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### **THE KINGSTON YOUTH DECLARATION ON THE GREENING OF THE CARIBBEAN ECONOMY**

**August 2011**

**WE**, the delegates at the Fifth Biennial CYEN Caribbean Youth Exchange held in Kingston Jamaica and assembled at the Shirley Retreat Hotel, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011;

**REPRESENTING** the youth of the wider Caribbean under the auspices of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network;

**CONCERNED** about the Caribbean's ability to attain a functioning state of sustainable development in the face of global climate change in the face of the unpredictability of the current world economic recession;

**AWARE** of the important role that young citizens must play as future leaders, decision makers and as the backbone of the productive sector of the Caribbean;

**KNOWING** that Caribbean citizens have in the main adapted lifestyles based on consumerism and find it challenging to adjust to sustainable levels of consumption patterns;

**APPRECIATING** that there are very few development models that provide guidance, by example, to the decision makers of Small Island Developing States (SIDS);

**KNOWING** that access to fresh water is critical to the well-being of citizens, for agriculture, food security and economic development and that the Caribbean region faces significant challenges in providing water for all;

**UNDERSTANDING** that the small size of most Caribbean nations will lead to a multitude of environmental pressures associated with competition for the use of the land;

**MINDFUL** that the Caribbean need to have a secure supply of energy and a policy that focuses on renewable sources of energy;

**COGNISANT** that the appropriate management of waste is critical to the maintenance of the health of the citizens of the Caribbean and it's ecosystems;

**CONSCIOUS** that there is a need for realistic avenues to be created that would allow young citizens to be fully engaged in the management of the natural resources of the Caribbean;

**RECOGNISING** that the Green Economy as a strategic approach to development can kick start sustainable economic activity comparatively quickly and thus more rapidly eradicate poverty;

**REALISING** that we the young people pay the heaviest price for the shortsighted economic policies, lack of effective governance and all forms of societal corruption;

**STRESSING** that young Caribbean citizens, as the architects of a bright future for the region, can only construct that future with the tools, skills, resources and structures handed down to us by present generations;

**EMPHASISING** that our Caribbean leaders individually and collectively have a responsibility to endeavor to create a bright future for the Caribbean; and

**CONVINCED** that as future Caribbean and global leaders we have a right to be included in all aspects of the management of our countries;

**HEREBY AFFIRM** our support for the concepts and tenets of sustainable development and call on the Governments of the Caribbean to refocus their efforts to ensure the furtherance of human and personal development of their constituents, and particularly those in the youth sector.

**COMMIT** to supporting the movement towards the creation of Green Economies in the Caribbean as a strategy to achieving sustainable development.

**VERIFY** that we support in principle the working definition of the Green Economy that has been outlined by the Government of Barbados and appeal to Caribbean leaders to ensure that the technical issues and language about the Green Economy are simplified in such a manner that average citizens understand how they can participate in the activities of their everyday life.

**UNRESERVEDLY COMMIT OURSELVES** to continue our support for the position of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) as well as the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) to reduce the levels of gaseous carbon in the atmosphere. Specifically CYEN support a reduction target of 350<sub>ppm</sub> of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by 2018.

As representatives of the youth sector of the Caribbean we now call on our Governments to:

**FULLY EMBRACE AND ADOPT** greening of the economy and to fully participate in the process while ensuring that a facility is created that will allow youth to be an integral part of the process.

**IMMEDIATELY SET UP** awareness programmes on sustainable consumption and production that will target and encourage citizens to be more aware of the consequences of the consumer purchases on the environment. However, such a programme must take energy, transport, construction, agriculture and food production.

**RECOGNISE** the necessity to encourage and include the leaders of tomorrow in national delegations that participate in regional and global development issues, thereby ensuring that tomorrow will have a talk with today.