

Statement by Saint Kitts Nevis National Reparations Committee at the 3rd Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent

Palais de Nations, Geneva Switzerland

Ladies and gentlemen,

Today Saint Kitts and Nevis as a member of Caricom and the OECS, is proud to stand before you to make a statement in support of Reparatory Justice, Sustainable Development and Economic Justice. These crucial pillars of our society, are concepts which are deeply interconnected, and forms the foundation for a more equitable and prosperous future for all.

Firstly, Reparations is a necessary form of redress for historical injustices, inflicted upon People of African Descent in the Diaspora and the African Continent. Colonization, oppression, discrimination and exploitation were inflicted upon a continent, a region and the world. This resulted in poor and marginalized societies, racial inequality, retarded development and other ills in the countries which were affected by the slave trade and slavery. Reparation seeks to acknowledge that harm which was done to our ancestors and that restitution has to be made to those who have been wronged. By recognizing and addressing these historical injustices, we can begin to heal the wounds of the past and build a more inclusive society for future generations. St. Kitts and Nevis as part of Caricom Reparations Commission have begun the work of researching and reaching out to Governments, institutions and companies who benefitted from the enslavement of Africans. The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis stands in support of Caricom Reparations agenda.

Sustainable development has become a buzzword. It speaks to meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. It requires us to balance economic growth with social progress and environmental protection. By embracing sustainable practices in our businesses, communities, and governments, we can ensure a more resilient and equitable world for all. The Caricom 10 point plan for reparatory justice is developmental plan which would ensure sustainable development goals are met.

Economic justice is essential for creating a fair and equitable society. Economic justice means that everyone has the opportunity to thrive and prosper, regardless of their background or circumstances. It involves fair wages, access to education and healthcare, and the redistribution of wealth to ensure that no one is left behind. By promoting economic justice, we can reduce poverty, inequality, and social unrest, creating a more stable and prosperous society for all. Our countries in Caricom could benefit through reparatory justice, economic justice.

In conclusion, if we are serious about embracing these three concepts, reparations, sustainable development, and economic justice as not just lofty ideals, but essential components of a just and sustainable society, then we can seriously work together to address these issues, by holding ourselves, our governments, organizations accountable to move towards creating a better world. One in which everyone has the opportunity to succeed and thrive. Without

Reparations we cannot obtain sustainable development and economic justice, to achieve a future that is fair, inclusive, and sustainable for all. There is no justice and no sustainable development without reparations.

Thank you.

Carla Astaphan
Chair SKNNRC