



STATEMENT BY:

**H.E. BRIAN WALLACE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
(CARICOM)**

**HANDOVER OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE GROUP OF 77**

14 January 2022

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Colleagues,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the occasion of the formal hand over of the chairmanship of the Group of 77 today.

At the outset, CARICOM wishes to acknowledge with appreciation Guinea's leadership in steering us through an unprecedented but significant year in international development and we extend our gratitude to His Excellency. Dr. Morissanda Kouyaté, Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, African Integration and Guineans Living Abroad of the Republic of Guinea and his team from the delegation of the Republic of Guinea for their dedication and diligence over the past year.

We offer sincere congratulations to The Islamic Republic of Pakistan on the assumption of the Chair, and best wishes for a productive and successful tenure. You can rest assured, Excellency, that you and your team will have the full support of the member states of the Caribbean Community, as we work together in the year ahead.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM recalls that the core objective of the Group of 77 is to articulate and promote our collective economic interests and enhance our joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system, and promote South-South co-operation for our development.

Undoubtedly then, the need for a strong and effective G-77 is probably more urgent today than ever before. We therefore emphasize that a unified G-77 remains critical to advance our strategic interests, as we engage with our developed partners in support of the revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development, and to respond and recover adequately to the ongoing and evolving pandemic in this

Decade of Action. Furthermore, the realities of differing economic interests and levels of development within our group, presents an important challenge that must always be deftly addressed in a manner that leverages its differences and our collective negotiating power, with the goal of achieving the best possible outcome for all developing countries, while remaining unified. Indeed, I would take this opportunity to remind us that the range and diversity that exists within our group is far from our weakness; it is our greatest strength. It is a true reflection of multilateralism at work, where we come from different places, positions and perspectives, but aim to achieve a single, unified goal.

Mr. Chair,

We are confident that, under the chairmanship of Pakistan, the Group will continue in this same united spirit of international solidarity in addressing the developmental challenges of the people of the global south.

It will be another critical year for developing countries in the international development arena, and we wish to again assure you Chair, of CARICOM's continued support as we continue to work together within the group towards greater achievements and the improvement of the lives of all our people.

Thank you.