



## **High-level Political Forum 2019**

### **Voluntary National Review Session on St. Lucia**

#### **Intervention on behalf of the Women's Major Group delivered by Jonathan Chalon (Rutgers), on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

In Saint Lucia there has been some NGO involvement however the full involvement of all stakeholders especially community based organizations needs to be more potently embraced and included. No one must be left behind in this process from rural women in Choiseul, to persons with disabilities, to the youth at risk or the LGBTQ activist and average citizen from Dennery. We must create safe spaces and provide the necessary resources so that all citizens can be so empowered to play their part in addressing the SDGs.

The efforts of the national coordinating strategy is detached and lacks the necessary interconnectedness that embraces a holistic approach to achieving the SDGs. As a country prone to natural disasters and climate change vulnerabilities that can ravage such a small economy; it is imperative that a coordinated approach to development, that considers those vulnerabilities be embraced in the way forward. The limited resources of our small island developing states must be mobilized, to address the plethora of barriers as lack of full inclusion, poor data collection, inadequate mobilization of resources, poor governance and implementation frameworks and scanty communication and advocacy.

While there have been steps to address the SDGs, these exertions have been sporadic, inconsistent, limited in depth and scope, lacking an evidenced based approach, lacking in the provision of the necessary resources and passionate impetus.

What are the governments plans to ensure meaningful inclusion of all citizens and sectors of society?

Furthermore, how will resources be mobilized in a coordinated and holistic manner to ensure that we address the sustainable development goals?

Considering the tremendous talent and potential of the youth demographic; how can we more meaningfully engage those energies in achieving our goals?