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Thirtieth session of the Caribbean Development
and Cooperation Committee of the Economic Commission
for Latin America and the Caribbean

Port of Spain, 11 September 2024

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

**112 (XXX) SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME
OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Bearing in mind that the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024 pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 77/245 of 30 December 2022 and 77/328 of 25 August 2023, adopted the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity,¹

Noting that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States outlines the sustainable development aspirations and priority concerns of small island developing States which, after three decades and three successive programmes of action, remain a special case for sustainable development given their unique vulnerabilities related to size, capacity and high exposure to exogenous shocks;

Acknowledging that the sustainable development priorities of small island developing States, well articulated in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action),² the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States³ and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway⁴ will be more effectively pursued in synergy with other key internationally agreed development instruments, in particular the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵ the Paris Agreement,⁶ the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,⁷ the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,⁸ the New Urban Agenda⁹ and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,¹⁰

Bearing in mind the adoption of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for the English- and Dutch-speaking Caribbean 2022–2026,¹¹ which serves as the instrument for planning and implementing development activities across the United Nations system towards fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda,

¹ See General Assembly resolution 78/317.

² United Nations, *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9)*, 1994.

³ See General Assembly resolution 61/277.

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 69/15.

⁵ See General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁶ *Report of the Conference of the Parties on its twenty-first session, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015 (FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1)*.

⁷ See General Assembly resolution 69/313.

⁸ See General Assembly resolution 69/283, annex II.

⁹ See General Assembly resolution 71/256.

¹⁰ See [online] <https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf>.

¹¹ See [online] <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/multicountry-sustainable-development-framework-english-and-dutch-speaking-caribbean-2022>.

Underscoring that the success of the subregion's efforts to effectively implement the new agenda for small island developing States and secure a resilient future will require the commitment and political will of member States, a readiness to pursue collective and cooperative action, and the fullest support of the international community, buoyed by a renewed spirit of multilateralism, solidarity and partnership,

Welcoming the adoption of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index, which offers the prospect of a more comprehensive and effective measure of the vulnerability of the middle-income countries of the subregion, providing scope for greater access to concessional financing for investment in adaptation and resilience,

Recognizing that the countries of the subregion face the continued challenge of national statistical institutions that are under-resourced, both financially and technically, resulting in scarcity of data and limited capacity for national development planning, as well as weak frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of and reporting on progress in sustainable development,

Recalling its resolution 104 (XXVIII), by which the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee-Regional Coordinating Mechanism was renamed as the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development, expanding its mandate to serve as a subregional mechanism to monitor and support the implementation of sustainable development in the Caribbean,

Noting that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States provides for systematic monitoring and evaluation of its mandates, with a call for the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, beginning in 2026, to conduct a comprehensive biennial review of progress in the countries of the subregion with a view to informing the reports of the Secretary-General on follow-up to the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States,

1. *Calls upon* the Commission, through its subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, and in cooperation with the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, regional organizations and other development partners, to prepare an agreed monitoring and reporting framework to facilitate the biennial review of progress in the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean, beginning in 2026, along with implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other sustainable development agendas;

2. *Also calls upon* the Commission to make every effort to ensure the full participation of all Caribbean stakeholders at national and subregional levels in the preparation of the biennial review of progress in the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States;

3. *Requests* that the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development serve as a regional platform for the organization and convening of meetings, preparation of reports and other agreed activities supporting the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States in the Caribbean;

4. *Calls upon* the Commission to support the Caribbean SIDS Mechanism for Sustainable Development to enable preparation of the biennial review of progress in the implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States for the Caribbean subregion.

