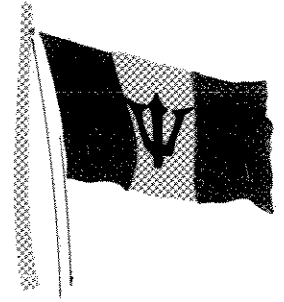


*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



INTERVENTION BY

**MR. STEVE DEVONISH
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL HERITAGE
DEPARTMENT
BARBADOS**

AT THE

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR
OF BIODIVERSITY**

OF THE

65TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

22 SEPTEMBER, 2010

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

We wish first to align ourselves with the Statement made on behalf of G77 and China by the distinguished delegate from Brazil.

The Government of Barbados reiterates that the Convention on Biological Diversity is the key international instrument for the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

We also recognize the positive and negative impacts of climate change other forms of environmental degradation processes and activities on biodiversity and relevant ecosystems.

The Government of Barbados also recognizes that the achievement of the three objectives of the Convention is important for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication. In this vein, we affirm the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and the Mauritius Strategy for its Further Implementation of the platform for addressing the inter-linkages for the management of natural resources and the achievement of sustainable development in SIDS.

Further, we call on Parties to the Convention to enhance support to SIDS through the Convention's Island Biodiversity Programme. We view the upcoming High Level Review of the MSI as an important moment to enhance synergies with the CBD.

Mr. Chairman,

The Government of Barbados has embarked on several initiatives aimed at reducing the rate of loss of biological diversity as part of an overarching National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Several legislative instruments have been operationalised including the Cultivation of Trees Act, the Town and Country Planning Act, the Soil Conservation Act and the Fisheries Act and supporting resolutions.

In this regard, we have instituted a National Bio-safety Framework and are in the process of establishing a National Agriculture Food and Health Safety policy, legislative and institutional mechanism.

The provision of opportunities for the community, especially the youth, and the preservation of local knowledge and heritage are key components of our strategy for the provision for access to benefit sharing.

Mr. Chairman,

We also believe that the proper utilisation of our natural resources will catalyse our transition to a green economy.

Mr. Chairman,

We support the work being carried out in the development the Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing as it further enable SIDS to benefit from natural patrimony and all derivatives thereof. It is critical that technical, financial and capacity-enhancing mechanisms be integrated in the elaboration of this instrument.

However, the rate of implementation has been slower than anticipated due in part to the positive response to our community programmes. Mr. Chairman, this is the challenge for a small islands developing state. The capacity required to further implementation remains a critical hurdle that must be addressed by national governments and the international community.

We also recognise the need to enhance cooperation among the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change while recognizing their individual mandates.

The Government also foresees benefits to be derived through a wider South-South Cooperation platform. We also look forward to the output from the Joint Implementation of the Multi Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development.

In this regard, we urge Parties to the Convention to facilitate the transfer of technology for the effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with its provisions. We fully support the work and recommendations of the ad hoc intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder process on the development of an intergovernmental science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Mr. Chairman,

As a Small Island Developing State, we view this as a necessary and critical intervention to assist in rationalizing and harmonizing our response and implementation across the various biodiversity-related MEAs. In this regard, through the coming year, the Government will be consolidating various MEA advisory mechanisms with a view to enhance research support to social and economic policy making. We view this as timely to ensure international partnership opportunities, and available technical and financial resources through such mechanisms as the Global Environment Facility are more effectively utilized in the implementation of national development priorities.

Mr. Chairman,

We stress the role of the private sector involvement and commitment to the principles that underpin the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We would also like to thank the Secretary-General and his staff for the hard work that they have done and continue to do.

Our delegation looks forward to actively participating in the upcoming Fifth Meeting of the Parties to Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in Biological Diversity.

I thank you.