

CARICOM Statement: Organizational Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to draft a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation and Two Early Protocols

Mr. Chair,

I have the honour to deliver these remarks on behalf of the fourteen (14) Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

At the outset, CARICOM extends its profound congratulations to His Excellency Ramy Youssef of Egypt on his successful election as Chair, to Ms. Liselott Kana of Chile on her election as Rapporteur, and to the 18 candidates who were successfully elected as Vice-Chairs to the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. We laud the work of the African Group and their shepherding of this process. CARICOM looks forward to supporting the work of the Bureau to craft a Framework Convention that is inclusive, equitable, and effective.

Chair,

The adoption of General Assembly resolution 79/235 has provided us with a unique and historic opportunity to build a just international tax framework. We recognize that this session marks a significant step towards shaping the future of global tax governance, and CARICOM is committed to engaging constructively in this vital process.

It is our view that international tax cooperation must be grounded in the principles of reality, transparency, equity, and inclusivity. It is essential that the framework we develop adequately addresses the needs of the Global South, particularly Small and Vulnerable Economies (SVEs) who are often most harmed by harmful tax practices and unilateral action. Furthermore, we must ensure that the Framework Convention and its protocols should prioritize sustainable development and take into consideration the need for financing of critical services and infrastructure, in particular for Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Therefore, as we commence our work on this important process, CARICOM reaffirms its commitment to working closely with all stakeholders to achieve a global tax cooperation regime that promotes effective multilateralism. Our region's active participation in the Bureau that drafted the terms of reference, and our current representation on the Bureau crafting the Framework Convention, demonstrate CARICOM's unwavering and continued commitment to this process.

For CARICOM the present organizational session must deliver on the mandates set out in GA resolution 78/230 namely to conclude organizational matters, including decision-making rules of the committee and decide on the subject of the second early protocol. It would also be helpful to consider developing an indicative timetable for sessions of the INC in 2025, while also looking ahead to subsequent years. Finally, we wish to reiterate the call to Member States and other relevant stakeholders to assist in ensuring the full and effective participation of developing countries, including SIDS and LDCs, in the negotiation of the framework.

Chair,

In conclusion, CARICOM values the inclusive, transparent, and collaborative approach that has defined the early stages of this process, and we trust that this will continue as we work toward the submission of final texts in the first quarter of the General Assembly's 82nd Session. We look forward to a productive and collaborative negotiation process.

Thank you.