



**HIGH LEVEL STATEMENT**

**TO THE**

**UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE**

**COP 23/CMP13/CMA 1.2**

**DELIVERED BY**

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**(LAND, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE & INVESTMENT)**

**IN THE**

**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION,**

**JAMAICA**



**Mr. President, Excellences and Colleagues**

**It is with great pleasure that I address this High Level Segment of this Conference of the Parties.**

**I am here in my capacity as the Minister with responsibility for Climate Change in the Government of Jamaica and on behalf of the Prime Minister, The Most Honourable Andrew Holness, ON, MP and the People of Jamaica.**

**Our Prime Minister sends his greetings and he has asked me to also convey to the Government and People of Fiji, the full support of the Jamaican people as you rise to the challenge as the first Small Island Developing State to accede to the Presidency of the COP. We also offer our thanks to the Government and people of Germany and the City of Bonn for their excellent hospitality.**

**Mr. President, climate change impacts each and every one of us, whether we are a large developed country or a small island developing state. This reality became greater focus of global attention over the recent past, with the impacts of devastating hurricanes in the**

**Caribbean region, parts of the United States of America, Mexico and Central America.**

**Having experienced the onslaught of severe weather events in the past, including storms, flood rains, and droughts, Jamaica empathizes with those that have been affected recently, particularly our neighbours in the Caribbean. The Government and People of Jamaica will therefore continue to lend our support, where possible, to assist in recovery efforts.**

**Mr. President, Jamaica has had and continue to experience its fair share of impacts that have stymied our country's growth and development.**

**Hurricanes and tropical storms have retarded our efforts at achieving our sustainable development aspirations over the years. Only recently we suffered devastating floods from heavy rains, resulting in over J\$4 billion in damage and loss**

**Mr. President, throughout the years, the Jamaican delegation has played an integral role in the successes of these conferences and negotiations. We will continue to advocate and reinforce the need to explore solutions that will build even greater resilience in Small Island Developing States while simultaneously creating opportunities that will assist countries to recover and rebuild their economies in the fastest possible time after impact.**

**Recognizing the potential for irreversible and permanent loss due to climate change, the Jamaican delegation is advocating for increased efforts to address loss and damage due to climate change, in light of actions that are necessary due to the limits of adaptation.**

**We are hopeful, that the negotiations on the issues relating to Loss and Damage in Developing Countries from the adverse effects of Climate Change will be better understood and articulated now that developed countries are themselves sharing similar experiences.**

**We all agree that the Paris Agreement was a landmark event, but even more so, implementation of this Agreement is now of paramount importance in building resilience through adaptation actions, which is a must for us, and securing low emissions development to ensure the global temperature goal of 1.5 degrees Celsius becomes a reality.**

**Mr. President, it is clear that the availability of adequate financing options towards progressively increasing mitigation and adaption efforts is also a critical component towards achieving the articulated targets for Parties, particularly those of vulnerable small island developing states.**

**In light of this, Jamaica supports endeavors aimed at mobilizing investment and climate resilient initiatives through a further simplification of approval procedures in the Financial Mechanism.**

**Of course, as an island nation, Jamaica recognizes that resilience not only lies in using the capital available to undertake physical projects and programmes, but also in the ability of our people to develop their capacities to understand and adopt new ideas and technologies.**

**Mr. President, undoubtedly, it is with the sharing of innovations that Parties will be able to build a sustainable foundation to chart a course leading to carbon neutrality by 2050 and to achieving the aspiration of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).**

**Let us remember, climate change impacts each and every one of us, but unfortunately some more than others. It is my greatest desire therefore that this meeting of Parties and dedicated stakeholders will achieve all that it sets out to achieve and more.**

**I thank you.**