Introduction
The year 2015 has been a remarkable year for global multilateralism. The universal agreements reached on the Addis Ababa Financing for Development; the New York Sustainable Development Goals; and the Paris (climate) Action agendas have cemented a solid basis for converging policies in support of the preservation of global public goods. They reflect an increasing consensus that “development” cannot any longer be framed into a “north-south” dichotomy. Common action across the globe is needed in order to serve the common interest, regardless the level of economic development or social organisation in countries.

The Caribbean Action 2030 Conference was called to forge common understanding and commitment about the way forward in the Caribbean region, as a contribution to the global call for leadership in mobilising knowledge and support for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in the course of next thirteen years. Within that context the Caribbean “case” stands out for a number of reasons.

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1 Omeros, Derek Walcott, 1990 (chapter XLVII, I)
The first is the awareness that despite the ambitious and necessary broadening of scope of international cooperation (beyond the “north-south” paradigm) there remain considerable gaps in terms of access to food, shelter, health care, education, technology and wealth between countries, regions and people within countries and cities. This pertains in particular to countries and regions that are most at risk because of their geographical location and features, especially given the adverse and multiple impacts of climate change.

Secondly, therefore there is an urgent necessity for all forces in and associated with the Caribbean region to accelerate work on particularly relevant agendas such as the “SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action” as agreed in Samoa 2014; and the “Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction” as adopted in 2015. This especially pertinent as practice shows that it is difficult to obtain true commitment from the global community to provide essential support for countries qualifying under the SIDS/disaster risk profile categories.

Thirdly, for a region that finds itself exposed to considerable vulnerabilities, it is unsettling to be faced with a changing global environment that is causing uncertainty and anxiety about the value attached to multilateralism, international law, development support, trade promotion and climate investments. As a consequence, compared to the optimistic mood in 2015, new questions have arisen about commitments and resources in support of international convergence around the triple agendas. The 2030 Caribbean Action conference offered therefore a well-timed opportunity to deal with the 2015 commitment under circumstances that have even raised the stakes beyond one could imagine just one year ago: the case for multilateralism has to be made again whilst globally the Summer of 2016 has shown temperatures as never before and several islands have been hit by floods – even during the conference (in Saint Kitts and Nevis).

**Caribbean region context**

The commitment by the Caribbean governments that have subscribed to the initiative is a welcome gesture of consistency and determination to help translate the words of 2015 into action geared towards drastically improving the conditions in the 2030-2050 period under which generations to come can build a solid basis for their security and prosperity.
Yet the region knows already for a longer time that it is easier to be recognized in documents as a ‘special case’ when it comes to economic opportunities and environmental risks than to be assisted in finding the resources to generate the necessary knowledge, skills and hard infrastructure in order to face unprecedented threats to life and livelihood.

At the same time, there is ample awareness that, everywhere in the world but most pertinent in regions where it matters most, ensuring proper domestic organization and management and making use of available domestic resources is both an imperative for independent leadership and accelerated action as well as a prerequisite for co-sharing arrangements with public and private partners.

**Conference Objectives**

The conference enabled participants to define the common ground among countries with regard to priority issues, creating knowledge synergies, fostering partnerships for solutions and targeting financial resources and support for scaling-up results, acknowledging the working agreement reached between Caribbean governments and UN partners on the UN Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF). Also there was recognition of recent conferences in the region\(^2\) that had already contributed to first analysis and stocktaking.

Against this backdrop the overall objective of the conference was twofold:

1) To add content value to the process, building on organisational frameworks and practices already in place;

2) To identify policy directions and and resource mobilization options for the next stage.

This was operationalized along the following lines:

- **Engagement:**
  - Political: Adopting a Partnership Framework (see further below), committing all participating governments as a necessary basis for a broad appeal to society, for analytical alignment on policy priorities and for joint action in areas of joint concern.

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o Analytical: Generating and promoting academic interest and involvement, bringing the best brains together for serving the common good and promoting exchange of knowledge between regional actors and global peers.

- **Policy Action:**
  - Identifying SDG related policy targets and monitoring mechanisms.
  - Learning from evidence based solutions, good practices and policy reform options.
  - Establishing of regional knowledge exchange practices.
  - Selecting priorities with short term result potential as a test ground and – in case of success – as a potential accelerator.

- **Solutions and strategies:**
  - Resource mobilization strategies: Which human, institutional and financial resources do we need to collect the necessary data and build the requisite capacity and what are the options for their effective mobilization?
  - Capacity building for public policy and rule of law institutions: Where are the capacity gaps that need to be addressed?
  - Strengthening civil society engagement: Which partnerships are required in order to maximize outreach and impact of policies in support of the SDGs?
  - Building the evidence-base for policy: What do we need to know more and/or better; how to collect and process the necessary data?

**Key presentations and messages**

* Government of Jamaica:
  o The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, MP, Prime Minister
  o Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Messages represented a strong commitment by the Government of Jamaica to seek strategic and operational cooperation, synergy and impact through regional alignment. There is growing momentum in the region towards action and monitoring as well as forging strategic partnerships. Strengthening the science-policy interface is essential.

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SDG’s 8 (Good Jobs and Economic Growth) and 16 (Peace and Justice) are leading, cross-cutting objectives in terms of fully involving young people in creating prosperity for all. This will also require addressing the serious debt situation in which many countries in the region find themselves (over 100% of GDP). Whilst fiscal constraints are a reality, “The Caribbean We Want” requires pooling all possible resources and partnerships in order to respond to the Agenda 2030. Jamaica is proud to convene this conference as a springboard for action and results. With that purpose in mind a “Partnership Framework” had been prepared for discussion at ministerial level. At the conference closing session all ministers and high level representatives agreed to endorse the proposed text – with the option to seek capital feedback and if needed to notify the Government of Jamaica as necessary. The endorsed text is attached in Annex II.

* University of the West Indies:
  
  o Dr Luz Longsworth, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of the University of West Indies Open Campus

The academic community can provide essential ingredients of policy analysis and exploration of objectives and instruments. Partnership with policy makers and civil society is promoted as part of an “activist” and “collaborative” outreach in support of interventionist policies that are necessary to address the SDGs. Whilst intellectually exciting and operationally challenging the Goals are attainable when working together and involving students of today who will be leaders of tomorrow.

* United Nations:

  o Jessica Faieta, Assistant Secretary General and Director, Regional Bureau for Latin American and the Caribbean
  o Bruno Pouezat, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Turks & Caicos and Cayman Islands.

“No one behind” implies “the furthest behind first”, with emphasis on the position of women and young people. Making data available, accessible and improving their quality is an essential method to serve the SDG objectives. Indebtedness should be addressed in order to remove obstacles to enable necessary investments in physical infrastructure and human capital. The UN stands particularly ready to help Caribbean countries address the
“implementation deficit” through the Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF) and country based Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS).

* Key note speaker: Jeffrey Sachs, Professor of Sustainable Development, Columbia University; Director, Centre for Sustainable Development and UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

The Caribbean Region has a historical relation with the Service Economy. Historically, we have evolved from a service economy which grew in rural areas such as the sugar plantation and slave labour to that of mining and bauxite which is a commodity based sector (what can be sold abroad) driven by colonial power interest which has lasted until the time of independence. Currently in most countries in the region, the economy is based on the tourism sector. While current sectors such as the agricultural, mining and tourism sector are leading now, these sectors cannot carry the economy and create jobs for the next fifty years, especially as jobs in the material manufacturing sector will shrink due to automation and technology. Therefore, the service economy above anything else will allow for the development and evolution of the Caribbean economy that will follow the global trend towards predominantly urban-based economic development, which requires strategic planning for urban areas (infrastructure, traffic regulation, water, waste, environmental management).

Preparing for a future into this direction requires: quality of education (ranging from early childhood to tertiary education and skills training) as a key determinant for economic growth; investments in decent infrastructure (electricity, broadband, transport); providing physical security (safety from guns and drugs trade).

Jobs in in the service sector could particularly increase through development and international marketing of health care services, higher education programs and culture and sports exchanges – taking into account the US proximity and demand for services.

