



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

**HONOURABLE K. D. KNIGHT
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
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**TO THE 28TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
MINISTERS FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE GROUP OF 77**

30 SEPTEMBER 2004

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On behalf of my Government, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the members of the Latin American and Caribbean Group as well as the wider membership of the Group of 77 and China, for the confidence you have demonstrated in electing Jamaica for the Chairmanship of the Group for 2005. Jamaica accepts this important responsibility and is committed to maintaining the focus of the international community on the concerns and interests of developing countries.

We recognise that this is a serious responsibility given the many challenges which developing countries continue to face in the current global environment. Indeed, the pursuit of development has become more daunting given the uneven impact of globalisation and liberalisation among and within countries, and despite persistent efforts by many developing countries to address these challenges.

Of significance is the need to ensure that the institutional context for international economic relations is reformed to bring trade and financial policies in harmony with development objectives. Effective and democratic global governance is not a lofty ideal but an imperative for our economic survival and for integration in the mainstream of the world economy. As such, we should demand a more equitable and inclusive international environment. Developing countries should participate in and benefit from the process of globalization and liberalisation. We envisage a more active and central role for the UN in guiding this process and in shaping a more participatory, democratic and equitable global economic order.

In addition, the Group of 77 and China has to ensure that the agenda of the international community not only reflects the enormous global challenges facing developing countries, but that it stresses the development of a clear and concrete plan of action and implementation, backed by political will and the allocation of adequate resources. We have to put greater emphasis on the identification of concrete initiatives to underpin a programme for international development, premised on the principles of shared responsibility, genuine interdependence and the mutuality of interests and benefits. The terms of international engagement must be guided by the principles of rule of law and respect for obligations and duties.

The potential for increased cooperation and coordination of efforts through collective group action and the wielding of collective power remains an imperative of the Group of 77 and China. We must continue to harness this collective strength and maintain the solidarity and cooperative spirit which has characterized the Group if we are to be a significant force in the shaping of the international environment. The 2005 South Summit will provide yet another important opportunity for us to consolidate our strength and advance our efforts.

In concluding, let me assure you, therefore, of Jamaica's commitment and determination to working with all members of the Group in advancing these common objectives and in giving greater impetus to generating positive change at the global level in the interest of developing countries.