



Ministry of Finance

Media Release

August 27, 2011

For immediate release

OAS Assistant Secretary General Albert Ramdin Calls For Global Recognition of Small States in the G-20

The Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Ambassador Albert Ramdin, says the time has come for Small States and smaller economies to be officially included in deliberations of the G20. Assistant Secretary General Ramdin's statement followed meetings in Trinidad and Tobago with Finance Minister and Chair of the World Bank Small States Forum, Winston Dookeran earlier this month.

"It is in the interest of all to be inclusive and not exclusive," said Ramdin. "In this inter-dependent world the voices of small economies must be represented at this level as discussions progress on measures to address economic issues. Small economies need to be represented at the global table," Ramdin emphasized.

Trinidad and Tobago's Finance Minister Winston Dookeran has issued a call to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to pay special attention to Small States. "Recent developments have revealed the additional frailties and vulnerabilities of Small States to natural disasters and financial collapse. Small States everywhere are facing specific challenges that deserve greater attention at the international level," explained Dookeran.

According to Assistant Secretary General Ramdin, "Leaders of smaller economies must be encouraged to balance both caution and creativity. We must all become more resourceful and creative with what we have in hand, while acting responsibly and carefully."

Assistant Secretary General Ramdin also held discussions with Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Trade, Stephen Cadiz, on concrete initiatives to expand CARICOM trade markets.

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