

THE FEDERATION  
OF  
ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

National Statement  
High Level Segment of the COP and CMP  
Durban, South Africa  
7<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

Delivered by Mr. Randolph Edmead,  
Director of Physical Planning and Environment

I bring warm greetings from the Government and people of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, a small island state of the Caribbean with a combined land mass of 105 square miles and a population of approximately 50,000 people. We are the smallest nation in the western hemisphere, however we are disproportionately affected by the impacts of Climate Change, as we number among the countries most vulnerable to this present day threat.

Over the years, we have seen our environment and economy suffer from the devastation caused by extreme weather events. Our twin island Federation and the Caribbean, like the rest of the world, has had to deal with the reality and ever present likelihood of sea level rise, coral bleaching, hurricanes, floods, droughts, shifting rainfall patterns and reduced agricultural production. Our region has endured extensive environmental damage and major economic setbacks in recent years as a direct result of increased hurricane activity.

Our approach to the issue of Climate Change has always been one of survival, the survival of life as we know it. We urge all parties to recognise the gravity of the challenge we face and encourage them to exhaust all efforts on the technical and political levels, spanning regions, countries and organisations to secure a positive change in the way we approach this challenge.

Madame President, the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis must bring to your attention the exclusion of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and strongly urge that they be afforded the opportunity to participate in global mechanisms, negotiations, and other activities aimed at carbon emission reduction. Taiwan is not only fully capable of assuming its responsibilities to reduce emissions under the Convention, but can also share best practices with other parties affected by this plight.

The Climate Change negotiations are at a critical point. This African COP is not only a crucial benchmark for the continent of Africa but it is also of immense importance to other groupings, particularly the member states of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

A successful outcome for St. Kitts and Nevis in Durban is one that is balanced. A key element of this balance is securing the second commitment period for the Kyoto Protocol. The continuity of the Kyoto Protocol must be maintained through the adoption of ratifiable amendments for the second commitment period.

Madame President, we also would like to see progress on discussions to bring about substantial financial and technical support for developing countries to facilitate the implementation of adaptation and mitigation actions, technology transfer and capacity building.

Adaptation is key to our country therefore we again echo that there is a critical need for financial support for all SIDS to meet the challenges of the adverse impact of climate change. We call for the urgent and sustainable capitalization of the Green Climate Fund.

Global emissions are at their highest levels in history. This is unacceptable therefore we underscore the importance of increasing mitigation ambition in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

Parties should ensure that the scope of the 2015 review, which was part of the delicate political balance struck in Copenhagen and Cancun, be maintained to address the adequacy of 2°C including 1.5°C.

Let us meet this challenge together. Our delegation appeals to all parties to take the actions required to preserve the lives and livelihoods of those most vulnerable to the effects of Climate Change. I appeal to all parties to support our call for action to safeguard our future generations. The peoples of the world are watching. Now is the time for action.