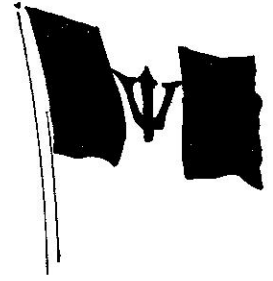




*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*
STATEMENT BY



**MS. KEREETA WHYTE
FIRST SECRETARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

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

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

ON

**FOCUS AREA 5: "GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT" AND "WATER AND SANITATION"**

**67TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

ON

MAY 6, 2014

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

Please check against delivery

Mr. Co Chair,

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

CARICOM aligns itself with the statement delivered by Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China.

Mr. Co-Chair,

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

With reference to Focus Area 5, CARICOM proposes the renaming of the Focus Area to "Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls".

CARICOM is of the view that the question of benchmarking is relevant to this Focus Area. Given the context of this Focus Area, we are of the view that Target C should be made more specific to the education of women and girls and the dimension of "quality" should be incorporated into the target alongside "access".

CARICOM is of the view that Targets A and D could be consolidated or Target D could be reflected under Focus Area 8- "Economic Growth, Employment and Infrastructure".

We note the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and women's empowerment. In this regard, CARICOM proposes the possible integration of Targets in Focus Area 5 into Focus Areas 3 and 4.

We welcome the reference to promoting the availability of data as reflected in Target J. This is a matter of critical concern for CARICOM and many other SIDS. However, we would wish to see such data disaggregated by sex as opposed to gender.

WATER AND SANITATION

Mr. Co-Chair,

With regard to Focus Area 6, CARICOM notes the absence of a substantive target on sanitation. We believe this should be incorporated in the next iteration of the working document in light of the fact that sanitation was one of the targets where limited progress was achieved in the context of the MDGs framework.

CARICOM is supportive of Targets E- "by 2030, bring fresh water extraction in line with sustainable supply, protect and restore ecosystems, to provide water-related services" and F-

"by 2030, significantly improve water quality, eliminate pollution and dumping of toxic materials in water bodies, and protect aquifers".

With reference to Target G, CARICOM proposes the inclusion of a reference to percentage in relation to the level of investment.

We welcome the reference to Disaster Risk Reduction in Target H.

I thank you.