



**Statement on behalf of CARICOM**

**By H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, Ambassador, Director, Multilateral Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Trinidad and Tobago**

**At the**

**10<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals**

**on**

**Economic Growth; Industrialization; Infrastructure; Energy**

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**United Nations Headquarters**

**2 April, 2014**

I speak on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM aligns itself with the statements delivered by Bolivia on behalf of the G77 and China and Nauru on behalf of AOSIS. You would note, Mr. Co Chair that the goals and targets I will propose in this statement support and refine, in many instances, those put forward by the delegation of Nauru on behalf of AOSIS.

## **Energy**

CARICOM member states would support a sustainable development goal on “**Ensuring access to sustainable energy for all**”. Sustainable energy is the very foundation of sustainable development, but is notably absent from the MDGs framework. Sustainable energy is necessary for meeting the MDGs and lifting people out of poverty and is critical to achieving food security, water and sanitation, transportation, health and education goals, among others. We emphasise that in order to effectively address climate change as a cross cutting issue sustainable energy development must be prioritized in all countries.

A goal on *Ensuring access to sustainable energy for all* should include targets in the following areas:

- Universal access for both women and men to modern energy services
- Increased deployment of cleaner, including low or zero emissions, energy technologies
- Expand the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, in the short medium and long term
- Double the development and global use of energy efficiency practices, technologies and standards in building, industry, agriculture and transport by 2020
- Expand on the provision of infrastructure for access to modern energy services, as well as provision of reliable and sustainable transport and communications, including road and rail links, ports and ICT connectivity
- Halve the incidence of morbidity and mortality from energy related air pollution by 2030
- Promote sustainable industrial development, based on energy-and-resource-efficient and environmentally sound industrial processes, including phase out of harmful chemicals, waste and pollution, minimising material use and maximizing material recovery.

**Means of implementation** on this issue could include:

- Building institutional and individual capacity to develop and manage the transformation to a low carbon economy
- Creating an enabling environment that supports development of a low carbon economy, that is solidly on a path of job-creating growth

- Technology Transfer for the production of base load and peak electric power from sources other than petroleum and for its efficient use in the production of goods and services.
- Establishment of financial mechanisms to support capacity building and investment in the transformation to a low carbon energy economy
- Assistance with the design and implementation of harmonious energy policies and sub-sector policies to promote the appropriate types of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency and conservation policies that facilitate collective action
- Implementation of a public education and awareness programme to promote the benefits of transitioning to a low carbon economy ensuring universal access to modern energy services

### **Economic growth**

We see scope for the development of a stand-alone goal in this area on “**Achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth for sustainable development**”.

Infrastructure and industrialization are both fundamental pre-requisites for economic growth and so we do not view them as stand alone goal areas. We have previously outlined targets on infrastructure in the areas of health, water and sanitation, and, in this statement, on energy. In our view, targets on infrastructure could also be incorporated in the context of a goal on sustainable cities and human settlements, about which we will speak in the coming days.

Targets that could be prioritized in the context of a goal on economic growth for sustainable development include:

The following targets which address the issue of employment and decent work for all:

- Fostering entrepreneurship through promoting the development of small, **micro** and medium sized enterprises: (a shared goal with employment). We stress the need for the inclusion of micro enterprises in our considerations as, they essentially define the character of business and investment in countries of small size and narrow resource base like ours.
- Ensuring equality of economic opportunities for all, including marginalised groups
- Promoting full employment through macroeconomic policy

And the following additional targets:

- Reducing transaction costs of remittances
- Ensuring favourable market access for industrial products and processed commodities of developing countries

**Means of implementation** in this area should address:

- enhancing debt sustainability in small, vulnerable, highly indebted middle income countries;
- the development of creative models for concessionary financing for these countries;
- prioritization of the development and the use of alternatives to GDP and GNI as measures of overall development. Alternative measures must take into account the economic, social and environmental vulnerabilities faced by countries such as those in the CARICOM sub-region and other SIDS.

### **Industrialisation**

The current treatment of the focus area on industrialisation in the co chairs' document is heavily focused on manufacturing and the promotion of a growth model that is not applicable to the national circumstances of many countries, including several within CARICOM. In our view, targets on industrialization should therefore be incorporated in the context of a possible goal on sustainable consumption and production, as well as in the context of a goal on economic growth, in a manner which is flexible enough to be applicable to all countries and to the various growth models countries may have adopted to secure their sustainable development.

### **Infrastructure**

The following target areas on infrastructure should be prioritized in the context of a sustainable development goal on sustainable cities and human settlements:

- Expansion in the use of policies and standards to ensure that due account is taken of the environmental and social impacts of existing and planned infrastructure from a lifecycle perspective.
- Promoting the planning and building of climate resilient infrastructure in response to the need for disaster risk reduction.