



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

STATEMENT BY

**MS. ROSHELLE HENRY
COUNSELLOR - SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN & CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

**HIGH-LEVEL COMMITMENT EVENT - 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED
NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325**

**23RD APRIL 2019
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Excellencies
Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Government of Jamaica is pleased to participate in this special high-level event jointly hosted by Germany and the United Kingdom in preparation for the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2001) on Women, Peace and Security. We applaud efforts to mark the adoption of this landmark resolution, which Jamaica fondly recalls during its tenure on the Security Council from 2000 to 2001.

We are pleased that we are able to reflect on the strides that have been made over the years as together we commit to doing even more to fulfill our collective obligation to ensure that women are able to effectively and fully undertake their role as agents for the promotion of peace, security and development.

In keeping with this position, the Government of Jamaica is pleased to announce its commitment for specific action between April 2019 and October 2020 to embark on a project to achieve maximum operational effectiveness for female service members in the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), in support of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Consequently, gender considerations will be mainstreamed in the operations of the JDF. To support this endeavor, a gender advisor has already been designated.

In addition, we would wish to highlight that the JDF has begun recruiting more women, with an increasing number of service women now employed in combatant roles. There continues to be increased participation of women in decision-making roles, including with the appointment of the first Female Regimental Sergeant Major, the first female Detachment Commander of the Caribbean Infantry Military Training Centre and the appointment of a female Commodore – the highest ranking female officer in the JDF. A Sexual Harassment Policy was also promulgated in December 2018 in support of the Protection Pillar of the WPS Agenda.

The international community, therefore, can be assured of Jamaica's full support for the WPS agenda and for UNSCR resolution 1325, and our firm belief in the positive contribution that women can continue to make to peace and security overall.