8TH HIGH LEVEL SESSION (HLS) MINISTERIAL FORUM

The Water and Energy Nexus in Caribbean Development

Atlantis Paradise Island, The Bahamas

October 4 - 5, 2012

Recommendations of the 8th High Level Segment (HLS) of
the Ministers with Responsibility for Water

Recognising the importance of ensuring long term water
security as a driver for economic and social development and
building adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change
impacts on water resources in the Caribbean region;

Recognising the urgency of addressing the crisis of water
scarcity, compounded by the effects of climate change in the
Caribbean region,

Aware of the importance of energy security for Caribbean
economic development and escalating energy costs for water
utilities

Noting the significant achievements made by High Level
Sessions (HLS) in raising awareness on the important role of
integrated water resources management to socio-economic
development

Recognising that high level political leadership is key for
meeting water security and climate change challenges faced by
the Caribbean countries

Mindful also of the need to mobilise resources to develop
strategic plans and programmes to implement the
recommendations reached at the HLS and the need to strengthen
our regional and international partnerships;
We, the Ministers with responsibility for Water in our respective countries together with our regional partners recognise the summary of the proceedings and hereby:

1. **Agree** that the following are the national and regional concerns towards achieving a water secure Caribbean:

   - Water is a national development issue
   - Integrated Water Resources Management
   - Climate Change and Water
   - Wastewater
   - Regional Cooperation
   - Capacity Building
   - Public Awareness

2. **Commit** ourselves to make all necessary efforts to exhibit leadership in addressing water security and climate change in the Caribbean in the context of our national socio-economic development interests;

3. **Recommend** that the HLS be convened by the GWP-C and the CWWA and their partners as a High Level Ministerial Forum that will provide support to Caribbean States through the strengthening of institutional and technical capacities, knowledge-sharing, exchange of information, advocacy, discussion of ideas, building partnerships with the objective of heightening the awareness of water at regional and international levels taking into consideration lessons from other entities such as the African Ministers Council for Water (AMCOW).

4. **Request** Caribbean governments in collaboration with regional partners to conclude national assessments on the status of Integrated Water Resource Management implementation in Caribbean states and to keep the implementation of IWRM under continuous review.
5. **Recommend** that GWP-C and its partners further develop the Water Climate Development Programme (WACDEP) and other relevant programmes for the Caribbean region to support the implementation of the water related adaptation actions within the CARICOM regional framework for achieving climate resilience development and other adaptation priorities at the national level.

6. **Request** that GWP-C and the CWWA and its partners report on the progress of the above recommendations at the HLS in 2013.

**Agreed upon October 5th, 2012, Nassau, Bahamas**

Signed on behalf of the Meeting

Hon. Philip Brave Davis  
Date: 5/10/12  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Works and Urban Development  
The Bahamas

Hon. Evan Gumbs  
Date: 5/10/12  
Minister for Infrastructure, Communications, Utilities and Housing  
Anguilla

Hon. David Estwick  
Date: 05/10/2012  
Minister of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management  
Barbados
Hon. Margarito Gaspar Vega  
Date Oct 5/12  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Natural Resources  
and Agriculture  
Belize

Hon. Reginald Austrie  
Date 05/10/12
Minister of Lands, Housing,  
Settlements and  
Water Resource Management  
Dominica

Hon. Robert Pickersgill  
Date 6/10/2012  
Minister of Water, Land,  
Environment and  
Climate Change  
Jamaica

Hon. Carlisle Powell  
Date 5/10/2012  
Minister of Communications,  
Works, Public Utilities, Post,  
Physical Planning,  
Natural Resources and  
Environment  
Nevis

Hon. Earl Asim Martin  
Date 5/6/2012  
Minister of Housing,  
Public Works, Energy and  
Public Utilities  
St. Kitts
Hon. Clayton Burgin
Date 05/10/12
Minister of Health, Wellness
and the Environment
St. Vincent and the Grenadines