

Statement by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Special meeting of ECOSOC on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

22 April 2015

in a manner consistent with international best

taking into account realistic implementation timetables within the context of the development realities of small States.

In this context, CARICOM agrees with the report of the Secretary-General that there remains a fundamental gap in the area of international tax cooperation, given that during a time when fundamental changes to international tax standards are being devised, many developing countries do not have a “full seat at the table”. The ability to participate in such decision making, particularly in those decisions which impact CARICOM economies is viewed as a right and not a privilege.

Mr President,

In view of the foregoing, CARICOM reaffirms the important role of the United Nations in addressing matters related to international tax cooperation given its universality and legitimacy. The universal character of the UN ensures that all countries are able to participate on an “equal footing”, allowing all Member States the opportunity to shape the global agenda. The broad and diverse membership of the UN also allows for a variety of perspectives, realities and priorities in the consideration of international cooperation in tax matters, the importance of which cannot be overstated.

It is in this context that CARICOM fully supports the call for the conversion of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters into an intergovernmental subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). CARICOM strongly believes that the upgrading of the Committee would help to bridge the gap in international tax cooperation, and facilitate the strengthening of its work, particularly as it relates to its development dimension and capacity building for developing countries.

Additionally, upgrading the Committee would allow for better integration of tax matters into sustainable development processes, including the reformed ECOSOC. Indeed, the report of the Secretary-General notes that these special meetings have “brought to the forefront key issues of concern for developing countries, including those identified as priorities by the Committee, in the context of financing for sustainable development and the post 2015 development agenda.” The upgrade of the Committee would bring much needed weight to these considerations.

Mr. President,

We look forward to constructive engagement with Member States on the way forward in this regard, particularly in the context of our negotiations on the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, later this year.

I thank you, Mr. President.