

Statement delivered by H.E. Mrs. Janine Coye Felson, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations to the informal meetings of the plenary on stocktaking in the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, pursuant to resolution 69/244 and decision 69/550

21 January 2015

Review and follow-up

Co-Facilitators,

CARICOM Member States believe that a robust review and follow-up mechanism must be created as a means of supporting Member States in their efforts to gauge and make progress in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, and the SDGs in particular.

We are open to exploring a range of ideas on what that mechanism could look like.

Presently, we have only a few elements that we wish to share for your consideration and will elaborate further during future sessions on this issue.

The matter of review and follow-up is inextricably tied to the core question of what is being measured. As such, it will be essential that we are clear from the outset on the matter of what aspects of the agenda will be reviewed, at what level and in what time frame. We anticipate that, given the universal nature of the agenda, as well as its breadth, we may wish to explore some sort of multi-speed or multi-track approach.

Naturally, the focus of discussions on review and follow-up will likely be on the extent to which Member States are moving towards the implementation of the goals, targets and indicators that will together comprise the set of SDGs at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda.

However, we would wish to signal here that, mindful of the experience that we had with the fulfillment of the commitments in relation to Goal 8 under the MDGs framework, particular attention will have to be paid to reviewing the extent to which the necessary resources are being mobilised to support the effective implementation of the SDGs.

For there to be effective review and follow up, it will be necessary to create a coherent and synergistic mechanism that links the bodies tasked with oversight of implementation at the national level, with those at the regional and international levels. In his regard, support for national statistical offices as well as Ministries and Agencies responsible for national development planning will be crucial. So too will be the involvement of the Regional Commissions. In the case of our region, the ECLAC and its

sub-regional office in Port-of-Spain, and regional institutions such as CARICOM, would be particularly relevant. We have taken note of the range of views on peer review mechanisms at the regional level and will address such proposals directly upon further consideration of their appropriateness for our particular circumstances.

At the international level the ECOSOC and the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC will have vital roles to play. We anticipate that the process at this level will be voluntary.

Co-Facilitators,

As Small Island Developing States (SIDS), our efforts to implement the post-2015 development agenda will be undertaken at the same time as we endeavor to implement the Samoa Pathway, which the international community agreed at the Third International Conference on SIDS in Apia, Samoa, last September. Given our limited resource base, it would be wrong-headed to regard the implementation of the respective outcomes of the two processes as independent endeavors.

Indeed, as we've maintained throughout the various phases of the overlapping processes underway, the goals are inextricably linked and there will be significant areas of overlap between them. It will therefore be necessary that support be provided to SIDS to develop indicators that will enable them to fulfill the goals, both broad and specific, in the Samoa Pathway and the post-2015 development agenda. Similarly, review and follow-up for SIDS will have to entail an assessment of, and the provision of support for, progress on both fronts.

In closing, Co-facilitators, let me leave you with the main asks that CARICOM would have at this stage:-

1. Consideration has to be given to the challenges that will be borne by SIDS that already face tremendous challenges in relation to data collection and whose statistical systems will need to be significantly enhanced if their progress in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda is to be effectively assessed.
2. The creation of a review and follow-up mechanism that allows for the monitoring of commitments (including those in relation to the provision of resources) and goals made in relation to other region-specific or issue-specific framework such as the Samoa Pathway" is necessary.