As the Caribbean is confronted with the overarching challenge of climate change it is important to grasp the economic opportunity that this brings along through investing in safety measures, urban planning, adapted construction, state of the art and raising collective awareness. Financial resources should come from rich countries that have caused the problem in the first place; Caribbean countries should challenge these countries making their voice
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heard to make these countries pay. It would be important to demand changing the current 
clause in the Paris Agreement that excludes financial compensation for deaths or damages 
caused by industrialisation: “climate justice” should be achieved through diplomacy aimed at 
establishing a compensation practice, possibly through an insurance arrangement with rich 
countries contributing premiums as payment for repairs and compensation.

Exploring alternative financing options should involve the private sector and target direct 
government support on the basis of low interest and long term financing agreements, e.g. 
with China. It is important to be creative using strong political leadership and determination 
to make a breakthrough, with the use of the appropriate technology, improved market access, 
renewable sources of energy and – above all – a clearly held and promoted vision to 
implement the SDGs.

* Special Session on Private Sector Partnership:

  o Raymond Saner, Professor in Organisation and International Management, 
    University of Basle

New partnerships can free up untapped resources of knowledge and finance. Yet governments 
should develop clear strategies to define what is needed in the public interest and to ensure 
that the risks of public-private-partnerships (PPP) can be managed effectively. The example 
was mentioned of a “gender seal” initiative for the private sector in order to highlight results 
of action to promote inclusion of women at all levels of decision-making.

The UN Economic Commission for Europe (in Geneva) has established its PPP Centre of 
Excellence with the mission “to help governments do the very best in PPP, addressing many 
of mankind’s most pressing problems, including the greening of the economy and mitigating 
the effects of climate change and to discover what partnerships in the world constitute 
excellence and have the most beneficial impact on development.”

Caribbean countries are encouraged to explore opportunities for establishing PPP’s. 
Professor Saner offered a typology of different forms of partnerships that might help guide 
decision-making as each type of PPP will require a different kind of government 
involvement:

  1) Build & Transfer (BT)
  2) Build, Lease & Transfer (BLT)
3) Build, Operate & Transfer (BOT)
4) Build, Own & Operate (BOO)
5) Build, Transfer & Operate (BTO)
6) Contract, Add & Operate (CAO)
7) Develop, Operate & Transfer (DOT)
8) Rehabilitate, Operate & Transfer (ROT)
9) Rehabilitate, Own & Operate.

*Presentation of National Representatives Perspectives*

All countries have recognised the need to align strategic plans with the SDGs. Some have achieved already a high level of alignment and/or have put in place national coordination mechanisms to strengthen coordination and civil engagement. Others have planned next steps that will in due course ensure a proper response to the Agenda 2030 call for action. Most countries experience similar implementation issues that need be addressed, including establishing effective development cooperation mechanisms; adequate, accurate and reliable data collection; selecting data for monitoring and accountability at ministerial level; constrained financial resources and SDG alignments of budgets; adequate human resource skills for coordination and execution.

*Panel sessions*

Presentations and discussions took place in nine different panels, with the aim to collect ideas and proposals with regard to resource mobilisation, capacity building, civil society engagement and evidence based policies.

The panels dealt with the following themes:

1) Education
2) Reduced inequalities
3) Capacity building for sustainable development in the Caribbean
4) Responsible production and consumption
5) Climate change and the environment

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4 All sessions: http://www.caribbeanaction2030.com/live-streaming
5 See abstracts of presentations on: http://www.caribbeanaction2030.com/abstracts
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6) Addressing vulnerabilities
7) Partnerships for the Goals
8) Industry, innovation and economic growth
9) A healthy Caribbean
10) Youth Perspective

Solutions and Strategies workshops outcomes

On the basis of the panel discussions participants reconvened in workshops dealing with cross-cutting questions of a more operational nature in an effort to identify opportunities for progress and next steps for action in four areas.

1. Resource Mobilisation Strategies

   The following recommendations were made on instruments to be developed or to be strengthened at both national and regional levels:

   - Increase allocation efficiency of financial and human resources, shifting towards SDG related policy areas and institutions.
   - Expand trade and foreign direct investment.
   - Diversify economies, including in the areas of tourism, agricultural reforms, biodiversity and medicinal exploitation of natural resources.
   - Provide financial safety nets (grants, cash-for-work or loans) after cyclones.
   - Increase the minimum wage level in order to reduce child poverty.
   - Invest in training in business management, customers service, marketing and sales promotion.
   - Improve and increase access to and the use of technology.
   - Increase efficiency of donor cooperation:
     - Prepare better for receiving foreign aid (especially: grants).
     - Agree with donors on support targeted at establishing SDG baseline indicators and MSDF monitoring.
   - Improve debt management:
     - Prepare for long term policies aimed at reducing national debt levels
     - Initiate an international debt conference aimed at
       - Debt relief/restructuring
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- Access to concessional lending on the basis of vulnerability indices
- Establishment of a “Climate Justice” Insurance Fund

- Explore ways and means to benefit from cooperation with China as resource for capital investments.
- Consider membership of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (Beijing) and/or New Development Bank (Shanghai) in order to diversify potential sources of multilateral (loan) support.
- Raise funds with the diaspora, including through providing tax break facilities.

2. Capacity Building for Public Policy and Rule of Law

The following recommendations were made, distinguished by different policy categories:

Strategic instruments of cross-cutting nature

- Promote long-term planning and risk management beyond political cycle restrictions through:
  - Broad, strategic, consensus based National Development Plans based on “2030” visions
  - Capacity “mapping” for monitoring MSDF indicators
  - Technical cross-party/bi-partisan briefings to forge consensus and promote continuity:
    - For parliamentarians
    - For citizens
  - Implementing the “Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support” (MAPS) Roadmap provided by the UN Development Group as a guide to SDG focused policy alignment, acceleration, financing, monitoring, coordination and stakeholder engagement.

- Provide consistent and professional public policy communication outreach.
- Establish sectorial consultation mechanisms (tripartite – including employers and trade unions with regard to socio-economic issues).

Economic growth, investment and job creation policies
• Facilitate policies to foster export diversification and quality upgrading in products and partnerships, including through:
  o Improving institutions
  o Protecting property rights
  o Improving skills of the labour force by education and training
  o Improving financial services, with more local banking and venture capital available
  o Promoting financial inclusion, with more access for micro- and small companies, as well financial literacy for small shop/company owners
  o Encouraging research and technology
  o Aligning tertiary education curricula with industry demands
  o Facilitating local investments, similar to foreign direct investments.

• Establish a Public-Private Partnership Observatory.

• Establish a job creation and labour market coordination authority, including with the objective to promote access of women to the labour market.

Education and Training policies
• Invest in secondary education quality.
• Invest in tertiary education access and quality.
• Develop skills training in conjunction with market demand and training on the job opportunities.

Health service policies
• Seek partnerships abroad to upgrade health research and health services provision (building on the experiences with the Dual University System Health Research Partnership between the State University of New York and the University of the West Indies).
• Request ministries of Health to develop regulations for bleach packaging, labelling and distribution.

Community outreach programmes
Encourage “positive peer groups” formation at schools and in communities for peer education and conflict resolution.

Develop programs that target girls/vulnerable groups at increased risks of CVE (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures) and substance use.

Promote positive action and legislation in support of persons with special needs/disabilities (access, facilities, family support and social integration).

Offer home-based self-employment options for caregivers of persons with special needs/disabilities.

*Infrastructure and climate management investments*

- Develop comprehensive National Water Use Management Plans.
- Accelerate the shift towards renewable energy for electricity generation.
- Coordinate cross-regionally preparation and monitoring of (Paris Agreement based) intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) Plans.

*Regional cooperation mechanisms*

- Strengthen the role of CARICOM in engaging multilateral organisations in regional common policy areas, including with regard to renegotiating external sovereign debt obligations with creditors.
- Expand categories of people that are allowed intra-CARICOM migration rights and improve conditions for practical integration (beyond legal rights and regulations).
- Arrange for central capacity to handle the drafting of documents concerning CARICOM related matters.
- Encourage UWI to establish a “knowledge brokerage” facility: providing user friendly access to sources of academic knowledge.

