

## St Kitts PM calls for reform of international financing system

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THE Prime Minister of St Kitts and Nevis Dr Terrance M Drew has called for reform of the architecture of international finance, stating it was largely built in a different century for a different world.

Drew told the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly Debate on Saturday that this must be done 'so that it reflects the realities of today: climate risk, transnational inequality, and the asymmetric impacts that fall upon the smallest and most exposed.

'St Kitts and Nevis affirms its staunch support for the Bridgetown Initiative and with our region's clarion call for financial and climate justice,' he said, stating that the Bridgetown Initiative offers 'a practical, principled platform to alter debt dynamics, to reposition credit flows toward green investments, and to operationalise liquidity instruments that protect the vulnerable.

'We ask this Assembly and our global partners to help convert initiative into instrument and to shift rhetoric into reflowing capital for resilience,' Drew added. 'The mission of the United Nations-peace, development and human rights-is not advanced by preserving an architecture that perpetuates fragility. Reform is justice; reform is prudence; reform is protection and equity.'

The St Kitts and Nevis leader acknowledged the 'deep significance' of the recent Africa-Caricom Summit, describing it as 'a historic convening that rekindles bonds severed by the brutality of the Transatlantic slave trade and colonisation.

'This diplomatic meet was a profound moment of remembrance, resistance, and reconnection,' he said. 'We gathered as descendants of a common ancestry, forging a shared agenda for reparatory justice, trade, transport, investment, sustainability, peace and security, climate action and technical co-operation. 'Our partnership sounds loud, not only a call for financial redress, but for justice,' he added. 'Reparatory justice is not just about giving money; it is about correcting a moral wrong.

'For centuries, our ancestors were forced to work, beaten to work, dehumanised to work for free,' Drew continued. 'Yet, when emancipation came, it was not the enslaved who received reparations, but their enslavers. This moral inversion must be corrected.'

As part of this broader historical reckoning, he also amplified the call for the full exoneration of Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Jamaica's first national hero, whom Drew described as 'a global black icon, Pan-Africanist, and prophet of liberation.'

'While we welcome the posthumous pardon granted to him, we continue to petition for his full exoneration,' the St Kitts and Nevis prime minister said. 'Let us correct this error in the record of justice.

'Today, we stand not in anger, but in resolve,' he added. 'As Martin Luther King, Jr once said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.'

'With our African brothers and sisters, as a nation and a region, we will continue to bend that arc toward justice, toward cohesion, and toward a future shaped not by the chains of history, but by the power of solidarity,' Drew continued.

He urged that peace be 'a practical prerequisite for prosperity' in the Caribbean, stating that 'our zone of peace must be more than a slogan pasted on policy papers.

'It must be defended by concrete measures: better public health frameworks, stronger interdiction of illicit weapons, greater cooperation on maritime security, investment in community safety and youth employment programs, and international support for capacity building in policing and justice systems,' he said.

Dr Drew said his twin-island federation recognises the 'serious threats posed by drug trafficking and other transnational crimes,' making it clear that 'these scourges must be addressed through cooperation, dialogue, respect for sovereignty and the full respect for the principles of international law.