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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)
BY MRS. JULIETTE BABB-RILEY , CHARGE D' AFFAIRES A.I.,
PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
DURING THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-
SECOND SESSION OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND BUDGETARY (FIFTH)
COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
(New York, 23 December 2017)**

Mr. Chairman,

It is a distinct honour on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to convey congratulations to you for your leadership, as well as to the other members of the Bureau for guiding our work during the main part of the seventy-second session of the Fifth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly.

CARICOM also expresses its sincerest appreciation for the dedicated efforts of those delegations who volunteered as Coordinators and to

the Secretariat of the Committee for their facilitation of our work especially on the many new and complex issues before us.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chairman,

As mentioned in our statement on the organization of work, CARICOM expresses its concern with respect to the delay in the issuance of documents, which seriously impacted the fulfillment of the Committee's responsibilities in the ascribed timeframe. It is our fervent hope that this will be significantly improved in future sessions. CARICOM acknowledges this Committee's commitment to ensuring that every effort is exhausted with a view to reaching consensus on agenda items.

Mr. Chairman,

In this regard, CARICOM uses this opportunity to reflect on some of the achievements from this session, including the consideration of several items essential for the optimal functioning of the United Nations such

as the proposed Programme Budget for 2018-2019, which among other things, reaffirms the importance of the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and other intergovernmental agreed outcomes. The continuation of support for issues of significant importance to Small Island Developing states (SIDs) is of particular importance for us. We also welcome the provision of an essential impetus for the capital project with respect to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in Santiago, Chile.

While the Group is appreciative of the significant flexibility and compromise shown by all delegations during negotiations, CARICOM notes with concern the noticeable number of proposals which sought to apply arbitrary reductions in the development pillar of the Organisation. They are cause for concern since they range from post and non-post resources to capacity building initiatives and programmatic activities and services that support developing countries, including Small Island Developing states.

The Group is also disappointed that we were not able to complete consideration of the proposed regional restructuring of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights during this main session.

With regard to the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH), CARICOM wishes to express its strongest support for the mandate of MINUJUSTH established by the Security Council (resolution 2350 of April 2017), and recognises its important role in reinforcing peace consolidation, security and stability, and the provision of political, rule of law and human rights support.

It is on this premise, that CARICOM firmly reiterates the importance of an adequately financed and resourced peacekeeping mission that can fulfil the entirety of its mandates. Consequently, our Group remains convinced that MINUJUSTH's budget proposed by the Secretary General was pragmatic and economical. The Group therefore expects that with the limited resources allocated to MINUJUSTH, the Secretary General and his team will ensure its timely and full implementation.

CARICOM firmly believes that the development support provided by the United Nations, its entities, agencies and programmes, ought to be adequately resourced to successfully fulfill the mandates approved by us, the Member States of the United Nations.

CARICOM is pleased to join consensus on the resolution regarding the Secretary-General's proposals for shifting the management paradigm in the Organization. We are of the view that this resolution reflects overall support for the management reform process undertaken by the Secretary-General, with the objective of creating an organisation that is effective, efficient and fit-for-purpose. Our Group, therefore, looks forward to the next opportunity to engage in substantive discussions on this important matter, including the upcoming comprehensive report of the Secretary General.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, CARICOM reiterates its commitment to engage constructively in the work of the Fifth Committee in its First and Second resumed sessions. We expect that the spirit of cooperation, flexibility and compromise will underpin our deliberations on the matters entrusted to this Committee for its consideration.

I thank you Mr. Chair.