



Permanent Mission of Saint Lucia to the United Nations

BRIEFING ON THE PROGRESS AND PROPOSED OUTCOMES OF THE REGIONAL REVIEW AND THE MULTI-COUNTRY OFFICE (MCO) REVIEW BY THE DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Statement by

H.E. Cosmos Richardson

Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations
On Behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

29 January 2020

Madam Deputy Secretary-General,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). We align ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Belize on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

At the outset, the Group expresses its appreciation to you for this afternoon's presentation on the progress and proposed outcomes of the regional review and the multi-country office (MCO) Review.

Once more, CARICOM takes this opportunity to reaffirm its support and commitment to the repositioning of the United Nations Development System and continues to view its implementation as an important step in ensuring that the system is fit-for-purpose and better placed to effectively assist our Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, while building on national ownership and leadership.

In particular, CARICOM maintains its view that the multi-country office review is a critical component of the repositioning process, as the United Nations is an instrumental development partner. Therefore, our Group recognizes that the Review and the further ongoing consultations present an excellent opportunity to deepen CARICOM's partnership with the United Nations through enhanced cooperation and capacities.

Our statement will focus on the proposed outcomes and recommendations of the multi-country office review, in the context of the ongoing consultations. In this regard, we also express our appreciation to OHRLLS, DCO and the Inter-Agency Working Group for its work throughout the process thus far. CARICOM is also grateful for the documents circulated by the Secretariat yesterday on these issues, and the Group will review these documents in detail with a view to providing comments and feedback on its content in due course of the consultations.

Madam Deputy Secretary-General,

First, CARICOM welcomes the proposal to develop annual country-specific development plans on the basis of a combined sub-regional and country-specific analysis. We stress that such plans should be aligned with national development priorities and strategies in synergy with the relevant international development frameworks, and the strategic plans of the various agencies, funds and programmes in order to achieve tailored and coherent support across the development system.

Throughout the consultations, CARICOM has agreed with the Secretary-General's recommendation that MCOs require additional and predictable financial and personnel resources for coordination and policy support. We welcome the proposal for MCOs to receive additional resources for coordination and travel per territory or country outside of the RC Office. We also note the proposal to improve the coordination capacity of the Regional hubs, as well as enhance in-country presence.

For our region, the repositioning of the UN System, including the reinvigorated RC system and the MCO Review, should also improve access to programmatic resources needed to help drive the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway.

As such, CARICOM has also made note of the findings of the Inter-Agency Working Group, and the need to scale up SIDS-tailored support from entities throughout the UN system in a number of areas that are critical to SIDS. The initial proposals have sought to enhance synergies, coordinate resource

mobilization efforts, and catalyze partnerships to better serve programme countries, and we look forward to furthering the discussions on these proposals in the ongoing consultative process.

Madam Deputy Secretary-General,

CARICOM wishes to stress the importance of ensuring that staffing profiles in the MCOs, and the Resident Coordinator system as a whole, is appropriately tailored to address the realities of the countries in which they serve. As a key part of the repositioning process, CARICOM continues to call for the system to ensure that, as an approach to strengthening coordination and policy capacities, staffing profiles include the relevant skills sets, experience and knowledge to the unique challenges facing SIDS and the Caribbean region, with due consideration to gender balance and equitable geographical distribution.

We note the proposal to review the profiles for the upcoming RCO staff recruitments in the MCO hubs, and we look forward to further information on the aspects of the tailored staffing profiles, as well as the proposed learning and leadership support products to be developed by DCO this year.

Madam Deputy Secretary-General,

While CARICOM recognizes that some issues within the consultations are still be addressed, our Group remains fully committed to continuing our discussions with OHRLLS, DCO and the IAWG in our usual collaborative and constructive manner.

We look forward to concluding our consultations in a manner that provides a clear vision of the MCO system, including its resource and staffing composition on an MCO-by-MCO basis, as well as concrete proposals on the way forward to improve service delivery, coordination and effectiveness to assist Member States in our national ambitions and our collective CARICOM objectives.

I thank you.