**Regional Policy Positions: Caribbean Governments Post-2015 Positions on Economic Justice and Sustainable Development**

Regions Refocus, an initiative housed at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, has compiled below the proposals of Caribbean governments as related to the main themes of the regional workshop “Caribbean Partnerships for Economic Justice & Sustainable Development,” held 6-7 January in Bridgetown, Barbados. These proposals were articulated in the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the preparatory process for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), the regional review and General Assembly Special Session on the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), and the Special Session on Beijing+20 for Latin America and the Caribbean. The agreed language listed in the right column comes from the outcome documentsof the OWG (July 2014), the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) (August 2014), and the UN Conference on Sustainable Development or “Rio+20” (2012).



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| **Issues** | **Proposals (and Proponents)** | **Agreed Language** |
| **Fiscal policy** **and debt** |  Permanent and effective sovereign debt workout mechanism must be created to resolve debt problems (CARICOM, G77/China, OWG) Exercise increased flexibility with respect to the Debt Sustainability Framework and the eligibility for debt relief; the provision of increased funds for debt rollover; innovative debt swap criteria; increased concessionalities and to accelerate previous commitments regarding debt relief, taking into account the extreme vulnerability of small, indebted, middle-income countries, whose size, fragile economies and open markets have made them highly susceptible to external financial shocks. We therefore call for expansion of concessionary financing to small, indebted, middle income countries to mitigate the significant sustainable development challenges that have been exacerbated by the ongoing crisis. (SIDS Prep) Within the next 15 years, a strong structural reform agenda is required to create an enabling environment for growth with a focus on investment, business climate, legislative and regulatory reforms. However, fiscal sustainability must be a consideration given the increasing debt burden of member states. (CARICOM, FfD)  |  Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) to reduce debt distress (OWG) Adopt policies especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality (OWG) Debt financing can represent a viable option to provide funding for public spending on sustainable development. At the same time, debt needs to be effectively managed, with the goal of ensuring that debt obligations can be serviced under a wide range of circumstances (ICESDF) We recognize the need to assist developing countries in ensuring long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate (Rio+20) |
| **Employment** |  In my own Caribbean region, the problem is not population growth; it is the refusal of international financial institutions to grant us concessional financing that we urgently require to build conditions that would create jobs for our small population. (Antigua and Barbuda, ICPD UNGASS) Achieve full and productive employment (G77/China, OWG) Actions at the level of international economic, financial, trade, technology and social systems, to support and enable developing countries’ efforts in employment objectives (G77/China, OWG) Refrain from actions by developed countries that create barriers to developing countries’ efforts and progress (G77/China, OWG) |  Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises including through access to financial services (OWG) By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value (OWG) By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training (OWG) |
| **Social protection** |  Include care in social protection systems, through allowances, social and health-careservices and economic benefits that maximize autonomy, in particular for older persons, andguarantee the rights, dignity and well-being of families and older persons, including the rightto a dignified death with proper care, without any form of discrimination or violence (ICPD Review) Extend social protection and social security systems, with a gender perspective, to includethose women who have devoted their lives to productive work, whether as domestic workers, women in rural areas or informal workers (ICPD Review) |  Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable (OWG) Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate (OWG) |
| **Environment and sustainability** |  CARICOM supports a standalone goal on sustainable consumption and production within the goal framework. Means of implementation in this area should include a target to provide by 2030 capacity building support and financial tools to assist developing countered, in particular SIDS to develop and implement policies to support the growth of sustainable tourism (CARICOM, OWG) Recognising that as Caribbean Small Island Developing States face many multi-dimensionalissues, an integrated approach to sustainable development is required to address thechallenges faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS Prep) |  Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP), all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries (OWG) We encourage each country to consider the implementation of green economypolicies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, in amanner that endeavours to drive sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growthand job creation, particularly for women, youth and the poor (Rio+20) |
