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STATEMENT

by

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Second Secretary
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
To the United Nations**

**Workshop 4
The way forward: Strengthening the international architecture
for clean and environmentally sound technology development,
transfer and dissemination**



**United Nations Headquarters
31 May, 2013**

I speak on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM aligns itself with the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China.

We wish to commend the Secretary General for the report submitted on “Options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies”, contained in document A/67/348 and endorse the recommendations contained therein for the establishment of a global technology facilitation mechanism.

In our view such a mechanism must promote the widespread dissemination of environmentally sound technologies; enhance the capacity of developing countries in the areas of research and development; and address the needs of countries in special situations such as Small Island Developing States which, as a result of our small size, limited resources, remoteness and limited economies of scale, have fallen into that category of countries referred to in the Secretary General’s report as having been increasingly marginalized despite the development success of other countries. It is correct to say that SIDS are structurally disadvantaged and as such have not been able to sustain an environment that is readily attractive to investments in research and development and technology dissemination.

At the same time, SIDS would wish to propose an alternate view of how SIDS can be pilots for the promotion and development of new technologies. The small size and micro markets present in SIDS, although a challenge in most cases, also constitute potential advantages in the field of technology as a result of their high potential for rapid dissemination of new technologies. The promotion of SIDS as testing grounds for the development of new technologies could be achieved through public/private partnerships, which in turn could be promoted and managed throughout a global technology mechanism network. In this way a global technology mechanism could assist SIDS to attract investment for the development of new technologies.

Mr. Moderator,

Notwithstanding the many challenges we face, SIDS have been successful in finding their own innovative tools for attracting investment for development of transfer of environmentally sustainable technologies. The SIDS Dock renewable energy platform is one such example, but much

more work and greater support from the international community is required if our sustainable development objectives are to be realized.

In developing countries with significant resource and capacity constraints, such as those in our sub-region, monitoring and evaluation of these fragmented, usually sector or agency specific activities, is for the most part impossible. Moreover, any effective aggregate assessment of the impact of these initiatives on the overall sustainable development aspirations of our States has, in the majority of cases, never been achieved.

A global technology facilitation mechanism administered through the United Nations system with inter-governmental oversight must address the fragmentation in the approach to technology development and transfer which is evident in the sector of environmentally sound technologies. As is highlighted in the Secretary General's report almost every UN Agency, Fund, Programme and several Treaty Bodies have developed work programmes in the field of technology transfer/ dissemination or development. In addition to these initiatives, countries also engage in a number of bilateral or cooperative projects in the field of technology transfer with a view to meeting international obligations where they exist.

This state of affairs underscores the importance of a global technology mechanism, which would promote coordination and coherence, provide information on a centralized basis and which would also assist States with ensuring that stronger linkages are made between the type of technology assistance that is provided and national development priorities.

Mr. Moderator,

Coordination is a key concern for CARICOM States as it relates to the development of a new global technology mechanism. The Secretary General's report acknowledges the similarities between many of the proposals for the activities of such a mechanism and the activities that are already carried out in the context of the Technology Executive Committee under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In establishing a new mechanism we must ensure that it is able to target specific gaps in the treatment of technology development and transfer at the global level and not duplicate the work which has already been done or which is still underway in other similar bodies.

In this regard, we also note that the Technology Mechanism recently established under the UNFCCC in 2010 to facilitate the implementation of enhanced action on technology development and transfer in order to

support action on mitigation and adaptation to climate change is in the process of beginning its work. The potential of this and other mechanisms to address the technology needs of developing countries as it relates to sustainable development must be adequately taken into account in developing a global technology mechanism. The experiences from these initiatives must be gathered and built upon in designing a new mechanism.

We look forward to receiving the summary of the outcomes of these workshops and hope that they will move us forward in addressing the global under-performance in leveraging the transformative potential of the effective development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

I thank you