



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

STATEMENT BY

**MRS. DIEDRE MILLS
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**AGENDA ITEM 58:
QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION**

**FOURTH COMMITTEE
SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**19th OCTOBER 2018
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I would like to join in extending congratulations to you and your bureau on your election to guide our deliberations during the 73rd session of the UNGA. You have Jamaica's full support throughout our tenure.

We use this opportunity to express our appreciation to Chair and the other colleagues in the bureau for the 72nd session for the efficient manner in which they presided over the work of this Committee.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the G77 and China, CARICOM and CELAC.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica has always had a keen interest in the consideration of the agenda item concerning "Questions relating to information," because we believe that the effective utilisation by the United Nations of the various information tools at its disposal is central to our common objective of bringing the Organisation closer to ordinary citizens. Indeed, it is imperative that we make manifest the invaluable work done by the UN. We must speak openly and candidly to the challenges and opportunities that we face together.

Against this background, we commend the work of the Department for Public Information and welcome on-going efforts to reform the Department, including its renaming to the Department of Global Communications. We think this new outlook is in keeping with the approach that needs to be taken to ensure that the Department is, as the Secretary-General aptly puts it, "adapting its capacity and work to the current trends of global communication."

We, therefore, look forward to periodic updates on the progress being made with these reform initiatives and would encourage that these efforts be undertaken with a view to benefit from the perspectives of Member States, as well as of staff. A strengthened DPI will remain critical to the work that needs to be done to demonstrate the continued relevance and importance of multilateralism as a central tenet of the work of the UN.

Mr. Chairman,

The advances in information technology continue to provide us with both challenges and opportunities on how we package and disseminate information on the work of the UN. For my delegation, it is important that we not lose sight of the need for a balance to be struck that allows for a range of options to be employed and utilized. There should be an appropriate mix of traditional and contemporary communication tools so that the extent and reach of the Organisation are not compromised. We are pleased to note, therefore, that the Secretary-General's report contained in document A/73/288, acknowledges this fact throughout the document and most notably in the section devoted to multimedia and multilingual news and features.

Mr. Chairman,

Our focus on how we can better communicate with communities across the globe should motivate us to also improve our internal communication tools here at the UN. We must continue to ensure that we can fully benefit from the wealth of information that exists within the Organization. We, therefore, support the calls made for greater parity in the dissemination of information in all the official languages of the UN.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the updates provided regarding the range of activities and events in which the DPI has been engaged over the past 7 months. We are especially pleased with the partnership that has been fostered with the Department to commemorate the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, as noted in paragraph 79 of the Secretary-General's report, and the related activities also referenced in paragraphs 80 and 81. Indeed, the Department's very visible presence and profile throughout the different high-level and other events augur well for the kind of strategic and integrated communications necessary to further amplify UN messages and engage people at all levels.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica continues to play its part in support of some of the key messages emanating from the UN. We continue to be active members of the Committee of Information and, as we look to promote the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level, we have developed a comprehensive communication package to ensure that the Goals are localised in a manner that make them relatable not only to our national development priorities, but to our citizens. It forms part of our firm belief that targeted communication and advocacy are essential, particularly for vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, the elderly and women and children.

I also wish to highlight that on 4th October 2018, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Information of Jamaica, in collaboration with the Office of the Cabinet, launched the Records and Information Management (RIM) Policy Implementation and Sensitisation Programme. Under this policy, all the activities and decisions of the Government of Jamaica are "fully and accurately documented, managed and monitored," to, among other things, facilitate accessible, efficient and effective service delivery to all Jamaicans.

Such efforts, in our view, are important complements to the action being taken to advance the dissemination of information and the engagement of local communities. You can be assured, therefore, of Jamaica's full support as the UN seeks to enhance capacities, build synergies as well as effect diverse and wide-reaching outreach reflective of our global community.

I thank you.