



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

INTERVENTION BY

**H.E. BRIAN WALLACE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**UN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION OFFICE
DIALOGUE BETWEEN MEMBER STATES AND UN RESIDENT
COORDINATORS**

2ND DECEMBER 2025

UNHQ, NEW YORK

Chair,

Excellencies,

Although I've been listening with the ears of Co-Chair of the Informal Ad hoc Working Group on UN Mandate Implementation Review, I deliver this statement in my national capacity.

1. At the outset, allow me to express my delegation's appreciation to the United Nations Development Coordination Office for convening this timely interactive dialogue between Member States and Regional Coordinators. With a mere five years remaining to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and an estimated US\$ 4 trillion annual gap in financing for the SDGs, we find ourselves at a critical juncture. Our exchanges today, highlighting the experiences of Member States and Resident Coordinators, are valuable as we seek to intensify efforts to attain the SDGs. This emphasizes the importance and value of the UN's development pillar, and the need to achieve greater efficiency for greater impact.
2. Jamaica's National Development Plan- Vision 2030, is 98% aligned with the SDGs and is the mechanism through which Jamaica implements the Goals. The Government of Jamaica is continuing to take steps to strengthen coordination, governance and the provision of tools to support the attainment of the SDGs through a whole of society approach.
3. For Jamaica, and many other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the urgency of sustainable development is more pronounced. We risk losing hard earned development progress due to our vulnerability to exogenous

and climate shocks, which have the propensity to eliminate the gains made in our economy, including causing a backtracking in our SDG indicators. The most recent catastrophic weather event, Category 5 Hurricane Melissa, decimated sections of western Jamaica, resulting in loss of lives, destruction of infrastructure, as well as the disruption of key economic sectors. The estimated loss from infrastructural damage alone is approximately USD 8.8 billion, which is equivalent more than 40% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) for Fiscal Year 2024/2025.

Prior to this, Jamaica was on track or making good progress to meeting several of the Goals but efforts have now been significantly impacted by the hurricane. Nevertheless, we are committed to rebuilding even stronger with increased resilience to climate related and other shocks.

I take this opportunity to express profound gratitude for the response of the United Nations System, especially to the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination team, UNOCHA, UNDP, UNOPS and the UN World Food Programme for the invaluable support rendered in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa. The UN Resident Coordinator Office and the UN Organizations in Jamaica remain valuable partners on our road to recovery and our pursuit of the SDGs.

4. I also wish to highlight that through the partnership framework with the UN Resident Coordinator Office and the UN Organizations in Jamaica, the UN has collaborated with the government on various programmes aimed at effecting positive change in areas such as health, education, youth

empowerment and digitalization. We also continue to work together to build capacity in developing innovative financing mechanisms to support the means of implementation for the SDGs.

5. As I close, on behalf of the government of Jamaica, I express sincere appreciation to the UN Resident Coordinator Office in Jamaica, led by Resident Coordinator Dennis Zulu, for the valuable and fruitful partnership in advancing the SDGs in Jamaica generally, and for the support in the recovery from hurricane Melissa.

Thank you.