National Civil Society Inputs into the COP Negotiations

1. Civil Society Organizations stand in solidarity with the Government of Barbados (GOB) and other regional governments to push for an agreement which will keep global warming below 2°C.

2. There is an understanding that other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are severely impacted by Climate Change, Civil society reaffirms its support to the SIDS grouping and urges the GOB to maintain the alliance with and solidarity of this grouping.

3. The Caribbean contributes 0.5% of emission, yet feels 90% of the emission. Therefore, there is a call for Loss and Damage to be enforced. Civil Society stands firmly behind this call and urges the Government of Barbados to remain firm to uphold this concept. The countries in the Global North which contribute the most emissions need to take responsibility for their pollution.

Civil Society Call for National Action

4. While Civil Society Supports the government’s negotiating positions, we also call on government to ensure that it is making the absolute best commitment to the reduction of climate change impacts and to ensure that national policies and programmes will be in alignment with its commitments.
5. There is an urgent need for the development of accessible, relevant education on Climate Change for the general public. This should be made available through traditional and non-traditional platforms for raising awareness.

6. Under the Ministry of Environment and Drainage, there is a National Climate Change Council. Currently, there is only one Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) on the Council. There is a need to ask the Ministry of Environment and Drainage to broaden the Civil Society Organization (CSO) representation on the Council. However, there is a need to ensure that organizations and their representatives that join the Council have the requisite capacity which will ensure that their contributions add value to the process.

7. Given the urgent climate issues affecting and expected to affect the country, civil society is calling on Government to prioritise the implementation of national adaption strategies, mobilising as necessary households, key sectors and other stakeholders.

Civil Society Commitment to Greater Coordination

8. There was a reaffirmation that the Major Groups process is a useful vehicle for civil society to input into ongoing policy processes.

9. In order to ensure that the voice of Caribbean’s Civil Society Organizations are heard on the global stage at the policy making level, there is a need for greater cohesion among organizations. The Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) will make additional attempts to reach out to the organizations who agreed to be part of Major Groups process in 2014, to reconfirm their commitment. If they are unable to recommit, new organizations will be asked to take up the mantle.

Provision of funding

10. There is an agreement that International Organisations and other agencies need to give clear and early notifications about accessing financing to fight against climate change

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1 The selection of Major Groups was agreed at a consultation held by the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) in 2014