



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**Statement**

**By**

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To the United Nations**

**In**

**The General Debate  
Second Committee**

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Madam Chairperson,

I wish to begin by congratulating you and your bureau on your election to oversee the work of the Committee for the 61<sup>st</sup> session of the General Assembly. We are confident that under your able leadership the work of the Committee will be effectively and efficiently executed. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge and congratulate H.E. Mr Aminu Bashir Wali, Permanent Representative of Nigeria, and the outgoing bureau for their successful stewardship of the Committee's work during the 60<sup>th</sup> session.

Let me preface my comments by aligning myself with the statements made by South Africa on behalf of the G77 and China as well as by Barbados on behalf of CARICOM.

### **The Global Economic Environment**

Madam Chairperson,

As we have heard from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, we are meeting amidst mixed reviews of the global economic situation. The favourable conditions of the past which have supported developing countries' growth risk being reversed in the near future by growing uncertainty over oil prices and widening global imbalances which, if left unchecked, could have even further significant impacts on the world economy.

Jamaica's situation is made more precarious because of our status as a middle-income developing country. Judged on the premise of relatively high per capita income, the special concerns of middle-income developing countries are sometimes not given sufficient attention by the international community. We are therefore pleased that the 2006 Special high-level meeting between the ECOSOC and the Bretton Woods Institutions, the WTO and the UNCTAD devoted one of its roundtables to the importance of supporting the development efforts of middle-income developing countries. We believe that the Bretton Woods Institutions and bilateral donors have an important role to play in the creation of appropriate instruments.

One area warranting special attention is that of debt. The increase in external debt and debt service obligations, for example, has been greatest in Latin America and the Caribbean, resulting in very high ratios of external debt to GDP, as well as large current account deficits. Yet, there is currently no systematic international solution to the debt burden of low-and-middle income countries like Jamaica. Neither has there been a systematic solution to problems related to debt owed to private creditors. In recognition of the serious implications for long-term growth and development, we would urge that this be addressed as a matter of priority.

Trade liberalisation has not brought about the expected economic benefits for many developing countries. Declining terms of trade and the erosion of long-standing preferential trading arrangements have negatively impacted foreign exchange earnings and exacerbated balance of payment problems. We therefore view with grave concern the

recent collapse of the Doha trade negotiations. International trade represents an important tool for providing meaningful and lasting benefits for growth, wealth creation and poverty alleviation in developing countries. Moreover, as the Secretary General has rightly emphasised in this Report to the General Assembly on the Work of the Organisation, developing countries require greater market access and support for capacity development in order to develop the long term competitiveness that sustains economic development. We should therefore not falter in our collective commitment to work expeditiously to secure the development-oriented results of the Doha Work programme.

### **Creating an enabling Institutional Framework**

Madam Chairperson,

There is an urgent need for institutional and policy changes at all levels to ensure that the benefits of global economic integration are more widely enjoyed. We see the UN playing a critical role in this regard through concerted action on trade, debt and development assistance. We would therefore have expected the early conclusion of the negotiations to implement the provisions of the 2005 World Summit relevant to the work of the Economic and Social Council, in keeping with the fundamental role that the UN has in the promotion of international cooperation for sustained economic growth and sustainable development. Critical to realising this objective is the importance of ensuring that the Council has the requisite resources to take on the added responsibilities as agreed by Heads of State and Government last year.

Equally important is the need to ensure enhanced cooperation between the UN system and other multilateral financial, trade and development institutions. Such cooperation does not compromise the respective areas of competence of these institutions. Rather, it would provide an important platform for real dialogue on issues that affect billions of impoverished people around the world. What better forum to do so than through the UN which enjoys universal membership.

This leads me, Madam Chairperson, to the matter of the enhanced voice and participation of developing countries in global economic governance. This is critical if we are to have an effective multilateral dialogue. We should therefore be working towards more concrete and specific timetables for prompt decision and action for comprehensive reform of the governance structure of international financial institutions. Jamaica looks forward to real progress in this regard.

Development is a central goal in and of itself. It is critical to addressing the challenges that affect humanity and to making the world a better place for all. As such, making the UN a better tool for development work at the national, regional and global levels remains an imperative. We therefore look forward to the Report of the Panel on System-wide Coherence and to the elaboration of concrete measures as to how this can be achieved.

Also implicit in advancing the development agenda is the need for the full implementation of the global partnership for development. Despite the strides made with

the commitment of resources for debt relief and ODA, the lack of sufficient resources to fully implement the MDGs and other development goals remains a matter of growing concern. Against this background, we would have expected that the resolution on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit would have elaborated more concrete proposals to advance the development agenda. Regrettably, it merely reflects and reiterates the agreed language of the Outcome Document and other conferences and summits, and fails to sustain the political momentum generated in 2005. Consequently, we have not been able to comprehensively elaborate the necessary framework for the effective implementation of the global partnership for development which is critical to creating a more equitable and balanced financial, economic and social global order.

### **Other Priorities**

During our deliberations, the Committee will also address the full implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS. As a small island developing state, Jamaica attaches signal importance to this issue and continues to call upon developed partners to provide the requisite resources, financial and otherwise, to support SIDS, in view of their structural vulnerabilities, in their efforts to respond to the challenges of the global environment.

Similarly, we join others in underscoring the importance of making sustainable development a central policy for developed and developing countries. As a country prone to natural disasters such as hurricanes and tropical storms, we know too well the urgency with which climate change and environmental disasters have to be addressed by the international community. In this regard, we wholeheartedly welcome the launch of the Central Emergency Response Fund to ensure a more efficient, effective and urgent response to humanitarian crises.

Madam Chairperson,

We remain committed to working with the international community on these and other issues over the duration of the work of the Committee.

I thank you.

