

Draft CARICOM Opening Statement at ADP 2.8

Bahamas has the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the 14 member states of the Caribbean Community. We associate this statement with those delivered on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States, and on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Co-Chairs, we congratulate you on your election and thank you for undertaking the task of leading us to the finalization of a comprehensive and ambitious international legally binding agreement applicable to all.

The agreement's ambition must be largely science-driven; and, as such, it must be commensurate with the evidence of the growing magnitude of the adverse impacts of climate change and the increasing potential of dangerous climate change. As we have contended since the inception of this process, the adequacy of the global response should be measured against the benchmark of what is needed to ensure the survival of small island and low-lying developing states. We therefore insist upon a holistic approach in the agreement that :

1. Defines what we shall undertake in order to contain global warming to as far as possible below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;
2. Provides for comprehensive action, including the establishment or strengthening of effective mechanisms, to meet adaptation needs especially of the SIDS;
3. Anchors the commitment to effectively address Loss and Damage as a specific objective in the agreement;
4. Provides for the anchoring and implementation of the Warsaw REDD+ Framework; and,
5. Articulates concrete commitments to achieve the adequate scale, additionality, predictability and transparency for sustained climate finance and to make readily available technology and capacity building to support the full and effective implementation of the agreement as a whole, taking into account, at the same time, the particular challenges SIDS face in accessing finance and technology.

A critical preliminary step to advancing this approach is the submission of iNDCs so that an assessment can be made to evaluate the effect of all the pledges to limit global warming, as well as the potential related consequences for adaptation. CARICOM is committed to working to meet the deadline for these submissions. We welcome your initiative to convene a session on support available for preparation of INDCs. Because of the slow response of the climate system to emissions, and the need to undertake reassessments of the mitigation efforts, we consider that the pledging cycles should be no longer than five years. The world should not tie itself down to a target that condemns our most vulnerable countries to permanent loss and damage and possibly extinction.

Co-chairs, we appreciate the indicative schedule you have provided us but wish to draw your attention to two issues. You have included Loss and Damage as an appendage to Adaptation. These are separate issues and require, likewise, separate treatment. We therefore request the setting aside of time to consider Loss and Damage as a stand-alone issue. Secondly, we must address legal form and welcome dedicating at least an evening session for this purpose. We maintain, as do many other parties

and groups, that a protocol is the best option for a comprehensive, ambitious, and durable international agreement. We must commence a process to discuss options. Let us start here in Geneva.

Co-chairs, we regret the limited progress on the elements text in Lima. Let us not lose any more time. CARICOM Members are ready to begin engagement on the elements text today. We are committed, as we are sure that you are, to having a draft negotiating text by the end of the week. Please be assured of our unwavering support.

Thank you.