Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

ON

AGENDA ITEM 19
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AT THE

68TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), it is an honour for me to address this Committee on agenda item 19 – entitled “Sustainable Development” – and its related sub-items. In this regard, CARICOM aligns itself fully with the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

CARICOM takes this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for the reports prepared and submitted to guide our consideration of this agenda item.

Mr. Chair,

The recently released IPCC Working Group 1 assessment, approved on September 27th provides us with clear evidence that climate change is the result of the actions of human beings and that what we are witnessing with respect to the changes in the climate system is unprecedented in human history. As the report states, unless substantial and sustained action is taken immediately, the consequences for our world will be catastrophic. Indeed, the painful irony is that those of us who have contributed least to the climate change problem are facing its most severe impacts.
CARICOM calls on Parties to the upcoming Climate Change Conference in Warsaw to undertake the work necessary to ensure that the world is on track in 2020 to meet the below 2 degrees global goal for temperature increase. In this regard, CARICOM believes Warsaw must achieve the following:

1. The establishment of an international mechanism to address loss and damage from climate change impacts;

2. Clarity from developed countries on climate finance pathways to ensure that finance meets the $100 billion by 2020 target; and in this regard a speedy operationalization of the Green Climate Fund.

3. Meaningful progress towards closing the pre-2020 mitigation ambition gap to minimize and avoid the potentially catastrophic impact of climate change.

4. Move to a more focused mode of work toward the 2015 agreement under Workstream 1 of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform

5. Make concrete progress on the Review of the Long-term global temperature goal especially in light of the release of the Working Group 1 report of the IPCC.
CARICOM looks forward to the 2014 Climate Change Summit, which is being organized by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, to be held in September 2014 in New York with participation of Heads of State and Government along with business, finance, civil society and local leaders as part of a global effort to mobilize action and ambition on climate change.

While we acknowledge the Summit will not be part of the broader negotiating process, we see it playing a valuable role in catalyzing action on climate change ahead of the conclusion of a global climate agreement during the UNFCCC Climate Conference in 2015. This will help in building a solid foundation on which to anchor successful negotiations and achieve sustained progress on the road to reducing emissions and strengthening adaptation strategies and look forward to greater clarity on the key expected deliverables of the Summit in the upcoming months.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM is encouraged by the outcome document of the Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals, which was endorsed by our political leaders last September. This document renews the call for acceleration of the achievement of
the MDGs by the indicative target date of 2015. CARICOM is committed to this task, and will continue to participate in the deliberations and negotiations in this session of the General Assembly with a view to ensuring that we meet the targets by that deadline, and sustain our development in the Post-2015 era.

CARICOM welcomes the role which the intergovernmental High-level Political Forum will play in providing a robust platform to follow-up and review progress made in the implementation of sustainable development goals including commitments contained in the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation. The Forum should provide a high visibility leadership role to complement the mandates and functions of other UN bodies, including the General Assembly and ECOSOC in the field of sustainable development.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM continues to support the follow-up processes to the Rio+20 Conference outcome to develop a set of global sustainable development goals as tools for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. We believe it is essential that this new framework builds on the successes and lessons learnt from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We are
encouraged by the work done thus far by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and will also remain active in the efforts to ensure that the perspective of SIDS is incorporated in this emerging global framework.

The Rio +20 outcome recognizes the limitations of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a measure of progress. To this end, CARICOM continues to support the work of the Statistical Commission on developing broader measures of development to complement GDP and provide a more comprehensive and multi-dimensional means of measuring progress.

During this Session, the 2nd Committee will consider a resolution on the modalities of the International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In this regard, we call on the international community to support the 2014 Conference and its associated preparatory process including through contributions to the SIDS Trust Fund in UNDESA.

CARICOM believes the Samoa Conference in 2014 will present a pivotal moment for the integration of SIDS sustainable development aspirations into the broader
global development agenda. It will also be an invaluable opportunity for the international community to enhance its commitment to the pursuit of a more integrated approach to the creation of enabling environments in support of the sustainable development of SIDS. We anticipate an outcome that reinvigorates the commitment of the international community to a global partnership that enables SIDS to eradicate poverty, build resilience and improve their quality of life.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM welcomes the designation of 2014 as the international year of Small Island Developing States as a means of mobilising support for the Conference. We renew our pledge to remain engaged in this process.

CARICOM also remains committed to strengthening the role of the United Nations Environment Programme as the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda.
Mr. Chair,

CARICOM assures you and the Bureau of its continued support and cooperation as we address the cluster of issues under this agenda item.

I thank you.