3. **Strengthening Civil Society Engagement**

- Consider mandatory involvement of civil society representatives in public policy decision-making and/or ensure civil society engagement ahead of policy decision-making.
- Recognize the indispensable role of civil society in addressing the 2030 Agenda.
• Promote the legal status of civil society organisations, also to enable receiving grants.
• Support capacity building of civil society/local community organisations in order to strengthen their voice and outreach.
• Support local communities through small grants.
• Communicate with young people not only through internet in order to maximize potential reach.
• Measure youth involvement through youth organisations and clubs.
• Involve civil society in public-private partnerships.
• Promote job creation and civil society engagement in labour market matters in addition to strengthening trade union involvement.
• Organise community child care services to allow more women to engage in training and employment, to foster community responsibility for child protection and pre-school and after-school care (“it takes a village to raise a child”); and as a form of employment.
• Encourage participation of women in civil society organisations and activities.

4. Building the Evidence-Base for Policy
• Organise partnerships between governments and stakeholders in society (private sector, trade unions, civil society, local communities, international organisations) with the aim to exchange and learn.
• Identify systematically stakeholder needs and create an institutional framework for Sustainable Development Data management.6
• Develop locally specified composite indices to analyse qualitative and quantitative factors of economic and social risks of cyclones.
• Collect data on the multidimensional aspects of poverty (e.g. social exclusion, marginalization and hopelessness) as well as trend data on child poverty, disaggregated by sex and region.

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6 This could be linked to the Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data as agreed by the first UN World Data Forum on Sustainable Development Data, held in Cape Town, South Africa from 15-18 January 2017.
• Build capacity in line ministries, departments and agencies in producing evidence based data.
• Organise “data literacy” courses.
• Harmonise national statistical systems.
• Increase and deepen collaboration between universities and statistical offices, aimed at:
  o Enhancing methodologies to collect and analyse data
  o Building policy makers’ competences
  o Assuring quality of data and their use in decision-making
  o Promoting transparency and access.
• Prioritise regional data collection in relation to SDGs.
• Strengthen broadband infrastructure and universal internet access.
• Ensure open data access for media and citizens.
• Set-up government data portals.
• Create a Caribbean hub to connect civil society organisations to SDG planning and monitoring.
• Consult digital service providers on data management options.
• Establish a monitoring and evaluation framework in order to assess data relevance and impact.
• Elaborate an accountability matrix, specifying responsibilities and timeframes to increase data driven policy analysis, formulation and implementation.

Youth Forum
One of the attractions in the three day conference was the Youth Forum dedicated for youth in the region. All participants welcomed the initiative to include a special meeting of youth representatives, to offer recommendations for advancing the SDGs in the region from a youth perspective as an integral part into the conference program, by involving youth representatives into the workshop. In the conference opening session it was emphasized that amongst today’s students there will be leaders shaping the Agenda in the run-up to and after 2030 – and that therefore the Youth Forum provided an important and necessary channel of communication and platform for dialogue as part of an impactful conference.
Youth participants called upon governments to enable more education and sensitization on the SDGs in order to make young people more familiar with the themes and approaches that will define especially their future. Youth stressed the need for effective use of development assistance and a more transparent, accountable system of monitoring results and resources. Contributions in the discussion focused particularly on strengthening civil society engagement – as specified in the above. Ideas were shared about creating space for youth organisations to show what they are doing and providing incentives and rewards; to establish a database/network of youth groups in the Caribbean; and to create apps to make relevant data readily accessible.

Presentation on the SDSN Sustainable Development Goals Index and Dashboard and the Caribbean

Chaired by Dr. David Smith, Coordinator at UWI’s Institute of Sustainable Development, a number of presentations highlighted currently available and still missing data that are essential to measure progress towards the SDGs and to benefit for peer comparison in the Latin American and Caribbean region. See Annex II for key messages. Conference participants highly valued these presentations and are encouraged to further engage with the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Feature presentation: “Transformational Implementation to Achieve Breakthrough SDG Performance” by Dr. Idris Jala, President & CEO, PEMANDU Associates

Convening stakeholders for transformational action requires an open attitude towards “the road less travelled”, i.e. thinking out of the box with a true sense of urgency. This contributed greatly to reducing poverty in Malaysia from 49% in 1970 to 1% in 2014. Key lessons learned are the following:

- There are typically 8 categories of implementation problems:
  1) Unclear direction, not focused
  2) Lack of leadership commitment
  3) High level plans not translated into practical programmes
  4) Rigid implementation
  5) Silo mentality and work approach
6) Public demands and input not adequately heard/obtained
7) Poor accountability
8) Lack of transparency and trust deficit (public does not trust the Government)

- And there are 8 solution paths:
  1) Start with a strategic workshop at the highest level of leadership
  2) Facilitate labs to explore alternative policy and institutional options
  3) Conduct open days
  4) Develop roadmaps
  5) Set Key Performance Indicators (KPI’s) and targets for all ministers
  6) Monitor implementation on a weekly basis with dashboards
  7) Obtain external validation
  8) Launch annual reports, ranking ministers on performance basis.

Participants highly appreciated Dr. Jala’s practical guidelines and illustrations as a basis for similar initiatives in the Caribbean – noting the mantra for achieving results: “Pursue the impossible”; “Anchor on true north”; “Maintain discipline of action.”

Concluding summary session (3rd day)

Dr. Wayne Henry, Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica, introduced the role of and approach by the Institute in coordinating actors, institutions and policies with the aim to create a basis for full exchange of information and for synergetic policy solutions with a long term results perspective. He emphasized the importance that the Institute and the Government are attaching to seeking strong cooperation and knowledge synergies in the region as a whole. The UN’s assistance through the MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) approach has provided an important contribution to the development of an SDG Roadmap that offers all stakeholders transparency of process and insight in achievements or shortcomings.

Adrianus Melkert, Conference Advisor, Former Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of The Netherlands and former UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator, summarized key takeaways from three days of intensive and open debate between
participants who met in the unique setting of bringing policy makers, experts, civil society and the academic community together around 17 shared Goals.

- Echoing the emphasis put by Jamaica’s Prime Minister Holness, it appears that especially SDG 8 (Good Jobs and Economic Growth) and SDG 16 (Peace and Justice) are crucial to achieve overall success. In addition the SDSN stocktaking, showed that SDG 9 (Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 3 (Good Health) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) still require priority attention and acceleration. However, more awareness should be raised to agree on the overriding impact of SDG 5 (Gender Equality) as progress in all domains will depend to a large extent on the recognition that the role of women and girls in politics, in the economy and in society will have to be strengthened. Furthermore, everyone agrees that for the Caribbean SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 14 (Life Below Water) are necessarily on top of the agenda, however with considerable challenges ahead to reduce vulnerabilities.

- The conference has been a vivid illustration of the imperative and opportunity that SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) offers to rally support for achieving the SDGs. The openness to discuss, listen and act together as shown during these three days and in the preparation of the conference should continue to guide the Caribbean community to stand stronger together in the face of unprecedented challenges.

- The UNMSDF Results Matrixes provide an excellent basis for further action and results monitoring, along the axes:
  - An Inclusive, Equitable, Prosperous Caribbean
  - A Healthy Caribbean
  - A Cohesive, Safe and Just Caribbean
  - A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean.

- It is important never to forget that the endeavour to achieve the SDGs is nothing less than promoting the observance of fundamental human rights: freedom of expression, access to information, freedom of association and assembly; and special focus on human rights of specific groups, including women, children, minorities, older persons in need of support, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, indigenous people.

- Key points in the opening speeches referred to:
  - Growing momentum in strategic partnerships
No one left behind should mean: the furthest behind first
Indebtedness of many countries should be addressed
An activist and collaborative contribution from academia
“Climate Justice” and economic innovation as drivers of resilience and growth.

- Many discussions focused on roles and responsibilities of governments on the one hand and private actors, local communities, civil society and bilateral/multilateral agencies on the other hand. In order to understand better the need for and opportunities created by a pro-active state it is worth reading: “The Entrepreneurial State: debunking public vs. private sector myths”, by London based Professor Mariana Mazzucato, published in 2013. Her key findings focus on the need for the State to enter into high-risk investments that subsequently tend to trigger private sector investments. Thus the State actively shapes and creates markets and can condition both “smart” and “inclusive” economic growth. In the same vein, Mazzucato and Jacobs published in 2016 a bundle “Rethinking Capitalism: Economics and Policy for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth.”

