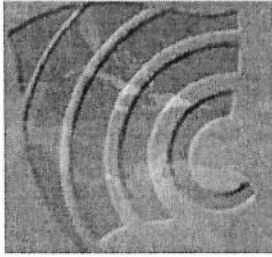


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## **ADDRESS TO THE PLENARY SESSION**

**BY**

**Dr. Kenrick R. Leslie**

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**COP 17  
DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA**

**December 9, 2011**

Despite the annual pilgrimage to far-flung regions of the world and nearly two decades of negotiations to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention which is to “..achieve stabilisation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere that will prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system” the results

remain grossly disappointing. The present trajectory of increasing global GHG emissions puts us on a path to irreversible damage to our biophysical and socio-economic environments and, as a result, to our sustainable development aspirations.

Caribbean countries can no longer wait! Accordingly, Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community mandated the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) to develop a regional strategy to address climate change and an implementation plan to actualise the strategy. Both of these mandates have been carried out and the region is now mobilizing the resources to carry out the actions identified in the Implementation Plan, with the latter initiatives including funding from national budgets as well as from the various climate change funding mechanisms. The Centre, therefore, urges that the financial pledges made in Cancun be met as soon as possible

and that Parties finalise the modalities for the operation of the Green Fund IMMEDIATELY.

The Centre is grateful for the support received from a number of like-minded partners in executing its programmes, inclusive of the recently crafted Implementation Plan, such as the European Union under the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA); United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID) and the Climate and Knowledge Development Network; Caribbean Development Bank; Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID); Hellenic Republic of Greece; Government of Germany; and Government of Italy.

The Centre urge all Parties to support the Caribbean in its efforts to pursue a low carbon development pathway that is resilient to climate change. It urges all parties to work more assiduously towards meeting an agreement for binding commitments in the shortest possible time because it is cognizant of the fact that there is a limit to adaptation. We all have a moral, ethical and

human responsibility for ensuring the realisation of the objectives of this Convention. Anything less would be the height of irresponsibility.

I thank you.