



INTERVENTION BY

**H.E. MR. GEORGE TALBOT
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE

**ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

ON

**FOCUS AREA 1: "POVERTY ERADICATION, BUILDING SHARED PROSPERITY
AND PROMOTING EQUALITY
END POVERTY IN ALL ITS FORMS EVERYWHERE"**

67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ON

MAY 5, 2014

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

Mr. Co-Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CARICOM aligns itself with the statement made by Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the statement by Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

CARICOM wishes to thank the Co-Chairs for the work done thus far in guiding the Open Working Group to this stage.

We wish to register our appreciation for the revised working document you presented to Member States on April 17th ahead of this Session of the Open Working Group.

GENERAL COMMENTS ON THE WORKING DOCUMENT:

Mr. Co-Chair,

CARICOM wishes to use this opportunity to provide some general comments on the current iteration of the revised Focus Areas document/ Compilation document.

CARICOM is of the view that the document does not adequately address the matter of differentiation. If the SDGs are to be truly universal and applicable to all, the different development stages, capacities must be taken into account in the discussion of the SDGs. This is particularly necessary in the case of countries in special situations such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) given the challenges attendant to their “unique and particular vulnerabilities”. In this regard, CARICOM would also wish to assert the matter of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) cannot be disaggregated from the framing of the SDGs.

In the 10th session of the OWG-SDGs, CARICOM recalled its statement given during the 8th session wherein we stated “Means of Implementation (MOI) is more than just about financing and therefore, in addition to being a stand-alone issue, it must also be an integral part of the discussion on all other thematic areas for which goals were to be created”. We are therefore concerned that the matter of theme-specific targets on MOI continue to be reduced to placeholders at the end of each focus area entitled “Appropriate Means of Implementation” and would welcome clarification as to when specific MOI for each proposed Focus Area will be incorporated into the document.

CARICOM welcomes the more specific framing of targets in the current version of the working document. However, we wish to note the need for greater specificity and clarification of how bench-marking will be incorporated into the SDGs, as the work of the Group progresses ahead of the 13th and final session in July. We have noted targets aiming to improve Member States’

performance in a range of sustainable development endeavours but further work is required in the identification of appropriate time frames for implementation. The establishment of short, medium and longer term timeframes for the achievement of targets may be one method of addressing the issue of differentiation required at the target level.

Focus Area 1: Poverty eradication, building shared prosperity and promoting equality

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

With reference to Focus Area 1 of the working document, CARICOM welcomes the reference to Target C- *“by 2030 implement nationally appropriate social protection measures including floors, with focus on coverage of the most marginalised”* and Target F- *“ensure equality of economic opportunity for all women and men, including secure rights to own land, property and other productive assets and access to financial services for all women and men”*.

While we also welcome the reference to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in Target D, we would wish for greater specificity of the target as the reference to “resilience of the poor” could be linked to infrastructure and housing or to employment. This Target also does not seem to show a direct link to poverty eradication.