



**Statement on behalf of CARICOM**

**By**

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

**At the**

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

**on**

**Water and Sanitation and Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition**

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**United Nations Headquarters**

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I 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.

### **Water and sanitation**

CARICOM is open to a sustainable development goal on addressing Water and Sanitation needs for all. This is especially so in light of the fact that sanitation was one of the targets where limited progress was achieved in the context of the MDGs framework. We are of the view that this issue could be meaningfully addressed in the Post 2015 framework as part of a stand-alone goal with water. We note the very close interlinkages between a goal in this area with issues on food and nutrition security, sustainable cities and human settlements, sustainable consumption and production, infrastructure and health.

#### **Target areas to be addressed should include:**

- Ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation for all
- Extending wastewater treatment
- Improving water use efficiency
- Eliminating pollution and dumping of toxic materials in water bodies, and protecting aquifers
- Enhancing effective water governance including catchment area based integrated water resources management and appropriate transboundary cooperation
- Protecting and restoring water-linked ecosystems such as mountains, watersheds and wetlands
- Improving water supply systems, developing irrigation and water harvesting and storage infrastructure for agriculture and developing sewerage and wastewater treatment.

### **Sustainable agriculture food security and nutrition**

CARICOM member states would support a goal on ***“ensuring year round access by all to affordable, adequate, safe and nutritious food”***.

This goal should include targets in the following areas:

- Increased investment and support to research and development on sustainable agricultural technologies
- Increasing global agricultural productivity by 70% by 2050
- Enhancing biological diversity

- Promoting indigenous and sustainable farming and fishing practices
- Strengthening resilience of farming systems and food supplies to climate change
- Enhancing effective water governance including catchment area based integrated water resources management and appropriate transboundary cooperation, as a shared target with water and sanitation.
- Reducing post harvest loss and food waste
- Achieving Zero net land degradation by 2030
- Eliminating harmful agricultural subsidies
- Containment of speculation in global food markets to a minimum

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

- Assistance from Multilateral agencies to developing countries for the design, implementation and financing of food safety nets, and financial instruments at the international level in order to combat food price volatility and increase agricultural production
- A commitment by the international community to support development-focused trade reforms within the multilateral trading system
- Increased provision of investment and support for research and development on sustainable agricultural technologies
- Capacity building and financing for the improvement of water supply systems for irrigation, water harvesting and storage for agriculture