



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES



**The PJ Patterson Centre for
Africa-Caribbean Advocacy**

OFFICE OF THE STATESMAN IN RESIDENCE

The Most Honourable P.J. Patterson, ON, OCC, PC, QC

**PATTERSON CENTRE WELCOMES
AFRICA-CARIBBEAN SUMMIT**

Most Hon. P.J. Patterson, Statesman in Residence at the Patterson Centre for Africa Caribbean Advocacy has welcomed the announcement of the convening of the Africa-Caribbean Summit to be hosted by Kenya on 7th September, 2021. An advocate and active supporter of such a meeting former Prime Minister of Jamaica regards the meeting as “not only vitally important but most timely given the convergence of economic, environmental and health crises”. Regrettably the needs of the people of the global African diaspora have been overlooked by the international community, while the gulf between the developed and developing countries is daily growing wider in the wave of the global pandemic. This predicament highlights the urgent necessity of the collaboration of the government and people of Africa and the Caribbean to collaborate in articulating and asserting pragmatic agenda for recovery, resilience and sustainable development.

There are two objectives to be accomplished by the Summit. It will define the priorities for a work programme and seek to establish the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the work programme, advised Mr Patterson.

The prospects of attaining goals that emerge from the virtual summit will depend critically on a broad coalition of governments, regional institutions, policy research institutes and civil society organizations. The process will encompass much which is non-governmental especially in culture, arts and sport which can galvanize and consolidate the people-to-people connection.

It was to precisely engage in these types of activities that the Patterson Centre was established at the University of the West Indies. The specific purpose of the Centre is to contribute to the advocacy of issues and policy solutions dealing with the developmental commonality of Africa and the Caribbean and the global African diaspora. The Patterson Centre stands ready and looks forward to contributing to the outcome of the summit and accomplishment of its goals as we focus together on matters of justice and resilience, given the devastating social and economic impact of the global pandemic.

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