



STATEMENT

BY

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**AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GRENADA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

ON

AGENDA ITEM 69 (c)

“NEW APPROACH TO CHOLERA IN HAITI”

NEW YORK, JUNE 14, 2017

PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam Deputy Secretary-General,

1. I have the honour to take the floor on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on agenda item 69 (c) on "Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions", in particular the Report of the Secretary-General entitled 'New approach to cholera in Haiti'.
2. At the outset, CARICOM wishes to thank the Deputy Secretary-General for convening this informal briefing of the General Assembly.
3. CARICOM welcomes and is encouraged by the Secretary-General's Report A/71/895, which outlines the progress made towards the United Nations' new, two-track approach to, *inter alia*, intensify efforts to eliminate cholera from Haiti, and to develop and package material assistance and support to those most directly affected by cholera.

Madam Deputy Secretary-General,

4. Since the outbreak of cholera in Haiti in 2010, over 800,000 individuals have been affected by the disease and more than 9,500 individuals have died from cholera, resulting in immense suffering of the people of Haiti.
5. Notwithstanding this setback to the development of Haiti, our sister nation is still standing.
6. The recent conclusion of elections and the instalment of a new Government represent a significant accomplishment and provide opportunities for Haiti to make tangible progress towards development.
7. CARICOM supports a process in which the United Nations will strengthen and improve the conditions for the Haitian people and their government to be further empowered to achieve long-term, sustainable development, including implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
8. In that regard, CARICOM continues to support the New Approach to Cholera in Haiti. We urge Member States to never forget, and are pleased with the reiteration of, the United Nations' acknowledgement of responsibility and need for accountability with regard to the cholera outbreak and its spread in Haiti.

9. Indeed, as the General Assembly has already recognized in resolution 71/161 in December 2016, we, the United Nations, have a moral responsibility to the victims of the cholera epidemic and to support Haiti in overcoming the epidemic and building the needed infrastructure: sound water, sanitation and health systems.
10. CARICOM calls on all Member States to recognize and take action for the full and timely implementation of the New Approach.
11. Implementation is not an option, but rather should be viewed as a duty that each Member State must do their part to fulfil.
12. Haiti and its citizens do not have the luxury of time. People are still suffering and there continues to be new cholera cases and loss of life.
13. While we are encouraged by the recent significant decline in the number of suspected cholera cases, the fatality rate is still above the target and the nation remains susceptible to disasters due to a lack of infrastructure and resources.
14. We, the Member States, therefore, need to act with a sense of utmost urgency in implementing and achieving the goals of the New Approach.
15. The Secretary-General's Report makes clear that there is a shortfall in the multiple of millions of dollars needed to fully fund the New Approach.
16. As of the date of the Report, voluntary commitments totalled just under \$2.7 million, 2% of what had been sought, including commitments from seven Member States.
17. CARICOM is committed to the New Approach. We welcome any contributions made to date and encourage further contributions to the United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund to close the funding gap, particularly so as to avoid the risk of regression of the gains of the New Approach achieved to date.
18. CARICOM, therefore, fully supports both the Secretary-General's decision to appoint a high-level envoy to develop a comprehensive fundraising strategy to seek additional voluntary contributions from Member States and other sources, and his proposal for Member States to voluntarily waive the return of the 2015/16 unencumbered balances and credits from miscellaneous income and adjustments from MINUSTAH, totalling some \$40.5 million, and instead direct them to the Trust Fund to support the New Approach.

19. CARICOM underscores our moral responsibility and commits to take steadfast ownership in the success of the New Approach. We remain resolute in that mission, and urge Member States and all partners to join in ensuring the success of the New Approach, providing every possible support.
20. We call for strong collaborative action, including with the Government of Haiti.
21. In closing, CARICOM fully endorses the proposed actions requested of the General Assembly in Section IX of the Report and for the Secretary-General to submit a further report to the General Assembly on the New Approach for its consideration at the 72nd session.

Madam Deputy Secretary-General,

22. Together with your leadership, the commitment of Member States, and the unbreakable will of the Haitian people, we remain confident that even this great challenge will be overcome.

I thank you.