

SPECIAL DECLARATION ON SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

We, the Heads of State and Governments of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Santiago, Republic of Chile, on the occasion of the First Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 27 and 28 January 2013;

Endorsing the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) concluded on 22 June 2012, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with an agreement on the way forward for the sustainable development agenda of the international community in the years to come and those provisions with special relevance to SIDS;

Emphasizing that the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 (Rio Conference), was significant for the consolidation of the sustainable development paradigm which integrates, with equal weight, social, environmental and economic dimensions of development;

Recognizing the particular vulnerabilities of CARICOM countries as Small Island Developing States, which constrain their efforts towards sustainable development, and noting the significant impact of natural disasters and the negative effects of climate change;

Recognizing the significance of the agreement emanating from Rio+20 for the convening of the Third Conference on SIDS to be held in 2014 in Samoa, and affirming the commitment of Caribbean SIDS to the preparatory process for this Conference;

Reaffirming the continued validity of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States as the blueprint providing the fundamental framework for their sustainable development;

Recognizing that particular attention should be given to building resilience in Small Island Developing States, including the support of developed countries to technology transfer and development, as well as capacity building and human resource development;

Encourage Latin American and Caribbean States to continuously recognize and support the sustainable development agenda by through regional cooperation, the commitment to follow-up action to the Rio+20 Conference, sustained focus on climate change and disaster mitigation and enhanced advocacy for SIDS in the international arena.

Santiago, Chile, 28 January 2013