PERMANENT MISSION OF BELIZE

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Belize Statement delivered by H.E. Janine Coye-Felson, Permanent Mission of Belize to the United Nations on the Joint Discussion on Sustainable Development in the Second Committee

October 12, 2026

Chair,

For Belize, sustainable development means ensuring that progress against poverty can withstand the next hurricane, that our natural wealth sustains livelihoods, and that every community benefits from opportunity. The Sustainable Development Goals remain our shared framework for achieving that future. This eighty-first session must accelerate their delivery.

Belize is committed to the Goals, and we are making measurable progress. Multidimensional poverty stands at 19.1 per cent and unemployment at 1.9 per cent. Public debt has been brought to 66.6 per cent of GDP and, for the first time in a generation, it is on a sustainable path.

These figures are not abstractions. Protecting these gains requires international cooperation that responds to the vulnerabilities of small island developing States.

Full implementation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS requires predictable resources, including sustained support for the SIDS Centre of Excellence. Development partners and international financial institutions must use the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index to inform financing decisions. Access to concessional finance must reflect exposure to shocks alongside national income.

On climate change, maintaining global warming below 1.5 degrees remains the legal and scientifically agreed long-term goal. Belize calls for scaled up, accessible, grant-based adaptation finance and finance for responding to loss and damage. Climate finance must reach vulnerable countries on time and without deepening their debt burdens.

Disaster risk reduction requires investment in early warning systems, resilient infrastructure and community preparedness. Building resilience before disasters strike is essential to protecting lives and safeguarding development gains.

Our reef, mangroves and forests sustain livelihoods. Implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework requires finance, technology and stronger national capacity.

The Caribbean Sea merits dedicated international support. Belize calls for stronger cooperation through the Caribbean Sea Commission to combat marine pollution, address sargassum and promote sustainable fisheries. Protecting this shared resource is vital to food security, tourism and coastal livelihoods.

Affordable renewable energy and resilient electricity systems are equally essential. Financing and technology must enable small states to expand clean energy while ensuring access for rural communities.

Chair,

As we approach the 2027 SDG Summit, we must turn commitments into funded national action. Belize seeks partnerships that accelerate progress towards 2030 and sustain prosperity for generations to come.

I thank you.