

STATEMENT BY

François Jackman
Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations

ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)



AT THE

**High-Level International Conference for the peaceful settlement
of the Question of Palestine**

28 July, 2025
NEW YORK

Mr. President

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the 14 member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

CARICOM welcomes the convening of this important conference. We express our appreciation to the governments of France and Saudi Arabia for their leadership in this regard. We also commend the work of the Co-Chairs of the Working Groups.

Excellencies,

At their meeting only two weeks ago, CARICOM Heads of Government discussed the situation in the Middle East in general and the tragic events taking place in the Middle East and in Gaza in particular.

First, CARICOM Heads reaffirmed the region's unwavering commitment to a two-state solution as the only viable path to a comprehensive, just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians consistent with UN resolutions and international law.

They lamented the belligerent and continued disregard for these resolutions, urging the international community to redouble efforts for strict adherence and enforcement.

Second, CARICOM Heads reiterated their clear and longstanding position on the situation in Gaza, expressing profound distress about the ongoing suffering being inflicted on the Palestinian people, and the tragic loss of civilian lives, particularly those of women and children.

In this regard, CARICOM Heads reiterated their unequivocal condemnation of all violence against civilians, including the abhorrent 7 October 2023 attacks and hostage-taking.

They equally condemned the relentless and disproportionate military operations, including indiscriminate bombardment and direct attacks on aid-seeking civilians as flagrant violations of international humanitarian law as well as the systematic undermining of peace by illegal settlement expansion and the unacceptable dismantling of humanitarian mechanisms, which have created a crisis of unparallel proportions.

Third, CARICOM Heads also reiterated their call for an immediate, unconditional and sustained ceasefire and unimpeded humanitarian access, noting that these repeated calls have largely gone unheeded.

Heads further demanded an end to forced displacement of Palestinians and protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law, underscoring the imperative of accountability for all violations of international law, with perpetrators brought to justice.

Fourth and finally, Mr. President, all 14 countries of the Caribbean Community stand ready to support all constructive initiatives for a lasting space that meets the legitimate aspirations for security, dignity and stability of all Israelis, Palestinians and people in the wider Middle East.
