

**STATEMENT TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
OF THE UNDP AND THE UN POPULATION FUND**

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to thank the UNDP office in Jamaica for the cooperative spirit which characterized the atmosphere in which the document was prepared.

Despite the many proposals, counter proposals, agreements, disagreements, delays and disappointments, what has been achieved is a jointly prepared document developed in conjunction, and in collaboration with the Government of Jamaica, and a wide cross-section of stakeholders and development partners.

As a Small Island Developing State with a small open economy, faced with the challenges of rapid globalization, Jamaica's ability to overcome and sustain any semblance of development is constantly under threat; making it imperative to hasten the application of new developmental approaches and strategies. This has become more crucial as we confront HIV/AIDS, drug-trafficking, money laundering, and grapple with intolerable levels of crime.

The Government believes that any strategy developed to reverse the trend and to mitigate the possible calamitous effects, must be multidimensional in principle and focus - coming from all fronts; and so, the continuing partnership with the UNDP will be vital in this regard.

The 2007 - 2011 UNDP Country Programme, will focus on three areas of cooperation based on national priorities, namely: HIV/AIDS; Environment and Poverty; and Justice, Peace, and Security. The aim will be to: foster the development or restoration of sustainable livelihoods in target communities; the promotion of social and economic development and increased capacity and resilience to hazards for vulnerable communities, the creation of conflict prevention skills for young males in targeted communities and increasing the capacity of stakeholders to sustain peace and reconciliation mechanisms. It is within this context that the Government fully endorses the country programme which has been developed for Jamaica.

Since 1964 Jamaica and the UNDP have shared a strong and vibrant relationship which continues to flourish. In this connection, we welcome its involvement in what will be for it, ground breaking activity in the areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies.

Mr. President, the Government of Jamaica looks forward to continuing the close working relationship with the UNDP as we both seek to support good governance, continuing poverty alleviation and sound environmental practices, through the building of strategic partnerships and meaningful alliances.

I thank you Mr. President.