



## **Special Communiqué on Sustainable Development of the States Members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Caracas, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on 3rd December 2011, within the framework of the Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC):

Recognising the particular vulnerabilities of CARICOM countries as Small Island Developing States, which constrain their efforts towards sustainable development;

Noting the specific socio-economic challenges that they confront, such as the impact of natural disasters, the impact of climate change, the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), the high levels of indebtedness, and the categorisation of some countries in the region as upper middle income countries which affects access to concessional forms of financing;

Expressing deep concern about the impact on CARICOM Member States of the global financial and economic crisis;



Emphasising that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 1992 (Rio Conference), was significant for the consolidation of the sustainable development paradigm which integrates, with equal weight, social, environmental and economic pillars of development;

Reaffirming the commitment of the Caribbean countries to contribute to the success of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20);

1. Reaffirm the continued validity of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States as the blueprint providing the fundamental framework for their sustainable development;
2. Recognise that particular attention should be given to building resilience in Small Island Developing States, including through technology transfer and development, as well as capacity building and human resource development;
3. Reaffirm our commitment to strengthen cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime, including the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which has a devastating impact on the



economic and social wellbeing of our region, and particularly of the Member States of CARICOM and their peoples

4. Emphasize the need to strengthen action and partnerships aimed at realizing the commitments made in the Political Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government at the High-Level Meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in September 2011, and for appropriate follow-up in line with the comprehensive review and assessment to be undertaken in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs;
5. Emphasize also, the need to redouble efforts to implement the commitments made in the Political Declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government at the High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria held in June 2011, with a view to, inter alia, removing before 2015, where feasible, obstacles which limit the capacity of low and middle income countries to provide affordable and effective HIV prevention and treatment products;
6. Recognize that social inclusion is an essential element in the development of the region and, in the context of 2011, as the International Year of Peoples of African Descent, reiterate our commitment to



Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)



combat racism and racial discrimination in all its forms.