Position Paper for the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The topics before the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda are: 1) Declaration; 2) Sustainable Development Goals and Targets; 3) Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Development; and 4) Follow-up and Review. Belize is deeply committed to working towards a comprehensive outcome document that embraces the principles of sustainable development.

I.   Declaration

Belize has long been a proponent of sustainable development and considers its inclusion in a global agenda essential to combating the effects of climate change. As a Small Island and Developing State (SIDS), Belize is particularly concerned with the consequences of climate change for island and low-lying developing states. Belize has actively participated in regional and international efforts to tackle climate change, including the ratification of the *Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer,* and the *Kyoto Protocol.* In March 2012, Belize established a sustainable development ministry within the national government to facilitate the integrated planning, policy, and coordination of sustainable practices across the country. This effort has allowed Belize to streamline the implementation of regional and international initiatives. Belize recognizes the importance of minimizing redundancy and improving effectiveness. It is important that the Post-2015 agenda complements and builds upon the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and the 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP 21).

Belize strongly believes that the Post-2015 agenda must be holistic as well as socially and environmentally sensitive, while being adaptable to the needs and resources of each Member State and region. Throughout the Post-2015 process, Belize has worked closely with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) to ensure that the region's interests are reflected in the final outcome document. Belize's priority issues for the Post-2015 agenda include disaster risk reduction, green energy, sustainable economic development, and access to technology. These issues need to be addressed in order to work towards a more sustainable world, particularly in the Caribbean region. The Declaration section of the outcome document should highlight the significant efforts that have been made regarding global poverty and climate change, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Kyoto Protocol. The international community must also recognize and address their shortcomings. The Post-2015 Agenda must emphasize the interconnectedness of issues across goals and targets. This agenda must include relatable actions for all Member States, not just the least developed or most vulnerable to climate change.

II.   Sustainable Development Goals and Targets

Belize was a strong supporter of the MDGs, but global economic crises and natural disasters prevented Belize from achieving all targets. Belize's current national action plan, *Horizon 2030*, focuses on developing policies and programs to attract sustainable investments while prioritizing the responsible stewardship of natural resources. This plan will allow Belize to adapt the Post-2015 agenda targets and indicators to suit the national situation. When developing the SDGs, Belize believes that it is important to determine which issues reflect distinct goals and which should be integrated as cross-cutting concerns. Issues such as human rights, women's empowerment, and the use of technology should be integrated into multiple goals, reflecting their cross-cutting and multidimensional natures. Targets and indicators need to be clear, concise, and adaptable to the different needs, cultures, and environment of each state in order to ensure their effectiveness.

In addition to the themes of the MDGs, Belize views disaster risk reduction, green energy, sustainable economic development, and access to technology as national priority areas to be included in the SDGs. As in many other countries, natural disasters hindered Belize from fully achieving all the MDGs. Reflecting upon these experiences, Belize believes it will be important to address the effects of disasters on access to clean water and sanitation, food, and agricultural resources, particularly with respect to vulnerable populations. Belize is involved with the implementation of SIDS Dock, an international financing mechanism to develop renewable energy projects and generate financial resources to combat climate change in SIDS states. This mechanism could be used as a model for other regions to establish links between green energy and foreign investment through the use of technology.

III. Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Development

Belize strongly endorses the development of a mechanism to support knowledge and technology transfers. This mechanism should provide Member States with information on successful initiatives, sustainable methods, and best practices to help them determine what technology would best suit their individual needs. In addition, it would help to reduce technology gaps among least developed Member States and marginalized groups within states including: youth, women, and indigenous persons. Belize also stands firmly on regional partnerships with both Member States and civil society organizations (CSOs) to achieve the SDGs, recognizing that the lack of partnerships prevented the MDGs from being fully achieved. Regional organizations are well situated to assume responsibility for localized implementation and monitoring.

Sustainable development cannot be realized without global partnerships and inclusive stakeholder frameworks, particularly with respect to financing development. Belize recognizes that Member States need to commit and fulfill their Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) obligations, increasing the transparency, predictability, and use of ODA. To achieve the SDGs, small states who have less access to the finances, human resources, and technological capacities must work have support from civil society, the private sector, and other states. Belize strongly believes that the outcome document should address debt sustainability and economic volatility by facilitating debt structures that make public finances less susceptible to externalities.

As this agenda will be require a range of stakeholders to ensure that the goals and targets can be financed and achieved, it is important to hold all stakeholders – not just states – accountable for their work and their contributions. Belize strongly supports the development of a voluntary accountability mechanism to monitor the efforts of all stakeholders including civil society, the private sector, and regional organizations, separate from the efforts made by states. Furthermore, a database should be created under the global partnership framework to provide universal access to information about the actions of all stakeholders relating to the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda. Such a resource will help limit redundancy and ensure that a diverse range of initiatives are undertaken.

IV. Follow-up and Review

Belize is honoured to participate in drafting and implementing the Post-2015 agenda, as it is greatly interested in tackling climate change and fostering global sustainable development. Belize proposes that the outcome document should reflect the period from 2016 until 2030, with international reviews of implementation and action every five years, starting in 2020. Belize encourages states to review their national efforts and progress during the interim in order to maximize the efficiency of indicators and initiatives. Furthermore, Belize strongly encourages civil society and regional organizations to support these efforts and collaborate closely with states during national evaluations. As Belize is aware of the unknown events that may pose challenges to achieving the SDGs, such as natural disasters or a global economic crisis, Belize recognizes the need for flexible action plans that allow Member States to adapt to local needs while still actively working towards achieving the goals.