

WELCOMING REMARKS

By Mr. George James
Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Physical 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
3rd-5th July 2007

Honourable Leonard Montoute, Acting Prime Minister of Saint Lucia
Ambassador Ali Bagher Asadi, Chairman of the Subsidiary Body for
Implementation of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
Change and Workshop Chairman, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of
Economic Affairs, Economic Planning, and National Development, Mr.
Donovan Williams; Representative of the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change; Representatives of the United Nations
Environment Programme; Members of the National Climate Change
Committee; Distinguished guests; Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to this Climate Change Article 6
Workshop for Small Island Developing States. I know that many of you
have traveled from the four corners of the world to be here today. For those
of you visiting the Helen of the West for the first time, I bid you "*Bienvini
en Sent Lisi*. Welcome to Saint Lucia." For those of you who have graced us
with your presence in the past, I say to you "*Bienvini Encore*- Welcome
Back".

These few words of welcome were to have been delivered by Saint Lucia's
National Climate Change Focal Point, Mrs. Marcia Philbert-Jules. However,
because of her tragic and untimely passing last week, she is not here with us
today.

Mrs. Philbert-Jules did much in support of Saint Lucia's efforts to address
climate change issues. Among other things, she ensured that Saint Lucia
identified an Article 6 Contact Point, in the person of Mr. Crispin
d'Auvergne.

Distinguished guests, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, I ask you, at this time, to join me in observing a minute's silence as a mark of respect to Mrs. Marcia Philbert-Jules.

Article 6 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change addresses Education, Training and Public Awareness. In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of this aspect of the Convention as it has been more clearly understood that climate change can only be successfully addressed if people are adequately informed and equipped with the necessary skills to respond to this phenomenon.

The fact that an Article 6 Workshop for Small Island Developing States has been convened bears testimony to the recognition of the special circumstances of these States in this regard, as well as to the persistence of the Alliance of Small Island States, AOSIS, in their calls for such a forum.

It is an honour that Saint Lucia has been chosen as the venue for this Workshop on Article 6. It is my hope that all your expectations for this workshop will be more than fulfilled. In closing, I welcome you once again to Saint Lucia, and to this workshop, and wish you successful deliberations.

Thank you.