



NATIONAL STATEMENT

**The Honourable Adrian Forde Rph. MP
Minister of Environment and National Beautification
Government of Barbados**

on the occasion of the

at

**THE RESUMED 5th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (5.2)**

February 28 - March 2, 2022

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of the Government of Barbados, I would like to thank the President of United Nations Environmental Assembly and the Secretariat for successfully organizing this hybrid second session of UNEA 5.2.

As the worse of the pandemic appears to be behind us, we must now shift focus to “BUILDING FORWARD BETTER”, while cognizant of the need to scale up the pursuit of our Sustainable Development goals as articulated in our 2030 agenda.

As a Small Island Developing State, Barbados understands the importance of the theme of UNEA 5.2, “**Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals**”, especially as the need to protect and reestablish the link with our environment which was made more dire during the covid 19 pandemic.

One such initiative is the development of a National Botanical Garden, that will invariably contribute to a number of sustainable goals including biodiversity conservation, water resources protection, natural and cultural heritage protection and sustainable land management.

Our One Million Tree Planting project over the next couple years will be at the forefront of our mitigation efforts to reduce our greenhouse gases and provide a much needed Carbon sink. These efforts will ensure that our National Determined Contribution will be aligned ~~with to the our~~ international Paris agreement.

Likewise, we are pursuing the design of a Marine Spatial Plan of our Exclusive Economic Zone with a view to balance our livelihood development and sustainable exploitation needs with resource protection and management goals.

The Government of Barbados therefore welcomes the UNEA 5.2 Resolution to commence the formal negotiating process for a new international **legally** binding instrument to address plastic pollution. Barbados is committed to playing **ing** its part in this process.

For Barbados, pollution control and prevention are inextricably linked to the health of our marine and terrestrial ecosystems as well as the wellbeing of our citizens.

The Government is collaborating with the University of the West Indies Cave Hill Campus and the Partnership for Action on Green Economy in the development of the local environmental sector. We view that sector as a critical element of **our** pollution management response.

The government is commencing a National Recycling Project. This project will entail the separation of waste by householders while at the same time promote sustainable lifestyle choices.

Excellency, Barbados remains committed to strengthening actions to address our global environmental challenges and we pledge to continue to work collectively to ensure nature remains at the heart of our Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

I thank you.