



Special Adviser on International Environment
Matters.

Berlin 1995

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UN Convention on Climate Change Conference of the parties

Madam President: Distinguished Delegates

The delegation of Jamaica extends to you warm congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this most important conference.

Please accept our congratulations also, on the selection of your country as host to the permanent secretariat of the U.N. Convention on Climate Change.

The views of my delegation, and the concerns of Jamaica have been very well expressed by the chairman of the Group of 77 and China, by the spokesman for the Alliance of Small Island Developing States, as well as by a number of delegations.

I think that it is appropriate for me to express here, deep appreciation of the efforts of these groups on behalf of developing countries, and on behalf of the entire community of countries involved in this critical undertaking.



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All of us face the dangers posed by climate change and global warming. Each of us must therefore participate in the effort to secure the future of the

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It is also recognized that the industrialized countries bear the major responsibility for the emission of green house gases which are the ^{source} cause of the danger.

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Madam President Jamaica today became a full participant in the convention on climate change.

Jamaica is a small island developing country, and an active member of AOSIS. Along with other islands of the Caribbean, and countries with low lying coastal areas, we face the risks which other member countries of AOSIS across the world face.

The Caribbean is visited every year by hurricanes and storms. It is the considered view that we are now witnessing an increase in the frequency of these events.



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Just one of the major consequences of this is the impact on insurance rates.

A rise in sea levels would be devastating for Jamaica, for ^{the} Caribbean, as it would be for other small island countries.

Jamaica therefore sees this conference as an event of the very greatest consequence.

My delegation acknowledges the progress which has been made - through the strenuous negotiations which have been taking place here in Berlin - and before.

~~But we are understandably~~
We are aware of the existence of differences in perception, ~~and~~ and the conflicting interests involved in this most complex matter.

But we are seriously concerned at what can only be regarded as the great reluctance on the part of some to take the bold and progressive steps without which the dangers which face us all cannot be averted.



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~~Jamaica is among the many
cosponsors of the Green Paper~~

central to the entire process which
we are undertaking is the acceptance
of clear and firm commitments by
industrialised countries
on the reduction of emissions. Jamaica
therefore supported the AOSIS draft Protocol.

Madame the President...

One of the tasks which has always faced
the UN system and member countries is
the development of a wide constituency
of informed and interested persons in our
countries, in respect of a range of important
issues which have come before the UN.

We have not so far been very successful
in this in spite of much effort.

The association of non-governmental
organizations with the UN system, and
especially at the Earth Summit
in Rio, and since that event, offers us
a great possibility in this respect.

The issue of climate change and
its implications calls for such a
wide and well informed constituency,
an understanding by our people of what
this means or could mean to their lives & their
future



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My delegation would like to suggest that each of us here - along with the UN system should seek to build such a constituency. In this effort the NGOs would inevitably play ^a ~~the~~ major role in keeping with their purpose and their demonstrated commitment.

And to the extent that such an effort succeeded no government would be free from pressure to participate in the taking the actions which are demanded by the situation - at home and at the international level.

Perhaps the second conference of Parties might take us to a higher level of solidarity and cooperation as a result.