



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

AGENDA ITEM 74 (a): IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUMENTS

**IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE
73RD SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chair,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statement of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and wishes to highlight the following points in its national capacity.

Mr. Chair,

The global situation concerning the violation of fundamental human rights continues to provide pervasive impediments to men, boys, women and girls throughout the world, to say nothing of the long lasting physical, emotional, economic and psychological toll on those who suffer its consequences.

Jamaica holds steadfast to the principles of rule of law, and the protection of human rights of all its citizens regardless of their race, creed, colour, sex, religion, political or other opinion, or socio-economic background.

Jamaica is fully committed to providing the protection of the law and the State to all people, and, to this end, has ratified seven of the nine core human rights instruments including the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Chair,

Reporting remains an essential component of the effective implementation of international human rights instruments. Jamaica has employed an inter-ministerial approach to the preparation of reports, and responses related to the fulfillment of our human rights obligations. In this connection, the government has taken steps to establish an Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights to improve the coordination and standardization of its reporting.

Jamaica notes with concern reports of the high incidence of late, non-reporting and duplication of reporting requirements by States Parties, and wishes to indicate that it is working assiduously to submit all outstanding reports without further delay.

We must all play our part in improving the effectiveness of the treaty body system. Thus, we urge all states to redouble their efforts to improve the efficacy of reporting.

Mr. Chair,

Throughout the years, Jamaica has been at the forefront of international human rights diplomacy and has played a seminal role in the creation of the post-1945 contemporary international human rights regime.

In fact, it was at the 18th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in 1963 that Jamaica proposed the designation of 1968 as the International Year for Human Rights to mark the Twentieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In 1964, Jamaica was one of the first to integrate human rights into its foreign policy strategy. This bears testament to the vision of my country and the great importance it attaches to human rights. More recently, the Government has been working to expand the mandate of the Office of the Public Defender, in order to transform it into a National Human Rights Institution.

Mr. Chair,

70 years have passed since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and while much has been achieved over the past decades to strengthen the normative framework of human rights, there is still much that remains to be done.

We should all consider that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights requires each individual and organ of the State and society to act in compliance with, and observation of, the rights that it enshrines. Respect for and adherence to the tenets of human rights form an essential underpinning of a modern and progressive society, without which we will be unable to achieve sustainable development.

To this end, Jamaica holds steadfast to its development objectives under its national development plan Vision 2030, which are fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This development plan will increase our sense of security by transforming our society into one which conforms to the rule of law, respects the rights of all, and coalesces around a set of shared values.

Jamaica acknowledges that there is an inextricable link between development and human rights and thus, urges all member states to work tirelessly to promote human rights, including the right to development, for the benefit of all.

As stated in the 2005 UN Secretary-General report entitled, 'In larger Freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all', "We will not enjoy development without security, we will not enjoy security without development, and we will not enjoy either without respect for human rights."

In recognizing this interrelationship, we must confront the stark reality that universal coercive measures prevent states from achieving their sustainable development goals. In this vein, the Government of Jamaica condemns the use of such measures in international relations which are contrary to the UN Charter and a violation of international law.

We therefore call for the end of the embargo on Cuba which undermines its right to development and the commitment embodied in the SDGs to "leave no one behind".

Mr. Chair,

In closing, Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to promoting the full recognition and acceptance of basic human rights and dignity for all people, as we view the protection of these rights as core principles of modern democratic states.

We look forward to the positive work of the Committee under this agenda item.

I thank you