



**Statement**

By

**The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

**at the**

**UN Climate Ambition Summit**

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New York

What does it mean to hold the pessimism of climate disaster and the optimism of climate action together?

For too many decades the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have had to endure the Sisyphean task of pushing the climate disaster boulder up the mountain of climate ambition.

We raised the alarm in the 90s. In the decades that followed we put a human face on what was an esoteric scientific debate. We have been attempting to push multilateral negotiations toward conclusions that would save life and livelihoods and safeguard the very existence of our member states.

We have grown weary of telling the world and the major emitters that climate change is an urgent problem - that it is an existential threat, that it is the defining challenge of our times.

Our member states are leading the way in advancing adaptation and resilience initiatives, we continue to strengthen our renewable energy transitions and efforts to combat coastal erosion, sea-level rise and fresh water and agriculture challenges.

But the climate continues to change, the threat continues to grow and our member states continue to face an uncertain, potentially apocalyptic future.

This deepening climate crisis cannot continue to receive a response from major emitters that amounts to a reckless and disregard of the consequences and obligations or their actions.

The current instrumentalism, lack of ambition and multilateral gridlock must be broken in the interest of our small island developing states, the vulnerable developing nations and the countries with a genuine interest in the **success** of solving our climate crisis.

And success has a clear definition:

- Emissions targets that ensure global temperature increases below 1.5 degrees Celsius in relation to pre-industrial levels
- Urgent, predictable, new and easily accessible adaptation financing, whose parameters will be determined by the needs of those most affected
- And the delivery of pledges and commitments made

More precisely for CARICOM member states success will require:

- Greater ambition to the 1.5°C goal from major emitters, with science driving all decision making on climate change, emphasizing the need for those who caused the problem to take responsibility and leadership in addressing it
- The operationalization of the loss and damage fund and its funding arrangements at COP28 in the face of ever growing impacts on small island developing states
- Systematic approaches for debt relief for CARICOM Member States in the context of unlocking new sources of finance for climate action and sustainable development including for robust work on vulnerability indices;
- Targeted support for CARICOM Member States to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and adaptation plans as well as to support the just transitions for Member States
- The inclusion of the Bridgetown Initiative as a new agenda item for the Fifth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA5) and COP 28;
- The identification of strategic areas for technical support available amongst CARICOM Institutions that can assist Member States with implementation and resource mobilisation.
- Ensuring that both the political and technical outcomes of the Global stock take serves the purpose of correcting our course toward meeting all of the Paris Agreement Goals

The Secretary General's Acceleration agenda provides us with a pathway to success, an avenue to fast track climate action in every country, every sector and in every time frame. CARICOM will continue to support this agenda and work with all to accelerate the pace and scale of a just transition to a more equitable renewable-energy based, climate resilient global economy.

CARICOM's ambitions in the face of this climate crisis are to safeguard our people, to develop sustainably and to thrive. But we will never be able to achieve these goals in the absence of robust ambition and deliverable action from those who have the means and the responsibility to change and correct the course of this crisis.

Thank you.