



For Immediate Release

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THE URGENCY IS NOW!!!! – Charles Jr.

Hon. Parnel Charles Jr., Minister of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change, says the targets set by developed countries to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees centigrade must reflect the urgency of action.

Minister Charles who was speaking during an interview on BBC’s Newsnight following Day one (1) of the 26th Conference of Parties (COP 26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), noted that for Small Island Developing States like Jamaica, it is not only about making the transition to low carbon/net zero emissions, between 2050 and 2070, but about the lives that may be lost during that time.

“Beyond 1.5 is not a safe climate for this world, much less the most vulnerable countries. Two (2) degrees is way too far. 1.5 gives us just half a chance. We are concerned with the targets, we are pushing for it to be more ambitious, and we are pushing for the targets to represent exactly what we need to do if we are going to tackle the climate crisis” the Minister noted.

“It moves us to the money, to the cash that is required for us to care”, he added, stating that the delivery of climate financing is one of the greatest issues for Small Island Developing States.

“We talk a lot about the one hundred billion. That figure is from a long time ago when we were discussing issues back then. In 2021, we have moved beyond the projections and we are in the worst situation. It means we have to re-examine, and we have to make sure that that money is impactful and is achieving its purpose and objectives. It is a target, but it is not the objective. The objective is for the money to work for the farmer, for the fisherfolk in Rocky Point Jamaica, and make a difference in their lives”, Minister Charles argued.

The Minister further noted that the barriers to access funding must be eliminated so that the money is mobilized at the right time, to have the right impact, and it has to be done in a collective way.

“Every country has its own responsibility, but we have a responsibility in a collective way to encourage each other to achieve targets and financing that will make the difference that we need”, he said.

A new United Nations report warns that the world has to reach “carbon neutrality” by 2070 to avoid global warming of more than two degrees centigrade. That is the internationally agreed limit, above which the world runs the risk of what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) scientists describe as “severe, widespread and irreversible” climate change effects.

Minister Charles and Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, are leading Jamaica’s delegation to the COP 26 climate talks in Glasgow, Scotland. The delegation also includes Finance Minister, Dr.Nigel Clarke, Foreign Affairs Minister, Senator Kamina Johnson-Smith, and high level officials and technical persons from government, academia and youth organizations