



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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



**ON  
AGENDA ITEM 18 (A-J):  
'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'**

**IN THE  
2<sup>ND</sup> COMMITTEE OF THE 78<sup>TH</sup> SESSION  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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*FINAL TEXT*

**Mr. Chairman,**

I have the honour to deliver these remarks on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

CARICOM aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Republic of Cuba on behalf of the G77 and China and the statement to be delivered by Samoa on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS).

**Mr. Chairman,**

The consideration of Agenda Item 18- Sustainable Development, comes at a critical time. We continue to grapple with a confluence of crises which have rolled back the progress in the advancement of sustainable development in our countries. At the recently concluded SDG Summit, CARICOM leaders called for a “surge in commitments from Governments and other stakeholders to take implementation of SDGs to the next level”.

**Mr. Chairman,**

As Small Island and Low-lying Coastal Developing States with inherent vulnerabilities and challenges, sustainable recovery for us is intrinsically linked to improved access to financing for development. Accordingly, we reiterate that access to affordable, reliable and adequate financing is the *sine qua non* for a sustainable recovery. Accordingly, we attach significant value to the adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) as a metric beyond GDP to improve our access to grant and concessional financing. Connectedly, we note here that the Bridgetown Initiative and the Secretary General's SDG Stimulus provide us with a roadmap to correct imbalances in the international financial architecture and chart the way to the reform of the IFA.

CARICOM looks forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> International SIDS conference which will be held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024 and will remain fully engaged in the preparatory process which will ultimately lead to the elaboration of the successor plan to the SAMOA Pathway. The new Programme of Action must address, *inter alia*, access to climate financing, digital transformation and data, food systems and food security, disaster risk reduction,

ocean governance, and the Blue economy, reform of the international financial architecture, including related issues of development financing, debt sustainability, capacity building, data collection and management.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The position of CARICOM on climate change is well-known. We consistently affirm that for the Caribbean, keeping global temperature increase below 1.5°C is not an option but a matter of survival. CARICOM looks forward to the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund by COP28. We welcome the Secretary General's recently held Climate Ambition Summit and continue to call for bold action and commitments needed to accelerate the agenda for net-zero deadlines towards the energy transition. We also call for the delivery of pledges, including the 100 billion per year in climate financing.

As custodians of rich biodiversity, both terrestrial and marine, CARICOM remains fully committed to the three goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity- conservation, sustainable use and fair and equitable sharing of benefits derived from the use of biodiversity.

**Mr. Chairman,**

You and the Bureau of this committee can be assured of CARICOM's continued support and constructive cooperation as we address the cluster of issues under this agenda item.

Thank you.