

**Report of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to the First Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development  
Mexico City, 26-28, April 2017**

**Statement delivered by The Honourable Mark Brantley  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation of Saint Kitts and Nevis  
Chair of the CDCC**

[Salutations]

As current Chair of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, I have the honour to present a comprehensive update on the steadfast and strategic efforts being made by the countries of my subregion to ensure that we rise to the challenge embodied in the transformative development agenda that we adopted with the international community nearly two years ago; to ensure that we fulfil the promise of fundamental change in the quality of life of our peoples while improving our stewardship of the land and marine space that we call home.

The Caribbean is here in strong number at this first meeting of the Forum of Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development because we recognize the very real opportunity that Agenda 2030 presents as a relevant and responsive framework addressing our unique development needs, particularly when

synergised with national and subregional priorities. We are also here because even as we recognize that SDG implementation at its most integral level must be a country-led process, its success is rooted in partnership and a peer review process that will keep us all focused on our shared goals, in a mutually supportive environment.

I therefore wish to congratulate Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena for her leadership in ensuring the Secretariat's swift response to the Commission's mandate to establish this regional forum which will become the hub for ongoing national and regional review and assessment of SDG implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean. It is our hope that in this forum we will find the technical and institutional support for our efforts at SDG implementation, and a meaningful accommodation of the continuing challenges faced by the small, vulnerable, highly indebted middle income developing countries of the Caribbean.

I congratulate Belize, the first Caribbean country to complete a Voluntary National Review, which will be considered at this Forum. I am confident that there will be many more Caribbean states following Belize's example next year.

Distinguished representatives,

The CDCC has been actively promoting an integrated approach to sustainable development in the Caribbean which fosters synergy between the 2030 Agenda and other SIDS – specific platforms. Indeed, at its 26<sup>th</sup> session held in my own country, Saint Kitts and Nevis during April last year, the CDCC adopted resolution 94 that *“requests the secretariat of the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean and in collaboration with the relevant agencies of the United Nations system and the Caribbean Community, to provide the institutional support to facilitate synergy in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway at the national and regional levels.”*

In pursuance of this mandate, the ECLAC Caribbean office, in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat and the SIDS Unit of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs held a workshop in Port of Spain during December 2016 which sought to identify from among the Tiers I & II global SDG indicators a minimum core set for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the SAMOA Pathway in Caribbean SIDS. Seventeen CDCC Member and Associate Member Countries participated in this workshop. A draft list

of core indicators is now being reviewed by a Technical Working Group of the Standing Committee of Caribbean Statisticians. Once finalized, they will represent the minimum set of indicators for which Caribbean member states would be encouraged to produce data for SDG follow-up and review. The outcome of this process will serve as an input to the work programme of the Statistical Coordination Group for the Agenda 2030 in Latin America and the Caribbean under the Statistical Conference of the Americas.

I have highlighted this work being done on indicators because the challenge facing Caribbean states in the area of data collection and statistical analysis is very well known. Planning, monitoring and measuring SDG implementation will make significant demands on data producers, particularly where the range and frequency of such statistics is concerned. This is why the support being provided by ECLAC and its partners is so vitally important.

Another key area of concern is the need for strong institutional infrastructure at the national level to provide coherent, integrated leadership for the sustainable development process. Many countries in the Caribbean are still to identify and designate this leading institution, and this is contributing to the slow rate of SDG implementation in the

Caribbean. We therefore welcomed the Caribbean symposium on mainstreaming the SDGs into national development planning which was convened by ECLAC in Kingston, Jamaica during February this year. The symposium addressed the importance of national institutional frameworks for both SDG and the SAMOA Pathway implementation. Tools for integrated national development planning were examined, and participants benefitted from peer-learning on SDG mainstreaming through presentations by select countries on their experiences in integrating the SDGs in their national development plans.

This symposium was sponsored by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), as part of an ongoing project entitled “Support for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean” that the ECLAC Caribbean office is executing to help build capacity among policy makers for the planning, management and monitoring of SDGs implementation at the national level. This will include the consideration of practical options for the designation of national institutional frameworks for SDG implementation. We anticipate that this initiative will promote and strengthen a sense of national ownership of the SDGs in the Caribbean.

Distinguished representatives,

This concludes my report of the work being done in the Caribbean to advance SDG implementation, in synergy with national and regional development priorities. The CDCC Member States are committed to remaining engaged, and you should count on our active, constructive participation in the activities of the Forum this week.

Thank You.