

World Leaders' Summit

Twenty Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

Glasgow, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Monday, November 01- Tuesday, November 02, 2021

3-Minute National Statement by Honourable Philip Joseph Pierre

Prime Minister of SAINT LUCIA

Mr. President, I join in commending you for hosting this momentous convergence of world leaders, to set the stage for the United Nations Climate Change conference this year. As we grapple with the global pandemic, I believe our presence here is testimony to our recognition that we are at a **critical** juncture; a **tipping point**.

This is the **last** decade, 2020-2030 - the **last** chance to set the world on track to 1.5 degrees. The question is, will we **rise** to the challenge? Will our moral conscience prevail? Small Island Developing States as my country, Saint Lucia, whose special circumstances and needs were settled in Paris, are in the midst of crisis for humanity.

The UN Secretary General described the IPCC Working Group 1 Report as "a code red for humanity." Undeniably, certain changes, such as sea level rise and ocean acidification are already locked in, with dire consequences for SIDS and low lying states. But we know that 1.5 degrees Celsius is **still** within our reach. To achieve it, we must act, and act now!

Countries **must** urgently bring forward new NDCs with 2030 targets consistent with the 1.5-degree temperature goal, supported by credible net zero-by-2050 long-term strategies. We **must** support wind, solar and other renewable energy investments.

The power to turn things around lies in **our collective** hands. We must be **focused** and **resolute**. We **cannot** vacillate on matters of human survival.

In this regard, world leaders **must** deliver on the long-term climate finance goal that was promised, supporting, not only mitigation, but also adaptation. We must also **raise** the profile of, and mainstream loss and damage as a **distinct** pillar of climate action and **support**.

Moreover, it is high time that we complete the Paris Rulebook. When we bring to fruition that **vital** work, we can strengthen accountability and enable the **highest** possible ambition, while ensuring transparency and environmental integrity.

Colleagues, friends, we, in the developing world, are **on the front lines, exposed**. Our poor vulnerable citizens have limited ability to respond to climate change effects and so, their quality of life is **significantly diminished**.

As **responsible** leaders, can we, in good conscience, sacrifice **humanity** for industry? Will we continue to ignore the science to **gamble** with the **future** of our youth, women, indigenous communities, private sector and NGOs? What are the prospects for nations like Taiwan, yet to be recognised by the UN as a bona fide state, but also confronting climate change, while supporting SIDS?

The young people who will inherit this planet, are watching us. We **cannot** fail them. Let us **not** be that generation of leaders who had the **last chance** to set the world on track, but **chose not** to put people first.

I thank you.

October 2021