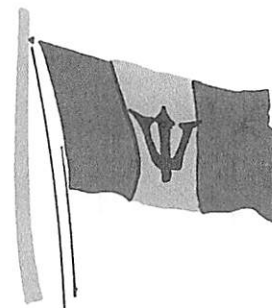




*Permanent Mission  
of Barbados to  
the United Nations*



**STATEMENT BY**

**MRS. JULIETTE BABB-RILEY  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

**AT THE**

**THIRD SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE OF AN  
INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY-BINDING INSTRUMENT UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS  
CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA ON THE CONSERVATION AND  
SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND  
NATIONAL JURISDICTION**

**30 August, 2019**

**UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK**

*please check against delivery*

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM aligns itself with the statements delivered by Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Belize on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). We also associate with the statement delivered on behalf of CLAM

Madam President,

CARICOM wishes to congratulate you and the facilitators on a successful IGC3. While we had an intensive round of negotiations and are all extremely tired, we continue to be encouraged and bolstered by the positive and constructive engagements of all delegations. CARICOM believes that the President's draft text has allowed us to focus our attention on what a future BBNJ Agreement could look like. We look forward therefore to participating in the final meeting of the Conference, which is slated to take place in March 2020. However, in order to achieve this objective, we believe that the following steps will be critical:

1. A revised negotiating text, taking in account our discussions during this Session should be prepared by November. This would allow delegations to hold informal discussions on the revised text in the margins of the Fisheries and omnibus resolutions;

2. Delegations should be encouraged to get together interessionally to discuss some of the more intractable issues, in order to bridge the gaps that remain. CARICOM is open to exploring different ways in which this could be undertaken so that we are able to reach consensus on the many issues that continue to bedevil these negotiations;

3. The number of informal informals should be increased in IG4. We see this format as more conducive to advancing our negotiations. Further, given the stage of our negotiations we are of the view that the convening of informal working group meetings should be kept to the absolute minimum and could probably be replaced by two plenary meetings—one at the start and the other at the conclusion of IG4;

4. We understand that it may be necessary to convene and even increase the number of parallel meetings. However, we stress that these meetings should only be convened as absolutely required. The reasons for this are well known to delegations in the room;

5. We also note that we may have to work longer hours and we are prepared to do so, and;

6. While they have proven useful, the objective of completing in 2020 compels all of us to think about whether we might further limit the number of side events held during IGC4.

Much of this will of course be premised on our physical capacity to undertake many of the tasks just outlined. CARICOM therefore remains extremely concerned about the state of the Voluntary Trust Fund. We believe that adequate funding of the Trust Fund will be required if we are to actively engage in the upcoming negotiations and meet our goal of completing them by 2020. We therefore urge States and others who are in a position to contribute to the Fund, to do so.

Madam President,

In closing, I wish to assure you of the full support of CARICOM. We stand ready to participate in intersessional and other meetings to ensure that we have a successful IGC4 and a newly minted BBNJ Agreement, of which we can all be truly proud.

I thank you.