

Post 2015 Development Agenda and Youth Participation

**2015 Regional Consultation Meeting of the
Major Groups and Relevant Stakeholders of
Latin America and the Caribbean**

Hotel Country Inn & Suites Panama Canal
(Amador), Panama City, Panama, 7 May
2015

Mr. Stefan R. Knights

Youth Leading Post 2015 Development Agenda Processes







PM Stuart receives civil society report

PRIME Minister Freundel Stuart is now in a better position to articulate the views of civil society in Barbados when he makes his input at the upcoming Third Global UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Stuart was presented with a copy of the report on the National Civil Society Organisations' Consultation on SIDS and the Post 2015 Development Agenda Processes on Monday evening at Government Headquarters.

Approximately 44 persons from 22 organisations participated in the recent civil society consultation, which was facilitated by the Barbados Chapter of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), and co-hosted by the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The primary objective of the meeting was to ensure the development of a strong and coherent civil society position on the sustainable development priorities for Barbados.

The Prime Minister said he was pleased to receive the report, saying: "I want to thank all of you for the hard work you have put in, the conscientiousness you have shown, and the sense of purpose and mission which you young people are demonstrat-



Prime Minister Freundel Stuart (second from right) looking through the civil society organisations' report on SIDS while (from left) President of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), William Clarke, ; National Coordinator of CYEN Barbados, Waynelle Collymore-Taylor; Project Coordinator of CYEN, Jamilla Sealy; Special Envoy to CYEN and SIDS, Stefan Knights; and National Coordinator of the GEF Small Grants Programme-UNDP, David Bynoe, look on.

ing. "You have my assurance that I will study the document and I will reflect your concerns in the many spheres in which I am being called upon to operate while I am in Samoa over the next few days. I want to assure you that the civil society's perspective, and the perspective of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network will receive my strongest possible advocacy."

Stuart stressed that sustainable development was an important issue for all SIDS and said that is

why Government had positioned itself to create a Barbados that is socially balanced, economically viable, environmentally sound, and characterised by good governance. "That is sustainable development," he maintained.

He noted that small island developing states were exposed to many vulnerabilities and had to deal with many challenges which they did not create, on a daily basis.

Special Envoy to CYEN on SIDS, Stefan Knights, applauded Government for taking meaningful

steps to assist civil society in creating a platform through which citizens could share their views on issues that would impact their lives.

"Indubitably, if we have Government, civil society and the private sector all working together, Barbados will secure a brighter future for present and future generations. Equally important, enhanced participation and effective engagement of civil society and other relevant stakeholders will promote transparency and broad public participation

and partnerships to implement sustainable development," Knights stated.

National Coordinator of the GEF Small Grants Programme-UNDP, David Bynoe, commended Government for practising an inclusive form of governance, saying sustainable development could only be achieved if civil society is fully embraced.

Bynoe explained that the Small Grants Programme was trying to build the capacity of civil society organisations, encouraging them to engage at the national, regional

and international levels. He said his organisation provided CYEN with a grant to host the consultation, which was flawlessly executed.

He told the Prime Minister: "It is a comprehensive document, reflective of the position of the civil society organisations in Barbados. Therefore, when you go to Samoa, as the leader of the delegation, you will be speaking not only in a position of authority from Government's perspective, but representing your people from civil society organisations."

BL&P official: No interest in stifling renewable energy

Youth taking Action throughout the Small Island Developing States





#islands2014



INT
COA

Promote sustainable
and sustainable economic
growth, full and productive
employment and decent
work for all

GOAL 9

GOAL 14
use the oceans, seas and
marine resources for
sustainable development

GOAL 15
reverse land degradation and
halt biodiversity loss

GOAL 7

GOAL 10

GOAL 13

GOAL 16

GOAL 6

GOAL 11

GOAL 12

GOAL 17
development

GOAL 5
empower
all women and girls

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Spread the word

BYNOE: BAJANS NOT AS AWARE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES AS THEY SHOULD BE

It is important that Barbados continue to play a leading role in informing their citizens on the programme of action of small island developing states (SIDS). Furthermore, national coordinator of the Global Environment Facility's small grants programme, David Bynoe, says that he believes that as long as the island and other partners in the region have the capacity to contribute to that information dissemination they should.

Speaking to **Barbados TODAY** during a Civil Society Organization (CSO) consultation on SIDS and post-2015 development agenda held at the **United Nations House** in Hastings, Christ Church, this morning, Bynoe said it was important Barbadians were aware of the sustainable development challenges facing SIDS. Particularly, he added, because though the region did not contribute significantly to climate change in terms of the amount of carbon emission created, "we nonetheless were most impacted".



National coordinator of the GEF's small grants programme, David Bynoe.

"Generally, Barbadians are not as aware of the process as they should be, but you have significant pockets of persons who make sure that they make it their goal or task to be informed. But what we want to do is to ensure that the average person understands what is happening in the global agenda as it relates especially to SIDS, because as a small island developing state we are [exposed] to several major impacts in climate change.



From left, national coordinator CYEN-Barbados, Waynelle Collymore-Taylor; David Bynoe; and resident representative UNDP-Barbados and the OECS, Stephen O'Malley.

"We are seeing it in our coral reefs, change of weather patterns . . . days are getting hotter, sea levels are rising, very strange weather patterns, more significant downpours and people generally feeling there is something happening that is very different from before," Bynoe said.

Bynoe, who is also an agriculturist, stated that because everyone did not identify this issue as climate change, more education was therefore needed, so more people would be willing to take action. And this workshop, he said, was also part of the process.

" . . . Because we can't rely on Government and international agencies like the United Nations alone to disseminate the information but the average citizens through community-based organizations can play a role in getting that information out to their constituents."

The GEF provides special grants for opportunities for training in areas such as: climate change, international waters, biodiversity and the prevention of harmful waste, climate change adaptation funding, as well as land derogation, which is particularly important to

Barbados since a large portion of the Sc District is prone to land slippage.

Today's workshop was opened to CS and Bynoe was hoping that it would not "talkshop"; rather he wanted it to be a p and opportunity for these persons to form a formal major group structure and their voices heard.

"It is not a one-off workshop. We will have others following on and building on foundation that has been laid today. We going to have grants specifically targeting issues that were raised, and these grants opened between US\$50,000. Some of the benefits of having a formal major group is that for you to influence policy within system, you need a conduit to go through

Traditionally the main conduit would through Government, but following the **I Conference** what happened was that wanted to get more citizens involvement If countries in the Caribbean don't have this major group structure, it makes it more difficult going forward," Bynoe added. (KC)







#cyen
#sustainability
has a cost
Youth Water Forum





Action 2015 Campaign







#IamHaitiCYENer
#Iam15
#action2015caribbean
#DomoreDobetter



Thank you!



▶ Mr. Stefan R. Knights