

## **VOTE OF THANKS**

Delivered by Mr. Donovan Williams  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Economic Affairs, Economic Planning and National  
Development  
at the Opening Ceremony of the  
United Nations Climate Change Article 6 Workshop for Small Island  
Developing States  
Bay Gardens Hotel, Rodney Bay, Saint Lucia  
3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Honourable Leonard Montoute, Acting Prime Minister of Saint Lucia;  
Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Physical Development, Mr.  
George James; Your Excellency, Ambassador Bagher Asadi, Chairman of  
the Subsidiary Body for Implementation of United Nations Framework  
Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Representatives of the  
UNFCCC; Representative of the United Nations Environment Programme;  
Members of the National Climate Change Committee; Distinguished guests;  
Ladies and Gentlemen

This important workshop has become a reality through the efforts of many  
persons working together, in different parts of the world.

First of all, I wish, on behalf of the Government of Saint Lucia, to thank the  
Bonn-based United Nations Climate Change Convention Secretariat for  
accepting Saint Lucia's offer to host the workshop and for making the  
necessary arrangements from their end. In particular, I wish to recognize the  
efforts of Ms. Laurence Pollier and Mrs. Priscilla Sakupwanya who were in  
what seemed like continuous contact with Saint Lucia. I also thank Mr. Paul  
Desanker, Ms. Preety Bandari, Mr. David Paterson, Mrs. Diania Trought-  
Diederich and, of course, the Executive Secretary, Mr Yvo de Boer.

As you can imagine, an event such as this cannot happen without financial  
resources. In this regard, I wish on behalf of us all to thank the Government  
of Norway and UNEP for their support.

His Excellency, Ali Bagher Asadi, Chairman of the Subsidiary Body for  
Implementation of the UNFCCC kindly agreed to chair this meeting and he  
is here with us today. Thank you Ambassador Asadi.

I must also express gratitude to the Office of the Honourable Prime Minister for agreeing to host. In addition, the fact that the Acting Prime Minister, Honourable Stephenson King, is here with us today, despite his extremely frenetic schedule, is testimony to the level of importance accorded to this event. Thank you, Mr. Acting Prime Minister.

I must make mention of the efforts of the Ministry of External Affairs for facilitating the entry of the overseas participants in this workshop. Permanent Secretary Anthony Severin and his staff, in particular, Mrs. Lewis, Mrs. Dupal and Mrs. Auguste, did everything possible to ensure that all invited could be in Saint Lucia to be part of this important event.

Her Excellency the Governor-General, Dame Pearlette Louisy, will tonight be hosting a reception in honour of workshop participants. Indeed, Her Excellency would have been here today had it not been for a prior engagement. I therefore wish to place on record our gratitude for her graciousness and support.

The Royal Saint Lucia Police Force, in particular, the Immigration Department and the Special Services Branch must be recognized for their efforts. They assisted participants at the point of entry and are here with us for the duration of the workshop. The efforts of the Saint Lucia Fire Service must also be recognized with regard to the fire and emergency arrangements for this event.

I wish to thank the Management & Staff of the Bay Gardens Hotel for making their conference and other facilities available for this workshop. From past experience, I know that Mr. Parle and his staff will do all in their power to make your time here as comfortable as possible.

As has been said before, our late Focal Point, Mrs. Philbert-Jules played a great part in making this event a reality and for this we are grateful.

I wish to thank you the participants for being here today. Some of you traveled long distances to get here. I am sure that once you arrived, you realized it was worth the effort. Still, a workshop without participants is no workshop at all and so, I thank you all for attending.

Many other persons contributed to making this event a reality. These include personnel of the Ministry of Physical Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Saint Lucia, and various business houses.

In closing, I must recognize a team of people who worked really long and hard at this end in order that everything might come together. Distinguished guests and colleagues, I wish to salute the staff of the Sustainable Development, Environment, Science & Technology Section of my Ministry, who worked assiduously for several weeks, and were the glue, so to speak, of this operation. Mrs. Alma Jean, Mrs. Joanna Rosemond, Ms. Neranda Maurice, Ms. Donnalyn Charles, Ms. Caroline Eugene, Mr. Chad Hunte, Ms. Patricia-Ann Wardrope, Ms. Laverne Walker and Mrs. Giselle Amedee need special commendation. In fact, I now invite these hard-working persons to stand up and take a bow.

Ladies and Gentlemen, my task is done. Thank you.