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PRESS RELEASE

SAINT LUCIA'S ADDRESS TO THE 51ST REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS



Washington D.C.- November 12 – Ambassador Anton Edmunds delivered remarks at the 51st Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of the American States (OAS). In his delivery, the Ambassador emphasized the value of the Organization’s work in the areas of climate change, education, human rights, hemispheric security, and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME), all which Saint Lucia has benefited from. Saint Lucia challenged the organization to view the tagline “Towards a Renewal in the Americas” as a call for member states to act as a collective and put an end to the hemisphere split that exists between the haves and the have-nots, a rift highlighted by the lack of access to vaccines to address the pandemic.

Specific to the climate issue and the resulting environmental degradation undermining the livelihoods of the Caribbean community, Ambassador Edmunds lamented that the region appears to be relegated to the sidelines of humanity, noting that words of support are not being matched by action and access to financing. Finally, again drawing reference to the theme of the General Assembly, he noted that any renewal for the Americas means that all must be held accountable to the pillars of the OAS. Saint Lucia’s intervention can be found [here](#) (intervention at 3:08:34).

The General Assembly, which had traditionally been held in June, was held virtually for the second year, on November 10-12, due to the global pandemic brought on by COVID-19. The General Assembly is the supreme organ of the Organization of American States (OAS), comprising all member states and determines the mechanisms, policies, actions, and mandates of the Organization focused on four main pillars: Democracy, Security, Human Rights and Development.