



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 12: *GLOBAL ROAD SAFETY CRISIS***

**AT THE  
SIXTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK  
10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2014**

*© 2014 United Nations*

Mr. President,

Jamaica thanks the Secretary General for transmitting the Report by the World Health Organisation (A/68/368) on Improving Global Road Safety. We note the very comprehensive account of the range of activities and programmes undertaken across the world in furtherance of the goals and objectives of the Decade of Action for Road Safety. Jamaica is indeed pleased that its own activities and programmes reflect the global trends. It is noteworthy that there is broad recognition of the need to pay greater attention to global road safety as a means of promoting national development and indeed, global development.

Jamaica concurs that more needs to be done to address road safety holistically including through better implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations on safe road use, improving vehicle safety standards, increasing road user awareness, addressing the five risk factors and investing in post-crash treatment and services.

In Jamaica, our experience has taught us the critical importance of employing multi-sectoral collaboration in addressing the epidemic of road traffic injuries and deaths. This has resulted in greater effort for and awareness of the need to strengthen capacity and to put in place coordinated policies and programs that involve all key stakeholders, with the aim of improving road safety in the country. In 2013, Jamaica was honoured to be the recipient of the prestigious Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in recognition of its success in reducing the number of fatalities on the country's roads. The National Road Safety Council was recognized as a 'best practice' example of a highly effective lead agency on road safety.

Road traffic injuries are already the number one killer of young people aged 15-29 worldwide. Despite recent improvements, we run the risk of reversing gains in reducing fatalities. Having reduced annual fatalities from 434 in 1993 to 260 in 2012, Jamaica achieved its BELOW 300 Target established in 2008. The target was then revised downwards to BELOW 240 to be achieved over a three year period ending in 2015. However, in 2013 these figures rose to 308. In addition, for the first quarter of 2014, we have seen a twenty-five percent 25% increase in fatalities over the first quarter of 2013.

We cannot afford to let this epidemic get worse. Sustained action and attention are required at national, regional and global levels to accelerate progress towards achieving the target of reducing the projected level of road fatalities by 50% by 2020, and to prevent fatalities from road crashes, from becoming the number one cause of preventable death. Road safety still needs to become more of an international priority. Global funding and support is still inadequate to achieve the objectives of the Decade of Action, to save 5 million lives and prevent 50 million serious injuries by 2020. In this regard, we welcome the offer of the Government of Brazil to

host the second global high-level conference on road safety in 2015, to review progress in implementing the Global Plan for the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Mr. President,

The rising toll of road deaths places a heavy burden on developing countries such as Jamaica. Healthcare costs and the impact on lost productivity are only the most glaring examples. We should bear in mind also the untold cost and suffering borne by victims and their families, the resulting disabilities and the negative impact on the enjoyment of development rights. These only serve to reiterate why attention to improving global road safety requires that it be properly reflected in the post-2015 development agenda.

As we look towards the new global development agenda, we must ensure that transportation is both safe and sustainable. As such, Jamaica is supportive of efforts to address this with a simple target in the context of the new development goals. We reaffirm the call made by our Prime Minister, in endorsing the Long Short Walk Campaign in September 2013, that combating road traffic injury be included among the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals in the context of safe and sustainable transport.

I thank you.