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Remarks

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Signing of Framework Cooperation Agreements
between the Caribbean Development Bank and
UNICEF, UNFPA and UN Women

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It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) this morning. I bring you greetings on behalf of our President, Dr. William Warren Smith.

In September 2015, leaders around the world, including ours here in the Caribbean, adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This set of ambitious goals and targets put countries in the Region on a path to ending poverty; addressing the social and economic development challenges we face; and to tackling pressing environmental issues and climate change.

But how, in an era when we are asked to do more with less, do we support countries of our Region in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)? In addition to mobilizing resources, designing projects that achieve results, and targeting our investments to communities and sectors that need them the most, as development partners, we must cooperate and collaborate.

We know that when we work together with our partners; exchange ideas and knowledge; combine our best development expertise; and share the lessons learnt throughout our decades of work in the Caribbean, we can deliver better—and more—for the people of this Region.

Today, we mark a milestone in the long history of cooperation between CDB and UN agencies. We will sign three agreements, committing to strengthen our partnership to:

- better the lives and health of women, men and children;
- promote and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women; and
- advocate for the protection of children's rights, to help meet their basic needs and to expand their opportunities to reach their full potential.

Ladies and gentlemen, before us are a set of documents that broaden possibilities for using our collective expertise, knowledge and resources to support the achievement of the SDGs and make a difference in the lives of men, women, boys and girls throughout our Region. Let us seize this moment.

We look forward to working with you, UNICEF, the UNFPA and UN Women, to end poverty in our Region, and to shape a healthier, more prosperous, resilient Caribbean for all.