| **Climate change** |  Support targets mainstreamed across all goal areas that address climate change consistent with the need to hold global temperature increase to well below 1.5 degrees Celsius (CARICOM, OWG) Support Caribbean Small Island Developing States in their efforts to build resilience and reduce risks associated with natural disasters in areas and sectors vulnerable to climate change threats, and effectively address the multiple effects of theirvulnerabilities, while allowing for the adoption of sustainable development strategies that more effectively integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions. (SIDS Prep) |  We underscore that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible cooperation by all countries and their participation in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions. We recall that the UNFCC provides that parties should protect the climate system for the benefit of present and future generations of humankind on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. (Rio+20)  |
| **Partnership(s) and governance** |  Stressing that South-South and SIDS-SIDS cooperation are not substitutes for, but rathercomplements to, North-South cooperation and in that context, recognizing the importanceof SIDS-SIDS cooperation as an expression of political will and solidarity among ourcountries to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. (SIDS Prep) Reaffirm also the importance of strengthening participatory forms of government as a guarantee for the effective exercise of democracy (ICPD Review) We agree that the development challenges we face require systematic participation of all stakeholders in crafting responses to these challenges, which require partnership and global leadership through the United Nations. (Trinidad and Tobago, ICPD UNGASS) Strengthen the role of the State and enhance its capacity for strategic management from a long-term and national development perspective (ICPD Review)  Recognize also that population and development issues are closely linked to the economic, social and environmental realities and that, in order to address them, steps must be taken to strengthen international cooperation and forge global, regional and subregional partnerships and to establish agreements between countries as well as innovative approaches, including private initiatives (ICPD Review) A critical need for information within complex financial landscapes to be creative, relevant, symmetrical, and accesible in nature across many growth and development focused partnerships. CARICOM member states welcome partnerships, both bilateral and global, with international agencies to finance their development priorities in order to enhance their economies which are in need of partnership support in the context of finance, technology, technical assistance, and otherwise. (CARICOM, FfD) The Group strongly calls on the international community to redress the democratic deficit in global economic governance and provide developing countries their rightful place and participation in the governance and decision-making of all the institutions and forums where discussions and decisions are taken on global economic and financial issues. (G77/China, FfD)  |  A renewed and strengthened global partnership for sustainable development, defining a compact of commitments by Member States of the United Nations, while providing space and flexibility for engagement with a wide range of stakeholders. (ICESDF) Ongoing efforts to strengthen the global partnership for sustainable development cooperation should be based, inter alia, on the principles of country ownership, focus on results, delivery through inclusive partnerships, transparency and accountability to one another. (ICESDF) Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance. (OWG) A further review of the governance regimes of the IFIs is necessary to update their decision making processes, modus operandi and priorities, and to make them more democratic and representative. (ICESDF) Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships. (OWG) Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries. (OWG) We encourage existing and new partnerships, including public-private partnerships, to mobilize public financing complemented by the private sector, taking into account the interests of local and indigenous communities when appropriate. (Rio+20) |
| **Gender equality** |  Note the cross-cutting nature of gender equality and women’s rights, integrate throughout the agenda (CARICOM, OWG) Promote, protect and guarantee sexual health and rights and reproductive rights in order tocontribute to the fulfilment of persons and to social justice in a society free from all forms ofdiscrimination and violence (ICPD Review) Develop and strengthen policies and universal care services based on the highest human rights standards, from a gender equality and intergenerational perspective, in order to share the delivery of services between the State, the private sector, civil society, families and households and between men and women and facilitate dialogue and coordination between all the parties involved (ICPD Review) Promote policies that enable persons to exercise their sexual rights, which embrace the right to a safe and full sex life, as well as the right to take free, informed, voluntary and responsible decisions on their sexuality, sexual orientation and gender identity, without coercion, discrimination or violence, and that guarantee the right to information and the means necessary for their sexual health and reproductive health (ICPD Review) We decide to establish a technical working group on gender budgeting, which will comprise representatives of the Governments of the countries of the region and civil society and will be supported by ECLAC and UN Women (Beijing Review) The continued implementation of the [ICPD] Programme of Action must beprioritized in the post-2015 development agenda (Barbados, ICPD UNGASS) |  End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere (OWG) Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation (OWG) Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations (OWG) Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate (OWG) Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life (OWG) Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences (OWG) By 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status (OWG)  |