

CARRIBEAN RIO+20 PREPARATORY MEETING
Georgetown, Guyana, 20 June 2011

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Objectives of the Conference from the point of view of the region
2. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication
3. Blue economy in relation to Rio+20 and SIDS
4. Institutional framework for sustainable development – especially at the national and regional levels of SIDS
5. Emerging Issues & Partnerships
6. Adoption of Caribbean Outcome Document

Annotation

1. Objectives of the Conference from the point of view of the Caribbean region

The given objective of the Rio+20 Conference is to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and address new and emerging challenges. The Conference will focus on two themes: (a) a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and (b) the institutional framework for sustainable development. For SIDS, the national, regional and international assessments undertaken in the context of MSI+5 review during 2010 could provide the basis to identify relevant gaps in implementation that should be pursued in the context of Rio+20.

Documentation:

- *SG report on Objectives and Themes of the UN Conference*
- *SG report on MSI+5*
- *Paper on gaps in implementation of relevance to Rio+20 – excerpts from MSI+5 regional assessment report (ECLAC)*

2. Green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication

This session will address how to move into a green economy while fostering needed social and economic growth within the context of sustainable development and poverty reduction in SIDS. It has been stated that discussion on green economy goes beyond a low-carbon economy, and embraces an ecosystem approach as well. The SIDS delegations have made the following illustrative points at the global Rio+20 discussions so far:

- A transition towards a green economy needs to be undertaken under the framework of sustainable development;
- There is a need in the policy space for countries to interpret and design their own approach to building green economies in the context of sustainable development.

The current regional PrepCom provides an opportunity to address the theme of green economies from the point of view of the Caribbean, particularly from the SIDS.

Documentation:

- *SIDS-focused paper on Green Economy in the Blue World (DESA/UNEP)*
- *Report by Panel of Experts on Green Economy (DESA/UNEP/UNCTAD)*

3. Blue economy in relation to Rio+20 and SIDS

The increasing call to reflect “blue economy” on the agenda of Rio+20 came from SIDS

during the second global PrepCom. The argument is that consideration of “green economy” alone will not sufficiently address the needs of SIDS. SIDS have unique perspectives and connection with the oceans, and oceans are central to SIDS identity. This session is meant to be an opportunity for the Caribbean SIDS to articulate the primary importance of how conservation, sustainable management and protection of ocean resources – including but not limited to fisheries, corals, and marine ecosystems -- and their effect on tourism and the economies of SIDS. Ocean governance is another issue raised by SIDS in the context of Rio+20 discussions as requiring attention.

Documentation:

- *SIDS-focused paper on Green Economy in the Blue World (DESA/UNEP)*

4. Institutional framework for sustainable development (IFSD)– especially at the national and regional levels of SIDS

It is known that much progress has been made by countries since the original Rio Conference in terms of institutional arrangements at the national level towards formulating and implementing national sustainable development strategies (NSDS) or their equivalents to mainstream sustainable development in their respective countries. The MSI+5 review conducted last year pointed out to continuing need to further strengthen institutional capacities in SIDS to meet current and future challenges of sustainable development. The PrepCom may wish to elaborate on this further from the perspectives of the Caribbean SIDS.

Documentation:

- *background paper being prepared for the High-level Dialogue in preparation for Rio+20 on the IFSD to be held in Indonesia, 19-21 July*
- *Paper on Caribbean regional coordinating mechanisms for sustainable development (CARICOM)*

5. Emerging Issues & Partnerships

This session will focus on emerging issues that the Caribbean region may consider important to be addressed in the context of Rio+20. Another aspect to be considered is Partnerships for sustainable development that may have been initiated after Johannesburg in 2002. Given the mixed results of partnerships, should Rio+20 pursue further promotion? What concrete actions should otherwise be considered beside adoption of an agreed political outcome?

6. Adoption of Caribbean Outcome Document

The Caribbean PrepCom is expected to adopt an outcome document by consensus. This outcome will be channeled to the Asia and Pacific Regional PrepCom planned in

September 2011. It will also be integrated into a consolidated SIDS position paper to be further considered at the SIDS inter-regional meeting also in September 2011, which will be eventually submitted as input to the compilation text for global negotiation.