- As conference participants have convened around the call for joint action, it is important to agree on focus and priorities. For the perfect tends to be the enemy of the good and there are simply not enough resources and capacities to do everything at the same time. Therefore three clusters of focus might help to get “first things first” done:
  - **Financial Resources**
    - Driving domestic internal efficiencies as a prerequisite for successful bidding for international external support through, e.g., cutting red tape, implementing tax audits and reviewing allocation of resources (for example: freeing up judiciary capacity by decriminalizing use of marijuana).
    - Concentrating donor support at establishing baseline indicators and ensuring MSDF monitoring.
    - Promoting debt relief and insurance arrangements, both at macro- and micro- levels; innovating instruments (debt for nature swaps, diaspora bonds).
- Investing in economic dynamics through innovations in IT, infrastructure, education and health services; with stronger involvement from the diaspora.

  o **Social Capital**

  - Venturing to rely more on the creativity and representativeness of civil society as well as employers and trade union organisations: Partnership for the Goals is key to achieving SDG results.
  - Establishing a job creation and labour market coordination authority, especially to include young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs).
  - Expanding access to and quality of tertiary education in order to upgrade the key “commodity” for the future: knowledge.
  - Improving at all levels of society and in all areas of policy participation of and opportunities for women and girls, with an emphasis on health services, education and safety and respect.
  - Hearing and engaging young people in building the future of their communities and society and the economy generally.
  - Offering equal opportunities to persons with special needs/disabilities as they remain often marginalized and dependent.

  o **Public Management**

  - Working together on the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to respond to the Paris Agenda on Climate Action.
  - Mapping capacities (existing and non-existing) for monitoring SDG indicators.
  - Establishing a Public-Private Partnership Observatory.
- Creating a “knowledge brokerage” facility to optimize exchanges between academia, policy makers and civil society.
- Providing “Open Data” access to citizens and showing data driven leadership in order to foster a culture of practical, non-partisan results focused cooperation.
- Establishing an “accountability matrix” with the purpose to allocate and define roles and responsibilities and reporting timelines.

- The Conference Final Report is meant to serve as a reference document to define further action and online platform exchange. It will be important that countries and relevant institutions appoint focal points to create a solid network for ongoing exchange and learning. This conference has shown the potential to consolidate and accelerate Action 2030 for the whole region and all citizens.

Closing session

The Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade highlighted the importance of “Caribbean Action 2030” as a springboard towards stronger cooperation, faster action and tangible results in the region. Ministers and high level delegates of participating countries joined in expressing their strong motivation to build upon the dialogue and recommendations and to work with the UN and UWI in deepening and accelerating policy change with a view to achieve the SDGs by 2030 across the region. They thanked the Government of Jamaica for hosting the conference and for sharing experiences on the “SDG achievement status.”

EPILOGUE

In assessing the proceedings and outcomes of the Conference the organisers agreed that the meeting was an exemplary confirmation of the strength of the SDG 17 appeal: to promote partnerships, and in doing so, to break out of local or sectorial silos. The range and diversity of topics discussed do not allow for taking up all recommendations at once. It must be acknowledged that not all topics introduced by the presenters received attention to the same
degree. There is inevitably a trade-off between inviting a broad spectre of participants and the depth of conclusions that can be achieved. Digging deeper in providing specific policy analysis and advice should therefore be the next stage in order to keep the momentum generated by this successful convention. It will therefore be important to identify key tasks that should be taken up either by national stakeholders, regional working parties with the objective to further elaborate and advance policy change; and by the university community in cooperation with government and civil society actors through seminars on key topics that require in-depth data collection and analysis. The Conference website www.caribbeanaction2030.com will serve as the main platform for presenting relevant knowledge products; for stimulating exchange of information; and for convening interested parties and persons around new initiatives in parallel with the evolving work and synergy between the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Caribbean Policy Research Institute. Optimal online communication is for Caribbean partnership a must and a great opportunity for both strengthening mutual policy impact and external outreach. All ingredients are there to now establish a regional open data consortium that will serve policy-makers and citizens alike.

Annexes

I Partnership Framework
II Key Messages
III SDSN Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard
IV Conference Programme
V List of participants
Annex 1: Partnership Framework

PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK

(Conference Draft as at 30th June 2017)

Promoting Cooperation and Coordination in the Caribbean in Achieving the SDGs on the basis of the “Caribbean Action 2030: Regional Conference on the Sustainable Development Goals” held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 28th – 30th June 2017

1) We, the Government Ministers and High Level Representatives of countries in the Caribbean region, representing Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Curaçao, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, met in Kingston, Jamaica from 28th – 30th June 2017, to reaffirm our commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with the aim to advance and accelerate result-based actions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A. Pathway); the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and also acknowledge the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the HABITAT III New Urban Agenda.

2) We subscribe to the call for universal action embedded in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a basis for maximising the engagement of all stakeholders in our own societies, and internationally, in order to serve the cause of economic and social development, particularly citizen participation and climate action. Urgent response and synergy-building are needed in order to serve the common interest of the region’s citizens, regardless of the level of economic development or social organisation in countries.

3) We note the convening of regional meetings to address issues in respect of the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean, including: the Symposium on “Mainstreaming the SDGs into National Development Planning” in Kingston, from 14th - 16th February 2017; the Symposium on “Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the S.A.M.O.A Pathway in Small Island Developing States -SIDS: Equipping Public Institutions And Mobilizing Partnerships” in Nassau, from 21st -23rd February 2017; the “Forum of the Countries of Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Sustainable Development” in Mexico City, from 26th -28th April 2017; and the
"Workshop to Accelerate SDGs Implementation in the Caribbean" in Port of Spain, on 18th May 2017. These have provided us with important insights and proposals on which we have further built during this Regional Conference, in the spirit of complementarity and deepening of common understanding.

4) We, therefore, welcome the initiative by the Government of Jamaica, the United Nations (UN) and the University of the West Indies (UWI) to bring together a broad spectrum of stakeholders, with the objective of strengthening the science-policy interface and garner the support of decision makers in the public and private sectors, including the academic community and civil society. In order to accelerate national progress throughout the region, support for research, data collection, policy planning and action is geared towards achieving the SDGs. We promote on-going exchange between governmental and non-governmental actors. In this regard, we acknowledge the key supportive role of the UN System and its representatives in achieving: An inclusive, equitable and prosperous Caribbean; A healthy Caribbean; A safe, cohesive and just Caribbean; and A sustainable and resilient Caribbean.

5) The Caribbean Action 2030 Conference offered a welcome opportunity to define the common ground among Caribbean countries on the basis of new and existing priorities, knowledge and policy synergies; fostering partnerships for scaled-up solutions; and developing resource mobilization strategies for achieving further results. It also presented an opportunity for increased intergovernmental cooperation to advance the region’s cause. We acknowledge the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) initiative as an available tool to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the country level. The Conference also allowed for the advancement of the UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (MSDF), which was agreed to between Caribbean governments and UN partners as an appropriate platform for the coordination of our efforts.

6) We reaffirm the indispensable role of the private sector in accelerating economic growth, as a prerequisite for delivery on the SDGs. We encourage Caribbean Governments to intensify their efforts to create an enabling environment that facilitates innovation and entrepreneurship as a means of fully unlocking the potential of the region. In this regard, we encourage greater support for Caribbean governments in the creation of sustained policy initiatives, public education, institutional arrangements and
incentives that encourage appropriate financing for both traditional and non-traditional sectors.

7) In order to address the challenges associated with our common objectives we take note of the UN “Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data” as agreed in Cape Town, January 2017, as a source of inspiration for regional and national governmental and non-governmental actors to seek strategic coordination and practical cooperation, with special emphasis on regional and national statistical capacity building, inclusive and comprehensive data collection, disaggregation, storage, access and analysis to support evidence-based policy-making for the implementation of the SDGs in the Caribbean;

8) On the basis of a rich and diverse array of research presented, this Regional Conference provided an excellent opportunity for constructive and in-depth dialogue leading to important recommendations to national governments and civil society representatives, each within their own competence and responsibility. We pledge to seek further cooperation and coordination among and within countries, in order to follow-up on the analyses and recommendations presented.

