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ADDRESS TO THE PLENARY SESSION

BY

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**The Caribbean continues to address Climate Change
in spite of the global challenges**

Climate Change is an indisputable fact of which Caribbean countries are all well aware. Inaction to cope with its impacts will be costly, so in 2009, the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community presented the Liliendaal Declaration, its vision for transformational change to address the new and additional impediments to development caused by Climate Change. That home grown approach was deliberate as the Region recognized that it could not wait for others to champion its survival. Emerging from that realization was the *Regional Strategic Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change*, a policy-based guide endorsed by all CARICOM countries, and its accompanying Implementation Plan.

Since 1997 the Community has been actively engaged in Projects aimed to define its efforts at addressing Climate Change. The successes and

lessons learned from those projects informed the Special Program on Adaptation to Climate Change Project where tangible adaptation solutions to issues of water access and harvesting and reuse in Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were realised. These adaptation pilots were the first to be implemented within the SIDS group and because of their outstanding success, plans for replication are well underway.

This was not accomplished alone. The trust placed in us by the Governments of Belize, Barbados and Italy at the Centre's inception, and the continued support of the governments of United Kingdom, Hellenic Republic of Greece, Australia, the European Union and the institutions of the World Bank, IDB and the UN agencies have been tremendous. Our own countries and the Caribbean Development Bank must also be acknowledged.

And now in the final weeks of 2012 in an attempt to garner further support, the Centre has produced a document which catalogues our

successes and lays out a bold, innovative path ahead. We are well aware of the current global challenges, and assure you that we appreciate every effort that has been extended to the people of the Caribbean.

Our approach is not conventional, and while the debate goes on, the Centre and the Caribbean Community will continue their efforts to adapt to Climate Change. We trust that our traditional partners will find comfort in continuity, and others will be encouraged to follow suit.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you.