



**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR EDEN CHARLES,
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)
ON AGENDA ITEM 134 "PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET:
BIENNIUM 2016-2017"
IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY COMMITTEE
(FIFTH COMMITTEE)
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 3RD 2015**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community on agenda item 134 on the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017, in particular the Revised Estimates for the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and the Revised Estimates for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the outset, CARICOM wishes to align itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

In July of this year, Heads of State and Government gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to affirm their strong political commitment to the revitalization of the global partnership for financing for development, and gave special recognition of the unique development challenges faced by Small Island Development States, such as those in CARICOM. The Addis Ababa Action Plan is a necessary element of this revitalized partnership, and therefore, its implementation is a cornerstone of the global integrated sustainable development agenda.

In September 2015, all Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which is grounded in the Millennium Development Goals, and reflects a more comprehensive and integrated approach to development in its application. At that historic occasion, the entire international community agreed to the principle that "no one shall be left behind," which represents a triumph for all States. It marks the evolution of the United Nations as a dynamic organization capable of effectively responding to the needs and challenges of its diverse membership, including Small Island

Developing States, as articulated by CARICOM Heads of Government at the Summit for the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CARICOM strongly believes that these agendas represent a collective vision for the peoples of the world, and has tremendous faith in the ability of the United Nations system to facilitate the effective implementation of these universal agreements. In this regard, CARICOM recalls paragraph 46 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which underlines “the important role and comparative advantage of an adequately resourced, relevant, coherent, efficient and effective United Nations system in supporting the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable development.”

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM is convinced that the United Nations Secretariat has a significant role to play in the provision of information as it relates to the means of implementation of the General Assembly’s mandates. Therefore, CARICOM is gravely concerned of the delay in the preparation of the revised estimates for both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development.

Bearing in mind the target date for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is January 1st 2016, CARICOM wishes to stress the importance of presenting the revised estimates for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as for Financing for Development at the earliest opportunity for the consideration of Member States. Further delay of these revised estimates has the potential to place considerable pressure on the UN’s membership, who ought to be given sufficient time to consider the items judiciously.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, CARICOM joins with the Group of 77 and China in strongly urging the Secretary General to present the revised estimates for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and for the Addis Ababa Action Plan to the General Assembly as a matter of priority.

I thank you.