

**Statement on Behalf of the Barbados Delegation**

**on**

**The Thematic Discussion on Transport**

**United Nations**

**New York**

**5<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates

- 1 Today, I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Barbados Delegation, and as such, welcome the importance given this year to the regional level of discussions on transport and related issues as a topic of the UN CSD 18-19 cycle.
- 2 Barbados affirms that the CSD plays an important role in sustainable development issues within the United Nations system and needs the capacity to deliver far reaching results. It also provides an ideal opportunity to examine the different approaches to sustainable development taken by respective countries, as well as best practices adopted to overcome the challenges encountered.
- 3 Against this background, Barbados views the establishment of practical, progressive and results oriented partnerships in the context of the UNCSO, as a critical mechanism for achieving its Sustainable Development Objectives.
- 4 As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) Barbados, with a land area of 166 sq miles and a population of approximately 260,000 has one of the highest rates of the motor vehicles per capita in the world. The records show that Barbados has a vehicle population of 125,000 of which some 99,000 represent private motor cars.
- 5 It is well accepted that transportation is an important component of sustainable development, since adequate and affordable transport facilitates the easy movement of persons, goods and services. However, the proliferation of vehicles in a small confined space, as in the case of Barbados, creates enormous congestion on the highways and has the potential to cause environmental damage. The country's Sustainable Development Policy therefore speaks to the issue of transport addressing the need to reduce environmental damage associated with the various aspects of transport, while ensuring that its valuable economic and social contributions are not undermined.

6 The strategy to help achieve this objective includes the following:

- The development of safe minimum standards for atmospheric pollutants, especially those associated with vehicle emissions;
- The enactment of legislation to ensure the successful implementation of policy objectives aimed at facilitating energy efficiency in the transport sector;
- The enactment of legislation to enforce the efficient and timely maintenance of vehicles particularly those involved in public transport, commercial activities and construction;
- The upgrade of the public transport system and related infrastructure to facilitate the shift from the use of private vehicles to public transport vehicles, as a means of reducing congestion on the country's highways;

7 As part of its efforts to improve the situation, the Barbados Government has recently established the Transport Authority, whose primary role is to regulate and monitor the operations of the Public Transport System, to set standards in respect of the services provided, as well as to advise Government on policy issues. Since 2008, the Authority has begun its work in this direction.

8 At this point I also wish to share with the Commission a number of pilot initiatives undertaken in the area of public transport. The first relates to the establishment of a new service to support persons with disabilities. This service is available to persons in need of transport to attend medical appointments, the elderly to attend social and religious events, as well as physically challenged students to attend educational institutions. As a public service, the initiative is oversubscribed, and Government is now moving to further expand the service to private sector operators.

- 9 A second initiative is in respect of the encouragement given to private individuals to operate “solar powered” vehicles. A pilot phase has been started in the area of the provision of taxi services using the solar powered units.
- 10 In addition, following consultation with other regional countries, plans are being formulated to establish a new modern facility to improve the testing of vehicles for emissions control. We view this as a critical element of our country’s “green” economic pursuit as articulated in our national strategic plan.
- 11 Other developments which are under active consideration include the establishment of a “ferry” service to facilitate the provision of transport services along the coastal waters of the country.
- 12 Given the current global economic situation, where resources are constrained, Barbados would welcome the assistance of the International Community with the transfer of technology, as well as new innovative financial facilities to assist us in these endeavours.
- 13 As the Government moves ahead with its new “Green Economic Policies” under which the Transport Sector is regarded as a key component, we call for
- (i) greater inclusion and support for Small Island Developing States within existing international technical cooperation programmes, and
  - (ii) the establishment of new SIDS specific partnership mechanisms that would enable our countries to achieve our Sustainable Development Goals.

I Thank You.