9) This framework builds on these previous outcomes and guidance documents and seeks to address the unprecedented threats to the lives and livelihoods of Caribbean citizens as a consequence of global industrial activity and climate-related events. This brings along the need for global solidarity in generating the necessary resources to enhance and sustain knowledge exchange, skills development and hard infrastructure and other necessary investments in our region.

10) We acknowledge the importance of national and regional multi-stakeholder partnerships which are imperative for national and regional sustainable development implementation, and inclusive of the engagement of civil society organisations, trade unions, man, woman and child, and vulnerable groups, in particular, the youth and persons with disabilities.

11) We are particularly keen to further build upon the youth campaign activities that represent the “Caribbean Youth Perspectives on the SDGs” as an important basis for policymakers and international organisations to align their understanding of policy requirements with situational awareness of young people’s ideas and concerns.
12) Financial sustainability is a vital element in ensuring not only that the SDGs are achieved but also that the accomplishments are impactful particularly for the most vulnerable among us. The heavy indebtedness of some members of the Caribbean region impedes the mobilisation of domestic resources. The exclusion of countries from concessional and grant resources based on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita or other conditions can result in the erosion or hindrance of gains impeding sustained development for all. We call upon the UN to seek further advice and support for the Caribbean region by engaging international financial institutions and exploring new and innovative financing mechanisms to effectively address the special capacity needs and policy challenges facing low and middle income countries in the Caribbean, in supporting the building of resilience, economic diversification, social inclusion and climate change management.

13) We are aware that advancing effective action on the SDGs agenda will require creative efforts to increase financial resources. We are, therefore, pleased to propose the engagement of non-traditional financing sources for the purpose of realising our national development goals, including: Diaspora Engagement and international private sector institutions.

14) We ask the international community, particularly the UN and its organizations, to partner with us in championing the use of a vulnerability index to capture the unique challenges of Caribbean SIDS, thereby making funds more available to advance the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

15) We look forward to receiving the final report of the Conference, including recommendations for policy implementation and follow-up. We also call for the development of further content and continued engagement, focused on promoting inclusive growth and stakeholder participation. As this will require long-term commitment and partnerships, we encourage the establishment of a regional online platform that takes into consideration existing regional efforts that will enable the academic community, civil society and policy makers to engage in on-going dialogue on the basis of evidence-based research, open data and exchange of good policy practice.

16) We commend those Caribbean countries that have presented voluntary reports to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF); and encourage other Caribbean countries to do the
same for the next reporting cycle in 2018, as this will reflect our commitment to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

17) We thank the Government of Jamaica for the hospitality provided during the Conference in Kingston and look forward to continued stakeholder collaboration, as we seek to make regional SDG implementation a reality.
Annex II: Key Messages

Keynote Address by The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, MP, Prime Minister

The Honourable Carl Greenidge, Vice President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana,
The Honourable Delmaude Ryan, Deputy Premier of Montserrat,
Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade,
Ministers of Government from the Region;
Miss Jessica Faieta, UN Assistant Secretary-General
UN Resident Coordinators and UNDP Resident Representatives from the Region
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Professor Archibald McDonald, Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies
Specially Invited Guests, Senior Officials of participating countries, Senior Officials of the Government of Jamaica, Youth Representatives, Members of the Media, Other Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very pleased to be here at the opening of this very important regional conference on the 2030 Agenda and its seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This conference is timely and affords the opportunity for the Caribbean to take important decisions on the localisation and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The SDGs are aligned with key development concerns and priorities of the region. These include economic growth, equity, security and safety, good health, world class education and training, good governance, innovation-driven societies, environmental sustainability and climate change response. Indeed, the Goals are considered a game changer for global development and for advancing the sustainable prosperity of our islands and coastal states.

Let us, for a moment, take a panoramic view of the Caribbean. What do we see? White and black sand beaches, fertile vegetation, tall and majestic mountains and other wonderful and diverse landforms such as, the Blue and John Crow Mountains here in Jamaica, the Pitons in St. Lucia, the Pitch Lake in Trinidad, Harrison Caves in Barbados, and I could go on. We will also see hardworking and industrious people, filled with not just warmth, but creativity and talent. This however, is only a piece of the picture. If we take a more microscopic view of the region, we will see some real challenges: low levels of economic growth, high levels of debt and rising poverty, unemployment, unattached youth, the increasing incidence of lifestyle diseases, and crime and violence.

Additionally, our countries have other intrinsic economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities due to small size. These include limited natural resource base, significant competition for land use, dependence of major economic sectors on the natural environment, fragile ecosystems, and a high concentration of people and infrastructure in coastal zones. Globally, fast technological progress and deepening globalization have created opportunities for some people, but profound challenges for others, including for young people who struggle to find work. Many countries are being affected by severe natural disasters, and with climate change we can expect worsening weather events. A significant number of countries are experiencing violent conflicts causing loss of life, major development setbacks, and the displacement of people on a huge scale; which also impact us directly and indirectly.
Is this the world we want to see in 2030? I will certainly tell you that this is not the legacy I want to leave behind. Allow me to share my vision of Jamaica and indeed the entire region. By 2030, there should be a Caribbean in which all have access to world class education and training, healthcare and equal opportunities in safe and just societies that are underpinned by trust, love, respect and tolerance. I also envision a Caribbean with healthy natural environments, lush vegetation and forests, clean air and water, technology driven innovation, economic growth in various sectors and prosperity for all.

As you would have observed, economic growth forms only a part of the picture. We are conscious that for development to be sustainable there must be focus on the social as well as the environmental dimensions. The SDGs are an important framework for reminding us of the interconnections that enable development to be sustainable.

In framing the Caribbean we want, I would like to make specific reference to Goal 8 – Decent work and economic growth and Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong institutions. Why does this matter? These goals are all encompassing as they recognise that the achievement of the SDGs will depend on promoting sustained and inclusive economic growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all in peaceful and just societies.

My fellow Caribbean citizens, I am sure that you agree with my vision of the Caribbean in 2030. We know that achieving a sustainable future for all requires extensive work and commitment:

- Strong national policies that integrate the three (3) pillars of development: economic, social and environmental. In other words, agricultural policy, for example, must include economic, social and environmental objectives, and must be formulated in such a way that negative impacts on the environment are either minimised or eliminated;
- Transformational leadership to ensure a coordinated, strategic approach;
- Capacity building and adequate financing across all sectors;
- Monitoring and evaluation capability, that is the ability to know what we are doing, and whether we are doing it right, in order to take corrective action where necessary, and to share best practices for continuous improvement and;
- Effective partnerships, inclusive of public private partnerships, civil society, academia, as well as our development partners.

In Jamaica, through the Partnership Council; among other initiatives; we are ensuring that the Opposition, private sector, unions, civil society and academia are engaged in the dialogue. I am aware that as part of this Regional Conference there will be a Youth Forum. I want to make a special appeal to the young people here. You have a critical role to play in the realisation of the SDGs and securing the future. As agents of change; bring your technology; ideas, knowledge and leadership to the table.

The SDGs, given their universal applicability, afford each country a platform from which to make their developmental aspirations a reality. When I was still here at UWI in 1994; the UN Conference on Sustainable Development took place in Rio de Janeiro, world leaders, at that time, committed to “meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. Today, I am a part of that future generation.

While there are evident advancements in technology, reduction in extreme poverty, higher standards of living, better policies and more people-centered approaches to development; it is clear that there is much more that needs to be done. Whilst we all “logged on” to the concept of sustainable development, infusion of the notion of integrating economic, social and environmental issues into all aspects of development was not embedded. The sustainable development model, therefore, provides us with a more holistic approach to development to advance our societies and create the Caribbean we want. The SDGs were born out of a participatory approach to development for its effective implementation by all sectors of our society.

I will, at this juncture, make specific reference to Jamaica’s commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda. Through our National Development Plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica, which was promulgated in 2009, we have already embarked on the implementation of the SDGs. Vision 2030 is visionary,
insightful, strategic and practical, and was designed to make “Jamaica the place of choice, to live, work, raise families and do business”.

