From Paris to Antalya: Now We Must Deliver
ADDRESS BY THE HONOURABLE PHILIP J. PIERRE
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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In Paris, Saint Lucia stood with the Caribbean and fellow Small Island Developing States to fight to limit global warning to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Eleven years later, progress has been too slow. However, the prospect of exceeding the 1.5 degrees threshold is not a reason to recalibrate the goal. It is a reason to act with greater urgency.

Excellencies,

Climate change does not need a a headline grabbing hurricane to devastate an island. Climate change - is the farmer losing crops to drought. The household without reliable water. The fisher whose livelihood is threatened by warming seas, coral bleaching and deteriorating marine ecosystems. The small business whose survival and hopes for the future rise and fall with the health of our coastlines.

Every dollar we spend repairing climate-related damage, is a dollar diverted from education, healthcare, housing, poverty reduction and other critical national development priorities.

Our people pay three times over: first, through the devastation caused by climate change; second, through the development opportunities lost as resources are diverted to recovery; and third, through the debt they must incur to rebuild what climate change has destroyed.

This is the fundamental injustice confronting countries that have contributed so little to the problem.

International courts have reinforced that states have legal responsibilities to protect the climate system. So, both the law and the science are on our side.

CARICOM is ready to do its part.

Saint Lucia is pursuing renewable energy and cleaner transport. Our ambition is not only to reduce emissions, but to build a more resilient nation, with more secure energy, stronger communities and greater opportunity for our people.

But national resources alone cannot meet a global crisis.

We are not asking to escape responsibility. We are demanding that responsibility be shared fairly major emitters must move beyond the usual promises. They must reduce emissions that the climate crisis demands.

They must deliver predictable adaptation finance, with more grants, affordable financing and simpler access. Support must reflect our vulnerability, not merely our national income.

We cannot build resilience on promises. We need finance, technology and partnerships that reach our communities, protecting water supplies, supporting farmers and fishers, and strengthening the infrastructure on which daily life depends.

Excellencies,

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage must have the resources to deliver help when our people need it.

Success in Antalya will not be judged by the declarations we make, but by the action we take, the commitments we honour, and the lives we improve

These are not unreasonable demands. They are the foundations for a more certain future.

The people of Saint Lucia, and CARICOM cannot afford another decade of lengthy negotiations and inadequate responses. We must turn the commitments contained in successive COP decisions into urgent, decisive action.

In Paris, we fought to put 1.5 degrees at the heart of the global response. In Antalya, we must put delivery at its heart.

Our young people deserve to inherit a healthy, stable planet on which they can build their futures with confidence and hope.

I thank you!