**Conference of the Foreign Ministers of Member States of CARICOM and Germany in Berlin, 2nd/3rd March 2015**

COMMUNIQUE

I.

We, the Foreign Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany and CARICOM Member States noted with satisfaction the steady and continuous progress in our relations. We renewed our commitment to further strengthen the existing fields of cooperation and explore new areas for our interaction. We are convinced that this meeting will further enhance the strong and long-lasting cooperation between our countries.

We have had an extended exchange of views on the political situation in different parts of the world and in particular in our two regions. We have agreed to continue this fruitful exchange at a high level on a regular basis.

We value the role of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as a regional partner and coordinator of German-Caribbean cooperation.

We agree on the importance of the role that the EU-LAC-Foundation plays in the bi-regional dialogue.

We agree on the need to reform the United Nations Security Council so as to better reflect the geopolitical realities of our time. We strive for a more representative, effective and transparent Security Council. Recognizing that 10 years after the Heads of State and Government in 2005 called for an “early reform of the Security Council”,it is necessary to finally achieve tangible results. We have thus expressed our intention to work together in order to achieve concrete outcomes, especially with a view to the upcoming 70th Anniversary of the United Nations.

We recognize that the Arms Trade Treaty is a major contribution to international and regional peace and security and a necessary tool for regulating the global arms trade and stemming ‎the disastrous and tragic consequences of the illicit trade in arms. In this regard we commit to working together through sharing of information and best practices to ensure the effective implementation of this landmark treaty

II.

* **Post-2015 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

We agree that the work on and the implementation of the post-2015 agenda for sustainable development represents a central challenge for the international community in the coming months and years and must be addressed through genuine and durable partnership.

Poverty eradication and the transformation towards sustainable development are significant challenges that need to be tackled by all countries together on the basis of a new internationally accepted, global and universally applicable agenda.

We welcome the holding of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, held in Apia from 1 to September 2014, and the adoption of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, as well as the renewed commitment of the international community to take urgent and concrete action to address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States and to continue to seek solutions, including additional ones, to the major challenges facing them in a concerted manner to support the implementation of the Samoa Pathway.

We welcome the report of the UN Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which addresses all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social) and the inter-linkages between them. In this light, we recognize that it is of key importance to preserve the natural resource base worldwide, including the protection of seas and oceans, in order to make global development sustainable and to give future generations the chance to lead a fulfilled life.

We acknowledge the need for a new global partnership – with shared responsibilities for all countries and including the private sector and civil society.

We commit to work together towards an ambitious outcome of the post-2015 summit in September 2015.

* **Addressing the Challenge of Climate Change**

The recent findings published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reinforced once again the importance of urgent action to tackle climate change. We welcome therefore the extensive activity already underway, both within and between states, to increase climate protection and improve resilience. We remain convinced that the most cost-effective and reliable solution to achieve this is through a binding international agreement with mitigation contributions from all states and with adequate attention given to developing states. Given the wide-range impacts of climate change which can already be observed worldwide, not least in the Caribbean, particularly the impact of sea-level rise, we are committed also to integrate adaptation as an important element in the 2015 global agreement in order to enhance action on adaptation with a view to achieve climate-resilient sustainable development.

We welcome therefore the outcome of the COP 20 meeting in Lima, including the Lima work Programme on Gender, the Lima Ministerial declaration on education and awareness raising and the “Lima Call for Climate Action”, in particular the clarification of the basis for submission by March 2015 (for those countries in a position to do so) of nationally-determined contributions (INDCs) that will be entered as commitments under the 2015 agreement to be concluded at the COP 21 meeting in Paris in December 2015.

We undertake to submit in a timely fashion INDCs that are ambitious and fair. These will be presented in a transparent manner so as to facilitate understanding and comparability. In so doing it is our intention to set a good example for other countries, so that they also submit, both in a transparent manner and in good time before Paris, mitigation contributions that are consistent with our global goal of limiting temperature increase to below two degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial times.

We emphasize the clear benefits in terms of economic growth and sustainable development of measures intended to avoid carbon emissions and bolster resilience to the impacts of climate change. The case for this was reiterated most recently with the publication in September 2014 by the Global Commission on the Economy and Climate of the New Climate Economy report. This drew attention in particular to the urgent need and also the great potential for low carbon and climate resilient transformation through a reorientation of infrastructure investment decisions over the next 15 years. It should be a clear objective for climate finance, including through the Green Climate Fund, to support such a transformation, in particular in those countries that lack the capacity to do so on their own.

We recognize the importance of mobilizing high-level political support in advance of Paris to ensure a successful outcome. We therefore undertake to engage pro-actively in informal dialogues and climate outreach, including through our diplomatic networks, with the purpose of building progressive alliances and political momentum in support of the international climate change negotiations.

We recognize the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in light of different national circumstances.

III.

* **Development Cooperation between Germany and the Caribbean**

We welcome the achievements made in our cooperation for sustainable development in the Caribbean, in particular in the fields of energy, environment, health, and regional economic integration.

We agree that our cooperation for sustainable development is a valuable instrument for promoting our common interests in the protection of global public goods, such as climate or the environment.

While our ongoing cooperation in the fields of energy and environment is focused on the protection of global goods, we recognize its equally important contribution to a sustainable economic development of the Caribbean region.

The Governments of CARICOM States express their concern about the narrow criterion of GDP per capita as a basis for determining the level of development assistance. While recognizing the exceptions already in place for small island developing states under the eligibility regulations of the International Development Association (IDA), the Governments of CARICOM States point out that the GDP per capita criterion does not fully reflect the specific vulnerabilities of small island developing states.

The German Government expresses its consideration for these concerns. While recognizing that GDP per capita can provide an easily measurable and useful eligibility criterion for access to certain grants and concessional funding instruments, it is supportive of a multidimensional poverty measurement in the context of the post-2015 agenda.

* **Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency**

Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency are an ideal way to ensure sustainable, reliable and affordable access to energy for all, as well as to tackle the global challenge of climate change. These challenges are of particular significance to the Caribbean. We reaffirm our commitment to jointly increase the share of renewable energies in the energy mix and energy efficiency in our countries.

We acknowledge the importance of sustainable, coordinated, binding and effective energy strategies in order to achieve this goal. We welcome the CARICOM Energy Programme as an example for such a strategy.

We underline our willingness to share knowledge and experience for our mutual benefit by intensifying co-operation and facilitating exchange and investment in industry, infrastructure and research.

We welcome the opportunities of facilitation provided by international energy fora such as IRENA and reaffirm our commitment to support the work of this institution by our active participation.

We welcome international initiatives to promote a cleaner and more sustainable energy future for the Caribbean, including those reflected in the Joint Caribbean-EU Partnership Strategy. We reaffirm our commitment to further implement and develop this strategy.