



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

STATEMENT BY

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE**

AT THE

**HIGH-LEVEL SIGNATURE CEREMONY FOR
THE PARIS AGREEMENT**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
WEDNESDAY, 22ND APRIL 2016**

Mr. Secretary-General
Mr. President
Excellencies

Let me first thank Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon for bringing us together to sign this landmark Agreement. I wish to register Jamaica's appreciation for his commitment to combating climate change and for his leadership on this issue over the years.

The large number of countries signing the Agreement today reflects the momentum and determination to take action, which has persisted since Paris. While this augurs well for the success of the Treaty, we will not achieve our goal if we leave New York without a renewed commitment to take urgent steps to ratify the Agreement. This will allow for its early entry into force. For our part, Jamaica fully intends to ratify the Agreement by the last quarter of 2016.

Mr. President,

In adopting the Paris Agreement, the international community has made a clear statement of commitment to address the wide-ranging negative effects of climate change. However, the Agreement's greatest value will be the extent to which it delivers a reduction in greenhouse

gas emissions and results in the mobilisation of the resources needed for climate change adaptation.

Jamaica is proud to have been part of a diverse group of countries, the High Ambition Coalition, which in Paris coalesced around the 1.5°C goal that the Alliance of Small Island States has championed over the years. We expect that every effort will be made to maintain this high level of ambition.

The success of the Paris Agreement will require actions at the national level. Jamaica has a comprehensive national climate change policy and action plan, key elements of which have been set out in our intended Nationally Determined Contribution (iNDC). Although our contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions is negligible, we intend to increase our percentage use of renewable energy substantially to contribute to the overarching objective of staying within the 1.5°C temperature goal, while supporting our commitment to transform to a low-carbon economy.

Mr. President,

Jamaica welcomes the commitment to provide climate financing of at least US\$100 billion each year. The provision of adequate and

predictable flows of financing at this level, will assist developing countries, and SIDS in particular, to accelerate our ongoing efforts to combat climate change in the pre-2020 period. All efforts should be made to ensure that, insofar as they exist, barriers to accessing the Green Climate Fund and other multilateral sources of climate financing are removed.

In closing, Mr. President, let me reiterate Jamaica's commitment to the Paris Agreement, and to ongoing efforts in the context of the UNFCCC, to move us closer to its full implementation. We have before us an opportunity to tackle one of the greatest challenges of our times and to preserve the planet for future generations. As the Secretary-General rightly noted "There is no Plan "B" because there is no Planet "B". Please let us take his words to heart.

Thank you.