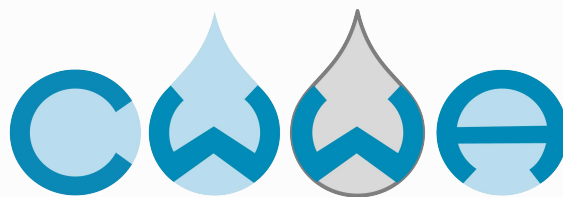




GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

**DECLARATION OF CARIBBEAN
MINISTERS WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR
WATER AND WASTEWATER OF
PORT OF SPAIN 2024**

(WATER DECLARATION OF PORT OF SPAIN 2024)



**CARIBBEAN WATER AND
WASTEWATER ASSOCIATION**

SIGNED ON THE 22ND DAY OF OCTOBER IN THE YEAR 2024
IN THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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WATER DECLARATION OF PORT OF SPAIN 2024

Adopted at the Twentieth High Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater at the Thirty-Third Annual Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association Conference and Exhibition, under the theme “**Collective Regional Action Toward a Climate Resilient and Water Secure Caribbean**” on 21st and 22nd October 2024, in the capital city of Port of Spain in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

PREAMBLE

We, the Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater, gathered alongside Regional Partners in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, in recognition of the critical importance of water and wastewater management in protecting public health, preserving ecosystems, and ensuring sustainable management of water resources while treating and safely disposing of waste to prevent pollution and contamination. Acknowledging the urgent need to overcome challenges of securing water for our people in the Caribbean region that is dealing with losses, damages and the impact of the climate crisis, we declare our collective commitment to ensuring the sustainable management of water for the benefit of the Caribbean region and its people.

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.

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Our efforts continue to build on

1. the Declaration of Basseterre 2019, signed on 15 October 2019 at the Fifteenth High Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater in Basseterre, Saint Christopher and Nevis;
2. the Statement of Acknowledgement of Nassau 2022, deliberated on 19 October 2022 at the Eighteenth High Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater in Nassau, Commonwealth of The Bahamas; and
3. the Declaration of Georgetown 2023, signed on 25 October 2023 at the Nineteenth High Level Forum for Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater in Georgetown, Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

We recall and remain committed to the Regional Strategic Action Plan for Governance and Building Climate Resilience in the Water Sector in the Caribbean (RSAP 2018) and the ongoing implementation works under the stewardship of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association and in collaboration with the Development Partners.

COLLECTIVE REGIONAL ACTION TOWARD A CLIMATE RESILIENT AND WATER SECURE CARIBBEAN

We, the Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater and Regional Partners reaffirm that

1. disaster risk financing and management is available for our water utilities through the Caribbean Water Utility Insurance Collective Segregated Portfolio (CWUIC SP) of CCRIF SPC. We urge Caribbean water utilities to engage with this program as a critical step in water security;
2. there is potential for Caribbean water utilities to access climate financing for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions through non-revenue water (NRW) reduction and wastewater treatment projects;
3. the Development and Regional Partners stand ready to support water utilities to prepare plans to accelerate the reduction of non-revenue water (NRW) to an

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optimal level of losses and to increase the wastewater treatment coverage by 2030;

We, the Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater and Regional Partners commit to fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among countries and stakeholders to

1. facilitate and prioritize the development of a specialised Caribbean climate-resilient water and wastewater project financing mechanism, ensuring increased access to financial resources;
2. prioritize the reduction of non-revenue water (NRW) through the adoption of best practices, innovative technologies, and capacity-building initiatives and implement strategies to measure water utility efficiency and build resilience to the climate crisis;
3. advance the implementation of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) across the Caribbean by strengthening national and regional frameworks, policies, and institutions that promote the sustainable management of water resources;
4. integrate nature-based solutions into wastewater treatment and improve wastewater management in the Caribbean recognizing its critical role in protecting public health, water quality, and the environment;
5. enhance the resilience of our water and wastewater infrastructure through climate adaptation strategies;
6. establish robust monitoring, evaluation, and reporting mechanisms to track progress towards the achievement of our water-related goals and commitments through the Regional Strategic Action Plan for Governance and Building Climate Resilience in the Water Sector in the Caribbean Implementation Monitoring Committee (RSAP-IMC); and
7. strengthen regional cooperation and collaboration for the water and wastewater sector through the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA), and

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other regional partners to address common water challenges and leverage shared resources.

We, the Caribbean Ministers with responsibility for Water and Wastewater, gathered alongside the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association and Regional Partners, endorse the Declaration of Caribbean Ministers with Responsibility for Water and Wastewater of Port of Spain 2024 on this the 22nd day of October in the year 2024 in the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Walter Azevedo

Pauline

Marlon Daniels

Mervin Dumark

Eric

Alvin

Juan R. A.