



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**IN THE**

**SECOND COMMITTEE**

**OF THE  
SEVENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

**ON**

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*Please check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of the Committee for this 71<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly. I have no doubt that you will carry out your tasks effectively and assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation in that regard.

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 & China, by the distinguished representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (CELAC) and by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Mr. Chairman,

We have an extensive agenda before us that provides a framework for our deliberations on a wide range of development challenges and other key macro-economic issues with which we are grappling collectively. These include tackling unsustainable levels of indebtedness, endeavouring to make key sectors of our economies such as transport, housing, energy, agriculture and tourism more sustainable and determining how to provide our citizens with quality education that meets the requirements of the twenty-first century.

We are also drawing to the close of the first year of our implementation of the ambitious and universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An Agenda that has set a new standard for how we must operationalize our efforts towards eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, create just and equal societies and preserve our environment for future generations. As we deliberate and negotiate, we must remain mindful of the fact that we are not engaged in esoteric discussions but are, rather, creating a normative framework for

effectively addressing matters that directly affect the quality of life and, in some instances, the very survival of our people.

Mr. Chairman,

This Session and those going forward, must focus on securing deliverables for our citizens, as we seek to fulfill the promise we have made to leave no one behind. Jamaica, as a Small Island Developing State is also mindful of the need to maintain and increase our ongoing efforts to implement the SAMOA Pathway. In this connection, we believe it is fundamental to draw attention to the provisions in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) that are aimed at enhancing countries' resilience in the face of the range of financial and economic crises, as well as environmental degradation, climate change, natural disasters and other environmental risks that must be addressed. In this regard, we also recognise the inaugural ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development Follow-up, held in April 2016, and look forward to building on its efforts. It would be remiss of me to not also refer to the on-going negotiations to deliver on the commitment we made in Addis to scale up international tax cooperation.

We commend those countries that presented their National Voluntary Reviews (NVR) during the 2016 High-level Political Forum (HLPF), and again stress the relevance of the AAAA as a vital support to ensuring the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, building on the foundations of the Monterrey and Doha Outcomes. It without question provides the basis for the mobilization of a portion of the estimated trillions of dollars of investment capital that will be needed to underwrite effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the SDGs in particular. Although financing needs far outpace available public resources, the pool of global savings is sufficient to address these needs. However, it is widely recognized that we need to determine effective methods of incentivizing the reallocation and mobilization of this capital towards sustainable development. In this regard, my delegation looks forward to actively engaging in efforts to craft the 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). This activity will be instrumental in engendering a new mindset and change in mode of operating within the UN Development System, as well as among Member States. We are convinced that the effort to identify and

develop new approaches to harnessing capital for sustainable development will require that we initiate a new way of doing business that is commensurate with this objective.

Mr. Chairman,

Although Jamaica ranks high on the Human Development Index in many categories, income inequality still represents a major obstacle. This is reflected in the fact that in 2013, Jamaica had a Gini coefficient of 45.5. In the face of such challenges, we and our CARICOM colleagues have been calling for a review of the graduation criteria used by international financial institutions (IFIs). We continue to assert that statistical measures of development, such as GDP per capita, should be supplemented by data that take into account structural gaps that retard the development of middle income countries (MICs), such as levels of vulnerability, poverty, saving and investment, productivity and innovation, as well as public expenditures on health, education and infrastructure.

Mr. Chairman,

My Prime Minister was emphatic in his statement to the General Assembly just over a week ago that the time has come for the international community to converge around a Highly Indebted Middle Income Country (HIMIC) initiative underpinned by the principle that highly indebted countries that have undiversifiable structural vulnerabilities, such as small size or susceptibility to the effects of climate change, and that responsibly and faithfully service their debt, should be facilitated with assistance in the form of investment, favourable trade, technology transfer, security and energy.

To qualify for inclusion in the HIMIC Initiative, a country should:

- be a highly indebted middle income country;
- have undiversifiable structural vulnerabilities;

- and have a demonstrated track record of commitment to economic, fiscal and social reform under programmes supported by loans from the IMF and the World Bank.

As was also highlighted, the collective size of the problem is such that a HIMIC initiative would not burden the international system. However, the potential impact of assisting these countries in transitioning would put more of them in a position to make greater contributions to the international system in the near future.

Mr. Chairman,

It is the will of every nation state to determine its own destiny. If we are to prove equal to the challenge of implementing the 2030 Agenda, development cooperation must meet fundamental standards of quality, effectiveness and impact. Knowledge sharing and mutual learning among stakeholders must become the hallmark of our interactions, together with coherent integration from the level of policy formulation to service delivery. Let us make this 71<sup>st</sup> session the springboard for taking our mutual commitment to forging a better world beyond rhetoric to concrete action.

I thank you.