

**COMMENTS FROM THE CASTRIES FISHERMENS' CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY LTD. ON THE UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN'S (ECLAC'S) DRAFT PROPOSAL ON THE CONTENT FOR THE INSTRUMENT TO ECLAC**

The Castries Fishermens' Co-operative Society Ltd. fully supports the position taken by the Government of Chile on the "Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development". And its request to the United Nations Secretary General of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development for the wide spread circulation of the Declaration.

The points raised in the Declaration are especially important to Small Island States (SIDS) such as St. Lucia; and reference must be made to the importance placed on the participatory approach which is recommended for all citizens to be involved. Thus the critical need for access to the right information and participation in the decision making process including judicial and administrative proceeds cannot be overemphasized.

The role of civil society keeping the critical issues of Principle 10 on the forefront of national discussions and debate suggests that the decision to form the coalition of civil Society in St. Lucia is the right decision, but it requires greater visibility and to serve as the voice of advocacy on issues enshrined in Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration of 1992.

The Castries Fishermen's Co-operative Society Ltd. also fully endorses the implementation Plan of Action 2012-14 with the support of ECLAC as the technical secretariat for the development of a regional instrument for the LAC Declaration on Principle 10. It is rather unfortunate that although all the Caribbean countries of ECLAC are signatories to the Rio Declaration, many like St. Lucia have failed to enact legislation to give full effect to Principle 10 and provide access rights to the public. We strongly urge the coalition of civil society in St Lucia to make more robust representation either via the National Trust or as a coalition in its own right, to have such legislation brought to Parliament with some urgency.

The Castries Fishermens' Co-operative Society Ltd. also wishes to commend the Coalition of Civil Society in St Lucia which has consulted with coalition members to consider pages 3, 4 and 5 of the document from World Resources Institute "The Access Initiative". We believe the work which has been started especially with regard to (1) Food Security (2) Fresh Water Resources and (3) Livelihoods and Culture with the guidance that the ARIA Phase11 Workbook, places the coalition

in a good position to articulate the critical issues and concerns of St. Lucians with respect to climate change impacts on their lives.

As Civil Society partners, we are very pleased with the approach and results to date arising from the ARIA workshops Phase I and Phase II in the three (3) priority areas selected for research which have been referred to above. We look forward to participating in the work of the coalition of civil society, especially with respect to the research findings and other relevant information in the coastal zone areas. The Society is highly sensitized of the impacts of climate change on the fisheries sub-sector and on the subsistence fishers whose livelihoods are so fully integrated in the marine space that surrounds the countries of the Caribbean.

We therefore fully support the ECLAC proposal on matters to be considered in the regional instrument.