



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Statement

by

Hon. Carlos James, Esq., MP

Minister of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development and Culture

at the

Resumed High-Level Segment of COP 26/CMP 16/CMA 3

09 November, 2021

Glasgow

1. Mr. President.
2. Excellencies and distinguished colleagues.
3. This past year has been the most challenging period in St. Vincent and the Grenadines' post-colonial history. We continue to grapple with the challenges precipitated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the devastation caused by the explosive eruption of the La Soufriere Volcano, and severe floods and landslides due to more extreme weather phenomena. These challenges underscore our intrinsic vulnerabilities and threaten our very existence.
4. Mr. President, the most pertinent questions for our people are the following:
 - How long will aspirational declarations and diplomatic maneuvering delay the concrete actions required to ensure our planet remains below the 1.5 degree target?
 - Will developed countries acknowledge that insufficient funding for adaptation measures results in catastrophic loss and damage to SIDS?
 - Will G20 countries, responsible for nearly 80% of carbon emissions, honour their commitment to develop and implement ambitious NDCs to reduce global emissions?

5. St. Vincent and the Grenadines therefore calls for URGENT action to avert this climate crisis.
6. The **UNFCCC Synthesis Report** clearly indicates that current NDCs are woefully inadequate.
7. They will **NOT** bridge the gap between existing commitments and the 1.5 pathway.
8. We **MUST** accelerate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions **in this DECISIVE DECADE**, to achieve net zero by 2050.
9. Failure to take the necessary steps to address this climate crisis is **reckless** and **endangers** the 72 million people living in Small Island Developing States.
10. **To compromise on the required targets and measures is a death sentence for our people!**
11. **Negotiating your way out of this responsibility is not an option!**
12. Mr. President, my country continues to do its part both nationally, and internationally as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, in the global fight against climate change.
13. However, new and additional finance, technology transfer and capacity building support are required to ensure we can fully implement the Paris Agreement.

14. We welcome the commitment of some developed countries to scale up finance pledges and we urge others to deliver on the outstanding 100 billion per annum commitment.
15. This fight requires the inclusive action and meaningful participation of everyone. We commend Taiwan's efforts to legislate climate targets and they should be at the table.
16. Finally, Mr President, COP 26 must be remembered as the Summit where we completed the Paris Rule book, **anything less will be a failure!**
17. **Climate change is the defining global challenge of our time.**
18. We cannot squander decades of hard work. **The stakes are TOO high and time is running out!**

Thank you.