

**A SEPTEMBER TO REMEMBER - TALES OF COMPLETE
DEVASTATION IN THE CARIBBEAN:
THE RESPONSE OF REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TO CLIMATE
CHANGE NATURAL DISASTERS**

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“A September to Remember” is a popular saying in the Caribbean to remind you that the hurricane season is still ongoing. On September 6th 2017, the Caribbean Sea was home to 3 severe storms simultaneously - Lee, Katia & Irma. Category 5 Hurricane Irma devastated the island of Barbuda and 2 weeks later, Hurricane Maria brought complete devastation and peals of the bells of death rang aloud. By the end of the September session of the 72nd UN General Assembly, the Caribbean Small states were united on the need to catapult the challenges of climate change to the Global North.

This paper seeks to explore how the leadership of Caribbean small states assist in creating champions of climate justice. The methodology entails conducting a content analysis of the Caribbean Prime Ministers’ statements at the UN General Assembly since 2017 with the intention of finding subsequent supportive claims from other leaders amongst the small states. Do the tears and pleas of Caribbean leaders fail to reach the intended audience, do the passionate charges of leaders to ‘sit up and pay attention’ actually work? Or have small states failed to shape the global environment and provide an all-encompassing social solution?