



**5<sup>th</sup> High Level Session (HLS) Ministerial Forum**  
**Building a Water Secured Region: a Caribbean Response**  
**October 4-5, 2009**  
**St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands**

**Recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> High Level Session of Ministers with  
Responsibility for Water**

**The Meeting recognises the summary of the session and recommends that:**

1. The High Level Session be endorsed as a CARICOM Forum.
2. A joint session of COTED & COHSOD be convened in 2010 with water as the agenda.
3. The CARICOM Consortium on Water be designated as a technical advisory body on water to COTED and COHSOD.
4. A Regional Action Plan for Water be urgently developed within the context of a Common Water Framework.
5. The Regional Action Plan should adopt IWRM and include strategies for resource mobilization, capacity building, data collection and management in collaboration with Ministries of Finance and Planning.
6. Water is represented at the quasi-Cabinet level of CARICOM as a substantive portfolio.

Signed On behalf of Meeting

Hon. Irfaan Ali, Guyana

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> Oct 09

Hon. Carlisle Powell, Nevis

Date: 5 Oct 09

Hon. Joseph Gilbert, Grenada

Date: Oct. 5<sup>th</sup> 2009

# SUMMARY

## ISSUED BY THE 5<sup>TH</sup> HIGH LEVEL SESSION AT THE CONFERENCE OF THE CARIBBEAN WATER AND WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2009, MARRIOT RESORT, US VIRGIN ISLANDS

The 5<sup>th</sup> High Level Session (HLS) of at the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) focused on the theme "Building a Water Secured Region: a Caribbean Response".

The 5<sup>th</sup> HLS recognizes the decision of COTED of April 2008 to develop a common framework for action and work towards the development of a Regional Action Plan for Water (RAP). To this end, we are of the firm view that a special COTED/COHSOD Session is necessary in 2010 to formalize the development and implementation of the RAP.

1. The Meeting, having noted the extreme vulnerability of Caribbean Small Island Developing States and the increasing threats posed to our social and economic development in terms of water availability and water quality, have agreed to take concerted action to promote water security within our region.
2. The Meeting recognises that Climate Change will continue to exacerbate existing conditions and will severely impact on our ability to pursue sustainable development in the Caribbean. We therefore endorse that adaptation strategies are mainstreamed into development planning processes and actions are taken to mitigate the threats posed by Climate Change to our water resources, using a risk management approach.
3. The Meeting recognises the role of water in improving the quality of life of Caribbean people, including poverty reduction, and the need to develop appropriate strategies and plans to improve management of our water resources.
4. The Meeting has agreed that Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) provides a common framework for action, and that multi-stakeholder involvement and a participatory approach present the best option for management of our scarce water resources.
5. The Meeting recognises that the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) which are relevant to water also form a framework for action for the region. We are therefore committed to assisting the region in the implementation of

activities which conform to the requirements of the MEAs and which are also consistent with regional and national goals and priorities.

6. The Meeting requests that CARICOM, supported by key regional and international agencies and institutions, ensures that water be placed high on the regional development agenda so that at the political and policy levels, there is commitment of the necessary resources for actions that will make the Caribbean a water secured region.
7. The Meeting therefore request the CARICOM Secretariat to organize a joint Session of COTED and COHSOD, comprising various sectoral interests, to address the matter of water and its integration in the highest level of policy, planning and decision-making in the region.
8. The Meeting has agreed that all relevant agencies and institutions will work in partnership to address water issues at the national and regional levels. In this regard, the CARICOM Consortium for Water will promote collaboration on programmes and projects for water in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to maximize the use of scarce resources.
9. The Meeting recognizes the critical importance of water and supports an inter-sectoral approach which addresses its impact on Tourism, Agriculture, Health and Ecosystems. In this regard, we will work with governments towards the re-alignment of policy and legislation to ensure that water is sectorally integrated.
10. The Meeting recognizes the important role of the private sector in water in the region and the need to engage the sector in concrete and meaningful ways in its development.
11. The Meeting requests the CARICOM Secretariat, with technical support of the CARICOM Consortium for Water, to actively undertake resource mobilization activities to support water programmes and activities in the region.