



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

STATEMENT BY

**MS. SASHA- KAY WATSON
FIRST SECRETARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

**THE ANNUAL SESSION OF THE JOINT
EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNDP/UNFPA/ UNOPS**

ON

AGENDA ITEM 14: UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

THURSDAY, 5TH JUNE 2025

Check against delivery

Mr. President,

I thank UNV for its presentation.

Jamaica recognizes and values the ongoing partnership with United Nations Volunteers, which plays an important role in advancing development efforts not only in my own country, but also across the wider Caribbean region, and more broadly, Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

In 2024 alone, 224 UN Volunteers served in the Caribbean region, 74% of whom were national UN Volunteers. As it relates to Jamaica, in particular, 23 UN Volunteers, 11 of whom were Jamaican, supported the work of UNESCO, UNDP, UN WOMEN, UNEP, UNICEF and the Resident Coordinator's Office. Their contributions spanned key priority areas such as gender equality, climate action, and sustainable development, all of which are critical components of Jamaica's Vision 2030 national development plan and the advancement of the SDGs.

We particularly acknowledge, with appreciation, UNV's continued focus on youth volunteerism, which directly aligns with Jamaica's strategic objective of building and supporting empowered youths, as outlined in our National Development Plan. We therefore commend UNV's efforts to promote youth engagement and empowerment through its participation in the 2024 UN Jamaica Youth Partnership Forum.

We encourage UNV to continue to expand opportunities for young people and professionals to serve as national and international volunteers, especially in SIDS countries.

Finally, Mr. President, we thank UNV for its steadfast support and look forward to deepening our working partnership to promote a culture of volunteerism that strengthens both our national development capacities and the empowerment of Jamaican youth.