STATEMENT

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. DENIS ANTOINE
AMBASSADOR / PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GRENADA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

ON THE

OCCASION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CARICOM-UN COOPERATION
RESOLUTION AGENDA ITEM 123(e)

16 JANUARY 2015

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I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/67/L.51 entitled “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community” on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the co-sponsors of the draft resolution.

The draft resolution reflects the latest developments in cooperation activities between the secretariats of the United Nations and the Caribbean Community as documented in the Secretary General’s report A/69/288 as well as other areas in which cooperation across the two Secretariats and the Member States of the CARICOM have been critical to advancing longstanding regional objectives.

The CARICOM welcomes in this draft the strong collaboration with the United Nations on issues such as citizen security, non communicable diseases and climate change which represent some of the critical areas in which the UN and the CARICOM have forged enduring and important partnerships.

Consistent with the calls of the previous resolutions on cooperation between the UN and the CARICOM, this draft likewise calls upon the Secretary General of the United Nations in association with the Secretary General of the Caribbean Community to continue to assist in furthering the development, and the maintenance of peace and security within the Caribbean region.

For CARICOM, many of our challenges whether developmental or security emanate from global phenomena such as the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons as well as the ongoing impacts of the protracted global financial and economic crisis. The latter itself has jeopardized development progress and stymied CARICOM’s economic growth. In this regard, CARICOM continues to underscore the importance of reliable, accessible and adequate financing for development and for a more robust collaboration with the UN to build capacity in pursuit of sustainable development.
The draft resolution therefore repeats the call to the United Nations system to intensify their assistance to the CARICOM Member States in order that they may be better able to address the unique vulnerabilities and sustainable development challenges they face including through the sustained and effective implementation of the outcomes of the three international conferences on small island developing states held respectively in Barbados, Mauritius and Samoa.

In the area of peace and security, the draft acknowledges the launch of the UNODC regional programme for the period 2014-2016 in support of the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy. While we are pleased with the conclusion of a memorandum of understanding between the UNODC and CARICOM’s Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, we nonetheless reiterate the urgent necessity for re-opening the regional office of UNODC. The UN’s commitment to support CARICOM in achieving its objectives must go hand in hand with its commitment to remain on the ground.

Looking forward, the opportunities for strengthened cooperation are many. CARICOM leaders have endorsed a Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community 2015-2019. As acknowledged in the resolution, this Plan highlights eleven high-priority areas. It is the CARICOM’s hope that as we improve coordination and coherence with the United Nations including through the United Nations Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean, that these priority areas will assist in providing strategic focus for further cooperation.

For 2015, as we begin to chart the course of the post-2015 development agenda, the financing for development architecture, the new climate change regime and the successor framework for disaster risk reduction, the CARICOM affirms its readiness and commitment to work with the United Nations and through the United Nations to ensure that this body remains the central forum to advance global responses to our myriad global challenges.