

## **REMARKS BY**

HONOURABLE MINISTER FAYVAL WILLIAMS

*Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology*

### **UNCUT CONVERSATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

**THEME: JAMAICA RAISING AMBITION...CONNECTING THE DOTS!**

*Thursday, May 9, 2019 @9:00 am*

*Terra Nova All-Suite Hotel*

## **Salutations:**

- **Professor Dale Webber, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Board and Chair of *UnCut 2019***
- **Hon. Fayval Williams, Minister of Science, Energy and Technology**
- **Senator the Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr. Minister Without Portfolio in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation**
- **Senator Matthew Samuda**
- **Dr. Elsie Laurence-Chounoune, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme**
- **Mr. Robert Bradley — Knowledge and Research Director, NDC Partnership Support Unit**
- **Mrs Audrey Sewell, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Growth & Job Creation**
- **Representatives of our International Development Partners**
- **Other Members of the Climate Change Advisory Board**
- **Distinguished panelists**
- **Members of the Media**
- **Ladies and gentlemen**

A very good morning to you all.

It is my pleasure to speak to you this morning at what I believe will be very meaningful discussions on climate change. Events such as these are timely and significant as countries across the globe are considering and finding solutions to combat this issue.

In September 2018, the United Nations Secretary General, António Guterres, mentioned in his speech that *“Existing technologies are waiting to come online – cleaner fuels, alternative building materials, better batteries and advances in farming and land use. These and other innovations can have a major role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, so we can hit the Paris targets and inject the great ambition that is so urgently needed.”*

### **The Paris Agreement**

Ladies and gentlemen, in much the same way that we became a party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol in 1995, I am proud to note that in April 2017, Jamaica submitted its instrument of ratification to the United Nations to become a party to the Paris Agreement, joining 185 developed and developing countries, that have ratified this landmark agreement.

This initiative, arising from the United Nations Framework on Climate Change, 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) held in December 2015, signaled to the world that nations were willing to enter into a common cause to undertake **ambitious** efforts to combat climate change by pledging to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions and adapting to its effects, with the provision of enhanced support to assist developing countries, like Jamaica to do so.

The Agreement's central aim is:

- to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping future global temperature rise, this century, to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels;
  - to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to no more 1.5 degrees Celsius; and
  - To strengthen the ability of countries to reach these ambitious goals.
- The Agreement also provides for enhanced transparency of action and support through a more robust transparency framework.

### **Jamaica's National Determined Contribution (NDC)**

In November 2015, Jamaica submitted its intended nationally determined contribution (NDC) which was later deemed our first NDC following the ratification of the Paris Agreement.

Incidentally, Jamaica's NDC is predicated on the National Energy Policy, which rests of course in my Ministry.

It is built on the progress of initiatives, projects and programmes aimed at reducing our carbon footprint through low-emission and often no-emission based projects in the energy sector.

The focus now as it relates to the NDC is **raising the ambition** and Jamaica has started preparatory work aimed at revising / updating the NDC to show greater ambition.

Based on work carried out by the Climate Change Division of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, my Ministry and several other key stakeholders and the observed potential that exists, sectors such as transport, forestry, water, waste and agriculture could in some way contribute to efforts at reducing greenhouse gas emission levels across the island.

As part of the country's strategy to do so, in 2018, Jamaica successfully became a member of the NDC Partnership.

With this in mind, Jamaica is also finalizing a partnership with the World Bank Group valued US\$500,000 in grant financing. This World Bank support and NDC Partnership collaboration will:

1. assess and help to update Jamaica's current NDC to reflect increased ambition;
2. it will help design a NDC implementation/partnership plan in support of identified sectoral targets and policies; and
3. it will build capacity based on a multi-sectoral coordinated approach.

## **Jamaica and the Climate Change Agenda**

Ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to say that Jamaica is committed to the climate change agenda!

It is clear that the change in the climate and how it affects us as a small-island state is increasingly becoming a worrying matter.

The Third National Communication estimates Jamaica's green house gas emissions for 2012 at 13 thousand Gigagrams of carbon dioxide equivalent or just about 0.02% of the global total.

So despite not contributing significantly to global warming, we are committed to playing our part to secure our economy, the livelihoods of our people, and to protect our beautiful natural environment.

### **Energy Projects**

Ladies and gentlemen, over the years, we have made tremendous strides both in our renewable efforts and our CO<sub>2</sub> avoidance, including:

- The installation and operationalization of the 36.8MW BMR Energy wind facility and the expansion of the Wigton Windfarm, which now has capacity of 62.7 MW;
- A 20MW solar PV plant which became operational in Content, Clarendon by WRB Content Solar;

By way of these projects, we have achieved much in terms of CO<sub>2</sub> avoidance:

- Through Wigton (phases 1-3), we have avoided over 1 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>
- For BMR, we have avoided 66,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per year
- In the case of Content Solar, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is expected to be reduced by 35,000 tonnes in the first year of operation and by more than 800,000 tonnes over the useful life of the project

Other projects are also underway, such as:

- Retrofitting of several government facilities to improve energy efficiency and conservation measures;
- The JPS Bogue Plant which was converted to use natural gas recently;
- A 190MW power plant facility at Old Harbour will also complement the national emission reduction and diversification efforts currently being pursued;
- We are also well aware that several industries, manufacturers and bauxite / alumina plants have already retrofitted their entities or are currently taking steps to make the transition to Liquefied Natural Gas.
- I am also aware of the efforts that are well advanced for the introduction of Electric Vehicles and the use of Compressed Natural Gas as an alternative fuel in the transport sector.

Ladies and gentlemen, these augur well for our country as we move towards meeting the NDC targets of reducing emission levels by at least 7.8% by 2030 when compared to the business as usual scenario.

### **Closing**

Ladies and gentlemen, climate change is upon us, but rather than thinking only in terms of impending doom, we have before us the chance to begin talking, thinking and above all, acting to seize the opportunities that climate change can bring to us.

Long-term energy conservation and efficiency; investments in improved technologies which eliminate or reduce the need for emission should form part of our thinking and our action in the new paradigm.

Indeed, it is those persons that see the opportunities in the challenges that will gain an advantage in the coming years.

I look forward to the outcomes of the **“Uncut Conversations”** as it reflects on the outcomes of the Paris Agreement Work Programme that were adopted at COP24 at the end of last year and examines the three thematic concepts of...

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to go? and



- How do we get there?

In closing, I wish to reinforce that our priorities are clear, our objectives are clear and our commitments will be held true.

***Our time for action is now!***

I wish for you all a productive set of conversations.

Thank you!