



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

STATEMENT BY

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE ARNOLD J. NICHOLSON, QC
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA**

AT THE

**38TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE GROUP OF 77 & CHINA**

**DURING THE 69TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica, views its membership and active participation in the Group of 77 and China as a key pillar of its foreign policy. We are proud to be a part of an international grouping whose existence has spanned 50 years. We congratulate the Plurinational State of Bolivia for its commendable leadership of the Group and for the commemorative Summit held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in June of this year which was an opportunity to reaffirm the core principles of the Group. The Summit also provided the impetus for the Group to move forward to secure the interests of the developing world given the many challenges to our development aspirations.

Mr. Chairman

Before I proceed, let me welcome South Sudan to the Group. I am confident that our group will be further enriched by their participation.

Mr. Chairman,

This year provides an invaluable opportunity for us to influence the global development agenda. The international community has been seized with deliberations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda; the Third International Conference on SIDS has produced an outcome document – the SAMOA Pathway - which holds much promise for the future of SIDS. We anticipate that the upcoming meeting on Landlocked countries to be held later this year will be fruitful. These are opportunities for the diverse membership of this Group to shape the international development agenda so as to provide substantive deliverables for our citizens.

We are ever conscious that such an agenda must, of necessity, address the fundamental challenges of poverty and inequality in and among our societies. It must also provide developing countries with opportunities to access and harness appropriate technologies as enablers of sustainable development. It must also address the particular needs of the most vulnerable.

Mr. Chairman,

The global development agenda will not be complete without attention being given to debt restructuring. Developing countries also need support to build capacity for data collection and statistical analysis. In addition, fundamental institutional reform, widespread infrastructure development and a shift towards renewable energy technologies must also be a part of the equation to unlock the development potential of our economies. The identification of a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, if adopted, will also do much to provide our countries with the means to ensure an enabling environment for development.

Mr. Chairman,

I was pleased to have led Jamaica's delegation to the recently held the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which was graciously hosted by the Government and People of Samoa.

For Jamaica, it is imperative that the interests and priorities of SIDS, as identified in the SAMOA Pathway, be taken into account in the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. My delegation will work with other AOSIS Member States to this end. We anticipate the continued support of the G77 for our efforts.

Mr. Chairman,

Earlier this week, the international community gathered to highlight climate change and its impact on our societies. The gravity of the challenges posed by this phenomenon is well documented. Actions such as those announced at the Climate Summit are critical to mitigating the impacts, but we must not lose sight of the bigger picture, which is to secure a legally binding global climate change agreement in Paris next year.

In this connection, the entire international community must rally around a shared vision of reduction of emissions and enhanced climate resilience if we are to save the planet from irreversible damage for current and future generations. This task is significant but not insurmountable.

As is the case with other islands in the Caribbean, Jamaica has had firsthand experience with the damaging effects of natural hazards, including hurricanes. The frequency and severity of hurricanes have been exacerbated by changes in climatic conditions. Mindful of such experiences, and the damage to lives and livelihoods, we believe that the Group must actively seek to shape the outcome of the Third International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, in Sendai, in March 2015. We expect no less than an improved disaster management framework that builds upon the current Hyogo Framework.

Mr. Chairman,

Given its multifaceted nature, coherence and coordination are essential in the creation of a holistic and effective development agenda. The Group will need to continue to be vigilant in this respect including in discussions on finance, key to the means of implementation for the entire development agenda. In the view of Jamaica, there has to be a connection between the post-2015 negotiations and the preparatory process for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

The Group must continue its pivotal role in this regard as we will need to hold developed countries to account for prior commitments, while determining how best to harness new and additional sources of financing.

Mr. Chairman,

As we approach the Seventieth Anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, our Group which comprises more than 70% of the membership of the United Nations must ensure that our citizens are confident of the institution's ability to address contemporary global challenges while ensuring the continued

relevance of multilateralism. Attention will have to be paid to reform as well as ways in which the organisation can better reflect the concerns of developing countries.

We will also have to consider, in the context of our 50th anniversary, how the G77 will be better able to address the outstanding challenge of our times – ending the division of the world into 'areas of affluence and intolerable poverty'. As we pledged fifty years ago, we must remain united in our pursuit of economic and social development, peace and prosperity.

Jamaica stands ready to work with you, Chair, and with fellow members of the G77 and China to ensure that developing countries are able to work towards this end.

I thank you.