



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

TO THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

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FINAL TEXT

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to convey my delegation's congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of the Second Committee for this 69th Session of the General Assembly. Rest assured that you have the full support and cooperation of my delegation as you carry out your responsibilities for the duration of the Session

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 & China, by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Belize on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), by the distinguished representative of Costa Rica on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (CELAC) and by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

This Session, the work of the Second Committee takes place in parallel with our efforts to elaborate the post-2015 development agenda. It is therefore imperative that we undertake our deliberations in a manner that is focused and efficient; allowing for the full consideration of the range of issues that will form a part of the new global development agenda.

For Jamaica, it is imperative that our deliberations result in outcomes that improve the quality of life of our citizens. In this regard, the lessons learned from the MDGs are instructive. The agenda must address the fundamental challenges of poverty, inequality and environmental sustainability. It must provide developing countries with opportunities to access and harness the technologies that are the key enablers of sustainable development. It must address the particular needs of the most vulnerable in our societies. These are matters that traditionally have been central to our deliberations here in the Second Committee. We therefore have a responsibility to bring our experiences and perspectives to bear on the post-2015 process in a manner that results in tangible benefits for our citizens. In so doing, we will need to arrive at a consensus on a multi-faceted agenda that is relevant, robust and transformative.

Mr. Chairman,

We have begun to lay the foundation to achieve 'The Future We Want', as set out in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference. The work of this Committee has a key role to play in advancing a sustainable development agenda that entails the balanced integration of its three dimensions. The identification of a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) is a crucial part of the process, and it is imperative that the integrity of the outcome of our efforts to date be preserved.

Similarly, the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing must be given due consideration as we move forward. It is also important that we continue to engage in an open exchange of views to develop practical proposals on technology facilitation. From our perspective, this is unfinished business that must be addressed as we continue our work.

The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which was graciously hosted by the Government and People of Samoa last month, provided the international community with an invaluable opportunity to focus on the range of development challenges being faced by SIDS. It also allowed us to identify the opportunities that exist to support SIDS in their efforts to achieve sustainable development, which were evident in the range of partnerships concluded in the context of the Conference.

For Jamaica, it is imperative that the interests and priorities of SIDS, as identified in the Samoa Pathway, be taken into account in the development of the post-2015 development agenda. We will work with other AOSIS Member States to ensure that this is the case. We anticipate the continued support of the wider international community for our efforts to address matters such as the adoption of multi-faceted methods of measures of measuring development. This will require developing countries to put in place the data collection and statistical capabilities needed to measure all aspects of development, which we have committed to do with the support of the international community. In addition, infrastructure development and a shift

towards renewable energy technologies must be a part of the equation to unlock the development potential of SIDS economies.

Mr. Chairman,

Two weeks ago, the international community gathered at the Secretary General's Climate Summit to highlight climate change and its impact. The gravity of the challenges posed by climate change is well documented and should not, at this point, be in doubt.

It is clear that sustainable development cannot be achieved in the absence of a good faith global effort to address climate change and its myriad negative effects, through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and the provision of financing in support of mitigation and adaptation efforts. Business-as-usual is unacceptable.

Actions such as those announced at the Climate Summit are a key part of the equation, and can help to build momentum towards the conclusion of a robust global climate change agreement in 2015. Jamaica has been doing its part to integrate climate change as a key consideration in all aspects of national development planning.

We anticipate that the COP in Lima, Peru later this year will lay the foundation for the conclusion of a legally binding global agreement in Paris in 2015.

As is the case with other islands in the Caribbean, Jamaica has had firsthand experience with the damaging effects of natural hazards, including hurricanes. The frequency and severity of hurricanes have been exacerbated by climate change. Mindful of such experiences, and the damage to lives and livelihoods, we must keep abreast of the activities leading to the Third International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, in Sendai, in March 2015. Our deliberations here in the Second Committee must signal our expectation that the new framework will improve upon the provisions of the Hyogo Framework and support vulnerable countries in their efforts to build resilience to natural hazards.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica looks forward to engaging in the preparatory process for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which will take place in Addis Ababa next July. It is imperative that the process build upon the foundation laid in Monterrey and Doha, while taking into account new and emerging issues and challenges in the debate on financing for development.

Finance remains a key component of the means of implementation for the entire development agenda. It is therefore important that there be a steady flow of ideas and information between the post-2015 negotiations and the preparatory process for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

The issue of debt is of paramount importance to the small economies of CARICOM, many of which continue to carry unsustainable debt burdens. Given the ways in which high levels of debt limit the ability of countries like Jamaica to finance social development programmes, we are of the view that an effective post-2015 development agenda must take into account the matter of debt sustainability. My delegation therefore looks forward to participating in the Committee's deliberations on debt sustainability, as well as the deliberations on sovereign debt restructuring that will take place in the context of resolution A/68/304, entitled "Towards the establishment of a multilateral legal framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes".

In closing, Mr. Chairman, allow me to reiterate my delegation's strong support for you and your team as you guide our work this Session.

I thank you.