



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

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

**introducing the draft resolution, A/73/L.118 entitled "Cooperation
between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community"**

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

16th September 2019

Thank you, Mr. President,

On behalf of the 14 CARICOM member states, I have the honor to introduce draft resolution A/73/L.118 entitled “**Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community**”.

Due to significant capacity and time constraints, the Members of the Caribbean Community chose to present a technical update to the General Assembly resolution adopted in the seventy-first session. As such the resolution before us today contains only technical updates taking note of the Tenth General Meeting held in Guyana on 23rd and 24th July 2019, between representatives of the Caribbean Community and the United Nations System, and the Joint Statement issued thereafter.

The resolution provides for the rollover of the agenda item to the Seventy-fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly. In this way we can be sure that the strong foundation of partnership between the CARICOM and the United Nations can continue to be pursued vigorously given the urgency of the needs of our small island developing states in relation to the sustainable development agenda.

During the tenth meeting, the representatives of both organizations recognized the challenges and vulnerabilities of CARICOM Member States in the international system and the many priority issues relating to financing for development, including tax blacklisting and the withdrawal of correspondent banking relations. Other initiatives, such as the ECLAC debt for climate swap initiative were also highlighted.

With regard to the sustainable development challenges, the meeting recognized the need for enhanced global action and resources. While applauding CARICOM's commitment to transform the Caribbean into the world's first Climate Resilient Zone, the meeting expressed the hope that the upcoming high-level meetings taking place during the seventy-fourth session will result in increased support for the region. The meeting further agreed to strengthen collaboration for the full implementation of the Caribbean Recovery to Resilience Facility and the joint preparation of a regional report on progress on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals using a core set of indicators that has been developed by CARICOM. The meeting also called for the full implementation of the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement as a necessary mechanism to achieve the SDGs.

In this connection, the need to improve the resilience of communities in support of resilient energy supply, agriculture and food security, and the sustainable use of and management of living marine resources was recognized. CARICOM looks forward to collaboration in this regard.

The issue of human mobility is also an area of growing opportunity for collaboration. CARICOM Member States could greatly benefit from capacity building on international protection of human rights principles, migration governance, labour mobility, and disaster risk reduction, given that there are opportunities to do more before disasters strike to reduce the risk of displacement.

For CARICOM, achieving gender equality and the development of youth and children are top priorities. We appreciate the support rendered to the ongoing development of a Regional Gender Equality Strategy and the development of a youth mainstreaming strategy for multisectoral planning, as well as action to realise youth and child development outcomes in CARICOM Member States, including the revision and strengthening of the CARICOM Youth Development Action Plan.

The Georgetown Declaration Towards 2020, adopted at the closing of the 2018 LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund Workshop for the Caribbean region, sets out courses of action for continued engagement between CARICOM and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights through the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund, and the UN Human Rights Council. CARICOM looks forward to the operationalization of these initiatives to support our continued capacity building which will ultimately redound to the enjoyment of human rights of all our peoples.

CARICOM and the United Nations continue to collaborate in major areas of health, HIV, and non-communicable diseases and pandemics with a view to strengthening the public health system in the Caribbean, improving impact at the country level, and advancing regional development. In addition, the support of the UN in advancing the regional security agenda continues to provide increasing dividends for citizen security.

The CARICOM and the United Nations are also seeking new areas of collaboration. These include the advancement of cultural development at the national and regional levels, in order to increase the contribution of

culture to the sustainable development of the region. Another area for collaboration is in the aviation sector, especially given the importance of air connectivity and transportation to the socio-economic growth and development of CARICOM.

Mr. President,

When next we take up consideration of the cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community, CARICOM looks forward to a fulsome report and a comprehensive resolution that will account for the implementation of these areas of collaboration and identification of other areas that can be leveraged to optimize the crucial partnership our region enjoys with the UN.

In closing, allow me to express our sincere gratitude to all member states. We valued their constructive engagement and their spirit of compromise showed throughout the usual and fast tracked consultation process. We also invite delegations that have not yet done so to co-sponsor this resolution.

The CARICOM looks forward to the adoption of the resolution by consensus as in previous years.

I thank you.