

PRESS RELEASE

PATTERSON CENTRE MOBILIZING SUPPORT FOR VACCINE WAIVER

Former Prime Minister of Jamaica P.J. Patterson commits to assisting to mobilize international support for the efforts of African and Caribbean governments for a temporary waiver of vaccine patents. As Statesman in Residence at the P.J. Patterson Centre for African-Caribbean Advocacy he will use the Centre's outreach to help to galvanize the involvement of civil society, non-government organizations and academic institutions across the African-Caribbean diaspora.

Mr. Patterson noted that the recently announced support of the Biden administration for the proposal originally made by India and South Africa in World Trade Organization "creates an unprecedented opportunity to must be seized given its importance and urgency for the people of the developing world". He explained that full international cooperation is the only way to effectively tackle the converging crises of poverty, racism, and pandemic. Immediate action is imperative to save lives across the globe.

The P.J. Patterson Centre for African-Caribbean Advocacy based at the Mona Campus of the University of the West Indies has as its objective the building of partnerships among the people and institutions of Africa, and Caribbean and their diasporas to identify and implement practical policies on issues of mutual concern.