



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY
MS. MELISSA JOHNSON
FIRST SECRETARY
PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

AGENDA ITEM 134

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 2014-2015,
PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION
A/C.2/68/L.67**

IN THE

**FIFTH COMMITTEE
MAIN PART OF THE SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

New York, 18 December 2013

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Mr Chairman,

As this is the first time that I will be taking the floor, I wish to use this opportunity to convey, on behalf of my delegation, congratulations on your election as Chair. I also wish to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

I have the distinct honour to speak on agenda item 134, Proposed Programme Budget for the Biennium 2014-2015, in particular on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/68/L.67, on conference services required for convening the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa in 2014.

My delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. I would like, however, to make a few remarks within my national capacity, including briefly expanding on some of the issues my delegation considers to be of particular significance.

I would like to thank Mr. Jan Huisman, Director of Programme Planning and Budget Division, for introducing the report of the Secretary-General A/68/634 and the respective statements of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General. I also wish to thank Mr. Carlos Ruiz Massieu, Chair of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, for his introduction of the relevant reports of the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

In June 2012, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro, Heads of State and Government spoke with one voice in calling for a shift to 'sustainable development' - a call for ensuring the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future. The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, "The Future We Want", clearly recognizes the urgent need for concrete action to address the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States. To this end, Heads called for the convening of a Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa in 2014.

Jamaica believes that it is crucial that the international community provide support for the Conference and its preparatory process in order to ensure an outcome that further enables SIDS to realise their sustainable development aspirations. In this connection, we fully support the provision of additional resources in the amount of \$762,600 under the program budget for the biennium 2014-2015.

Mr. Chairman,

Concerning the preparations for the Conference, the Group recalls that, as mandated during the 67th Session of the UNGA, regional preparatory meetings took place earlier this year in Fiji, Jamaica and Seychelles and that these meetings helped to identify SIDS priorities for the Conference, which have since been embodied in the Outcome Document of the SIDS Inter-regional meeting, which took place in Bridgetown, Barbados this past August. The SIDS look forward to the opportunity to engage in dialogue with other developing countries and their developed country partners during the preparatory process in the months to come, to identify effective means of addressing their challenges and advancing their interests in these priority areas.

Mr. Chairman,

While we welcome the significant progress made to date, we wish to underscore the view that all mandates approved by intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations, including the Third International SIDS Conference should be provided with predictable and adequate funding. In this light, we look forward to working with all partners to ensure that the Samoa Conference will be a resounding success.

I thank you.