



DECLARATION OF SAN PEDRO 2025 ON REGIONAL ACTION TOWARDS ZERO WASTE



ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF
THE NINTH MEETING OF
THE CARIBBEAN HIGH LEVEL FORUM
OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR
WASTE MANAGEMENT (HLF 9-WASTE)
22-23 OCTOBER 2025

*SIGNED ON THE 23RD DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR 2025
IN SAN PEDRO, BELIZE*

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the Ninth Meeting of
the Caribbean High-Level Forum
of Ministers Responsible for
Waste Management (HLF9-Waste)
22 – 23 October 2025**

Adopted at the Ninth High-Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers with Responsibility for Waste Management, held at the Thirty-Fourth Annual Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association Conference and Exhibition, under the theme “Enabling a Zero Waste Caribbean: Advancing Solutions, Accelerating Action”, 22 - 23 October 2025, San Pedro, Belize.

PREAMBLE

We, the Caribbean Ministers, responsible for Solid Waste Management across the Caribbean, gathered in San Pedro, Belize, under the theme “Enabling a Zero Waste Caribbean: Advancing Solutions, Accelerating Action,” reaffirm our shared commitment to a cleaner, greener, and more resilient Caribbean. We recognize that the health of our people, the sustainability of our economies, and the beauty and diversity of our islands and territories depend on the protection and sustainable management of our natural environment. In this context, waste is not only a by-product of development but a resource that, when managed wisely, contributes to circularity, resilience, and inclusive growth. Building upon the Waste Management Declaration of Port of Spain (2024), we commit to translating our shared vision into concrete actions that accelerate the transition to a Zero Waste and Circular Caribbean.

ACKNOWLEDGING THAT:

The Caribbean region remains highly vulnerable to disasters and the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Only a small fraction of solid waste is currently recycled or recovered, and the majority remains inadequately managed, posing threats to human health, ecosystems, and the tourism sector that underpins our economies. The waste sector presents untapped opportunities for green growth, job creation, innovation, and public-private partnerships when managed under a unified regional framework. Data collection, regional collaboration, and integrated legislation are prerequisites for effective waste governance and circular economy transitions.

RECALLING:

- 1) Declaration of Port of Spain 2024 On Regional Action Towards Zero Waste and the commitments contained therein;
- 2) The Caribbean Waste Management Action Plan (CWMAP) as the central framework for regional cooperation;
- 3) Relevant multilateral environmental agreements including the Basel, Stockholm, Rotterdam, and Minamata Conventions, the LBS Protocol under the

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Cartagena Convention, and the ongoing Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution;

- 4) The Lima Declaration on the Circular Economy and its recognition of SIDS-specific challenges and solutions;
- 5) The Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity 2024 (ABAS); and
- 6) The enduring partnership of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the European Union (EU), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank Group (WBG), the Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean), as well as other key stakeholders for the range of programmes, projects, technical assistance and training activities which enable Caribbean States to address the sustainable management of waste.

RECOGNIZING:

- 1) The call made in San Pedro for stronger regionalization of waste management systems through shared infrastructure, technical capacity, and harmonized standards;
- 2) The essential role of the private sector and civil society in driving innovation, market creation, and circular economy enterprises;
- 3) The need to institutionalize waste management as a key policy priority, supported by legislative clarity, adequate financing, and national coordination mechanisms;
- 4) The significance of tourism, disaster resilience, and climate adaptation as cross-cutting priorities for the waste agenda in small island developing states.

COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

We commit to fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among countries and stakeholders in the Caribbean region within a five-year period through the following:

Data and Digitalization

- 1) Develop standardized regional waste data systems to improve monitoring, reporting, and performance benchmarking across Member States.
- 2) Encourage the use of digital tools and smart waste technologies for collection, tracking, and analysis.

Regional Integration and Governance

- 1) Establish a Regional Mechanism for Waste and Circular Economy to coordinate capacity building, research, and project implementation across SIDS.
- 2) Strengthen institutional coordination among ministries responsible for environment, health, tourism, and finance, inter alia, to ensure coherent national waste policies.
- 3) Advance the regionalization of infrastructure, including shared processing and recovery facilities, to improve economies of scale and efficiency.

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Legislation and Policy Reform

- 1) Harmonize waste management legislation to support Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), Deposit-Refund Schemes, and bans or phase-outs of single-use plastics and non-biodegradable materials.
- 2) Promote that waste management authorities are empowered through clear legal mandates and adequate financing mechanisms.

Financing for the Circular Economy

- 1) Promote innovative financial instruments such as environmental levies, green bonds, and climate finance mechanisms to support waste infrastructure.
- 2) Strengthen partnerships with development banks and the private sector to advance Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for resource recovery, recycling, and waste-to-energy solutions.

Private Sector Engagement

- 1) Promote an enabling environment for private sector investment by reducing bureaucratic barriers, promoting market access for recyclables, and offering fiscal incentives for circular business models.
- 2) Support the establishment of national and regional associations to facilitate knowledge-sharing and regional trade in recyclables.

Disaster Waste Management and Climate Resilience

- 1) Encourage the integration of disaster waste management protocols into national disaster response frameworks.
- 2) Promote climate-resilient infrastructure and low-carbon waste treatment solutions, including composting, waste-to-energy, and material recovery.

Capacity Building and Education

- 1) Support the establishment of regional training programmes for the waste sector, including certification schemes and industrial health and safety standards.
- 2) Expand public education campaigns to promote waste separation, reduction, and community-level recycling initiatives.
- 3) Promote peer-to-peer knowledge exchange among Caribbean waste entities and public and private sector entities.

Research, Innovation and Technology

- 1) Promote innovation and applied research through partnerships with universities and research institutions in the region.
- 2) Support the testing and scaling of technologies for waste management and recovery and circular economy solutions.

Tourism and Marine Environment Protection

- 1) Encourage sustainable waste management practices within the tourism industry.
- 2) Collaborate with cruise and hospitality industries to reduce marine litter, improve port waste reception facilities, where applicable, and promote “zero-waste tourism corridors”.

Monitoring and Accountability

- 1) Review and report progress annually under the CWMAP framework and at future High-Level Fora.

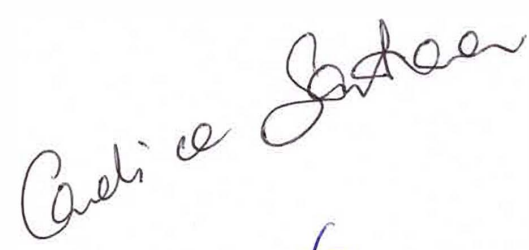
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- 2) Support the development of a monitoring and reporting framework for waste management and reduction, recycling, circular jobs, and greenhouse gas reduction.

ENDORSEMENT

We reaffirm our unwavering commitment to transform the Caribbean into a model of sustainable waste management and circular economy leadership among Small Island Developing States. This San Pedro Declaration on Waste (2025) represents our collective resolve to build on the progress made under the Port of Spain Declaration (2024), accelerating action, deepening partnerships, and turning commitment into measurable impact.

Signed in San Pedro, Belize, this 23rd day of October 2025, at the Ninth High-Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Solid Waste Management by:



Candice Santana (CWWA)



the Honourable Orlando Habet (Belize)



the Honourable Kyle Hodge (Anguilla)

