on waste minimization.

There are emerging challenges which highlight gaps in our regulatory framework for waste management and the strategies to manage diverse wastes streams particularly in the area of regulation of the recycling industry, waste minimization, disposal of hazardous waste and the control of e-waste.

As with most developing countries, we are faced with the challenge to manage increasing types and quantity of e-waste. A policy for e-waste management is being developed which will address, *inter alia*, issues relating to our fragile groundwater resources and the limited space available for environmentally sound disposal.

Mr. Chair, while we have made progress to date with the management of solid waste, management of hazardous waste, including e-waste, continues to pose challenges for us. While we continue to invest in the necessary infrastructure which will address 'end of life' categories of waste, we have to devise strategies and policies, including economic instruments, to encourage sustainable consumption and productions practices.

Further, there is an urgent need for improving data collection, analysis and reporting, especially on quantities and types of hazardous waste generated. We require access to information on emerging technologies for waste minimization and recycling suited to our national situation. Additionally, personnel have to be further equipped with the ability to assess and select appropriate technologies best suited to local implementation.

Mr. Chair

The Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation of the BPOA call for, *inter alia*, regional action; to develop pollution control programmes, for removal and disposal of existing hazardous waste and establishment, where appropriate, of regional centres for the training and transfer to cleaner production technologies and the management of hazardous wastes generated at the national level. We therefore call on developed countries to support regional efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chair, for Barbados and other SIDS, due to our limited size, it is critical that we focus on waste minimization, recycling and reuse. Our capacity for long term environmentally sound storage and or disposal of the increasing quantities and types of waste due to increased consumption levels is not sustainable.

I thank you.