



STATEMENT BY

THE HON. MINISTER DARYL VAZ, M.P.
MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, MINISTRY OF
ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION WITH RESPONSIBILITY
FOR LAND, ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND INVESTMENTS

AT THE LAUNCH OF

THE CLIMATE ACTION ENHANCEMENT PACKAGE

SEPTEMBER 23, 2019, 8:00 AM

UN HEADQUARTERS
NEW YORK

Warm Jamaican Greetings and Salutation to all Excellences, Ministers and colleagues present this morning.

Allow me to specially recognize...

The NDC Partnership's co-chairs:

- Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; and
- Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Minister of Environment and Energy of the Republic of Costa Rica
- Mr Pablo Vieira, Global Director of the NDC Partnership Support Unit
- Ms Inger Andersen from UNEP and this morning's Moderator

Well-wishers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am indeed honoured to represent the Government of Jamaica at this prestigious event marking the launch of the **Climate Action Enhancement Package**.

Jamaica has a rich and successful history of collaboration with States, Parties, International Development Partners and support entities and gladly report that this tradition continues with the NDC Partnership.

In June 2018, the Government of Jamaica communicated an interest to becoming a member of the NDC Partnership and we are happy to announce that membership was successfully confirmed in August that same year. This bold step was deemed necessary as Jamaica is committed to the global efforts to address climate change and to the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

Jamaica is aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and the Guiding Principles of the NDC Partnership, as exemplified in our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

Our first NDC, was focused only on the energy sector.

Jamaica has committed to submitting a revised and enhanced NDC by 2020.

My Government will accomplish this through very fruitful collaboration with the NDC Partnership and the World Bank with whom we are working to complete an assessment of the current potential for greenhouse gas reduction and avoidance.

In the enhanced NDC Jamaica intends to further strengthen synergies between mitigation and adaptation across proposed commitments and policies, including by adopting a comprehensive blue economy approach and thereby reducing the acute vulnerability of its natural assets.

Furthermore, Jamaica intends to commit to more ambitious emission reduction targets by broadening the sectoral coverage of its NDC and move one step closer to the economy-wide emission reduction targets.

For instance, through existing policies and plans as well as the REDD+ Readiness strategy to be developed, Jamaica is moving towards increasing sinks in forests and through more sustainable land management practices. We intend to consider the possible positive contributions of the agriculture, transportation, waste and water sectors in the enhanced NDC, but we are cognizant that existing gaps in data, the time available and current capacities may be limiting factors.

We intend to examine how our beautiful island in the Caribbean could enhance the ambition of our NDC and simultaneously identify the adaptation co-benefits the delivery of those opportunities might bring. One such co-benefit could be the improvement to human health.

Jamaica has applied to the CAEP with the hope of securing the financial support to complete a long term Green House Gas emission reduction and resilient development strategy for a period up to 2050.

This strategy will undoubtedly embellish our NDC implementation efforts and will be consistent with the international goals and vision of net-zero by 2050. It will also help avoid locking in high-carbon technologies and reduce observed and anticipated vulnerabilities for decades to come.

In closing, excellence, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, let me indicate that the Government of Jamaica looks forward to being listed among the countries committed to increasing ambition in climate action and in being recognized amongst the group of countries and other stakeholders that are setting carbon neutrality goals toward 2050.

Finally, let me take this time to express our gratitude to the team at the NDC Partnership and also to the staff of the UN Secretariat for their support to my team during this Period.

I thank you!