



STATEMENT

By

**THE HONOURABLE ALLEN M. CHASTANET**

Prime Minister of Saint Lucia

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

(CARICOM)

at the

High-level meeting to review progress made in addressing the priorities of SIDS through the implementation of the Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

**September 27, 2019**

**Please check against delivery**

Mr. President,

The sustainable development story of a small island developing state can be told in four parts - climate change, adequate healthcare, the implementation of the sustainable development goals and financing. While each part is distinct, they are intrinsically linked and form the foundation upon which the developmental ambitions of SIDS are determined.

CARICOM welcomed the convening of high level meetings that addressed these four critical areas in an attempt to focus attention on the synergies that exist and to accelerate implementation actions.

Each meeting presented the opportunity for CARICOM to illustrate the variety of ways that our sustainable development is under threat from combined and interrelated development challenges that are beyond our capacity and resources to adequately address. We expressed alarm at the escalating and deadly impacts of climate change. We emphasized the imperative of universal health coverage. We highlighted the debilitating effect that high debt and limited access to concessional forms of financing have on our economic development.

CARICOM has made clear that the absence of accelerated, meaningful, actions to implement agreed goals; and the reluctance to fulfill agreed commitments and obligations; threatens our very existence in this global community.

Mr. President,

We arrive at this the fifth and final summit of the week, to review the SIDS programme of action. The SAMOA pathway recognizes that genuine and durable partnerships are essential to advancing the sustainable development of SIDS. CARICOM applauds and commends the partnerships that have developed and solidified since the adoption of the pathway in 2014. We are grateful to those who play an important role in advancing the sustainable development of SIDS. We continue to emphasize that international cooperation and support is a critical enabler for SIDS to eradicate poverty and build the necessary resilience to economic and environmental shocks.

As we look ahead beyond this week, it is clear that there is an urgent need for a renewed commitment from our partners - from member states, civil society and the private sector. We urge the development of SIDS specific tailored responses to address the unique and considerable challenges that continue to bedevil all SIDS.

Mr. President,

This week underscored in no uncertain terms that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development. CARICOM will continue to advocate for meaningful action, not sympathy from the global community, to urgently advance the sustainable development of SIDS. There remains much work to be done, and we cannot do it alone. The Caribbean Community remains resolute; we share the conviction of all our fellow SIDS to work toward achieving the objectives of the SAMOA pathway. We emphasize that we are small but not insignificant; vulnerable but not powerless; constrained but not uncommitted.

Thank you.