The implementation framework for Vision 2030, the medium term-socio-economic policy framework (or MTF), outlines the priority strategies and actions that are to be implemented every three years. In 2015, during the development of the Third MTF, the global goals were aligned with the national goals and outcomes contained in Vision 2030. A UN Mission in October 2016, to assess Jamaica’s readiness to implement the SDGs, concluded that Jamaica would do its part in implementing the Goals if it implemented Vision 2030.

A new tag line, under Vision 2030 Jamaica, was created to better solidify the linkages between our Vision and the SDGs: “Vision 2030 Jamaica... advancing the implementation of the SDGs... leaving no one behind”.

I shared the experience of Jamaica, so that as a region we can learn from each other as we take this collective journey. We must continue to work together to advance our development, adopt and adapt as necessary good practices and develop partnerships for shared prosperity.

I cannot over-emphasize the importance of stakeholder engagement as we seek to make more inclusive decisions and build stronger relationships with each other. The SDGs create a framework for strengthening consultation, participation and partnership at all levels of society. In the words of the famous anthropologist Margaret Mead, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”.

As we take the next steps, I want to share with you my commitment. First and foremost, as Prime Minister of Jamaica, I am taking a keen interest in the implementation of the SDGs and their alignment with Vision 2030. Earlier this week, the Government received a progress report on the implementation process for the SDGs from the Planning Institute of Jamaica. We are paying close attention to implementation of the accelerators as recommended in the SDGs Road Map for Jamaica. Some of these include:

- Strengthening the outreach efforts of social protection programmes, expanding care services for children and the elderly, pursuing multi-disciplinary non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention efforts;
- Strengthening the judiciary and police systems;
- Supporting MSMEs;
- Strengthening the land use management system;
- Building on disaster and climate risk management efforts;
- Enhancing public awareness of the importance of the natural environment to socio-economic development.

I have mentioned these accelerators for another reason. The progress on the implementation of these provides yet another opportunity for us to share with our Caribbean counterparts the lessons learnt. We can also learn from you in those areas in which you are currently implementing strategies for attaining the SDGs.

I applaud all who have participated in this process and the United Nations for taking the lead role to advance the prospect of achieving a sustainable future. I also wish to express my gratitude to the University of the West Indies for being our partner in the organising of this event. For those who have travelled to Jamaica, please enjoy your stay and make sure you sample some of the sights, sounds and tastes of the City of Kingston; one of forty-seven (47) creative cities designated by UNESCO.

I wish for you a successful conference and look forward to the decisions that will emanate from Caribbean Action 2030. It was Mahatma Gandhi who said that “One must care about the world one will not see”.

Thank you.
REMARKS by Mr Bruno Pouezat, Resident Coordinator, United Nations in Jamaica

• Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Most Honourable Andrew Holness
• Chairperson, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, Senator the Honourable Kamila Johnson Smith,
• Honourable Ministers, other Heads of Delegations and representatives from governments from across the region
• Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the University of the West Indies Mona Campus, Professor Archibald McDonald and other leaders of the University community
• Honourable Prime Ministers, Ministers and other national delegates from across the Caribbean
• United Nations Assistant Secretary General and UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Chair of the Regional UN Development Group for LAC Ms. Jessica Faieta
• Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General for the SDGs
• Conference Advisor, Former Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands and Former UN Under Secretary General and UNDP Associate Administrator Mr. Adrianus Melkert,
• Excellences the Ambassadors and heads of international organizations
• Members of the diplomatic corps
• United Nations colleagues from across the Caribbean
• Representatives of Civil Society, the private sector, the media
• Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to all, and to our foreign visitors, welcome to Jamaica!

In late 2030, in just 13 years’ time, 193 nations including all of the Caribbean will be called on to submit their final reports on their progress in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that make up the global Agenda 2030.

These thirteen years will pass in a flash so, if we are to reach the goals, we must move now to lay the foundations for sustained, accelerated action on Agenda 2030. Discussions to that effect started in May 2015 in the Caribbean Future Forum of Port of Spain jointly organized by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the University of the West Indies and the UN. Building on this first encounter, the Caribbean Action 2030 Conference offers an excellent opportunity for academics and policy makers from across the region to come together as co-investors in our common future. Our objective is to learn from each other’s ideas, best practices, workable solutions and resources, and to strengthen the regional platform for continuing cooperation that will speed up action within the limited time available until 2030.

To capitalize on this opportunity, our discussions over the next three days must be focused, thoughtful and deliberate, aiming to tease out strategies that will fast-track the visionary ambitions articulated in national development plans across this region.

The United Nations in the Caribbean – the development Agencies, Funds and Programmes of the United Nations in 18 English- and Dutch-speaking countries in the region on whose behalf I speak this morning – agree with our Conference partners that the four thematic areas selected for our discussions hold much promise for success to that end. These themes are: (1) Resource Mobilization; (2) Capacity-building for Public Policy and Rule of Law Institutions; (3) Strengthening Civil Society Engagement; and (4) Building the Evidence-Base for Policy.

Why these four themes? The SDGs are ambitious, wide-ranging and interdependent.

• Sufficient resources for their achievement in the Small Island Developing States of the region will demand robust resource mobilization, including partnerships with the private sector.
• Institutional capacity is crucial to policy implementation.
• Civil society engagement, including with the youth who by 2030 will be steering SDG achievement, will generate grassroots advocacy, activism and bottom-up support in favour of change.
• Finally, a strong evidence base will be required for policy to achieve maximum impact.
A greater focus on these four cross-cutting critical areas will generate, for the people of the Caribbean, tangible benefits across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of life – and for the region, considerable gains towards the SDGs by 2030.

Twenty United Nations development Agencies, Funds and Programmes that work across those 18 Caribbean countries and territories have now joined forces to better help the region achieve Agenda 2030. Elaborated with our national partners, our coordinated response for the next five years, the UN Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework in the Caribbean channels the resources and technical expertise of the UN towards four pillars: (1) An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean; (2) A Healthy Caribbean; (3) A Safe, Cohesive and Just Caribbean; (4) A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean.

These thematic areas are strategically aligned to the SDGs and will specifically address areas that are crucial across the Caribbean such as education, social protection and economic opportunities; universal access to equitable, quality health services and healthy nutrition; reform of security and justice institutions, focussing on corruption, citizen security and social cohesion; natural resources management and protection, sustainable use of terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, renewable energy systems; and inclusive and resilient societies.

Achieving the SDGs will transform everyone’s life, and everyone has a role to play in achieving the SDGs. Indeed, it will take everyone pulling together to secure these ambitious targets. That is why it was essential that this conference gather academics and policy makers, development partners and civil society, the private sector and the media. And it was particularly important that the voices, the realities, the capacities of often marginalized populations – women, children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, vulnerable groups – are heard and reflected on in the search for solutions.

In conclusion, let me express our gratitude to the three parties which have worked together to bring us here today: the Government of Jamaica, with particular thanks to the Most Honourable Prime Minister, to our dynamic chair, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and to the Permanent Secretary and her team at the Ministry; the team at the University of the West Indies/Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Sciences, ably led by Professor Aldrey Henry Lee; and my UN colleagues across the Caribbean, many of whom will be chairing discussion panels. UNDP played an essential support role, ably led by the UNDP Jamaica Deputy Resident Representative, Dr Elsie Laurence Chounoune.

We are particularly grateful to all the participants for their continuing trust and support, particularly the Ministers and other national delegates whom I am delighted to welcome to Jamaica. Finally, among many, I must mention three individuals:

- Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Senior Adviser to successive United Nations Secretaries General who has played a central role in the international discussions around the Millennium Development Goals from 2000, and now around the SDGs. In these uncertain times for international cooperation, his is the voice of passion, conviction, optimism but also reason.
- My boss, United Nations Assistant Secretary General, UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Chair of the Regional UN Development Group for LAC Ms. Jessica Faieta, who arrived from NY at 1 am this morning and will be landing back in NY at 1 am tomorrow morning but insisted on coming to support us.
- Our Conference Advisor, Former Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands and Former UN Under-Secretary General and UNDP Associate Administrator Mr. Ad Melkert, who’s been holding our hand in preparing this exceptional event.

