



STATEMENT

BY

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OF BELIZE
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE

INFORMAL MEETINGS OF THE PLENARY IN THE PROCESS OF
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATIONS ON THE POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 69/244 AND
DECISIONS 69/550 AND 69/555, FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS

23 MARCH 2015

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Co-facilitators,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community. The CARICOM expresses its gratitude for the presentation by the Statistical Commission as well as for its engagement with the wider membership during the course of the Forty-sixth session of the Commission. We look forward to continued coordination and collaboration.

CARICOM aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the G77 and China the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Latin American and Caribbean Community (CELAC). We wish to address some additional issues on our vision for approach to integration and our understanding of the relationship between the post-2015 process and the work of the Statistical Commission.

Approach to Integration: two dimensions

As stated during the stocktaking session, for CARICOM Member States, the integration of the SDGs and targets into the post-2015 development agenda has two main dimensions.

The first, as addressed in the G77 statement, is the incorporation of the sustainable development goals and targets as recommended by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG) *in their entirety* into the post-2015 development agenda. The second dimension is the link between the global agenda and the national agenda.

On the first dimension, the 17 SDGs and all associated targets will form the core of the post-2015 development agenda. CARICOM underscores the need for cohesion across all components of the agenda and more specifically cohesion between each component of the outcome and the set of 17 goals and 169 indicators.

The post-2015 outcome should therefore clearly set out the linkage between the political commitment to a transformational sustainable development agenda, the means of implementation that will support that agenda and the follow-up and review process to promote effective and full implementation.

To put this in context, as we have previously said, the Declaration would establish the political imprimatur for the SDGs. The Means of Implementation would directly address the set of goals and targets, specifically, the support or cooperation necessary for their implementation. And, the follow-up and review process would provide the platform through which we *inter alia* evaluate progress, incentivize ambition and catalyze further action towards achievement of the SDGs.

On the second dimension, the post-2015 development agenda is ultimately intended to be integrated at the national level. Each country then will have to align the SDGs and targets with national development priorities and national circumstances. Some countries are already doing so and others will require support to do so. Like the G77, the CARICOM emphasizes the need for adequate support to our countries' in this connection.

It should be obvious that, in respect of both dimensions, **implementation** is the ultimate objective.

Relationship between P2015 negotiation process and SDG agenda

Our ability to track implementation will depend on indicators at the global and national levels.

Insofar as we have already determined a set of goals and targets through the work of the OWG, the Statistical Commission should be and has been engaged to support the development of global indicators. This early engagement of the Commission is commended.

As the G77 has stated, notwithstanding the technical nature of the Commission's work, there are clear *political parameters* within which that work should be conducted.

Those parameters are, in the first instance, defined by the SDGs and targets and the equal importance and standing that they have. It is critical therefore that in elaborating indicators, the Commission must ensure their

integrity as a whole. That is to say, (1) indicators should be developed for all SDGs and associated targets and (2) indicators should not redefine, recalibrate or prioritize goals and targets.

Second, the Commission should take into account existing guidance from the General Assembly on the post-2015 development agenda, as set out in resolution 68/6, in particular, the need for a coherent approach, for ensuring universality and applicability to all countries, while taking account of differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities.

The CARICOM also wishes to address the road map of the Commission's work. While the Commission must be afforded adequate time to effectively conduct its work, this should be calibrated with the need for the timely development of the global indicators. In our view, the forty-seventh session should be the upper limit of time for delivery of the indicators.

In this context, to meet such a deadline, we recognize that even the best of statistical institutions will be hard-pressed. Our own national statistical institutions as well as our regional body, the CARICOM Secretariat, have expressed the critical need for support. We wish to reiterate that the UN should exert every effort to channel this support to developing countries so that we may be more effectively engaged and contribute to the timely delivery of the global indicators.

Finally, the CARICOM emphasizes that global indicators will be a useful measurement for tracking overall progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. They are not determinative of national indicators. At the national level, national priorities and circumstances will be the main drivers for developing indicators that address those priorities and bring them in line with the global agenda. It is important therefore to recognize that the development of national indicators is distinct from the development of global indicators, the former falling within the remit of national institutions.

Thank you.