



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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



**SECOND COMMITTEE MEETING
AGENDA ITEM 22 (A-B):
'OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT'**

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Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of CARICOM on agenda item 22: Operational Activities for Development.

CARICOM also extends its gratitude to the Secretary-General and the Development Coordination Office (DCO) for their respective reports on the implementation of the mandates set forth by the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 72/279, 75/233 and 77/184.

We also align this statement with those delivered by Cuba, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Samoa, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Mr. Chair,

The Member States of CARICOM are on the frontlines of a flurry of fierce and frequent exogenous shocks. From the COVID-19 Pandemic health emergency and the pervasive economic disruptions to illiquidity and rising external debt, our efforts to address our most urgent threats, especially climate change, has been undermined.

Given our small size, limited fiscal space and inherent vulnerabilities, the hard-earned development gains achieved by our small island nations are severely jeopardized and without concerted actions, can erode with little chance of recovery.

As such, the United Nations' response to the multiple crises and challenges facing developing countries, is crucial to saving lives and livelihoods and steering our vulnerable countries back to a path of sustained and resilient growth and the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

We are pleased to note that since the Secretary-General's proposals, the repositioned Development System is supported by a reinvigorated resident coordinator system, a funding compact and the Development Coordination Office; all of which is meant to enhance support to programme countries.

In particular, the recommendations emanating from the multi-country office review have been implemented across the region and CARICOM Member States are generally satisfied with the support provided through the Offices and the Resident Coordinator system.

However, with the lack of progress achieved towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, especially within the Global South, CARICOM is of the view that, as we look towards our deliberations for the 2024 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR), the time has come to shift gears from policy to implementation, and more importantly, to action at the country level.

With this in mind, CARICOM wishes to reiterate the following key points.

As the international community prepares for the fourth international Conference on SIDS to take place in Antigua and Barbuda next year, CARICOM stresses the importance of leveraging the UN Development System in a concerted manner to support its preparatory process, as well as to galvanize solutions for the existing and emerging challenges facing SIDS.

As partnerships are vital to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the remainder of SAMOA Pathway and the next global framework for SIDS, CARICOM reiterates the importance of ensuring that country teams can draw on the leadership and capacities of the entire UN Development System to foster genuine and durable partnerships in supporting SIDS.

Therefore, as we galvanize action into the second half towards 2030, country teams and their staffing profiles should include the relevant skills sets, experience and knowledge of the unique challenges facing SIDS and the Caribbean region. It is our expectation that the presence of entities, operational capacities, and country implementation plans would be further tailored to national and regional priorities.

With this mind, throughout the regional and inter-regional preparatory meetings for the Fourth Conference, SIDS have stressed the importance in addressing the data and statistical gaps that exist at the national and regional levels. In this regard, CARICOM welcomes the proposal to establish a global SIDS Data Hub at the Fourth Conference and stresses the importance of strengthening data and statistical capacities in countries covered by multi-country offices (MCOs). This includes improving on the ongoing work of the ECLAC sub-regional office for the Caribbean in Port of Spain, which can contribute to effective operationalization of the Data Hub.

On development funding, **Mr. Chair**, CARICOM also stresses the role of MCOs in mobilizing or improving access to predictable programmatic resources needed to help drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway, as well as to support our national development plans.

We are pleased that resident coordinators and resource mobilization specialists have helped to increase the levels of pooled funding available to SIDS. CARICOM hopes that this new era of collaboration with SIDS would maximize the impact of the System's support on the ground to better address their multidimensional vulnerabilities, especially in the next global development framework for SIDS.

In closing, CARICOM acknowledges with appreciation the steps taken to implement the recommendations on the multi-country offices, as well as the wider SIDS support offer. We remain committed to and supportive of the overall strengthening of the repositioned development system to better support countries in special situations and, CARICOM will continue its constructive and collaborative engagement on this agenda item going forward.

I thank you.