The UN in the Caribbean is convinced that, while the SDGs are ambitious, they are achievable throughout this region within the remaining timeframe. We look forward to the coming discussions in helping shape a lasting framework agreement for accelerated action at the regional and national levels, and we commit to the governments and the peoples of this region to continue supporting their efforts, across the Caribbean, to uphold the global 2030 Agenda commitment to ‘Leave No One Behind’.
Annex III: SDSN Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard


The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) mobilizes scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable development problem solving at local, national, and global scales.

The Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) successfully focused world attention and action on ending extreme poverty in all its forms and reducing gender inequality. Following on the fifteen-year MDG period, world leaders adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. The SDGs address today’s problems of extreme poverty, social exclusion, and environmental destruction by providing an operational framework to support a transition towards a more sustainable path. Achieving the goals will require diverse stakeholders, including national and local governments, civil society, business, and the scientific community, to work together on solutions-oriented approaches to sustainability across all sectors and issues, based on sound scientific evidence and insight into what long-term sustainability pathways look like.

Objectives of the SDSN

Recognizing the urgency of these issues, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) was launched in 2012 at the initiative of UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon. The SDSN’s mission is defined around four principal goals to be pursued with all member institutions of the SDSN:

1. Support the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda, including the SDGs, Financing for Development, and the Paris Agreement.
2. Promote Thematic Groups and Solution Initiatives for sustainable development. The SDSN has eleven thematic groups that support sector-specific solution initiatives, such as the Deep Decarbonization Pathways Project and the Agricultural Transformation Pathways initiative, to achieve the SDGs.
3. Develop SDSN Networks at national and regional levels to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development. Networks like the Caribbean SDSN mobilize local stakeholders for local action.
4. Develop high-quality, free, online education for Sustainable Development Practitioners through SDSNedu ([www.sdsnedu.org](http://www.sdsnedu.org)). We currently offer courses on topics such as extractive industries, climate change negotiations, planetary boundaries, and sustainable oceans, and several more in development.

[www.unsdn.org](http://www.unsdn.org)

The Caribbean Sustainable Development Solution Network was launched on May 7th, 2014 on the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies. It is coordinated by the Institute for Sustainable Development. The Institute for Sustainable Development of
The University of the West Indies helps to fulfill the University’s commitment to build capacity and competence for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean. It prioritizes transitioning science and data into policy to provide practical solutions for sustainability within the region.

The Caribbean SDSN is a chapter of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN). It was initiated to address the development needs of the Caribbean, a diverse set of countries, including a number of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which face a growing number of sustainable development challenges. These include, but are not limited to, establishing competitive industries and employment generation; reducing high income inequalities; adapting to climate change and curbing greenhouse gas emissions; marine pollution, overfishing, and biodiversity loss; and urban development.

Caribbean universities have a long tradition of working closely with their governments in supporting sustainable development, but to date no regional network of universities and research institutes exist that focuses on the challenges of sustainable development. The objectives of the Caribbean SDSN are to mobilize universities and research centers and to strengthen cooperation to: (i) Promote and implement “Solutions Initiatives” that address key sustainable development challenges in the Caribbean; (ii) Promote university teaching on sustainable development; (iii) Assist governments in understanding and addressing major sustainable development challenges; (iv) Support and participate in the development of the post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals that have replaced the Millennium Development Goals after 2015.

Membership to the Caribbean SDSN is free and open to all interested universities and research centers in the Caribbean Basin (including French, Spanish, and Dutch-speaking institutions in Central America and the northern coast of South America). Membership is also open to Universities that are not based in the Caribbean but with strong research and projects in the region.
Annex IV: Conference Programme

DAY 1 – Wednesday, June 28, 2017

8:00 - 9:00  
REGISTRATION

“Lobby, UWI Regional Headquarters”

9:00 - 10:30
Opening Ceremony

“Eon Nigel Harris Council Room, UWI Regional Headquarters”

Chair: Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica

National Anthem
The University Singers

Remarks:

• Mr. Bruno Pouezat, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Turks & Caicos and Cayman Islands

• Professor Archibald McDonald, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal, University of the West Indies, Mona

• Ms Jessica Faieta, Assistant Secretary General and Director, Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

Youth Advocacy Campaign Presentation
“No One Left Behind: The Caribbean We Want by 2030”

Keynote Address

The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, MP, Prime Minister of Jamaica

Cultural Presentation
Ardenne Drummers

Closing Remarks

10:30 - 10:45  
COFFEE BREAK

10:45 - 12:15  
Caribbean Action 2030 Distinguished Lecture

“Eon Nigel Harris Council Room, UWI Regional Headquarters”

Chair: Professor Patrick Watson, University Director, Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)
DAY 1 — Wednesday, June 28, 2017

12:15 - 13:45  Powering Private Sector Enterprise through Agenda 2030 Partnership (By Invitation Only)
  *Neal & Massy Lounge, UWI Regional Headquarters*
Chair: The Hon. Delmaude Ryan, Deputy Premier of Montserrat

1. Prof. Raymond Saner, Professor Titular in Organisation and International Management (University of Basle)
   Financing SDGs through PPPs: Urgent need to restructure PPP standard setting process. Case example of UNECE’s PPP standard for health

2. The Hon. Olivia Grange, CD, MP, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport
   UNDP Gender Seal Initiative for the Private Sector

12:15 - 13:45  LUNCH BREAK
  *Executive Seminar Room 3, Faculty of Law*

13:45 – 15:45  National Representatives’ Perspectives
  *Lecture Room 3, Faculty of Law*
Chair: Mr. Adrianus Melkert, Conference Advisor, Former Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands and Former UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator

13:45 – 15:45  Ministerial Exchange
  *Ramson Meeting Room, UWI Regional Headquarters*
Chair: Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade, Jamaica
Presentations:

1. Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, New York and Co-Chair - Group of Friends for SDGs Financing
2. Prof. Raymond Saner, Professor Titular in Organisation and International Management (University of Basle)

15:45 - 16:00  BREAK

16:00 – 18:00  Concurrent Panels
Panel 1: Education  *Lecture Room 2, Faculty of Law*
Chair: Ms. Katherine Grigsby, Director and Representative of the UNESCO Cluster Office for the Caribbean

1. Steven Kerr - Creating High Quality Schools in Jamaica: A Situational Analysis
2. Silvia Kouwenberg, Michele Kennedy, Yewande LewisFokum - Making SDG 4 real: Contributing to relevant and effective learning outcomes

3. Paul Murphy - The Effectiveness of Development Assistance in the Education Sector

4. Stacy Richards-Kennedy - The Role of Knowledge Brokerage in Advancing the 2030 Development Agenda in the Caribbean

Panel 2: Reduced Inequalities

"Lecture Room 3, Faculty of Law"

Chair: Ms. Alison McLean, Representative – UN Women Multi-Country Office – Caribbean

1. Rashad Brathwaite - SDGs, Disability and the Labour Market in Barbados

2. Alvinelle Matthew - Social Capital and Youth Violence: Are there gender inequalities?

3. Floyd Morris - An Inclusive, Equitable and Prosperous Caribbean: The Case of Persons with Disabilities

4. Rudo Udika - A Disaster Reduction Initiative for Students with Disabilities in Trinidad and Tobago

5. Federico Tobar - The Economics of SRH and the SDGs

Panel 3: Capacity Building for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean

"Lecture Room 1A, Faculty of Law"

Chair: Mr. Stephen O'Malley, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Barbados and the OECS

1. Karina Browne, Darshelle Daniel, Carene Francis, Kalecia Hall, Risa Khan, Mekeina McLennon, Diedre O'Connor, Annadjae Roberts, Keadia Sparkes, Nicole Thwaites, Hadeikaye Williams - Community-Based Approaches to Assessing and Measuring SDGs and Related Indicators

2. Serge Kapto - Integrated Data Ecosystems to Support SDG Implementation and Monitoring

3. Tisa McGhee - Leveraging the Capacity for Public Policy Change in Achieving the 2030 Agenda: Evidenced-Based Policymaking in Caribbean Nations


5. Godfrey St. Bernard - Development Policy Challenges, National Statistics and State of Readiness in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago: A Critical Review in Response to Contemporary Sustainable Development Agendas

