



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT

BY

HER EXCELLENCY PENELOPE BECKLES,

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF

THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE GENERAL DEBATE

DURING THE

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES SEGMENT

1 March 2017

Economic and Social Council Chamber
United Nations Headquarters

Mr. President,

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

CARICOM aligns itself with the statements made by Ecuador, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Maldives, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, and El Salvador, on behalf of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States.

Mr. President,

Allow me to first express our appreciation to you for convening this important and timely ECOSOC segment on the operational activities for development as we work towards the implementation of the resolution on the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, which seeks to better position operational activities for development to support Member States, including those within CARICOM, in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in a coherent and integrated manner.

In this regard, when considering the positioning of the United Nations Development System to implement the 2030 Agenda, CARICOM would like to express its appreciation for the fact that the UN System has moved to a common Multi-State Development Framework embracing the priorities of all of our countries in our sub-region, CARICOM however reiterates the importance of recognising vulnerabilities of individual countries even as it also takes into account the unique vulnerabilities and development challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

As such, CARICOM is of the view that the UN Development System ought to be driven by a multidimensional approach to development support based on national priorities and country-specific needs, while ensuring and strengthening national ownership and leadership.

CARICOM firmly believes that, if we are to achieve the sustainable development goals, we must avoid falling into the trap of the one-size-fits-all approach to sustainable development. We welcome that the 2016 QCPR resolution underscores this position, and we look forward to further discussions on developing a system-wide approach that responds to national development needs and priorities.

Mr. President,

CARICOM maintains the argument that operational activities for development must encourage national capacity-building by ensuring the promotion and transfer of new technologies to developing countries, and enabling and facilitating the access of developing countries to the full range of services available throughout the UN development system, including country offices and regional commissions.

We recall that tracking the progress of implementation of the sustainable development goals through data collection and analysis remains critical to the review and follow-up of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. In this regard, CARICOM reiterates the important role that

the UNDS has in strengthening national institutions in planning, management and evaluation capacities. This includes strengthening statistical capacities to better collect and analyse high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data in national contexts, as well as to the fullest extent possible, in the context of United Nations operational activities for development.

CARICOM also takes this opportunity to emphasize the importance of South-South cooperation, as a complement to North-South cooperation, within the context of operational activities for development. We are of the view that South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation should be integrated into the operational activities whereby development programmes and initiatives actively support and promote South-South Cooperation in a manner that provides access to science, technology, innovation and knowledge-sharing.

Mr. President,

CARICOM continues to underscore the importance of adequate and predictable funding for the UN system's operational activities. We remain concerned that the slow growth in core resources, together with non-core funding being strictly earmarked to specific projects and high dependence on a small group of donors, renders the funding base for operational activities vulnerable to political and economic shocks. CARICOM welcomes the discussion on integrated strategies aimed at equitably balancing core and non-core resources in a manner that ensures adequate, sustainable, predictable and as much as possible, flexible funding.

Lastly, CARICOM believes that the multidimensional nature of the 2030 Agenda also requires more flexible and coordinated governance within the UN development system. The QCPR provides an excellent framework for improving the efficiency, effectiveness and coherence between UN funds, programmes and specialised agencies; and the resident coordinator system and UN country teams. With greater emphasis on policy coherence, integrated programming and harmonised methodologies to improve working methods, the development system will better support the "Delivering as One" approach in a coherent and integrated manner that reduces duplication and enhances synergy for longer-term engagement of the UNDS at global, regional and national levels.

Mr. President,

In closing, CARICOM welcomes these rich and informative discussions. We look forward to the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the system-wide implementation of the QCPR. CARICOM remains fully committed to work together with the international community and the UN Development System, to foster a more strategic, accountable, transparent, collaborative, efficient, effective and results-oriented engagement that will ensure the realisation of all our aspirations enshrined in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

I thank you.