Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations

INTERVENTION

BY

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MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND DRAINAGE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS

TO THE

19TH COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2011
Mr. Chairman,

Barbados wishes to associate itself with statement of the G77.

Mr. Chairman,

Our work here in the next two days, is not merely to negotiate words in paragraphs and make speeches, but to reach consensus on frameworks and programmes, that will provide the enabling environment, that can assist persons in lifting themselves out of poverty, and allow nations to move closer towards achieving sustainable development. We applaud the hard work of our technical negotiators in preparation for these sessions. Let us ensure that our efforts are translated into positive tangible outcomes, let us agree to a bold, yet viable ten year framework for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).

Mr. Chairman,

We view SCP as being a central plank in the transition to a green economy. Our efforts in greening the economy will require the integration of social and environmental considerations into our economic policy planning process. We are clear that our ultimate goal is sustainable development; green economy is a vehicle that will assist in reaching that goal. We are working closely with UNEP and our university on a green economy scoping study. Our social partnership protocol between government, private sector and trade unions will be critical to the SCP and our green economy initiative.

Mr. Chairman,

We affirm that the Marrakech process has been very useful and instructive. We intend to build on the lessons learnt from that process in integrating the principles of sustainability, in our economic planning and national development strategies and action plans.

Mr. Chairman,

Member States and other stakeholders from the Latin America and Caribbean region, have engaged in discussions at the regional level, and reached consensus on priority programme areas for an SCP framework. Those decisions were reported to the CSD 18 which included an indicative list of priority areas for SCP which were endorsed by our ministerial regional meeting. Recognizing that implementation will largely take place at the regional and national level, negotiations on specifics of the list should take place at those levels.
Every day, or week or year that we delay taking a decision on the ten YFP, the more lives, that could be saved will be lost. For example, according to FAO statistics one hundred million new persons will be added to the number of people suffering from hunger this year. SCP initiatives need to address sustainable agri-food systems.

What we need to do now is adopt decisions that will enable and/or catalyze actions and support means of implementation of programmes that will bring relief to millions of individuals, stimulate many industries across the globe and give our ecosystem time to recharge. We owe it to ourselves and the next generation to be guardians and craftsmen of our own fate.

Mr. Chairman,

Our decisions here will have implications for RIO + 20 in 2012 and the BPOA + 20 in 2014, let our decisions here encourage the global community to think of innovated ways to ensure that those twenty year anniversaries are meaningful and successful. Let us send a signal to the voiceless, to the invisible, to the miserable and the hopeless, that the United Nations of families, are willing and able, to take action that can transform the lives of our global citizens and breathe life bring into our economies while protecting the productive base for our existence, the environment.

Thank you.