

tive of the fact that we have an integrated, 21st-century global economy and that they have to be a part of it.

I don't think that will have an impact on Iran. I think people recognize those are two separate issues. The issue with respect to Iran is very focused on a particular problem, and that is making sure that Iran doesn't possess nuclear weapons and that the Middle East doesn't embark on a nuclear arms race. That's in everybody's interest. As I said before, I am confident that the framework that was established, thanks to the hard work of our negotiating team and serious concessions on the part of the Iranians, and the unity of the P5-plus-1 and the world community behind sanctions, all give us now the possibility of achieving our goal without potential military conflict.

But as I've said from the start, this is not done until it's done. And the next two to three months in negotiations are going to be absolutely critical for making sure that we are me-

morializing an agreement that gives us confidence and gives the world confidence that Iran, in fact, is not pursuing a nuclear weapon. If that is the case, then Iran, I think, will benefit from its economy being open to the global economy.

And ultimately, what we want to see is prosperity for the Iranian people, but we also want to make sure that our allies in the region have confidence that they're not going to be threatened by the looming cloud of a nuclear Iran. And we're going to make sure that that happens, hopefully, through diplomatic means.

All right? Thank you so much, everybody.

Prime Minister Simpson-Miller. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:50 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at Jamaica House. In her remarks, Prime Minister Simpson-Miller referred to Minister of Science, Technology, Energy, and Mining Phillip Paulwell of Jamaica.

Remarks During a Meeting With Leaders of the Caribbean Community and Common Market in Mona, Jamaica *April 9, 2015*

Well, thank you very much. Let me begin, once again, by thanking Prime Minister Portia Simpson-Miller for—and the people of Jamaica for their wonderful hospitality, as well as the University. I want to thank the Chair of CARICOM, Prime Minister Christie of the Bahamas, and all the leaders and their teams that are here today.

As has already been mentioned, the bonds between us are extraordinarily strong. The Caribbean is a place of extraordinary beauty, people of enormous spirit, unique talents, a wonderful culture. We are bound by friendship and shared values and by family. And we have a great stake in each other's success.

We last met as a group at the Summit of the Americas in Cartagena. We work together every Summit of the Americas, as we will again in Panama. And I wanted to meet today so that we could take some time to focus on the

unique opportunities and challenges that this region faces.

We're going to have a chance to talk about the issues that have already been mentioned: making sure that we deepen our cooperation in economic growth and how we can further integrate the region; making sure that our governments are open and transparent, and upholding human rights for all citizens; combating transnational crime through our Caribbean Basin Security Initiative. And a particular focus today is going to be one of the greatest barriers to development in the Caribbean, and that is expensive, often unreliable, and carbon-intensive energy.

This region has some of the highest energy costs in the world. Caribbean countries are particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and we have to act now. This is an example of—large countries and small countries have to work together, because without

collective action, we're not going to be able to address these challenges.

The Vice President hosted a summit on this in January. Our Caribbean Energy Security Initiative aims to help move the region toward cleaner more affordable energy. Today we're announcing new partnerships, including a new fund to mobilize private investment in clean energy projects in the Caribbean and in Central America. And I'm confident that given the commitment of the CARICOM countries and the U.S. commitment, that this is an issue in which we can make great strides over the short term and even greater strides over the long term.

Finally, let me mention the issue of youth. As you indicated, if there's one thing that I've been convinced of during the course of my 6½ years in office, it is that wherever we are able to harness the spirit and innovation and bold-

ness of our youth and channel that in a positive direction, those countries succeed, and our futures will be bright. And that is true here in the Caribbean and throughout the Americas.

And so I'm very much looking forward to a town hall meeting I'll be hosting in which young leaders from all your countries will attend. But more importantly, we're going to be very interested in building some concrete programs that give them the kind of education and training that will ultimately help to benefit not only your countries, but will benefit the world.

And with that, let me suggest that we get to work. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:47 p.m. in the Regional Headquarters Building of the University of the West Indies, Mona–Western Jamaica Campus.

Remarks and a Question-and-Answer Session at a Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative Town Hall Meeting in Mona April 9, 2015

The President. Greetings, massive! [*Laughter*] Hey! *Wah gwaan*, Jamaica? Can everybody please give Aubrey a big round of applause for the great introduction? I want to thank the University of the West Indies for hosting us. Big up, You-Wee! Thank you. Yes, I've been making myself at home here. [*Laughter*]

It is great to be in beautiful Jamaica, not only because I'm proud to be the first President of the United States to visit in more than 30 years, but because I just like the vibe here. See, I was born on an island, and it was warm, and so I feel right at home.

And I'm grateful for the warm Jamaican hospitality that I received this morning, including from Prime Minister Simpson-Miller. I also had the chance to meet with leaders from across the Caribbean, where we focused on issues of shared prosperity and shared security. And tomorrow I'll meet with leaders from across the hemisphere at the Summit of the Americas in Panama.

But before my trip became all business, I wanted to come here and hear from young people like you. Because it is your generation who will shape the future of our countries and our region and this planet that we share long after those of us who are currently in public service are gone from the stage. So I'm going to only speak for a few minutes at the top, because I'd rather spend time taking questions from you, and also because after we have a chance for our town hall, I get a chance to say hi to Usain Bolt and Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce. And the—when you have the fastest people on the planet, you've got to say hi to them, right? Because that's fast. [*Laughter*] There are a lot of people out there, and they're the fastest. [*Laughter*]

Now, we are not just nations, we're also neighbors. Tens of millions of Americans are bound to the Caribbean and the Americas through ties of commerce, but also ties of kin. More than 1 million Americans trace their ancestry to Jamaica. More than 1 million Americans visit Jamaica each year. So we're commit-