



JAMAICA

STATEMENT BY

**MS. DENIESE SEALEY
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA**

**AGENDA ITEM 92: REPORT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

**SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**FRIDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 2018
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. President,

My delegation is pleased to join in the annual debate on agenda item 92 on the “Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency.” We thank the Director-General of the IAEA for his comprehensive statement and take this opportunity to highlight a number of issues that are of particular importance to Jamaica.

First, we applaud the work of the IAEA in support of the maintenance of international peace and security. We, therefore, note with great satisfaction that the Agency now implements safeguards in over 180 countries, confirming that the Agency remains dispensable for promoting cooperation in the nuclear field and for promoting safe, secure and the peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

Second, we continue to be pleased with the level of support being extended by the Agency towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we draw closer to 2030, it is fitting that our collective efforts should be directed towards ensuring the attainment of the Goals, in particular those related to health, water and sanitation, as well as to sustainable and modern energy.

Third, Jamaica welcomes the fact that there continues to be such a strong focus on capacity-building through technical cooperation. We are deeply appreciative of the strong partnership that has been forged over the past 50 years of being a member of the IAEA, and are pleased that it is a partnership that continues to be deepened and strengthened. Jamaica currently has nine (9) active projects, four (4) of which commenced in January 2018 under the 2018-2019 project cycle. The projects in which we are engaged with the Agency cover a range of issues and concern, such as:

- upgrading the Research Reactor Infrastructure at the University of the West Indies Slowpoke Facility;
- organising irrigation water management to improve crop output and water quality control, re-establishing nuclear medicine capacity; and
- building capacity for cancer diagnosis and treatment services related to nuclear technologies.

Given the work in which we are currently engaged with the IAEA, we look forward to further updates on the proposal to create a one-house approach to cancer-related issues as part of the ongoing review of the Agency’s Programme of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT).

We are honoured to have received the Deputy Director General of Technical Cooperation, Mr. Dazhu Yang, who visited Jamaica recently and signed the Cooperation Programme Framework (CPF) for the period 2018 to 2023. New projects will be funded under the 2020-2021 cycle to tackle, among other things, coastal and marine pollution; obesity in young children and the development and use of nuclear cardiac imaging in the diagnosis and management of cardiac patients in non-communicable diseases.

In addition, Jamaica hosted a number of meetings throughout 2018, including an Intermediate coordination meeting on “Developing a Capacity-Building Programme to Ensure Sustainable Operation of Nuclear Research Reactors through Personnel Training” held in January and an IAEA Regional Training Course on Safeguards Implementation in States with Small Quantities Protocol in May. An IAEA National Training Course on Orphan Sources Search is scheduled to be held in Kingston from 3rd to 6th December 2018.

Fourth, our engagement with the Agency also extends to the regional level as we currently participate in several regional and inter-regional projects. The role, therefore, of the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL) continues to be critical.

Mr. President,

Jamaica remains fully committed to the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). As we look to the Third Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference, we hope that we, as an international community, will be able to fully commit to the obligations that have guided us for the past 48 years of existence of the Treaty.

We are pleased to note that the non-proliferation regime has also been bolstered by the adoption last year of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). We are happy to have signed the Treaty last December and look forward to working with others to advance its objectives.

Mr. President,

In closing, Jamaica would wish to reiterate its full support to the Director-General and his team and assure them of our unwavering commitment towards the attainment by the Agency of its mandate.