



STATEMENT BY

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SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

**ON
ON THE OCCASION OF**

**THE DIALOGUE ON THE LONGER-TERM POSITIONING OF THE UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at this inaugural ECOSOC Event on Delivering the 2030 Agenda: The Role of the UN Development System in Middle Income Countries.

We align ourselves with the statements delivered by the Kingdom of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. President,

Let me at the outset thank you for convening this event to discuss the very relevant and critically important issue of the role of the UN development system in middle income countries, we found the panel discussion to be quite informative.

Today's discussion on the longer term positioning of the UN development System must of necessity focus on solution oriented policies that can assist middle income countries in achieving the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development in all its dimensions. In this context, the UN development system should seek to position itself to be able to effectively address the diverse development needs of middle income countries in an organised, coordinated and focused manner. CARICOM believes that today's discussion can lay the foundation for an effective process that can lead to the development of practicable, solution oriented policies.

Mr President

As we convene today, many of the member states of CARICOM, continue to face the peculiar challenges recognised by some international agencies and institutions. These

include, as concluded by the International Monetary Fund “extreme versions of low growth, high debt, significant vulnerabilities and limited resilience to shocks which sets them apart from other middle income states.” Despite this and other challenges, all CARICOM member states, with the exception of Haiti, have been graduated from full access to multilateral concessional financing and major development partners have adopted similar stance.

CARICOM wishes to express its concerns surrounding the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development among member states whose development remains under threat from persistent low or negative growth, the lingering debilitating impact of the global financial and economic crises and the reality of living in a region described as one to the most natural disaster prone in the world and a crushing debt burden.

It must be noted that a significant portion of the debt incurred by the member states of CARICOM is due to exogenous shocks and reconstruction after natural disasters. Yet, with the graduation of CARICOM states out of full concessionary development financing, due to their classification as middle income countries, they are forced to source funding at higher rates and with shorter repayment terms, thereby contributing to their debt burden and further shrinking of the fiscal space. We therefore continue our call for a review of the criteria for concessional financing and reiterate that this must not be based solely on GDP per capita and must change to include the economic and environmental vulnerability of SIDS.

Mr. President

CARICOM recognises the need to continue to develop national and regional policies aimed at addressing the eradication of poverty in all its forms. We remain mindful that as middle income countries, we do share the responsibility to house a fraction of our population that makes up the 73% of the world’s people living in poverty. We fully support the Goal number 1 to end poverty in all its forms everywhere which remains the

greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development in order to truly leave no one behind. To this end, it is critical that today's discussion continues to keep as its main goal the identification of ways that the UN development system can work to support the middle income countries in their quest, to not just end poverty, but for the full achievement of the 17 goals that comprise the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development.

Mr. President,

Given the unique challenges of CARICOM Member States in the context of sustainable development, CARICOM advocates for ensuring that our specific needs and circumstances especially as they relate to scale, capacity, and local context are taken into consideration in the furtherance of these new initiatives.

These are critical times in international development, we are trusted to engage in these critical processes that seek to transform the world's vision of shared, sustainable prosperity, and re-energise our efforts towards achieving it. Our determination must be focused, as our ambition is significant.

I thank you.