



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

STATEMENT BY

**MRS. DIEDRE MILLS
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**AGENDA ITEM 54:
QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION**

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

**18th OCTOBER 2019
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chair,

My delegation joins in congratulating you and your Bureau on your appointment to steer the work of the Fourth Committee for the 74th session. We acknowledge and commend the Chair of the 73rd session, H.E. Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah Sr., who, along with his bureau, ably led our previous deliberations.

Our appreciation also extends to the former Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Ms. Alison Smale, for her guidance during the period of transition and reform of the Department of Global Communications. We welcome and look forward to working with Ms. Melissa Fleming, who has since assumed the portfolio.

We wish to use this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in A/74/283, which provides useful updates to that considered by the Committee on Information, when it met earlier this year.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the Group of 77 and China, as well as the statement delivered on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and would wish to highlight a number of points of particular interest to Jamaica.

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica supports efforts to ensure that the Department of Global Communications is fit-for-purpose. Like other delegations, we have commended the measures that have been implemented to make the Department *“more agile and proactive.”* It is our belief that this augurs well for the Organisation, its work and the messages it conveys to its constituents. Consequently, we see merit, as the Secretary-General notes, in *“reforms [that] are cross-cutting and include strengthened strategic planning....partnerships, resource mobilization and innovation.”* Our caution would be that the pursuit of these measures always takes account of the bigger picture of achieving the core objective of effective outreach across modern as well as traditional platforms. As we reiterated during the 41st session of the Committee on Information, there must be an appropriate balance between the new communications tools at our disposal and those media that have long influenced our outreach to various communities within and across societies.

Mr. Chair,

We take great comfort in the assurance that the Department is prioritizing multilateralism through its work. This has been an issue to which my delegation has made repeated reference as warranting special attention to ensure that no-one is denied the opportunity to benefit from the work of the Department. We would encourage

continued efforts in this regard and a more varied description of how this is being accomplished in future reports to the Fourth Committee.

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica welcomes the fact that the Department has been engaged in activities across all pillars of work of the United Nations. We applaud this approach as it demonstrates the range, breadth and depth of the activities undertaken by the Organisation in any given year. It is our hope that any measures which have had to be taken in response to the ongoing financial crisis currently facing the Organisation will be short-lived so as not to compromise the valuable work undertaken by the Department in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

It is timely that dedicated focus is being placed on outreach that specifically targets young people. To this end, special note is taken of the inaugural Model United Nations Youth Summit in April 2019, in which more than 400 students from 30 countries participated. Also noteworthy are the initiatives pursued by the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. We look forward to the same level of enthusiasm and dynamism in the coming year.

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica has had a very productive relationship with the Department of Global Communications with respect to the commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade on March 25th. We are pleased that this important date continues to be commemorated in the way it has been over the years. We are committed to strengthening and deepening this partnership in the future.

Mr. Chair,

Before closing, I would like to make reference to the invaluable work undertaken by the United Nations Information Centres. We take special note of paragraph 44 of the Secretary-General's Report which speaks to efforts to strengthen the communications capacity of the Centres' network. We would welcome knowing the assessed impact of this engagement. We also believe that there is scope to better convey the range of activities undertaken by each Centre in each jurisdiction in order to better appreciate the extent of their work. We look forward to further engagement in this regard.

I thank you.