



NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY

**MRS. DIONNE JENNINGS
PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL
SECURITY OF JAMAICA**

ON THE OCCASION OF

**THE 18TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
10TH – 12TH JUNE 2025**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Jamaica remains committed to the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and freedoms by persons with disabilities.

This commitment is grounded in our **Disabilities Act, 2014**, to protect the rights of persons with disabilities. The **Disabilities Rights Tribunal** (DRT) now provides access to justice to those who have faced discrimination because of their disability.

The Government of Jamaica works assiduously to provide persons with disabilities full access to the fundamental rights enshrined in the **CRPD**.

Implementation is spearheaded by the **Jamaica Council for Persons with Disabilities (JCPD)**, under the **Ministry of Labour and Social Security**.

Over the past year, Jamaica invested in providing economic empowerment grants and assistive devices including through New Limb New Life Project — tools that transform lives, unlock mobility, foster independence, and open doors to education, vocational training and access to employment.

This year, the Government increased budgetary support to expand vital programmes, increase access to quality social services, financial support, public education, early stimulation services, research and outreach initiatives. We will continue our commitment to supporting persons with disabilities through meaningful and practical interventions.

Jamaica is investing in digital inclusion to break barriers of access and inclusion. Later this month, the digital platform including the **“I AM ABLE”** mobile application, developed in partnership with UNICEF, will be launched and activated.

The app. will allow persons to register with the JCPD, and access essential services from their mobile phones.

The app launch will be supported by a national education campaign under the **“I Am Able” initiative**, which highlights the invaluable contributions of persons with disabilities and promote a rights-based approach to inclusion.

To further strengthen data and service delivery, Jamaica will undertake a national census of persons with disabilities to generate accurate, reliable and disaggregated data needed to inform effective, evidence-based policies and programmes.

An Accessibility Checklist was introduced in December 2023 to identify and remove barriers encountered by persons with disabilities in public spaces. Access audits are ongoing to assess compliance and raise standards for inclusion.

Jamaica has strengthened early warning systems and trained shelter managers to better respond to the needs of persons with disabilities who live in disaster-prone areas.

Excellencies,

Jamaica is building a society where persons with disabilities are fully recognised, supported, and empowered to thrive. Through continued collaboration we will work together to advance the goals of the CRPD and promote a more inclusive world for all, leaving no one behind.

Thank you, Mr. President.