



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

INTERVENTION BY

**H.E. E. COURTENAY RATTRAY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA TO THE UN**

**AT THE SIDE EVENT IN THE MARGINS OF THE 2020 ECOSOC HIGH LEVEL
POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON**

**BUILDING A CLEAN AND RESILIENT RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 CRISIS
IN SUPPORT OF CLIMATE ACTION AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

**HOSTED BY THE PERMANENT MISSIONS OF BANGLADESH, RWANDA, THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA, AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL**

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FINAL TEXT

Question from Moderator: Last week Jamaica submitted its updated and enhanced NDC to the UNFCCC. Ambassador, can you outline the actions your country will take to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience, and can you share any best practice?

It's a pleasure to share Jamaica's experience on the timely matter of climate action in the era of COVID 19 and beyond.

Our updated and enhanced NDC reflects a commitment to establishing a low-carbon economic pathway on our journey to ensuring our sustainable development. Our strategy includes making deeper emission reductions in the energy sector. In doing so we will continue to diversify our energy matrix to decrease our dependence to carbon intensive fuels.

The updated NDC will reduce emissions by 25% by 2030 benchmarked against a business-as-usual baseline. In relative terms, this is an increase of ambition by 60% compared to our previous submission in 2015.

We have also improved our NDCs in comparison with our first one in 2015, by expanding the sectoral scope to go beyond the energy sector to address land use and forestry emissions. Our strategy for each cycle of NDC update will be to include ever more sectors, all grounded in careful analysis of policy options, projects and programs.

We are also pursuing greater energy efficiency in the water sector to reduce waste and consumption and limit our vulnerability to water shortage. We are complementing these actions by making greater use of climate smart agricultural techniques and watershed restoration.

With respect to best practices, we used the momentum generated by the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit last September, to solidify partnerships and advance the review we had already started of our NDCs.

It is critical for us to ensure that our national climate plan is anchored in existing national policies and measures. This, in our view, will ensure that it is practical and credible. It will also set the tone for the type of multi-sector collaboration and close coordination necessary for us to achieve our targets.

As we move towards implementation, we are looking for partners with which to collaborate. For example, we have partnered with the World Bank to conduct the sectoral assessments and modelling that resulted in the enhanced targets we have today.

Jamaica also has an on-going collaboration with the NDC Partnership, which has helped with the coordination and response we have received from other international partners such as UNDP, UNFCCC, the Climate Technology Centre & Network CTCN (operational arm of the UNFCCC Technology Mechanism, hosted by the UN Environment), the Commonwealth Secretariat and several other organizations, such as the Rocky Mountain Institute and the Greenhouse Management Institute.

I should mention that we are also a Country Champion for the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action. We are moving to forge greater participation of our Ministry of Finance in the NDC review and

implementation process. This is especially necessary now as we deal with the impacts of the pandemic.

As we look towards COP 26, Jamaica encourages the international community to take a more analytical look into the COVID-19 recovery plans of individual countries. We believe the creation of special windows, programmes and initiatives will support their efforts by ensuring alignment with the SDGs and their enhanced NDCs.

We also urge the international community to create more partnerships with the private sector to help mobilize investments for critical sectors to build back better and increase resiliency of our energy sector, buildings and construction, food systems, waste management systems, sustainable tourism and agriculture.

It would be remiss of me, as Co-Chair of the Group of Friends of SDG Financing, were I not to raise the matter of climate financing. Climate finance, which remains insufficient, is critical for countries to manage and recover from the pandemic.

The climate finance conversation therefore needs to be at the center of COP26 and progress needs to happen in the negotiations towards the provision of long-term finance. We now more than ever need support to effectively translate our NDCs into investment plans, quantify needs based on the current situation of the economy, and work on making climate finance more flexible and accessible.

Lastly, we continue to urge developed countries to submit ambitious and enhanced NDCs to ensure that climate action remains at the centre of the global economic recovery.