



GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

STATEMENT BY

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UNDER-SECRETARY
MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS DIVISION
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
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AT THE

**HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT OF
THE TWENTY-FIRST CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
UNFCCC AND THE
ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES
SERVING AS THE MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
KYOTO PROTOCOL (COP 21 AND CMP11)**

Paris, France

30th November – 11th December 2015

Mr. President

Excellencies,

The Government and people of Jamaica extend deepest sympathies to and solidarity with the Government and people of the French Republic at this difficult time.

We commend France for its commitment and leadership in tackling the issue of global climate change. We anticipate that COP21 will be the turning point to institute concrete and universal actions to respond to climate change. This global phenomenon threatens the sustainable development of all nations, particularly the most vulnerable, including small island developing states, such as Jamaica.

Climate change poses serious challenges to our ability to grow our economy, to our food security, the availability of water resources, physical infrastructure which are primarily located along our coasts as well as the livelihoods of our citizens, particularly the most vulnerable, that is, the poor, elderly, women and children. Indeed, for small island developing states, climate change is an attack on our way of life. Its impact was brought home forcefully to the population in a real way this year, during the extended drought which resulted in severe water shortages in

several parts of the island, including the capital city, Kingston. This water shortage had significant adverse impacts on our agriculture and industrial sectors as well as the health sector.

COP21 affords us the opportunity to take decisive steps to arrive at a global agreement that is universal in nature and which will allow for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that restrict global temperatures to way below 2°C above pre-industrial levels. For SIDS, however, we continue to strenuously advocate for a global temperature rise of not more than 1.5°C. This call by SIDS is neither arbitrary nor emotional, as the science has proven that a greater increase in global temperatures will be catastrophic for many island states. We are firmly of the view that 1.5°C target is still attainable if all countries are committed to achieve this target, including the development, scale up, deployment and transfer of the necessary technologies.

Jamaica reiterates the call made by some CARICOM Heads at the Leaders Event that the anticipated universal climate agreement to be adopted at COP21 should fully recognize and reflect the specific needs and special circumstances of small island developing states with respect to their vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change.

Mr. President,

Jamaica is playing its part in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions and has submitted its INDCs which covers actions in the energy sector. The country will seek to reduce the growth in GHG emissions by 7.8% by 2030. Indeed, our INDC is an indicator of Jamaica's willingness to take action against the deleterious effects of climate change in line with our capabilities, and for which we will need the support of the international community.

In Jamaica, we have adopted the slogan 'With climate changewe must change', a call for a change in behaviour by the man in the street, businesses and the political directorate to facilitate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and a more resilient society.

We welcome and applaud the pledges made by countries to the Green Climate Fund and stress the importance of access to this mechanism by developing countries, particularly the vulnerable SIDS.

The work on loss and damage is important for SIDS and we welcome and support the work that has begun under the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage.

Mr. President,

Jamaica views climate change and its impacts as a real and present danger that necessitates an integrated and universal response. For this reason, COP21 takes on added importance, and we believe our goals are achievable. Indeed, the place is here, in this the City of Lights and Love, and the time is now. Let us seize the moment to secure a better quality of life for future generations.

Thank you.