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**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY
H.E. MR. STUART W. LESLIE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BELIZE
ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY
ON THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL
“IN LARGER FREEDOM: TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT
SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL”**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) who are Members of the United Nations. At the outset, we align ourselves with the statements of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM), the Group of 77 and China (G77 and China) and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

CARICOM would also like to thank you Mr. President for your efforts toward ensuring that the preparatory process for the 2005 High Level Plenary Event is at once inclusive, open-ended and transparent. We reiterate our commitment to cooperate with you, your facilitators, and importantly, all Member States to ensure a mutually beneficial outcome.

The Secretary-General's report has heralded in a new momentum for the preparatory process as well as for the reform process of the United Nations as a whole. We would like to build upon this momentum to identify concrete steps for the realization of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the outcomes and commitments of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields. Likewise, we would seize the moment to engage with one another to ascertain the institutional reforms and arrangements necessary for a more effective United Nations.

Indeed, the Secretary-General's report is an important contribution for our deliberations and reflects the Secretary-General's views on those items on which he believes action is both vital and achievable in the coming months. CARICOM Member States appreciate these views. We are in the process of reviewing the recommendations contained in the Report alongside those views and recommendations articulated by the Member States of the United Nations.

The High Level Plenary Meeting presents a unique opportunity to refocus global attention on matters of development. This meeting should take firm and decisive action to advance the broad global development agenda including that of the world's poorest and most vulnerable societies, and to strengthen the role of the UN in the management of global economic affairs.

There is evidence that developing countries have embraced their commitments set out in the Monterrey *Consensus* to reallocate and mobilize more domestic resources, reform institutions to suit national priorities, and adopt effective, nationally owned economic and social policies that can spur to economic growth.

However as the Secretary General stated in his 2004 report on the Implementation of the Millennium Declaration "While these actions are all necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, they are far from sufficient." Developed countries must also fulfill their responsibilities by increasing and improving development assistance, concluding a new development-oriented trade round and eliminating their trade distorting actions in agriculture, embracing wider and deeper debt relief and fostering technology transfer.

The Secretary-General's report and other inputs to this process have focused almost exclusively on increasing ODA support. Increasing ODA alone, without addressing the indebtedness of poor and middle income developing countries, promoting foreign direct investment flows to a broader range of developing countries, reforming the global trading system and addressing the systemic deficiencies in the global economic and financial system will not result in sustained growth and development.

Under the Monterey Consensus, all States made an important commitment to reform global economic governance. The creation of institutions and the exercise of power and decision-making at the national and global levels must be guided by the principles and values of "justice, equity, democracy, participation, transparency, accountability and inclusion." If support for democracy, and open markets are to be maintained, globalization must be more inclusive and its benefits must be more equitably distributed. These goals cannot be achieved without a radically reformed system of global governance and effective global institutions.

There is an urgent need for a more accommodating international environment that recognizes the inherent vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and that addresses these vulnerabilities when considering their development, financial and trade needs. We are concerned that the Secretary-General's Report does not give sufficient focus to the needs and unique circumstances of small island developing states.

Our emphasis upon development should not be interpreted as indifference to security issues. CARICOM Member States recognize the inextricable link between development and security. Indeed our emphasis upon development is in part related to our security concerns. Likewise our security concerns are related to our development. Drug-trafficking, trafficking in small arms and light weapons and the operation of transnational organized criminal networks in the region have not only strained our security infrastructures but have also hindered our development.

CARICOM would like to acknowledge the Secretary-General's comprehensive concept of collective security which aims to address new and old threats and the security concerns of all States. Indeed we consider this a sound approach toward achieving a security consensus. CARICOM would further emphasize that any security consensus must be consistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We do not favor any proposal that would have the effect of reinterpreting the Charter.

The Charter provides the framework within which States conduct their international relations. It is the foundation of our multilateral system. It is the scale upon which we balance the interests of States large and small. From this, there should be no derogation.

Of course, CARICOM agrees that the multilateral system needs strengthening if it is to be effective. The Secretary-General's recommendations on the revitalization of the General Assembly are steps in the right direction as are recommendations for the strengthening of the Economic and Social

Council. For CARICOM the reform of the Security Council must address both its working methods and its expansion to ensure that it is open, democratic and effective. In this regard, CARICOM believes that the proposals of the High Level Panel for the expansion of the Council should be examined closely, having due regard for the geopolitical realities of today and the need to ensure that the Council is more broadly representative of the international community as a whole, even if such examination prompts us to seek a middle ground between Model A and Model B.

Mr. President,

These are our preliminary views on the Report. CARICOM Member States intend to make substantive contributions on specific areas during the forthcoming thematic consultations.