

Guyana Presentation: Advancing the Green State Development Strategy

Symposium on “Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway in Small Island Developing States - SIDS: Equipping Public Institutions and Mobilizing Partnerships”

Break-out Group 1: Supporting integrated and risk-informed Implementation of 2030 Development Agenda and the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS

Overview – Guyana and Sustainable Development

- ✚ Thanks for opportunity to address progress of Guyana in relation to Samoa / Sendai / Addis / Agenda 2030
- ✚ Guyana can justifiably lay claim to being among the greenest countries in the world. High degree of natural forest cover. Accordingly, Guyana has long been a leader in sustainable development regionally and globally - especially on aspects related to climate mitigation, agriculture and food security, forestry, health, climate and development finance.
- ✚ Guyana’s coastland - 90% of its population lives and significant economic activities - is under sea level. Therefore a natural and strong correlation between efforts for climate change adaptation and mitigation, building resilience / the Samoa Pathway and the sustainable development agenda. Making the connection more intentional.
- ✚ Guyana at an exciting stage of development with tremendous implications for its sustainable development thrust. Several transitions under way – economic, demographic, petroleum exploration and production. Fascinating time as a citizen and representative of Guyana.

Successes in Implementation of Samoa / Sendai / Addis / Agenda 2030

- ✚ Strong Political Leadership and Commitment. Successive administrations clear in focus and support. Implementation under Presidential Adviser on Sustainable Development. Cross / multi-sectoral work which is advisory in nature. Strong coordination at the level of CARICOM. Establishment of CELAC Sustainable Development Forum.
- ✚ Clear and Integrated National Plan.
 - Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). Long term sustainable development plan. Wide consultation. Support for implementation through GRIF.
 - Green State Development Strategy. Builds on the LCDS. Provides a decarbonized approach to green growth, achieving the sustainable development targets and the long term vision for a prosperous and equitable future. It encompasses environmental integrity, social inclusion and cohesion and economic expansion and diversification. Renewable Energy focus – from situation of near total fossil fuel dependence to close to 100% renewable by 2025. Bartica as a Green Town

as Pilot. Other major undertakings – indigenous peoples development fund, institutional strengthening project – enhancing capacity of national institutions to implement the agenda, micro and small enterprise development project and rehabilitation of drainage and immigration canals project – an aspect of proactive risk informed action.

- Early start by integration of UNDAF: regional and national priorities
- ✚ Meaningful Partnerships. REDD-Plus: Guyana /Norway /UNDP /World Bank / Italy. NCDs. Natural Resources. Japan-CARICOM – on climate and disaster risk.

Challenges to Accelerating and Sustaining Achievement

- ✚ Challenge of Integration. Different plans for different sectors. Need for models. Idea of key entry points to create synergies for the agenda as a whole. Strong correlation and some coherence but need to improve integration.
- ✚ Means of Implementation. Providing the enabling environment – security / stability / institutional support / data / HRD. Access to resources. Irony of increased development. Debt sustainability considerations. Getting into the budget cycle.
- ✚ Political Continuity. Change of administration leads to different arrangements / some institutional mechanisms still being put in place with new strategy. Risk of loss of momentum.

Main Conclusions

For Guyana, the Green State Development Strategy is our ambitious approach for sustainable development, including integration and implementation of the various agendas to which we are strongly committed. We can we take away so far?

- ✚ Implementation needs models of integration
- ✚ Strong national led action and ownership but support of partners and the international community / solidarity should increase.
- ✚ Building synergies based on key entry points to the whole agenda
- ✚ Successful indigenization of the agenda premised on indigenous arrangements for means of implementation, including creating an enabling environment, finance, building capacity and promoting inclusion.

How well has Guyana done in achieving implementation? We are definitely on the way but it is very much a work in progress. Several aspects of clear progress but also some areas for continued focus. We trust hope it can inspire and provide a model for others.

NASAU, BAHAMAS

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