

MOTION: BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN THE OECS

WHEREAS climate change is widely and increasingly recognized as a significant threat to the planet and a major challenge to human development;

AND WHEREAS climate change poses a present, increasingly potent and existential threat to ecosystems, communities, economies and entire nations in the OECS;

AND WHEREAS there is increasing scientific evidence to support the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) conclusions that Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including Caribbean SIDS, are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change;

AND WHEREAS OECS and other SIDS are already experiencing severe climate change impacts at current levels of warming, including intensifying extreme weather events, sea level rise, and ocean acidification;

AND WHEREAS there is emerging scientific evidence that unless warming is kept well below 1.5 degrees Celsius, SIDS will continue to face intolerable threats from climate change;

AND WHEREAS the Members States of the OECS are small islands that, together, contribute only minutely to global greenhouse gas emissions;

AND WHEREAS global greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise steadily while emissions reductions pledges fall woefully short of what is required to keep global temperature rise well below 1.5 degrees Celsius,

AND WHEREAS several OECS and other Caribbean SIDS have experienced tragic loss of life and catastrophic damage as a result of the recent passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria;

AND WHEREAS OECS Member States are typically among the first in the region to be affected by tropical storms and hurricanes due to their geographic location;

AND WHEREAS there is an urgent need to rapidly build climate and disaster resilience in the OECS;

AND WHEREAS the Member States of the OECS are in greater need than ever of urgent, adequate, dedicated and accessible financial, technical and capacity-building assistance to enable them to adapt to the adverse effects of the climate change, to cope with loss and damage and to transition to resilient, low-carbon economies;

AND WHEREAS Article 9 paragraph 9 of the Paris Agreement calls for *“efficient access to financial resources through simplified approval procedures and enhanced readiness support for developing country Parties, in particular for the least developed countries and small island developing States, in the context of their national climate strategies and plans,”*

AND WHEREAS recent research has shown that the flow of dedicated climate finance to the OECS region is inadequate and falls far short of what is required;

AND WHEREAS SIDS continue to experience great difficulty in navigating the modalities for accessing international climate finance facilities;

AND WHEREAS developing countries, in particular SIDS, continue to be unfairly classified and graduated based on GDP, thereby severely limiting their access to vital development assistance;

AND WHEREAS OECS Member States and the OECS Commission continue to pursue climate finance including through seeking accreditation to the Green Climate Fund;

AND WHEREAS Member States of the OECS have demonstrated great commitment in fulfilling the aims of, and their obligations under, the United Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, including through the fulfilment of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

BE IT RESOLVED that this OECS Assembly endorse and support the continued championing of the effort to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

BE IT RESOLVED that this OECS Assembly recognise the progress made towards the establishment of the broad framework for a regional OECS mechanism of solidarity to support efforts related to disaster preparedness and relief, climate resilience, renewable energy, climate financing and advocacy and urge further effort towards its finalisation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this OECS Assembly acknowledge and support the efforts by Member States and the OECS Commission to accelerate the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) including through the mobilisation of financial and technical support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this OECS Assembly take note of the efforts of the affected Member States to recover and rebuild in the wake of the recent disastrous hurricanes and call on all Member States to undertake, both individually and collaboratively, reconstruction and future development in a climate- and

disaster-resilient manner in order to reduce, to the greatest extent possible the impact of climatic and other natural hazards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this OECS Assembly again reiterate the demand that the developed countries and emerging economies which generate the bulk of the world's adverse climate change emissions urgently provide significant financial, technical and other resources to assist Member States in adapting to building climate-resilient countries and transitioning to low-carbon economies and, in particular, in the implementation of their NDCs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this OECS Assembly call for the simplification of the modalities for accessing the international climate finance mechanisms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this OECS Assembly call for the further and permanent rolling back of the graduation criteria based on GDP, to realistically reflect the special circumstances of SIDS in the context of impacts of climate change.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this OECS Assembly acknowledge, with appreciation, the pledges of support through the 2017 Caribbean Donors' Conference and calls for the early actualization of these pledges.

Dated this 9th day of December, 2017.