



# **ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES**

Permanent Mission of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the United Nations

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## **Statement**

By

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**ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY  
(CARICOM)**

**ON AGENDA 56 (a)  
“GLOBALIZATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE”**

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Madam Chair, it is a distinct honour for me today to address this Committee on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that are members of the United Nations on sub-agenda Item #56(a) on “*Globalization and Interdependence*”.

In its resolution 61/207, the General Assembly called for the Secretary-General to present a report to the Sixty-Second Session of the General Assembly on the theme “Impact that, inter alia, international commitments, policies and processes can have on the scope and the implementation of national development strategies” under the item “*Globalization and Interdependence*”. We wish to thank the Secretary-General for his Report contained in document A/62/303 and in particular the section submitted under sub-item 56(a).

Madam Chair, CARICOM aligns itself with the statement just made by the Group of 77 and China under this topic and wishes to make some additional comments on the subject.

Madam Chair, CARICOM welcomes the Secretary-General’s call for the implementation of national development strategies which balances international obligations with national priorities. However, CARICOM’s ability to implement goal-oriented national development strategies faces ever greater difficulty in managing the negative implications associated with globalization.

The process of globalization in the world economy has created incredible opportunities for some countries and for some people. At the same time, it has introduced new risks, if not threats, for many others such as in CARICOM. Unlike some countries that have successfully adapted to changes brought on by, and benefits realized from globalization, CARICOM remains marginalized in the rapidly globalized world economy.

Madam Chair, managing globalization for the benefit of all remains a major concern for CARICOM. The evidence shows that those who suffer most are those who possess the least, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) such as in CARICOM. This is most evident in indigenous peoples, women, the rural poor, and children.

Global market forces which significantly impact on the degree of flexibility in shaping our national policies have been stymied by global economic liberalizing forces over which we have no control. Our inability to influence these forces is becoming increasing difficulty.

The economic performance of CARICOM is increasingly being determined outside of its geographic borders. Furthermore, most of the existing mechanisms for the governance of globalization are enforced selectively when it suits the interests of the rich and powerful.

Madam Chair, as a start, it would be very helpful to CARICOM if the World Bank would forego its attempts to micromanage our economies through conditionalities and focus its activities on development in our region. Additionally, the World Trade Organization (WTO) should recognize, rather than ignore the differences in levels of income and development between countries. The eradication of poverty and the creation of employment should be its objectives, as much as trade expansion and trade liberalization. Recent rulings of the WTO have adversely affected banana, rice and sugar producing countries of CARICOM. CARICOM farmers in these industries, share the front line of the fallout from globalization and iniquitous agricultural subsidies of developed countries, and therefore find themselves lost in the world of bureaucrats, and no closer to the promised and much-needed development assistance.

Madam Chair, globalization has created conditions and unleashed forces which are creating a demand for labour mobility across national borders. In this light, conflict arises between the laws of nations that restrict the movement of people across borders and the economics of globalization that induces such movements.

Madam Chair, CARICOM is a major exporter of highly qualified labour, particularly teachers, nurses and other healthcare professionals to the developed world. This '*brain-drain*', from the region poses a natural threat to the national development strategies of many CARICOM countries.

Although CARICOM welcomes the last High-level Dialogue convened on International Migration and Development which reinforced the important nexus between migration and

development, we strongly believe that the benefits of migration can be better harnessed through cooperation between countries of origin and receiving countries. Given that international migration is a reality which cannot be wished away, CARICOM suggests that the equivalent of the '*most-favoured-nation*' principle, which makes for unconditional and non-discrimination, could provide a basic foundation in order to create a mutually beneficial environment for migrants and their countries of origin and destination.

Madam Chair, CARICOM acknowledges the complexities of globalization, and further calls on the international community to contribute unselfishly to the human, financial and technical resources which our region lacks; resources which are geared towards poverty reduction and growth enhancement with care for the environment.

We also need the assistance of the international community to ensure that when we address our concerns on climate change, that this must not be undertaken at the expense of the national strategies we have already implemented to address economic development. Moreover, CARICOM calls on the international community to create new operating systems or endeavour to reform the existing multilateral trading architecture to ensure greater credibility, legitimacy and effectiveness.

Madam Chair, these are critical factors which are necessary for the implementation of our national development strategies if CARICOM is to balance its international obligations with its national priorities.

I thank you.