Panel 4: Responsible Consumption and Production

"Lecture Room 1B, Faculty of Law"

Chair: Senator the Honourable Maxine McClean, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade Barbados
1. Donna Kaidou-Jeffrey, Patrick Kendall, Amos C. Peters, Justin Ram - Managing Water Resources for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean: Dynamic Policy Options

2. Amrita Milling - Expanded Polystyrene (EPS) Wastes Mortar as a Replacement for Conventional Mortars for Joining Masonry Units

3. Michelle Scobie (via Skype) - A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean - Benefit sharing, conservation and sustainable use of Marine Biological Diversity beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction

Panel 5: Climate Change and the Environment

Chair: Hon. Dr. Gale T. Rigobert, Minister of Education, Gender Relations, Innovation and Sustainable Development, Saint Lucia

1. Thalia Balkaran - Assessing the Vulnerability of Tourism-related Livelihoods to Tropical Cyclones in Small Island Developing States: a comparison of Tobago and Jamaica

2. Christopher Corbin, Lorna Inniss - The role of a legally binding Convention for the Wider Caribbean and delivery of SDG 14

3. Sanne van Osnabrugge - Understanding lobbying for the aim of Resource Mobilization at the COPs to the UNFCCC to enable Capacity Building for Public Policy of local governments in regards to a Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean

DAY 2 – Thursday, June 29, 2017

8:00 - 9:00 REGISTRATION

Chair: Mr. Mark Connolly, UNICEF Representative, Jamaica

1. Ashaki Dore - Responsible Citizenship in Public Safety

2. Birgit Gerstenberg - Human Rights and the SDGs - no one left behind

3. Aldrie Henry-Lee - Fulfilling the SDGs for Children in Small Island Developing States

4. Rashalee Mitchell - Gender equality and decent work for female sex workers in Jamaica

5. Julie Xavier - A Multi-Dimensional Approach to Poverty Eradication in the Eastern Caribbean

Panel 7: Partnerships for the Goals

Chair: Mr. Richard Blewitt, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Aruba, Curacao and St. Maarten

2. Richard Bernal - BREXIT and the Caribbean's Amicus Curiae Brief

3. Oral Robinson - Incorporating the Outlying Countries: Towards an Inclusive and Equitable Migration Policy within CARICOM


Panel 8: Industry, Innovation and Economic Growth

Chair: Vincent Sweeney, Head, UNEP Caribbean Regional Office

1. Kelvin Dalrymple, Prakash Loungani, Ke Wang - Economic diversification: The Impact of Political Economy Decisions in Low-income Developing Countries

2. Neville Duncan - Forging Anticipatory Resilience to Potential Impact of Predicable Global Political Economic Developments on Caribbean Countries

3. Donna Walter - "We Haffi Try It": An Action Research Case Study of Communicating Policy Change in the Caribbean


Panel 9: A Healthy Caribbean

Chair: Dr. Noreen Jack, PAHO WHO Representative, Jamaica

1. Ishtar Govia, Ava Thompson, Saths Cooper, Oscar Barbarin, Sonia Suchday - Psychological Science and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda: National, Regional and International Collaboration

2. Tara Malcolm - NCDs in the Caribbean and the SDGs

3. Gene Morse - Dual University System Health Research Partnership as a Foundation for Sustainable Development Goals

4. Sheria Myrie - Inner City Dropout Girls’ Use of Marijuana and Tobacco to Cope with Community Violence Exposure

5. Cesar Nunez - Fastrack AIDS response in the Caribbean


Panel 10: 2030 Youth Forum

Chair: Stacy Richards-Kennedy, Director of Development, Office of the Vice Chancellor, University of the West Indies

11:00 - 11:30 COFFEE BREAK
11:30 – 13:00 Concurrent Sessions

2030 Youth Forum Plenary Discussion
*Lecture Room 2, Faculty of Law*

Solutions and Strategies Workshops
Participants make recommendations to address challenges identified with special attention to 4 themes:

1. **Resource Mobilization Strategies**
   *Lecture Room 3, Faculty of Law*
   Co-Chairs: Hon. Omar Figueroa, Minister of State, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change, Belize
   Mr. Michiel Raafenberg, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Suriname

2. **Capacity-building for Public Policy and Rule of Law Institutions**
   *Lecture Room 1A, Faculty of Law*
   Co-Chairs: Hon. Oliver Joseph, Minister of Economic Development, Planning, Trade and Labour, Grenada Hon. Mark Brantley, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Aviation, St. Kitts and Nevis

3. **Strengthening Civil Society Engagement**
   *Lecture Room 1B, Faculty of Law*
   Co-Chairs: Ms. Alison Drayton, UNFPA Director/Representative – Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean
   Ms. Linnette S. Vassell, Community Development and Gender Specialist, Jamaica

4. **Building the Evidence-Base for Policy**
   *Seminar Room 1, Faculty of Law*
   Co-Chairs: Mr. Shawn Grey, Acting Chief Technical Director, Performance Management and Evaluation Branch, Office of the Prime Minister, Jamaica
   Ms. Carol Coy, Director General, Statistical Institute of Jamaica

13:00 - 14:00 **LUNCH BREAK**
*Executive Seminar Room 3, Faculty of Law*

14:00 - 15:30 Solutions and Strategies Workshops Continued (Youth Delegates to Join)

15:30 - 16:00 **BREAK**

16:00 - 17:30 Reports from Workshops and Discussion
*Lecture Room 3, Faculty of Law*
Chair: Mr Adrianus Melkert, Conference Advisor, Former Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands and Former UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator

17:45 Country Representatives Meet to finalise Partnership Framework (Closed Session)
**Lecture Room 1B, Faculty of Law**

**Chair: Ambassador Marcia Gilbert-Roberts, CD, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica**

**DAY 3 – Friday, June 30, 2017**

8:00 - 9:00  **REGISTRATION**  
*Lobby, Faculty of Law*

9:00 - 10:30  Presentation on the SDSN Sustainable Development Goals Index and Dashboard and the Caribbean  
*Lecture Room 3, Faculty of Law*  
**Chair: Dr. David Smith, Coordinator, Institute of Sustainable Development**

10:30 - 11:00  **COFFEE BREAK**

11:00 - 12:30  Plenary Session  
*Lecture Room 3, Faculty of Law*  
**Chair: Mr. Adrianus Melkert, Conference Advisor, Former Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands and Former UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator**

1. Remarks  
**Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade, Jamaica**

2. Presentation on SDG Achievement Status in Jamaica  
**Dr. Wayne Henry, Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica**

3. Presentation of Partnership Framework to Ministers  
**Mr. Adrianus Melkert, Conference Advisor, Former Minister of Social Affairs and Employment of the Netherlands and Former UN Under-Secretary-General and UNDP Associate Administrator**

12:30 - 14:30  **LUNCH BREAK**  
*Executive Seminar Room 3, Faculty of Law*

**Feature presentation**

“*Transformational Implementation to achieve Breakthrough SDG Performance*” - Dr. Idris Jala, President & CEO, PEMANDU Associates  
**Chair: Hon. Carl B. Greenidge, MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Guyana**

**12:30 – 14:30 MSDF Annual Regional Coordination Meeting**  
(By Invitation Only)  
*Lecture Room 1B, Faculty of Law*  
**Co-Chairs: Mr. Bruno Pouezat, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative, Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, Turks & Caicos and Cayman Islands**
Ambassador Marcia Gilbert-Roberts, CD, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica

14:30 – 15:30 Closing Session
*Lecture Room 3, Faculty of Law*

Chair: Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Jamaica

Exchange and Endorsement of Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Partnership Framework

Cultural Presentation
The University Singers

Closing Remarks

15:30 -16:30 Press Conference
*Lecture Room 3, Faculty of Law*
## Annex V: List of Participants

### Authors and Presenters

<table>
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*Chief Statistician*

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*Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Ms. Rena Warner  
*Senior Project Analysis, Ministry of Sustainable Development*

Mr. Anselm Caines  
*Director, Department of Sustainable Development in the Nevis Island Administration*

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Dr. The Honourable Gale Rigobert  
*Minister of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and*
Final DRAFT

**Sustainable Development**

**Head of Delegation**

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