**113 (XXX) SUPPORT FOR THE WORK OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION
FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE CARIBBEAN**

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling resolution 358(XVI) of 1975 of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, establishing the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee as a subsidiary organ of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to act as a coordinating body for activities relating to development and cooperation in that subregion,

Recalling also resolution 29(XII) of 1989 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee on the role and functioning of the Committee and resolution 55(XVIII) of 2000, which recognized the continuing relevance and pertinence of the basic principles and concepts contained in the Constituent Declaration of the Committee,

Recalling further resolution 75(XXIII) of 2010 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which emphasized the continuing relevance of the Committee in providing its members with effective support in developing regional strategies to address common global and regional challenges,

Recognizing the significant contribution of the Committee, since its inception, to increased cooperation and integration among the countries of the Caribbean and to the development of the subregion as a whole,

Bearing in mind resolution 85(XXV) of 2014 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, in which it expressed its support for the request to ensure greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission,

Considering resolution 105(XXVIII) of 2020 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which took note of the efforts already being made towards greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic and statistical reports carried out by the Commission,

Considering also resolution 111(XXIX) of 2022 of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee, which underscored the importance of the role of the regional economic commission in providing substantive support to the small island developing States agenda and the sustainable development process in the Caribbean as framed by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and related development platforms,

Noting the efforts of the countries of the Caribbean to enhance their economic competitiveness, including efforts to diversify their economies and implement wide-ranging institutional reforms,

Affirming the importance of both the analytical and operational activities carried out by the Commission in the Caribbean, and the continued cooperation and collaboration between the Commission and the Caribbean Community, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank, the United Nations specialized agencies, funds and programmes, the offices of resident coordinators in the Caribbean, as well as other regional governmental and non-governmental organizations,

Taking into account the special development challenges faced by countries in the Caribbean subregion, including their small size; open, narrow and undiversified economies; fragile ecosystems; and other inherent vulnerabilities, and underscoring the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals and the small island developing States development agenda to national development planning processes, as integral elements of the response to those challenges,

1. *Expresses appreciation* for the valuable role that the Committee has played as a unique forum within the United Nations system to facilitate the articulation and advocacy of subregional positions on issues of regional and global concern, and as a mechanism through which specific concerns of the subregion are brought to the attention of the United Nations;

2. *Takes note* of the *Report of the twenty-first meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee*, which was held on 3 November 2023;¹

3. *Expresses appreciation* to the secretariat for the work carried out under subprogramme 12 on subregional activities in the Caribbean during 2023, and particularly for the results achieved and impact derived from its implementation;

4. *Endorses* the proposed programme of work for 2025, subprogramme 12: subregional activities in the Caribbean;²

5. *Notes with appreciation* the consistent efforts made towards greater inclusion of Caribbean associate members in studies and social, economic, environmental and statistical reports prepared by the Commission;

6. *Underscores* the importance of the role of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in providing substantive support to the small island developing States agenda and the sustainable development process in the Caribbean as framed by the 2030 Agenda, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States and other relevant development instruments, particularly through its capacity for comprehensive multidisciplinary research, statistical analysis and evidence-based policy advice;

7. *Requests* the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee to review the implementation of the overall programme of work of the Commission under subprogramme 12, and to report on progress in this regard to the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee at its thirty-first session.

¹ LC/MCCDCC.21/4.

² LC/PLEN.37/3.

114 (XXX) STRENGTHENING SUPPORT FOR IMPROVED DISASTER RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE IN CARIBBEAN SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Reaffirming its resolutions 58(XIX) of 2002, 66(XXI) of 2006, 81(XXV) of 2014, 91(XXVI) of 2016, 98 (XXVII) of 2018 and 103 (XXVIII) of 2020 in support of efforts to strengthen disaster risk management and enhance national capacity to conduct disaster assessments,

Concerned that climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of hydroclimatic events in the subregion, resulting in repeated and cumulative development setbacks,

Noting in this regard the devastation caused by the passage of Hurricane Beryl through the Caribbean, affecting the lives and livelihood of many across the subregion,

Highlighting the impact of sargassum upwelling, which is aggravated by pollution and ocean warming and affects biodiversity and the economy, especially the tourism industry of the Caribbean as well as the health of the Caribbean population,

