



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY BRIAN WALLACE  
AMBASSADOR/PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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



**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 18 (a-d): MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS**

**AND**

**AGENDA ITEM 19: FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE  
76<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**FINAL TEXT**

**Madam Chair,**

1. I have the distinct honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM aligns itself with the statements delivered by Guinea on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS).
2. CARICOM has long stressed that in the midst of the ongoing climate emergency, we continue to confront complex development challenges, such as our small size, vulnerability to external shocks, import dependence, and narrow resource and export base. Coupled with the unremitting socio-economic challenges exacerbated by the pandemic, the Caribbean's recovery will require decisive action and transformative multilateral cooperation.
3. The pre-pandemic financing gap to achieve the SDGs by 2030 was estimated to be \$2.5 trillion per year. We maintain our view that development finance remains an indispensable lynchpin for the successful achievement of the internationally agreed development goals.

**Madam Chair,**

4. The Caribbean is the most tourism-dependent region in the world, and continues to feel the devastating effects of declining tourist revenues and reduced remittances as direct consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This unprecedented disruption in stable economic activity in the Caribbean, of which tourism is the hardest hit sector, will result in the biggest recession we will face since the 2008 Global Financial Crisis.

5. The reality for CARICOM is that our economic resilience remains under severe pressure. The policy choices we have been forced to make to preserve lives and livelihoods have heightened the medium-term debt sustainability concerns across our sub-region.
6. We have consistently made the point concerning the pernicious impact of graduation on SIDS, and MICs in general. This is a prime example of how the denial of access to concessional financing windows has forced us to meet development finance needs by resorting to more volatile non-concessional private capital markets, via sovereign bond issuance. We therefore continue to press for the continued development and acceptance of the Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI).
7. Innovative financing is also crucial to ensuring the availability of resources to facilitate inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery. This is due to the link made by these instruments between countries' repayment capacity and their vulnerabilities to natural disasters (such as the Barbados-style hurricane clauses) or to the business cycle, e.g. State-contingent debt instruments such as GDP-linked bonds.

**Madam Chair,**

8. The international financial system should therefore be placed in a position to provide liquidity when and where it is most needed in times of systemic crisis. In this regard, we recognize the decision by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to approve a \$650 billion allocation of Special Drawing Rights as a step in the right direction to provide much needed liquidity.
  
9. Notwithstanding, other encouraging developments including the extension of the G20's DSSI, CARICOM supports the call made by ECLAC for the reform of the international financial architecture and the need for greater financial support to build resilience for Caribbean SIDS.
  
10. CARICOM believes that a complete reset of the global economic development model is urgently required. The international community must seize the opportunities presented at our multilateral engagements such as at UNCTAD XV in Barbados, COP 26 in Glasgow, and the upcoming WTO ministerial, to ensure that we move forward with solutions to our most pressing issues such as the COVID-19 crisis; the climate crisis; food security; the debt crisis and the issue of financing for development.

**Madam Chair,**

11.The COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose the greatest threat to international trade, as new waves of infection could easily undermine any hope for recovery. Current statistics reflect a rebound in international trade but export recovery is substantially weaker for smaller economies. This is a cause for serious concern as it reflects a fragile path to recovery for the small, open, and highly trade dependent economies like ours.

12.Given the important contribution of international trade to economic growth, we reaffirm our commitment to a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system; one that provides unhindered market access for developing countries and ensures their full exercise of special and differential treatment.

**Madam Chair,**

13.Building resilience has always been at the forefront of CARICOM's development ambitions, as our very existence hinges on our ability to withstand external shocks and natural disasters. As such, the mobilization of climate finance and investment, in supporting the needs identified by developing countries for the implementation of their priority projects and programmes is essential.

14. In this regard, CARICOM commends the Prime Ministers of Canada and Jamaica, who together with the UN Secretary-General, continue to convene Heads of State and Government and key partners around the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative, to address critical issues related to the COVID-19 response and recovery. This represents an effective coordinated response that could be taken by the international community to tackling the crisis across the short, medium and long term.

15. **In closing**, as CARICOM makes efforts to fast-track recovery, build back better, and urgently protect our development achievements, we remain committed to working with the international community to intensify our efforts to meeting our sustainable development priorities. We thus look forward to participating in a constructive manner in this Committee's deliberations for the 76<sup>th</sup> Session.

I thank you Madam Chair.