

Final CARICOM Closing Statement – *checked against delivery*

UNCTAD IEDC (16th Session)

4 September 2026

I thank you for giving me the floor, Mr. President.

Jamaica is honoured to deliver the following statement on behalf of the CARICOM Group.

The CARICOM Group commends UNCTAD, its Secretariat and Member States for the work undertaken throughout this sixteenth session of the Investment, Enterprise and Development Commission. The discussions have provided an important opportunity to consider the various reports before the Commission, as well as the perspectives emerging from the panel discussions and presentations on the ongoing shifts in the global investment landscape and their implications for developed and developing countries alike, including policy tools and strategies at our disposal.

At a time when CARICOM is seeking to implement its Regional Industrial Policy and Strategy, we were particularly pleased to hear the national experiences of Bangladesh and Tunisia, which provided much food for thought through the important lessons, practical approaches and conceptual ways in which CARICOM, both as a region and through the individual efforts of its Member

States, can further engage with and position itself within the evolving international investment landscape.

Throughout these discussions, a number of important considerations have emerged regarding the evolving international investment environment. For the CARICOM Group, one issue of particular significance has been the importance of **policy space**, including the flexibility of governments to determine and pursue their own development priorities in the area of investment, as well as the right to regulate in accordance with national circumstances and sovereign objectives. The ability of developing countries to identify and pursue investment, industrial and development policies appropriate to their respective circumstances remains essential to strengthening productive capacities, supporting diversification and advancing structural transformation.

In this regard, the CARICOM Group requests UNCTAD to reflect all discussions related to policy space during this Commission in its reporting and outcomes of this session. These considerations should, in our view, be transmitted to the Trade and Development Board as part of the Commission's substantive contribution to the work to be undertaken at that level, including in the formulation and negotiation of the forthcoming UNCTAD resolution.

For CARICOM, this is a matter of particular importance. The multilateral system must preserve the ability of Member States to advance their legitimate development objectives, recognizing that national circumstances, policy priorities and stages of

development differ. Ensuring adequate policy space allows these priorities to be pursued while preserving the relevance and effectiveness of international cooperation on investment.

In closing, the CARICOM Group looks forward to the continuation of UNCTAD's work on investment-related matters and stands ready to engage constructively with all delegations in advancing future discussions at the Trade and Development Board.

Thank you, Mr. President.