



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT DELIVERED

BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA TO THE UN**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**HANDING OVER CEREMONY OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
NEW YORK**

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Mr. Chairman,

I wish to convey my Government's gratitude to the Government of Algeria for having effectively chaired the G77 and China throughout 2012. We wish to recognise the dedication of Ambassador Mourad Benmehidi, and his delegation, in representing the interests of the Group of 77 and China. The Algerian Chairmanship has certainly helped to effectively address development issues within the multilateral context, particularly here at the United Nations. Your delegates have done an excellent job in guiding fellow members of the Group through the United Nations' substantial development agenda this year, including the Rio+20 Conference which took place in Rio de Janeiro Brazil last June.

We congratulate the Government of Fiji on assuming the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China for 2013. We are confident that Fiji, a fellow Small Island Developing State (SIDS), is fully capable of leading the G77 and China in a manner which will ensure that the development concerns of its member states continue to be accorded the priority they deserve on the United Nations agenda. My delegation stands ready to lend its full support to Fiji in the execution of its responsibilities as the year unfolds.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me take the opportunity of this gathering to reaffirm Jamaica's strong and unqualified commitment to the Group of 77 & China and to acknowledge the invaluable role the Group plays in advancing the interests of all developing countries here at the United Nations and beyond. We must remain united in purpose and action in the pursuit of sustainable development for our countries. It is only through unity that we will be best positioned to effectively address the wide array of challenges we currently face

As developing countries, we must continue to use the G77 and China as a vehicle for ensuring that our concerns remain central to the global agenda and for ensuring that the United Nations remains a place where all voices are heard; from the larger economies which have seats at

other tables, to the small, vulnerable economies whose voices are less readily heard on the international stage. The social, economic and cultural diversity of the G77 and China must continue to be seen as a strength and not a weakness; it provides us with opportunities to become aware of the peculiar challenges which are faced by the most vulnerable among us.

Mr. Chairman,

We begin this year with a very full agenda before us. Underscoring all our efforts should be the need to reinvigorate the global development agenda. With the 2015 deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals fast approaching, and with progress in their achievement uneven at best, the process of determining the development framework which will succeed the MDGs has begun. We welcome the appointment by the Secretary General of a panel of Eminent Persons which has begun meeting to discuss the way forward as well as the work which has been undertaken by various branches of the United Nations, including the Secretariat and the Funds and Programmes to identify possible areas for which new goals could be developed. However, it is imperative that the G77&China continue to underscore at every opportunity, the fact that the process must be Member State driven and contribute to shaping the agenda for the elaboration of the Post-2015 development framework.

Parallel to the post-2015 process will be the follow-up to the various commitments and decisions made at the Rio+20 Conference, which will also constitute a key pillar of the Group's agenda in 2013. Indeed, the Rio+20 follow-up process has already begun with the efforts underway to convene the Open Working Group to develop Sustainable Development Goals. It is important that the Working Group be constituted shortly and begin its work. It is also important that the constitution of the Group along regional lines will not preclude consultations within the Group, to ensure that at the end of the day, our shared interests are secured. A similarly consultative approach will have to be taken to the working Group on Financing for Sustainable Development, deciding on the terms of reference for the High Level Forum on Sustainable Development and the implementation of the Ten Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption and Production patterns.

Mr. Chairman,

As the Ambassador of Fiji is no doubt aware, his Chairmanship will include the a portion of the preparatory period for the Third SIDS Conference, which will take place in Samoa in 2014, and for the commemoration of the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in 2014. While Fiji's focus as Chair will necessarily be on the broad range of issues of concern to developing countries, Jamaica anticipates that the longstanding support that the G77&China has provided to SIDS and their concerns will continue and strengthen throughout Fiji's Chairmanship. We anticipate, further, that such support will extend to the preparatory process for the Third International SIDS Conference.

Climate change remains a priority for Jamaica and its CARICOM neighbours, a concern of which Fiji, a fellow Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is certainly acutely aware. Jamaica stands ready to support Fiji as it continues the G77&China's efforts to secure a more ambitious framework for addressing climate change as the process of negotiations within the UNFCCC continues in 2013.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me reiterate my Government's congratulations to the Government of Fiji and reiterate our commitment to work in solidarity with Fiji and the Group more generally to secure the vital interests of all developing countries.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.