

National Statement

The Hon. Dr. Joyelle Clarke
Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action and
Constituency Empowerment of Saint Kitts and Nevis

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(COP29)

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Mr. President, Excellencies, I greet you warmly on behalf of the Prime Minister and people of St. Kitts and Nevis.

THE STORY OF SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

- The **Caribbean and Latin America observed nearly 40,000 climate related deaths and 1.3 trillion in economic loss** in the past decade. Islanders live the horrors and hopes as frontliners of the climate crisis:
 - *The receding wave claims our land;*
 - *The fisher's net has no haul.*
 - *The farmers hoe breaks no ground,*
 - *The pouring rain knows no end.*
- But there is hope here in Baku, for this cannot be the future to which we resign island nations!

THE NECESSITY OF SOLIDARITY

- In 2023 SIDS received 1.4bn or 10% of GCF finance
 - In 2022 we accessed 44% of Climate finance as debt
 - SIDS receive 0.2% of global climate finance
- Where is the solidarity? Where is the justice?
 - Baku must be synonymous with relief and results for SIDS.

REAL ACTION, REAL RESULTS

The people of Saint Kitts and Nevis stand with CARICOM and AOSIS in seeking a shift in financing towards minimum allocation floors, high quality and sustainable, blended finance with the highest level of concessionality.

- A New Collective Quantified Goal that bridges financing gaps between the G7 and the G77
- A Loss and Damage fund that is fully operationalized and ready for programming
- Advancing climate transparency and accountability toward climate justice
- Adequately resourcing the Special Climate Change Fund and other facilities which allow the NDC's to meet the 1.5 goal.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR PROGRESS

- St Kitts and Nevis is actively pursuing its sustainable island state agenda through robust partnerships and targeted action in decarbonizing energy generation, constructing sustainable homes and climate proofing our utilities infrastructure.
- Our friends, an island nation, also at the vanguard of sustainability and resilience offers us opportunities to learn and collaborate. As we leave no one behind, we must bring along the experience and expertise of the people of the Republic of China on Taiwan.
- We must align our actions and ambitions so that substance and survival for **all**, not some, supersedes exclusionary processes.
- We invite all island nations to convene in St Kitts and Nevis as we co-host the Global Sustainable Island Summit with Island Innovation to advance the SIDS agenda together.

MANAGERS OF OPPORTUNITY

- Our children, our elderly, our women and girls, our youth deserve better.
- Let us be seized by a desire for improvement **not** seduced by incrementalism. Let Baku be the co-creation of finance justice in true solidarity.
- *“Children should not be inheritors of a ruined planet but co-creators and co-managers of the future they deserve.”* Saint Kitts and Nevis' Caricom Youth Ambassador 2024.