



NATIONAL STATEMENT

by

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**Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action and
Constituency Empowerment**

Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis

at the

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY (UNEA-6)

High-Level Segment

**Thursday, February 29, 2024, at Conference Room 2 at the United Nations
Complex in Gigiri, Nairobi, Kenya**

Madam President, distinguished delegates, ladies, and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, I am honored to address this esteemed assembly as we align our statement with that made by Barbados on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC). Today, as we gather under the banner of "*Effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution*," we affirm our commitment to these principles, which resonate deeply with our national journey towards transformation.

Madam President, St. Kitts and Nevis, the smallest independent nation in the Western hemisphere, is confronted with challenges that are emblematic of those faced by many island nations: the escalating threats of climate-related disasters, the fragility of our ecosystems, and the imperative to navigate a sustainable future. As a Small Island Developing State and Large Ocean State, our nation's size, our people, our climate, and our sovereignty are deeply interwoven with our commitment to sustainability—a commitment that spans generations.

Our vision to transform St. Kitts and Nevis into a Sustainable Island State is rooted in resilience, innovation, and stewardship. We envision a nation where every Kittitian and Nevisian thrives, supported by reliable, cost-effective energy and water, where our agriculture sector flourishes to sustain our communities, and where healthcare is accessible to all. We strive for an economy that embraces zero waste principles, where tourism is robust throughout the year, and where our arts and creative sectors prosper, all while safeguarding our environment and biodiversity from pollution and through sustainable waste management.

Madam President, in aligning with the Caribbean High-Level Dialogue Outcome Document, St. Kitts and Nevis acknowledges the critical need for international support to mitigate the immediate and long-term effects of climate change, despite our minimal contributions to this global crisis. Our active engagement with our Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement, along with the ongoing revision and implementation of our National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, underscore our unwavering commitment to a sustainable future.

Madam President, as we strive to turn dialogue into meaningful action, St. Kitts and Nevis urges the UN Environment Programme to provide robust support to the 4th SIDS conference in Antigua and Barbuda this May. This pivotal gathering offers a crucial platform for SIDS to catalyze tangible initiatives in the face of climate change. Let us seize this opportunity to transition from discussion to decisive action, forging a path towards a more resilient and sustainable future for all.

St. Kitts and Nevis fully endorses the UNEA-6 ministerial declaration for effective, inclusive, and sustainable actions, underscoring our national dedication to sustainability. Our endorsement signals not just a pledge, but a call to action, echoing our national fervor for sustainability. As we embark on this transformative journey, we invite collaboration and determination. Together, we can secure a legacy of prosperity, resilience, and sustainability for generations to come.

Thank you.