Ministerial Declaration

Arising out of the 8th High Level Session Ministerial Forum

Convened by the
Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C)
&
Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)

Atlantis Resort, Paradise Island
The Bahamas
October 5th, 2012
8\textsuperscript{TH} 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 8\textsuperscript{th} 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 5/10/2012
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 Austria  
Date 05-10-12  
Minister of Lands, Housing,  
Settlements and  
Water Resource Management

Dominica

Hon. Robert Pickersgill  
Date 5th Oct 2012  
Minister of Water, Land,  
Environment and  
Climate Change

Jamaica

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

Nevis

Hon. Earl Asim Martin  
Date 5th Oct 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