



UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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SECOND COMMITTEE

STATEMENT

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

Agenda Item 20:
“GLOBALIZATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE”

October 17, 2019

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Mr. Chair,

On behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), it is an honour for me to address this Committee on agenda item 20 - "Globalization and Interdependence". CARICOM aligns itself with the statements delivered by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

CARICOM takes this opportunity to thank the Secretary General for the reports prepared and submitted to guide our consideration of this agenda item.

Mr. Chair,

According to the Secretary General's report:

"It is clear that globalization has brought extraordinary benefits to many people, through trade and the diffusion of technologies that have fostered economic growth and reduced poverty in many countries. However, it is also clear that the benefits of globalization can be fundamentally unequal and ultimately unsustainable. Many people around the world remain mired in extreme poverty. Unacceptable inequalities persist. The gap between globalization's potential and its unequal gains has elicited fear, anxiety and despair among disadvantaged populations."

(End quote)

CARICOM Member States understand these challenges all too well. We have long experienced the benefits, burdens and unintended systematic consequences of globalization. Our many serious development challenges are born of, and exacerbated by our current globalised environment. Slow and volatile economic growth; high and rising levels of unemployment; high incidence of poverty; inequality of income and wealth; environmental sustainability in the face of our acute vulnerability to natural hazards, and the

substantial risks as a result of climate change and rising sea levels, continue to impede our implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Mr. Chair,

Our collective commitment to the 2030 Agenda, falters on the insufficiency of tangible global efforts to meet our ambition. The Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved without significant new commitments of resources, both within and without borders. We cannot proceed on the basis of hollow words and hope. We must work to close the gaps between aspiration and realisation.

We have designed and built global systems with a goal of producing great prosperity for all, but the benefits and costs continue to be unevenly shared, resulting in patterns of development that are critically unsustainable. These imbalances and sustainability challenges have deepened over time. The world is currently gripped by trends and crises that if left unchecked will defeat any hope for a sustainable future for generations to come.

Mr. Chair,

For CARICOM, addressing the challenges to stimulating and sustaining inclusive and equitable growth, will require the harmonization of policy actions and international structural reforms, where appropriate, to stimulate investment, generate employment and grow economies, in line with our broader sustainable development objectives. The mobilization of investment in infrastructure, increasing transparency in international tax matters, will also require greater policy coordination and cooperation at the global level. Globalization and interdependence mean that efforts towards sustainable development across all levels need to be mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Chairman,

We must not retreat from our commitments to integrate, cooperate and build consensus, because it is precisely what is most necessary to solve the global problems that con-

front us today. It is CARICOM's considered view that sustainable globalization and interdependence is an imperative and not an option within the full context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly for our Caribbean SIDS. We call for considered treatment of the agenda items contained in our programme of work. We must move beyond perfunctory rhetoric to deliberate responses to the global challenges that prevent us from shifting paradigms toward the transformation of our global development agenda.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM reaffirms its commitment to engage in all deliberations in a constructive manner and remains committed to ensuring that political will, policy support and coordination are brought to bear in a manner that ensures fair and equitable development of all states in our global community.

Thank you.