

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Francois Jackman
Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations
Introducing Draft Resolution A/C.6/80/L.5
Observer Status for the Climate Vulnerable Forum in the
General Assembly**

Thank you, Chair.

As it is my first intervention in this Committee during this session, allow me to congratulate you on having assumed the Chairmanship of the Sixth Committee.. Please be assured of my delegation's support.

I thank the Secretary-General for having included this request on the agenda of this Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Chair,

It is my honour to introduce Draft Resolution A/C.6/80/L.5 entitled, **Observer Status for the Climate Vulnerable Forum in the General Assembly**.

The co-sponsors of this resolution are Bangladesh, Belize, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guyana, Haiti, Maldives, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and my own country, Barbados.

Many stand resolutely with this resolution, particularly the 74 member-countries of the CVF-V20, the populations of which number 1.8 billion. This is not merely a statistic, but the lives of the most climate threatened and at-risk people in the world. We did not cause the climate crisis, but its impacts are existential, robbing people of lives, livelihoods and regrettably, of their dignity. We deserve a greater voice.

Chair,

The Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) was established in November 2009, via the Malé Declaration, the Outcome Document of a meeting of Heads of State and Government of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Ghana, Kenya, Kiribati, Maldives, Nepal, Rwanda, Tanzania, Vietnam and my own country, Barbados

Sixteen years ago, these countries, convinced that the climate-vulnerable needed a louder voice, increased advocacy in the face of the existential threats posed by climate change - from

sinking islands in the Pacific, to consecutive years of Category 5 hurricanes in the Caribbean. Today it is clear that CVF-V20 can play the role of advocate, agent and intervenor on behalf of the climate vulnerable.

Since 2009, the CVF has convened a series of high-level meetings in member states like Kiribati and Bangladesh, and since 2022, has met at the level of leaders in the margins of the High-Level Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The CVF is currently comprised of countries from Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, the Middle East and the Pacific. From its inception, the chairmanship of the CVF has rotated amongst the constituent regions.

Barbados assumed the presidency for the period 2024 to 2026. Bangladesh and Ghana held the Presidency from 2020-2022 and 2022-2024, respectively. These three countries constitute the troika and lead the organisation's strategic direction.

In 2023, Heads of State and Government of the CVF decided the Forum should become an intergovernmental organisation,

adopting the organisation's Charter through a Leaders' Declaration emanating from a meeting in the margins of the High-Level week of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly. A secretariat was then established and headquartered in Accra, Ghana. The Forum's main bodies include:

- i) The Climate Vulnerable Leaders Forum, which meets at the level of Heads of State (and Government?) throughout the year;
- ii) The Climate Vulnerable Forum of Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Ministers of Environment;
- iii) The Vulnerable Twenty Group of Finance Ministers (V20), which was established in October 2015, during the Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, and;
- iv) The Global Parliamentary Group, founded in 2022, which allows Parliamentarians to share best practices and to drive investment in policies geared towards climate prosperity.

Chair,

These constituent bodies have allowed CVF countries to coordinate and engage in South-South cooperation to develop shared solutions to climate change.

The Forum has developed expertise, which has allowed it to participate in major international meetings, including the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC, and has helped to shape global policy on climate change and renewable energy.

The CVF plays a crucial role for climate vulnerable countries, harnessing the synergy between the objectives and activities of the CVF and the UN General Assembly. It is for these reasons that we wish to secure Observer Status in the General Assembly. Such status would allow the CVF to provide targeted inputs to UN processes derived from grassroots experiences in climate vulnerable countries. In addition, Observer Status would provide the CVF with a platform to share best practices and the findings of its research, contribute to global policy on sustainable development, and environmental protection, thus amplifying the voices of the climate vulnerable.

Mr. Chairman,

The Climate Vulnerable Forum meets the requirements to be granted Observer Status in the General Assembly, which in its resolution 46/426 of 19 December 1994, stated that Observer Status would be confined to States and intergovernmental organisations whose activities cover matters of interest to the Assembly. Sustainable development, environmental protection, and the macro-economic policy of climate change are intrinsic UN matters. The CVF's establishment as an intergovernmental organisation falls under the rubric of "other instrument governed by international law." A rubric under which a number of other organisations have already been granted observer status.

Chair,

In closing I invite the Committee to adopt draft resolution A/C.6/80/L.5 entitled Observer Status for the Climate Vulnerable Forum without a vote.

I thank you.