

## **ABSTRACT**

### **PLENARY 2**

#### **INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT**

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#### **The MDGs and the Role of Universities in the Caribbean**

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations (UN) in September 2000 represent as set of eight (8) feasible goals and associated targets which the world community (especially the developing world) should achieve by the year 2015. At the centre of these goals is the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. The Caribbean countries readily adopted the MDGs and even reformulated some of the goals to reflect the social and economic circumstances in the region. As expected several stakeholders have a role to play in the achievement of both the global and Caribbean-specific goals and targets by 2015. The university sector represents an important stakeholder in the process as a provider of human resource development, advisory, research and advocacy services.

This paper examines the role which universities in the Caribbean can play (and have played) in the achievement of the MDGs in the region. It begins with a review of the MDGs from a Caribbean perspective and then examines the progress with the MDGs in the region. The general role which universities can play in the achievement of the MDGs is outlined, followed by an assessment of the role of the universities in the English-speaking Caribbean in helping countries to achieve the global and Caribbean-specific goals/targets. The paper concludes by discussing the additional role which the universities in the region can play in meeting the unmet goal/targets by 2015.