STATEMENT

by

H.E. Joseph Goddard

Ambassador and Permanent Representative

PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY

(CARICOM)

ON

Agenda Item 113

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

NOVEMBER 2012
Mr. President

I wish to deliver this statement on agenda item 113 on the Follow up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit, on behalf the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community.

At the outset, CARICOM expresses its appreciation for the Note by the United Nations Secretary-General which transmitted in a timely manner the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) on options for strengthening and facilitating multisectoral action for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases through effective partnership.

While CARICOM notes that the report did not emphasize the importance of regional coordination mechanisms as well, in efforts to address the fundamental challenges posed by non-communicable diseases (NCDs), we are of the view that the report is a good analysis of the experiences of using multisectoral mechanisms to address other health issues.

Mr. President

CARICOM strongly agrees that coordinating mechanisms are important at all levels for the effective implementation of national, regional and global multisectoral plans to address non-communicable diseases. In our sub-region, for example, there are two States which, thus far, have established national commissions and another which has developed a partners’ forum with a view to addressing the incidence and prevalence of these diseases.

CARICOM also avails itself of this opportunity to commend the WHO for the creation of NCD net and recognizes that this mechanism was an excellent starting point in bringing together actors to raise awareness about, begin action towards and assist in the implementation of the global action plan to prevent and control NCDs.

With particular reference to the five options put forward in the report transmitted by the Secretary-General contained in document A/67/373, CARICOM is especially supportive of the third option which relates to having a coordinated network. We believe that this option is both the most appropriate and feasible in the short term, given the scope, scale and most importantly, the urgency of the rising prevalence of NCDs. The option presents many features necessary for a successful partnership to promote multisectoral approaches to addressing the issue of NCDs.

In this regard, CARICOM supports the key role that the WHO could and should play in such a global partnership as the technical lead on health. We also hold the view, however, that the technology of partnerships requires resources, innovation and creativity in order to facilitate its effective functioning. Therefore, both resources as well as technical assistance would be required to ensure the effectiveness and desired impact of any partnership. Should adequate resources become available to support the required partnership, CARICOM could have also considered a centralized and formalized partnership, such as that presented as option 5 in the aforementioned report.
Mr. President

CARICOM also wishes to commend the WHO for the timely development of the second Global Action Plan for 2013-2020 as this will serve, along with the Political Declaration on the Prevention and Control of NCDs, as the principal multisectoral compass for the global coordinating mechanism. We also applaud the WHO for identifying and promoting the target of 25 by 25, to reduce NCDs by 25 percent by 2025, as well as on the extensive process completed to develop a global monitoring framework. CARICOM looks forward to the presentation of the elements of this framework to the General Assembly in the future.

Mr. President

CARICOM agrees that there is need for multisectoral plans and policies to be developed and implemented at the national level, and for partnerships to assist in this regard. We also share the view that they should be tailored in keeping with national settings, as well as political, technical and operational needs. At the same time, these efforts are to be complemented by a global partnership which will support and enhance the development and implementation of such policies nationally, regionally and globally.

CARICOM also wishes to recall the request by the General Assembly for a report to be submitted at its 68th session, in preparation for a comprehensive review and assessment in 2014 of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases. In this regard, CARICOM expresses its preference to receive the report during the 68th session, at the end December 2013, in order to ensure that it contains the most current information with sufficient time for its consideration and contribution to preparations for the comprehensive review of the progress achieved in the prevention and control of NCDs.

Mr. President

We are aware that further discussions are required on this issue. CARICOM is of the view therefore that all Member States should have the opportunity to participate in discussions to determine the scope and further details related to the partnership. Within this context, however, should there be overwhelming support for option number 3, CARICOM would encourage international solidarity with respect to obtaining the initial resources necessary for the commencement of the process by the WHO in collaboration with other relevant UN agencies.

As we conclude, Mr. President, CARICOM urges delegations to recall that 60% percent of global deaths, 80% of which are in developing countries, are due to non-communicable diseases. The percentage of deaths due to NCDs is also expected to increase in some parts of the world in the near future. NCDs can therefore be seen as a critical challenge to development and health in general. Consequently, CARICOM supports the inclusion of NCDs as one of the issues to be discussed in relation to the post 2015 development agenda in the context of global health challenges.

I thank you.