Acknowledging that disasters are a major threat to socioeconomic development in the Caribbean and that a single event can reverse decades of progress, exacerbating public debt and limiting productive capacity and economic growth,

Underscoring that countries of the Caribbean have limited human, technical, financial and institutional capacity for prevention, preparation, response and resilience-building in the face of existential risks,

Recalling that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States¹ affirms that small island developing States, including those of the Caribbean, are inherently and uniquely vulnerable to exogenous shocks, in particular natural disasters and hazards,

Recalling also that the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (Barbados Programme of Action),² for the same reasons, calls on countries to develop and strengthen their disaster preparedness and management systems, mainstreaming them into development planning,

Underscoring the need for greater access to adequate and innovative climate finance mechanisms, including parametric insurance and contingency funds, to support investment in recovery and reconstruction plans that focus on building back better to mitigate future disaster risk,

Noting that the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 provides a blueprint for disaster risk reduction in small island developing States with emphasis on better risk management, especially as it relates to resilience-building and improved risk governance,

Acknowledging that the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States calls for strengthening institutional capacity for improved disaster risk reduction and management, integrating climate change adaptation into country disaster risk reduction plans and programmes and improved post-disaster recovery centred on building back better,

¹ See General Assembly resolution 78/317.

² United Nations, *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9)*, 1994, p. 4, III.1.

Noting with appreciation the support of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in disaster management, especially its conduct of damage and loss assessments and provision of recommendations for resilient recovery and reconstruction tailored to country needs, as was done recently in Barbados in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl,

1. *Calls upon* the Commission to increase its support for member States in building capacity to upgrade their data and information systems, including on national accounts and the environment, to ensure, at the request of the countries, more robust damage and loss assessments to better inform resilient post-disaster strategies;

2. *Calls for* greater support in the mobilization of appropriate innovative financial mechanisms for mitigating and adapting to disaster risk, including through improved insurance, microinsurance, catastrophe bonds, the repurposing of special drawing rights and state-contingent instruments such as hurricane clauses;

3. *Also calls for* the capitalization of the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund as well as the full capitalization of the Loss and Damage Fund, including a quick disbursement window to facilitate ready access to resources to expedite post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

115 (XXX) HARNESSING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Noting that the Caribbean is undergoing a demographic transition with declining birth rates, increasing life expectancy and a net emigration of the population resulting in shrinking labour forces and strained national pension schemes and care systems for older persons,

Concerned that the emigrant population of the Caribbean is predominantly high-skilled, in which has led to a significant loss of human capital and a brain drain that has undermined labour productivity and exacerbated the adverse effects of the demographic transition,

Recalling that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution resolution 73/195 of 19 December 2018, emphasizes the collection and utilization of disaggregated data on the different aspects of international mobility to manage migration through data-driven policies,

Recalling also that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration promotes the availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration, including through the creation of social, economic and other conditions to minimize the drivers that compel people to leave their countries of origin and through the enhancement of security and other measures intended to combat irregular migration and trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that “the human rights of migrants are a priority in all initiatives relating to cooperation on migration and that concerns about the protection of migrants are shared by the international community and should be included in all cooperation agendas,” as stated in chapter F of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development,

Acknowledging that inward migration to countries of the Caribbean can rejuvenate an ageing workforce and replace workers lost owing to population decline, thereby increasing labour productivity in the countries of destination,

Acknowledging also the need for governments to balance the protection of forcibly displaced persons with the promotion of migration pathways for migrants, incentivizing the mobility of workers possessing skills in high demand in national economies to boost labour productivity,

Welcoming the increase in intraregional migration between 2000 and 2020, encouraged by subregional cooperation through existing protocols for the movement of persons, such as the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas establishing the Caribbean Community including the CARICOM Single Market and Economy and the Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States,

