



**STATEMENT OF SENATOR THE HONORABLE MATTHEW SAMUDA,
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO WITH RESPONSIBILITY
FOR WATER, THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION
TO THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE
28TH CONFERENCE OF PARTIES (COP 28) TO THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (UNFCCC)**

(WEBSITE VERSION)

I am pleased to present Jamaica's views to the High-Level Segment of the 28th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC.

I stand before you on behalf of the resilient people of Jamaica, amidst the breath taking city of Dubai, at the heart of COP28. We extend our sincere gratitude to the United Arab Emirates for hosting this pivotal gathering and we acknowledge the COP President, Dr. Sultan Al Jaber, as it is under his mandate we hope to truly "Unite, Act and Deliver". This is a theme Jamaica endorses as it emphasizes our collective responsibility in the face of the ever-escalating climate crisis.

Mr President,

COP28 is unique and historic in many ways most significant of these, are the Day one L&D breakthrough lead by the UAE, the inclusion of health and Climate Change, against the backdrop of the Global Stock Take.

Mitigation

Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to ambitious mitigation efforts. Recognizing the urgency, we pledge, as outlined in our NDCs, to accelerate our transition to renewable energy sources, targeting approximately 30 percent reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. This we will achieve by the transition of our energy production from a fossil fuel base and move our renewable contribution from 18% currently to 50% by 2030. We have also commenced the Electrification of our government fleet starting with 100 buses to be delivered in 2024 with other sectors to follow.

The added impact of improvement of air quality and other health related benefits will be the subject of our national statement at COP29 as the implementation of new air quality regulations and monitoring were completed in 2023. We implore the global community to bolster international cooperation, facilitating the transfer of green technologies to developing nations and call for the phase out of fossil fuel as a priority.

Adaptation

Adaptation is the cornerstone of our resilience strategy. The vulnerable Small Island Developing States, like Jamaica, bear the disproportionate burden of climate impacts.

We call for increased support to enhance our adaptive capacity, especially in the areas of water resource management, agriculture, health and infrastructure. Keeping in mind that 2023 is currently on track to be the hottest year on record as stated by the Provisional State of the Global Climate Report 2023 by the WMO, underscores the urgent need for increased adaptation action. Moreover Kingston may just have lived up to the Climate Departure predictions of 2015 which signify the importance of greening our cities as adaptation strategy. As a part of our safeguard strategy, Jamaica is now preparing its National Adaptation Plan and we are exploring initiatives at the local and sub-national levels. It is imperative that adaptation financing must be the high point of COP28 and becomes more accessible and tailored to the specific needs of the most vulnerable.

Loss and Damage Fund

Jamaica is pleased to know that the Loss and Damage Fund (has been established/accepted) is operationalised, we thank those who have contributed. The impacts of climate change are increasingly evident in our communities, causing irreparable harm. We urge others to contribute to the fund that will assist developing countries in coping with the unavoidable consequences of climate change, including addressing the displacement of communities and the loss of biodiversity. Until the fund is fully funded and operationalised Jamaica calls for consideration to be given to the facilitation of an emergency compensation mechanism for the 20? Most impacted countries to receive well needed assistance immediately.

Finance

Without adequate financing, the aspirations of the Paris Agreement remain elusive. Jamaica urges developed nations to fulfill their commitment to mobilize \$100 billion annually, with a substantial portion allocated to adaptation efforts. We also advocate for innovative financing mechanisms and the inclusion of the private sector in climate finance initiatives to diversify funding sources.

Policy

Jamaica is proud to announce the recent revision of its national climate change policy framework and approval for an emissions policy framework. These will be supported

by a long-term climate change strategy for 2050. We emphasize the need for coherent and comprehensive policies that integrate climate considerations across all sectors. This includes mainstreaming climate-smart agriculture, sustainable tourism practices, and resilient urban planning. In addition we urge that climate change impacts on Oceans and Education be included in the critical areas for mainstreaming attention.

Mr President,

New Innovation

Innovation is our lifeline. We applaud the strides made in green technology and urge for increased investment in research and development. Jamaica supports initiatives that promote climate-resilient innovation, particularly in areas such as sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Climate Action

Jamaica is not merely a spectator in the fight against climate change; we are active participants. We are scaling up our climate action plans, promoting community-based initiatives including the active engagement in the development of early warning systems, and using the hard won fiscal gains over the past 5 years to create the fiscal space for a continuous line of mitigation and adaptation projects. fostering a culture of environmental stewardship. We encourage all nations to adopt a similar approach, recognizing that collective action is the only way forward.

Jamaica has focussed its attention throughout COP28 to secure and sign partnerships and welcomes additional partnerships to include technical assistance to strengthen its capacity needs.

Let us remember that the decisions made here at COP28 will resonate for generations to come. We stand at a crossroad, and the choices we make today will shape the destiny of our planet. Let us rise above our differences, unite in purpose, and forge a path towards a sustainable and resilient future.

Finally, let me once again extend Jamaica's gratitude to the Government and People of the United Arab Emirates and wish for continued successful outcome for COP28.

COP28 is bringing the world together to Unite, Act and Deliver.

Thank you.