



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY**

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**ON BEHALF OF  
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**



**IN THE**

**HIGH-LEVEL EVENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON**

**"CONTRIBUTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE OF LAW  
IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA"**

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UNITED NATIONS**

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at this important meeting to consider the Contributions of Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

CARICOM applauds your leadership and initiative in contributing to the discussions regarding the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. President,

CARICOM Members remain guided by the fundamental principles of good governance, rule of law and the respect for human rights. The Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community adopted by the Conference of Heads and Government in 1997 clearly articulates these principles.

The promotion and protection of human rights, as stated in the Charter of the United Nations, is one of the essential purposes of the Organization. To that end, a wide range of human rights were codified in international legal instruments over the years, some of which have reached near universal ratification.

It is important to underscore the fundamental role and responsibility of Governments to guarantee the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as laid down in international human rights instruments, as well as to strengthen the rule of law at the national level.

The principle of the rule of law is equally important at the international level because it accords legitimacy to the actions of States. It is therefore crucial that States fully and effectively implement their obligations set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and other international instruments so as to contribute to the maintenance of peace and security, promote and respect the enjoyment of all internationally recognized human rights and achieve sustainable development.

But mindful of the challenges faced by States, in particular small island developing states, we stress the need for technical assistance and capacity building to assist them in the implementation of their international obligations.

Mr. President,

The contemporary global system has become increasingly interconnected and interrelated. Many issues transcend national borders and require concerted action from a variety of stakeholders at all levels. We wish to call attention to just a few of these issues, namely: pervasive poverty, increasing inequalities between and within countries, the spread of infectious diseases as well as non-communicable diseases, armed conflict, intolerance, climate change, environmental degradation and natural disasters.

The inability or inaction of States to address these interrelated threats could not only lead to further erosion in the enjoyment and realization of all human rights, in particular the economic, social and cultural rights, but could also hamper or worse yet derail the development gains made over the past years and decade.

Although development is a human right for all, challenges in the realization of this right continue unabated due to multiple interrelated crises faced by developing countries, in particular small vulnerable developing states like those in the CARICOM sub-region. When it comes to the realization of the right to development, the interrelatedness and indivisibility of all human rights cannot be overlooked.

Of equal importance is the realization of the right to education, one of the most widely recognized international rights, the right to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental health as well the right to adequate food, within the broader context of the right to an adequate standard of living if we are to work towards achieving sustainable development.

As we draw near the end of the commitment date for the achievement of the millennium goals and at the same time elaborate the post-2015 development agenda, CARICOM wishes to underscore the importance of a people-centered approach to development, as was agreed in the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and reiterated at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development both held in Rio de Janeiro.

To this end, Member States reaffirmed at the Rio+20 Conference the importance of peace and security, respect for human rights, including the right to development, the rule of law and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development with effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

Addressing the human rights dimension of sustainable development therefore should underpin our discussions and be a central component of any future development framework.

Mr. President,

Without the provision of adequate financing, technology and capacity building support any future development framework would remain largely aspirational. In this regard, CARICOM has consistently underscored the importance of addressing the means of implementation.

While it is imperative that the SDGs have an aspirational element, their success in improving the lives of our citizens, respecting their human rights and strengthening the rule of law will depend on how effectively we integrate the means of implementation into the SDG framework. In addition, and against the backdrop of the negligible progress that has been made in relation to MDG8, serious consideration should be given to a range of measures to ensure the effective implementation of the global partnership for development. Among these measures CARICOM wishes to highlight: the need for mobilizing financial and other resources; improved trade and market access; increased technology transfer and support for capacity building, including for the collection and analysis of data; as well as effective assistance to developing countries in the area of debt relief.

In closing Mr. President,

Respect for human rights and the rule of law are inextricably linked with development and as we elaborate the post-2015 development agenda and seek to achieve sustainable development for our peoples, we have to agree on a transformational development agenda that recognizes these fundamental principles as indispensable.

CARICOM Member States, with a longstanding record for upholding the principles of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as respect for the rule of law, pledge their continued commitment to the realization of all human rights for all. We stand ready to actively participate and contribute to these deliberations.

Thank you for your attention.