



CARICOM STATEMENT

AT THE

FIRST PART OF THE

FIFTH UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE

ON THE

LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

UN Headquarters

March 17, 2022

Mr. President

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the fourteen States members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

At the outset, let me congratulate the President of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC-5) on his election and thank the co-chairs and members of the Preparatory Bureau for the Conference for their leadership in carrying out the work that has enabled us to achieve this result. We would like to thank the Government of Qatar for agreeing to host the second part of the Conference.

Mr. President,

CARICOM welcomes the holding of the first part of the Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which is intended to resolve organizational matters and review the Doha Programme of Action. There is no doubt that the Doha Summit offers a unique opportunity to collectively develop an ambitious recovery agenda from the COVID-19 pandemic that has halted the progress made by several LDCs in implementing the Istanbul Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CARICOM would like to reiterate its solidarity with the LDCs with which we share many characteristics such as vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters, the weakness of our means of production and the dependence of our economies on exogenous factors etc. Similarly, the least developed countries face serious challenges of limited capacity in human, technical and financial resources, as highlighted in the Second Voluntary Review of Samoa on the Implementation of Sustainable Development.

In this sense, CARICOM has always advocated a holistic approach to addressing the multiple challenges faced by the least developed countries, an approach that must take into account their specificities and the significant gaps they face in their development.

LDCs need innovative solutions to solve their structural problems and provide them with the financial means to support their economies strained by the adverse effects of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic.

We should therefore welcome the conclusion of the Doha Agenda for Action, which will replace the Istanbul Agenda and coincides with the last decade of the 2030 Agenda. It is of paramount importance in supporting LDCs on their

path to sustainable development and resilience by providing appropriate responses to the challenges faced by LDCs in order to meet the pressing needs of their populations. It represents a major step in the alignment of LDCs with the 2030 Agenda. It is a renewed partnership between LDCs and their development partners to overcome structural challenges, eradicate poverty, achieve the internationally agreed development goals and enable graduation from LDC status.

Mr. President

However, the success of the Action Plan will be determined by its full implementation and the fulfilment of the commitments to be made in Doha under the Programme of Action. In this regard, CARICOM urges international partners to redouble their efforts to enable LDCs to adequately address the structural constraints and challenges hindering their development efforts.

CARICOM also calls for the equitable and timely availability of the COVID-19 vaccine to the least developed countries and for increased financial support from the international community, addressing the indebtedness of LDCs, reversing the decline in ODA.

We look forward to the second part of the 5th LDC Conference in Doha with the hope that bold and concrete commitments will be made to increase resilience, and support the development of the least developed countries.

I thank you.