



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

STATEMENT BY
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ON

Advancement of Women (Agenda item 29)

**THIRD COMMITTEE FOR 73RD SESSION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**8th October 2018
NEW YORK**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

Jamaica aligns itself with statements delivered by Guyana on behalf of CARICOM, El Salvador on behalf of CELAC and Egypt on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

We thank the Secretary General for the reports submitted under this agenda item, as well as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, for the reports on its sixty-seventh, sixty—eighth and sixty-ninth sessions.

Jamaica remains committed to gender equality and through its gender mainstreaming efforts, seeks to promote the social, cultural and political empowerment of women. We view these as essential characteristics of a modern society.

Jamaica’s strong commitment to promoting gender equality and eliminating gender-based violence is based on the conviction that there is an inextricable link between our sustainable development and the prospects for improving the lives and realizing the full potential of one of the most vulnerable in our society, our women and girls.

In keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals and our national development plan, “Vision 2030”, Jamaica is committed to fulfilling its obligations under gender-related international instruments, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation agrees with the Secretary General in saying that violence against women is ubiquitous and impedes their enjoyment of all human rights. Consequently, more should be done by Member States to bridge the gaps and surmount the obstacles that impede our efforts to protect all women and girls from various forms of violence, both in public and private settings.

In light of the foregoing, Jamaica recognizes that there is a constant need to strengthen its legislative and policy frameworks to reduce and ultimately eliminate violence against women and girls and foster economic opportunities.

At the national level, the Government has undertaken a review of several key legislations, including the 2009 Sexual Offences, 2010 Offences Against the Persons and 2004 Domestic Violence Acts, which will assist us in curbing violence against women.

The government has also launched gender-sensitive policies, such as the 2011 National Policy for Gender Equality and the 2017 National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence, which comprise part of the strategy to promote gender mainstreaming and vitiate gender-based violence.

Mr. Chair, on the 2nd October 2018, the Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UN Women. Under this MOU, UN Women will provide financing to implement the National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence. We are grateful to UN Women for their provision of needed support and assistance in this important area.

As a Small Island Developing State (SID), we are mindful that our path towards sustainable development would have been even more daunting without the support of our bilateral and multilateral partners.

Mr. Chair,

In addition to the use of gender mainstreaming, the Government continues to utilize a “Whole of Government Approach” to tackle violence against women. A major national achievement, in this regard, is the establishment of Gender Focal Points across Ministries, Departments and Agencies to ensure that gender is mainstreamed in all government policies, programmes and projects.

I delight in informing that, to date, 106 senior policy-makers have been trained and 29 Ministries, Departments and Agencies have received the Gender Equality Certification Seal, on attaining the required standards in promoting gender equality in the workplace. This signals their undertaking to fulfill the guiding principles of Jamaica’s 2011 National Policy for Gender Equality.

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica notes with concern the pervasive trend of sexual harassment in the work place. We believe that these violent actions can only be eradicated through the implementation of comprehensive approaches to reduce negative attitudes towards women. In light of the foregoing, the Jamaican Government is working assiduously to table a Sexual Harassment Bill that will provide greater protection to our women and girls.

In closing, Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to the CEDAW and other relevant international conventions. We look forward to the positive work of the Committee under this agenda item.

I thank you