



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 25:
*'AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENTS, FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION'***

IN THE

**2ND COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Guyana on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his reports under this agenda item and extends its thanks to the Director of the Division for Sustainable Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for his introduction of the reports.

Earlier this year, Jamaica introduced its ***Food and Nutrition Security Policy*** and it is against that backdrop that I wish to deliver these brief remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation shares the view outlined in the report of the Secretary General that addressing food security and nutrition is central to making progress in poverty eradication. In this regard, efforts to secure poverty eradication through sustainable development must take fully into account the multidimensional nature of the challenge of food and nutrition security, including the inextricable links to sustainable agricultural practices, climate change, and trade policy.

My delegation is pleased to note that on 1st May 2013, Jamaica's Food and Nutrition Security Policy was approved by the Cabinet. Like many other developing countries, Jamaica is characterised by decreasing domestic food production levels, and a growing dependence on imported food. Our domestic economic challenges have led to food security issues for the most vulnerable in our society.

Jamaica's Food and Nutrition Security Policy takes as its point of departure the recognition that food security constitutes a fundamental right of all citizens regardless of their socio-economic status. It also recognizes the importance of tackling poverty and the need for greater social inclusion as a means of ensuring that the right to food security can be exercised.

Mr. Chairman,

The stated objectives of our national food and nutrition security policy are "to ensure that all people have continued access to sufficient supplies of safe foods for a nutritionally adequate diet and, in doing so achieve and maintain health and nutritional well-being". These are clearly very ambitious objectives; ones that will require significant financing, capacity building and the increased use of sustainable technologies, as well as a great deal of coordination and sustained efforts on several fronts over the long-term if they are to be achieved.

Undoubtedly, these are also objectives that embody the aspirations of many people around the world. Despite the many constraints and challenges, we should not shy away from a level of ambition in goal-setting at the international level that could inform policies, strategies and action plans at the national level and which would in turn lead to food security and nutrition for all.

In keeping with the FAO Strategic Objective, the Government maintains that the eradication of hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition require an effective enabling framework and environment. To this end, the Government will follow-up the adoption of the Food and Nutrition Security Policy by enacting a Food Security Law to ensure that domestic food production of a core set of food products meets a minimum threshold that addresses national food, nutrition and health goals. The Law will be complemented by appropriate trade and production policies that allow for an increase in domestic production and productivity.

Mr. Chairman,

Achieving sustainable development will require that we go well beyond the MDG targets on hunger and poverty reduction and adopt an approach that addresses the needs and secures the well-being of the greatest number of individuals. This will require a multi-faceted approach that addresses food availability, food access, the consumption, utilisation and nutritional value of

food as well as the stability of food supply which would depend in significant part on sustainable agricultural and land and water use policies.

In identifying the elements that will serve as the building blocks for the post-2015 development agenda and any goals it will encompass, a great deal of ambition is necessary.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, let me underscore Jamaica's full support for the concept of zero tolerance for world hunger and its commitment to efforts to completely eradicate hunger by 2025. With a strong commitment to achieving sustainable development for all and a genuine effort to enter into a global partnership for development, it will be possible to create the global enabling environment for attaining food and nutrition security and sustainable development at the national level.