

Mr. Chair

Barbados congratulates you on your steadfast stewardship of this meeting.

Barbados is happy that the Ad Hoc Committee to Draft Terms of Reference for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation was able to conclude its work today with the adoption of the draft ToRs for which we voted in favour.

We are heartened that delegations were able to display a spirit of compromise, and that while all countries were not able to achieve all that they wanted, this outcome allows for us to move forward to the next stage in the process.

For Barbados, we remain disappointed that this Committee was not able to agree on a reference to “climate” in the provisions regarding Protocols. In the spirit of compromise, we accept the view that the issue of climate falls under the broader concept of environmental challenges, and we are willing to proceed in that regard.

We appreciate the commitment of all delegations to this process, which truly embodies the spirit of multilateralism, in keeping with the call to establish a Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation which is fair and inclusive. We therefore look forward to working cooperatively towards the establishment and implementation of such a Framework Convention.

I thank you!