

PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

[Conference Draft as at 30th June 2017]

Promoting Cooperation and Coordination in the Caribbean in Achieving the SDGs on the basis of the “Caribbean Action 2030: Regional Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals” held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 28th – 30th June 2017

- 1) We, the Government Ministers and High Level Representatives of countries in the Caribbean region, representing *Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Curaçao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago*, met in Kingston, Jamaica from 28th – 30th June 2017, to reaffirm our commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim to advance and accelerate result-based actions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A. Pathway); the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and also acknowledge the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the HABITAT III New Urban Agenda.
- 2) We subscribe to the call for universal action embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a basis for maximising the engagement of all stakeholders in our own societies, and internationally, in order to serve the cause of economic and social development, particularly citizen participation and climate action. Urgent response and synergy-building are needed in order to serve the common interest of the region’s citizens, regardless of the level of economic development or social organisation in countries.
- 3) We note the convening of regional meetings to address issues in respect of the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean, including: the Symposium on “Mainstreaming the SDGs into National Development Planning” in Kingston, from 14th - 16th February 2017; the Symposium on “Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway in Small Island Developing States -SIDS: Equipping Public Institutions And Mobilizing Partnerships” in Nassau, from 21st -23rd February 2017; the “Forum of the Countries of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development” in Mexico City, from 26th -28th April 2017; and the “Workshop to Accelerate SDGs Implementation in the Caribbean” in Port of Spain, on

18th May 2017. These have provided us with important insights and proposals on which we have further built during this Regional Conference, in the spirit of complementarity and deepening of common understanding.

- 4) We, therefore, welcome the initiative by the Government of Jamaica, the United Nations (UN) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) to bring together a broad spectrum of stakeholders, with the objective of strengthening the science-policy interface and garner the support of decision makers in the public and private sectors, including the academic community and civil society. In order to accelerate national progress throughout the region, support for research, data collection, policy planning and action is geared towards achieving the SDGs. We promote on-going exchange between governmental and non-governmental actors. In this regard, we acknowledge the key supportive role of the UN System and its representatives in achieving: An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean; A healthy Caribbean; A safe, cohesive and just Caribbean; and A sustainable and resilient Caribbean.
- 5) The Caribbean Action 2030 Conference offered a welcome opportunity to define the common ground among Caribbean countries on the basis of new and existing priorities, knowledge and policy synergies; fostering partnerships for scaled-up solutions; and developing resource mobilization strategies for achieving further results. It also presented an opportunity for increased intergovernmental cooperation to advance the region's cause. We acknowledge the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) initiative as an available tool to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level. The Conference also allowed for the advancement of the UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), which was agreed to between Caribbean governments and UN partners as an appropriate platform for the coordination of our efforts.
- 6) We reaffirm the indispensable role of the private sector in accelerating economic growth, as a prerequisite for delivery on the SDGs. We encourage Caribbean Governments to intensify their efforts to create an enabling environment that facilitates innovation and entrepreneurship as a means of fully unlocking the potential of the region. In this regard, we encourage greater support for Caribbean governments in the creation of sustained policy initiatives, public education, institutional arrangements and incentives that encourage appropriate financing for both traditional and non-traditional sectors.

- 7) In order to address the challenges associated with our common objectives we take note of the UN “Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data” as agreed in Cape Town, January 2017, as a source of inspiration for regional and national governmental and non-governmental actors to seek strategic coordination and practical cooperation, with special emphasis on regional and national statistical capacity building, inclusive and comprehensive data collection, disaggregation, storage, access and analysis to support evidence-based policy-making for the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean;
- 8) On the basis of a rich and diverse array of research presented, this Regional Conference provided an excellent opportunity for constructive and in-depth dialogue leading to important recommendations to national governments and civil society representatives, each within their own competence and responsibility. We pledge to seek further cooperation and coordination among and within countries, in order to follow-up on the analyses and recommendations presented.
- 9) This framework builds on these previous outcomes and guidance documents and seeks to address the unprecedented threats to the lives and livelihoods of Caribbean citizens as a consequence of global industrial activity and climate-related events. This brings along the need for global solidarity in generating the necessary resources to enhance and sustain knowledge exchange, skills development and hard infrastructure and other necessary investments in our region.
- 10) We acknowledge the importance of national and regional multi-stakeholder partnerships which are imperative for national and regional sustainable development implementation, and inclusive of the engagement of civil society organisations, trade unions, man, woman and child, and vulnerable groups, in particular, the youth and persons with disabilities.
- 11) We are particularly keen to further build upon the youth campaign activities that represent the “Caribbean Youth Perspectives on the SDGs” as an important basis for policymakers and international organisations to align their understanding of policy requirements with situational awareness of young people’s ideas and concerns.

- 12) Financial sustainability is a vital element in ensuring not only that the SDGs are achieved but also that the accomplishments are impactful particularly for the most vulnerable among us. The heavy indebtedness of some members of the Caribbean region impedes the mobilisation of domestic resources. The exclusion of countries from concessional and grant resources based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita or other conditions can result in the erosion or hindrance of gains impeding sustained development for all. We call upon the UN to seek further advice and support for the Caribbean region by engaging international financial institutions and exploring new and innovative financing mechanisms to effectively address the special capacity needs and policy challenges facing low and middle income countries in the Caribbean, in supporting the building of resilience, economic diversification, social inclusion and climate change management.
- 13) We are aware that advancing effective action on the SDGs agenda will require creative efforts to increase financial resources. We are, therefore, pleased to propose the engagement of non-traditional financing sources for the purpose of realising our national development goals, including: Diaspora Engagement and international private sector institutions.
- 14) We ask the international community, particularly the UN and its organizations, to partner with us in championing the use of a vulnerability index to capture the unique challenges of Caribbean SIDS, thereby making funds more available to advance the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- 15) We look forward to receiving the final report of the Conference, including recommendations for policy implementation and follow-up. We also call for the development of further content and continued engagement, focused on promoting inclusive growth and stakeholder participation. As this will require long-term commitment and partnerships, we encourage the establishment of a regional online platform that takes into consideration existing regional efforts that will enable the academic community, civil society and policy makers to engage in on-going dialogue on the basis of evidence-based research, open data and exchange of good policy practice.
- 16) We commend those Caribbean countries that have presented voluntary reports to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF); and encourage other Caribbean countries to do the

same for the next reporting cycle in 2018, as this will reflect our commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

- 17) We thank the Government of Jamaica for the hospitality provided during the Conference in Kingston and look forward to continued stakeholder collaboration, as we seek to make regional SDG implementation a reality.

*MFAFT
Jamaica
3rd July 2017*