



**GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**

Statement on the Organization of Work of the Fifth  
Committee for the main part of the 71st session of  
the General Assembly  
on behalf of CARICOM

by

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to the United Nations

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Madame Chairperson,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on the organization of work of the Fifth Committee for the main part of the 71<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly.

CARICOM also aligns itself with the statements made by the Kingdom of Thailand, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and the Dominican Republic, on behalf of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC)

CARICOM wishes to congratulate you, Ambassador King, and the other Members of the Bureau, on your election. The ability of the Committee to successfully conclude the work before us will be greatly enhanced by your skillful leadership. We wish to assure you that you can count on the support and co-operation of CARICOM throughout the session.

The Group also expresses its deep appreciation to His Excellency, Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, as well as to the other distinguished members of the previous Bureau, for their excellent work during the 70<sup>th</sup> session.

We would also like thank the Bureau for preparing the programme of work, as well as the designation of coordinators to facilitate, on behalf of the Committee, the negotiations on the various agenda items during the main part of this session

CARICOM also wishes to express its appreciation to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) for its invaluable advice and expertise, which is fundamental to the negotiations within the Committee, and we look forward to working closely with them once more.

Madame Chair,

In the coming weeks, the Fifth Committee will be tasked with addressing a number of critical administrative and budgetary challenges that confront the United Nations system.

It is, therefore, crucial that official documentation from the Secretariat and the ACABQ is issued in a timely manner to ensure that the work of the Committee is efficient, concise and well-informed so that the session can conclude satisfactorily within the established timeframe.

At the same time, CARICOM would like to emphasize that the issuance of reports and other documentation should not determine the priorities of Member States and consequently, the work programme of the Fifth Committee. In this regard, CARICOM believes that the programme of work is determined by the importance accorded to an item by Member States, and not by the date on which reports are issued and made available for introduction to Member States.

For instance, CARICOM laments that a comprehensive proposal by the Secretary-General on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda has yet to be submitted to the Fifth Committee for its consideration. CARICOM remains fully convinced that the United Nations Secretariat has a significant role to play in the implementation of the General Assembly's mandates, and therefore, we are gravely concerned of this delay as this matter is of significant importance for our region, and ought to be prioritized.

Madame Chair,

CARICOM trusts that the Bureau will continue to strive towards ensuring that the programme of work reflects the interests of the collective membership of the General Assembly and that negotiations are conducted in an open, inclusive and transparent manner, rather than in small group configurations.

In conclusion, Madame Chair, CARICOM wishes to state that we stand ready to consider and conclude our programme of work before us within the stipulated timeframe. We believe that as Member States, we have a collective responsibility to take decisions that are beneficial to the Organization as a whole, and enable it to fulfill its mandates effectively and efficiently. CARICOM reiterates its assurances of full cooperation and constructive engagement with our partners for a successful outcome for this session.

Thank you.