



**DECLARATION OF CARIBBEAN  
MINISTERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER OF  
SAN PEDRO 2025**



**(WATER DECLARATION OF SAN PEDRO 2025)**

**SIGNED ON THE 21ST DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR  
2025 IN SAN PEDRO, BELIZE**

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## **WATER DECLARATION OF SAN PEDRO, BELIZE 2025**

Adopted at the Twenty-First High-Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers Responsible for  
Water and Wastewater

At the Thirty-Fourth Annual Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)  
Conference and Exhibition

San Pedro, Belize — 21 October 2025

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater, gathered in San Pedro, Belize, at the Twenty-First High-Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water (HLF21), under the theme “Advancing Regional Resilience through Collective Action, Innovation and Investment in the Water Sector,” affirm our shared commitment to advancing water security, climate resilience, and sustainable development across the Caribbean.

Guided by the principles of solidarity, innovation, and equity, we recognize that water is the foundation of life, the driver of economic prosperity, and a cornerstone of environmental integrity. As Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and coastal nations on the frontline of the climate crisis, we reaffirm that achieving a water-secure and climate-resilient Caribbean is both an existential necessity and a moral imperative.

We acknowledge the continuing implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Plan for Governance and Building Climate Resilience in the Water Sector in the Caribbean (RSAP), and the vital leadership of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), working in partnership with our multilateral and development partners in advancing regional water sector resilience.

We remain committed to regional and international agreements, declarations, and goals, relevant to the water and wastewater sector including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 6: ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all; the Paris Agreement on Climate Change; the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilience to Climate Change; the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), the Basel Convention and the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS: A Renewed Declaration for Resilient Prosperity (ABAS).

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## RECALLING

1. The Declaration of Basseterre 2019, which reaffirmed the need for collective regional action and good governance in water management.
2. The Statement of Acknowledgement of Nassau 2022, which recognized the urgency of climate-resilient solutions and the establishment of the Caribbean Water Utility Insurance Collective Segregated Portfolio (CWUIC-SP).
3. The Declaration of Georgetown 2023, which called for strengthened water governance, capacity building, and access to climate financing.
4. The Water Declaration of Port of Spain 2024, which emphasized collective regional action toward a climate-resilient and water-secure Caribbean, and formalized commitments to non-revenue water (NRW) reduction and wastewater management.

## RECOGNIZING

1. That climate change continues to intensify droughts, floods, saline intrusion, and other extreme events, exacerbating vulnerabilities in water supply, sanitation, and wastewater systems.
2. That aging infrastructure, regulatory gaps, and limited financing constrain the ability of utilities and governments to deliver sustainable, climate-resilient water and wastewater services.
3. That integrated, data-driven, and technology-enabled approaches are essential to enhance resilience and efficiency across the region's water utilities.
4. That equitable access to safe, affordable, and sustainable water and sanitation services is a human right and a critical enabler of public health, education, gender equity, and economic development.
5. That investment in innovation, youth capacity, and knowledge sharing across borders is vital to building a resilient and future-ready Caribbean water sector.
6. That integrated water resources management (IWRM) and regional data-sharing mechanisms are essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation); and
7. That strong partnerships among governments, utilities, development partners, civil society, and the private sector are key to sustaining investment and resilience outcomes.

## COMMITTING TO ACTION

We, the Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater, reaffirm our resolve to act collectively and decisively to strengthen water security and climate resilience in the Caribbean by pursuing the following commitments:

  
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1. Advance Regional Water Governance and Policy Reform
  - a. Advance Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) by strengthening governance, legislation, and institutional frameworks to promote sustainability, accountability, and climate adaptation in water resources development and use.
  - b. Strengthen coordination mechanisms among national, regional, and international agencies to streamline governance and align strategies.
2. Catalyse Climate-Resilient Investment and Financing
  - a. Collaborate with development and financial institutions to design innovative financing mechanisms, including climate bonds, blended finance, and parametric insurance through the CWUIC-SP, to fund infrastructure resilience and expansion.
  - b. Develop bankable project pipelines for water and wastewater investments aligned with the RSAP and national adaptation plans.
3. Accelerate Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Reduction and Efficiency
  - a. Implement smart metering, leakage detection, and digital monitoring systems to reduce NRW, within a five-year period, as follows:
    - i. Category A (countries with an NRW level of thirty percent or lower) - five percent NRW reduction
    - ii. Category B (countries with an NRW level of thirty-one percent or higher) – ten percent NRW reduction
4. Enhance Access to Water Services
  - a. A reduction in the existing population not served by five percent within a five-year period.
5. Advance Wastewater and Sanitation Management
  - a. Scale up wastewater collection, treatment, and reuse, prioritizing nature-based and circular-economy approaches to safeguard public health and marine ecosystems.
  - b. Support the continued implementation of the Cartagena Convention's LBS Protocol, building on regional experience and best practice.

## **FORWARD VISION: A CONNECTED AND RESILIENT CARIBBEAN**

Looking beyond 2025, we envision a Connected Caribbean Water Sector, one that transcends geographic boundaries through innovation, shared knowledge, and unified purpose.

We further commit to:



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1. Investing in Data, Technology, and Innovation

- a. Establish a Caribbean Water and Climate Digital Platform to enable data sharing, forecasting, and knowledge exchange.
- b. Encourage the establishment of a Regional Water Innovation and Technology Accelerator to support start-ups, applied research, and south-south cooperation.

2. Empowering People and Strengthening Institutions

- a. Build a skilled and future-ready Caribbean water workforce through targeted capacity-building, leadership development, and technical competency programmes ensuring alignment with regional qualification frameworks and professional certification standards.
- b. Mainstream gender equity and social inclusion in water governance, recognizing youth and women's critical role in decision-making and community resilience.

**DECLARATION**

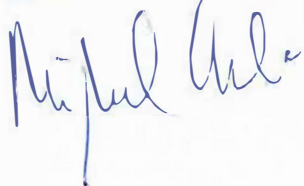
We, the Ministers responsible for Water and Wastewater in the Caribbean, gathered with the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), and regional and international partners, hereby endorse the Water Declaration of San Pedro, Belize 2025.

This Declaration represents our collective commitment to advance regional resilience through collective action, innovation, and investment in the water sector, ensuring that Caribbean citizens today and in the future benefit from secure, sustainable, and climate-resilient water and sanitation services.

SIGNED ON THIS 21 ST DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025, IN SAN PEDRO, BELIZE BY:



Candice Santana (CWWA)



the Honourable Michel Chebat (Belize)



the Honourable Kyle Hodge (Anguilla)



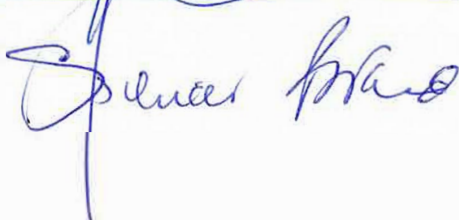
the Honourable Melford Nicholas (Antigua and Barbuda)



the Honourable Leon Lundy (Bahamas)



the Honourable Kye Rymer (British Virgin Islands)



the Honourable Spencer Brand (Nevis)