

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

Wednesday, 29 May 2013
New York

Mr. President,

Mr President,

CARICOM governments seek to ensure that all relevant international standards and rules are observed and that regulatory environment in the region's financial and business sectors are consistent with global best practices.

Mr. President,

CARICOM has proven its ability, and will continue to be a full participant in any initiative in the area of international cooperation in tax matters which have global consequences. CARICOM, therefore fully supports the principle that rule-making and norm setting processes should be conducted in institutions that are truly representative. 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.

In this connection, 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 "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.

Mr. President,

CARICOM also recognizes that the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters has done useful work in supporting national efforts toward efficient tax administration and policies, including through the enhancement of international cooperation and participation at the multilateral level. CARICOM is of the view that this work should not be perfunctorily noted, but should be supported and enhanced, and to this end, should be directly linked to an intergovernmental process.

It is in this context that CARICOM fully supports the proposal submitted by the Group of 77 and China, which called 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. CARICOM strongly believes that the upgrading of the Committee, in this manner, would allow for proper intergovernmental consideration of issues of international tax cooperation – consideration currently not provided for under the General Segment of ECOSOC.

bridges between relevant institutions and processes, and reduces the risk of inefficiencies, misunderstandings and duplication of efforts.

We look forward to constructive engagement with Member States on the way forward in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. President.