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**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**FIRST INFORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC) & THE HIGH-LEVEL
POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (HLPF)**

11TH FEBRUARY 2026

UNHQ, NEW YORK

Thank you co-facilitators and congratulations on your appointment. You have our full support and constructive engagement throughout this process.

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the G77 and China, and offers the following remarks in our national capacity.

Co-facilitators,

Jamaica attaches great importance to effective follow-up and review of sustainable development commitments. Our national efforts include two completed VNRs, a third currently underway, two SDG progress reports, and a mid-term evaluation of implementation. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to transparency, accountability, and accelerated action.

Against a backdrop of profound global shifts and persistent development challenges, Jamaica considers this review of ECOSOC and the HLPF to be both opportune and necessary. Strengthening their effectiveness, efficiency, relevance and impact, is essential to re-invigorating progress towards the SDGs.

In this regard, we underscore the central role of ECOSOC as a principal organ of the UN Charter for coordination, policy dialogue and review in the economic, social and environmental spheres. Strengthening ECOSOC's coordinating function—particularly across its subsidiary bodies and with the wider UN development system—will be critical to reducing fragmentation and ensuring coherent support to Member States. Equally important is closer and more structured coordination between ECOSOC and the HLPF. I will share five brief points.



First, we underscore the need for more consistent follow-up to HLPF outcomes beyond its annual convening. Ministerial and political declarations adopted each year should inform structured and continuous follow-up processes, particularly at the regional level. Enhanced technical-level engagement through the regional commissions can help to bridge the gap between global commitments and national implementation.

Second, a review of the HLPF should be accompanied by rationalization of the broader processes associated with implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. Streamlining overlapping reporting requirements, improving data efficiency, clarifying communication channels, and aligning follow-up mechanisms would significantly reduce administrative burdens at the national level and enable more meaningful engagement in regional and global review processes.

While integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development is widely acknowledged, the HLPF programme could better reflect this objective in practice. Stronger regional engagement and ongoing follow-up could help identify practical mechanisms for integration, reduce silos in national planning, and guide more coherent dialogue at the global level.

Third, Jamaica believes the HLPF could be more solutions-oriented, with greater emphasis on adaptable and scalable innovations. While valuable lessons emerge from VNRs, more focused sessions would allow for deeper engagement and practical learning. In this context, Jamaica also stresses the importance of dedicating greater attention to SDG financing, including through regular consideration of progress under initiatives such as the Joint SDG Fund.

Fourth, we recognize the value of VNRs as a dynamic review tool but supports greater standardization to enhance comparability and impact. Timely updates to the VNR Handbook and ongoing consultations could strengthen the process. Going forward, VNRs could be more issue-driven, using data as a situational analysis to inform deeper thematic discussion, including on transboundary and emerging global challenges. A simplified reporting approach feeding into a global synthesis could strengthen the collective assessment of progress at the HLPF.

(and) Finally, sustained stakeholder engagement throughout the year remains essential, including with local and regional governments, civil society and the private sector. Regional commissions can play a pivotal role in providing technical guidance, mobilizing expertise and facilitating access to financing. Ensuring coherence between this review and broader UN reform efforts, including the UN80 initiative, will be essential to enhancing system-wide effectiveness.

Thank you.