



**CARIBBEAN WATER AND
WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION**

DECLARATION OF GEORGETOWN 2023

THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA



SIGNED ON THE 25TH DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR 2023

DECLARATION OF GEORGETOWN 2023

Adopted at the Nineteenth High Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater at the Thirty-Second Annual Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association Conference and Exhibition, 24th and 25th October 2023, in the capital city of Georgetown, Co-operative Republic of Guyana.

The Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association acknowledges the support of its lead Multilateral Partners, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank, in the implementation of the Nineteenth High Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater.

Securing the future of our Caribbean people: Water and Climate

Recalling the Regional Strategic Action Plan for Governance and Building Climate Resilience in the Water Sector in the Caribbean (RSAP) and the ongoing implementation works under the stewardship of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association and in collaboration with the Multilateral Partners;

Recalling the Declaration of Basseterre 2019, signed on the 15 October 2019 at the Fifteenth High-Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water and Wastewater (HLF15), assembled in Basseterre, the Federation of Saint Christopher and Nevis;

Recalling the Statement of Acknowledgement of Nassau 2022, signed on the 19 October 2022 at the Eighteenth High-Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water and Wastewater (HLF18), assembled in Nassau, Commonwealth of The Bahamas;

Recognising the progress made towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Six and its targets, to ensure access to water and sanitation for all and the requirement for further actions;

Accepting that Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Caribbean territories remain a special case for water resources management and national development, considering their unique and particular vulnerability to the adverse impacts of climate change, as acknowledged in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and by the international community in multiple international fora; and

Accepting that the Caribbean water and sanitation sectors continue to be impacted by natural hazards and disasters that are forecasted to worsen with the effects of climate change and variability.

Reaffirming

That disaster risk financing and management is available through the Caribbean Water Utility Insurance Collective Segregated Portfolio (CWUIC-SP);

That Caribbean water utilities commit to prioritizing the reduction of non-revenue water (NRW) and increase the level of wastewater treatment and to immediately implement NRW strategies as tools to measuring water utility efficiency and combating climate change;

That there is potential for Caribbean water utilities to access climate financing for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions through NRW reduction and wastewater treatment projects; and

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That the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank stand ready to support water utilities to prepare plans to accelerate the reduction of NRW to an optimal level of losses and to increase the wastewater treatment coverage in seven (7) years.

Declaring

That Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for water and wastewater commit to reviewing the water sector governance, legal and institutional framework to mainstream integrated water resources management in order to achieve water security, achieve universal access to water and sanitation and the Sustainable Development Goals;

That the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association commit to capacity building for the Caribbean water and sanitation sector through the CWWA Research and Education Foundation (CWWA ReEF);

That the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association, the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank prepare a concept note for a Non-Revenue Water training programme for practitioners in the Caribbean by the next High-Level Forum, and

That the Inter-American Development Bank and the Caribbean Development Bank, as accredited entities of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) begin, on behalf of the Caribbean constituency, the process of preparing an application to the GCF for a Caribbean water sector resilience programme.

Handwritten signatures in blue ink, including a large signature on the left and several smaller ones on the right.

We, the Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for water and wastewater endorse the Declaration of Georgetown 2023 on this the 25th day of October, 2023

Marvin Spence
Clyde L. Redd
P. J. [Signature]

[Signature] gmu

Marlon Lamb