1. *Encourages* further subregional cooperation in migration through data-driven monitoring and the evaluation of existing protocols for the movement of persons, as well as the further promotion of subregional mechanisms harnessing international mobility to offset a shrinking workforce and increase labour productivity;

2. *Notes with concern* that the emigration of highly skilled Caribbean nationals results in substantial human capital loss for countries of the subregion and exacerbates the limited capacity that poses a challenge for Caribbean small island developing States,

3. *Requests* member States and associate members to design and implement education reforms and training strategies geared towards the acquisition of functional skills by the future workforce to help to address the increasing skills mismatch in the labour market and declining labour productivity in the subregion;

4. *Encourages* member States and associate members to promote policies fostering the active contribution of all citizens, wherever they may reside, to the economic development of the Caribbean, including by engaging the Caribbean diaspora in the sustainable development of their countries of origin by investing skills and resources, in order to offset brain drain and enhance labour productivity;

5. *Underscores* the essential role of the timely collection and dissemination of quality data in informing evidence-based policies that aim to leverage international migration and mitigate the adverse effects of the demographic transition and brain drain in the subregion, thereby contributing positively to the sustainable development of the Caribbean.

116 (XXX) SUPPORT FOR THE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 75/123 of 10 December 2020, which, inter alia, invites organizations of the United Nations system, actively to support and participate in the implementation of the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism¹ during the Fourth International Decade,

Noting that the plan of action provides that concrete mechanisms of international assistance should be developed with a view to supporting the economic growth and development, as well as protection of the environment, in the Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 78/83 of 7 December 2023, which, inter alia, stresses that given the limited development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, the continued cooperation and assistance of the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations is needed to advance their sustainable development,

Reaffirming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States and other instruments, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and the Paris Agreement, as frameworks vital to the shaping of sustainable development strategy in associate member countries,

Bearing in mind the unique vulnerabilities that the associate members share with small island developing territories, including debt and liquidity challenges and high exposure to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events,

Bearing in mind also the specific political and economic constraints faced by associate members in their pursuit of sustainable development,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Non-Self-Governing Territories and other associate members require support for their sustainable development aspirations, including through access to technical, financial and other assistance programmes of United Nations system, as well as regional and global development mechanisms,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to integrate the Non-Self-Governing Territories and other associate members into regional and global dialogues on sustainable development, as well as to support their high-level participation in meetings of the Commission, including the seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development,

Taking into account the call for their continued inclusion in the work of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies,²

¹ A/56/61, annex.

² See Intergovernmentally agreed conclusions and recommendations of the seventh meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (LC/FDS.7/5), 18 April 2024.

Acknowledging the efforts of the Commission to collect high-quality economic, social and environmental data on the associate members to ensure that more of such data are included in its reports on the sustainable development of the subregion,

Aware of the need to strengthen statistical capacity in associate members to enhance national capacity in the compilation of data to monitor and measure their sustainable development progress,

1. *Decides* to periodically review, at least every two years, the compilation by the secretariat of statistical economic, social, and environmental data and capacity of the associate members;

2. *Calls upon* the Commission to pursue the full implementation of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, in support of its associate members;

3. *Requests* the Commission, where possible, to expand the collection of data and reporting on its associate members in key sectoral areas, with a view to shaping appropriate programmes of assistance to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors in associate members;

4. *Calls upon* the Commission, in this regard, to establish a working group to facilitate United Nations system collaboration on assistance to associate members of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean;

5. *Also calls upon* the Commission to support the associate members in their efforts to monitor and review implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for Small Island Developing States;

6. *Requests* the Commission, in this context, to consider at the eighth meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development in 2025, the challenges and vulnerabilities faced by the associate members in their pursuit of sustainable development, with a view to mobilizing regional and international solidarity and support;

7. *Calls upon* the Commission to support the associate members in preparing, conducting and presenting local voluntary reviews of their progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Committee at its thirty-first session on the implementation of this resolution.