



GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Statement

By

Honourable E P Chet Greene

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade AND Barbuda Affairs

at the

Second World Summit for Social Development

November 4-6, 2025

General Debate

Amir of the State of Qatar, His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani,

Your Excellency, President of the Eightieth Session of the United Nations General Assembly;

Your Excellency, Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Distinguished Heads of Delegations;

Excellencies

At the onset, Antigua and Barbuda congratulates the people and government of Qatar for hosting this Summit, and we express our gratitude for the reception and hospitality we have received since our arrival in this beautiful city of Doha.

But for COP30, this statement would have been delivered by my Prime Minister. The Honourable Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, sends his profound regrets and simultaneously extends his best wishes for a successful Summit.

I have the honour to deliver this statement in my national capacity and to further indicate that Antigua and Barbuda aligns itself with the statement delivered by Iraq, on behalf of the Group of Seventy-Seven plus China (G77 + China).

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

From the front lines of the climate crisis, I speak with urgency. Today our hearts are with our Caribbean family in Jamaica, Cuba, Haiti and The Bahamas, as they face the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Melissa. For Small Island Developing States, these climate shocks are not distant threats; they are present-day realities that obliterate decades of hard-won progress in a matter of hours.

Thirty years ago, in Copenhagen, the world made a sacred pledge to place people at the heart of development. Yet, we must confront a sobering truth: that promise remains unfulfilled. The chasm between our commitments and our actions yawns wide. From the Millennium

Development Goals to the Sustainable Development Goals, our ambition has been clear, but its execution has failed the most vulnerable.

The journey of SIDS has been marked by a determined call for justice; from the Barbados Programme of Action, to the Samoa Pathway and most recently, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) we championed at the Fourth International Conference on SIDS last year. These are not mere documents; they are our blueprints for survival and sustainable development. Yet, their implementation is paralyzed by a global system that fails to address our core challenges.

We stand at a crossroads of converging crises:

- Climate Catastrophes that erase entire economies overnight.
- A Crushing Debt Burden that stifles social investment and suffocates our future.
- A Global Financial Architecture that remains blind to our acute vulnerability, judging us by income alone, not by the existential threats we face.

In Antigua and Barbuda, we are translating resilience from a concept into concrete action. Our social policy is anchored in a foundation of inclusion and empowerment. We have enacted the Social Protection Act (2020) and the Disabilities and Equal Opportunities Act to legally enshrine the rights of all our citizens. These are not just laws; they are covenants of dignity.

Our commitment is realized through targeted programs that form a shield for the vulnerable:

- The People's Benefit Programme provides a vital social safety net.
- The School Meals and Uniform Programme ensure no child is denied an education.
- The Food Voucher Assistance Scheme safeguards families from hunger.

Recognizing our youth as our greatest asset, we are investing in their capacity as architects of the future through entrepreneurship, digital innovation and sustainable tourism.

But national action, however robust, cannot withstand global headwinds alone. The ABAS agenda, born on our soil, calls for a new global partnership rooted not in charity but in justice. We demand that developed nations honor their Official Development Assistance pledges as a moral imperative, not an act of benevolence. We insist that access to finance be predicated on our multidimensional vulnerability, not an outdated GDP metric.

This Summit must be the moment we reignite the promise of Copenhagen and breathe life into SDG 17.

Let us vow, here in Doha, that no child's potential will be stunted by hunger. That no mother's life will be lost for want of care. That no island nation will be sacrificed to the rising seas of global inaction.

Let us prove that our collective will is equal to this historic task. Let us build a world where dignity is not a dream deferred but a promise fulfilled for all.

Thank you.