



**STATEMENT OF**

**THE HONORABLE PRIME MINISTER ANDREW HOLNESS, ON, MP**

**TO THE**

**WORLD LEADERS SUMMIT OF THE 26<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP 26)**

**TO THE**

**UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)**

**Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom**

**November 1-2, 2021**

Mr President, Excellencies and Colleagues,

On behalf of the people of Jamaica, we thank the Government of the United Kingdom for their strong commitment and leadership in hosting this COP 26 within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the excellent arrangements that have been made to keep us safe.

The message is clear, climate change remains a pre-eminent priority for global action. As we have come to appreciate with the pandemic, “no one is safe until everyone is safe”. So too with CLIMATE CHANGE. All countries must act responsibly and with ambition to preserve our climate for all inhabitants and future generations of our planet.

For a brief moment, the pandemic shuttered the world and may have even reduced emissions. Importantly, we demonstrated that the world has the capacity to develop global solutions in record time when we believe and agree that the problem threatens our safety and security. The pandemic demonstrated the need for equity. Equity must also be at the heart of our response to climate change.

Countries that have profited the most from carbon over decades have a responsibility to provide others with resources and technology to transition to low carbon economies. This was the basis of the US\$100 billion a year pledge from developed countries at the Copenhagen COP in 2009. We need a renewed commitment to this pledge.

Allow me to strongly emphasize that without developed countries meeting this pledge, our national efforts at climate resilience and low carbon development are simply unachievable.

If we are to have any realistic chance of meeting our climate ambitions, we need financing that is predictable, less fragmented, and easier to access. For Small Island Developing States, with miniscule carbon footprints, the greater need for funding is for protection and recovery from disasters as well as for climate adaptation.

There are examples; with the help of the World Bank and with grant support from the Governments of the UK, Germany and the United States, Jamaica became the first small island state, to independently sponsor a catastrophe bond which will provide financial protection against losses from hurricanes.

While climate change affects all countries, the impact on Small Island Developing States is disproportionately greater. Climate Change threatens our very survival. Meeting the 1.5°C target is a matter of life and death for us. We are at a pivotal moment in history. All countries must increase their NDCs ambition to get us back on track. Our actions at COP26 will determine whether the planet will remain liveable for future generations.

Let us meet this moment with Urgent and Decisive Action.