



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

STATEMENT BY

**MRS. CYETH DENTON-WATTS
COUNSELLOR**

ON AGENDA ITEM 18: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE
77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

MONDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2022

NEW YORK

Madam Chair,

1. I take the floor to speak on the important issue of Sustainable Development as we all seek to scale up action towards the 2030 Agenda and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. We align with the Statements delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, The Bahamas on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).
3. As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Jamaica grapples with inherent vulnerabilities and exogenous factors which are inimical to our developmental agenda and our efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals.
4. The COVID-19 pandemic and its unprecedented challenges have laid bare our vulnerabilities, highlighted the pre-existing inequities in the international development system and reversed hard-fought progress made to bolster resilience and to stabilize the socio-economic fabric of our society.
5. SIDS continue to bear the lingering effects of the pandemic, the food and energy crises, the war in Ukraine, as well as natural disasters and climate emergencies. The situation has been exacerbated by the limited fiscal space and capacity to manage the deleterious physical, social and economic impacts of these several challenges. In this vein, it is imperative that recovery efforts are supported by robust, innovative solutions that are in tandem with our sustainable development objectives.

Madam Chair,

6. Jamaica's presentation of its Second Voluntary National Review (VNR) during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in July 2022 is a demonstration of the commitment of the Government of Jamaica to the full implementation of Agenda 2030 and the achievement of the SDGs.
7. Despite the setbacks in our developmental priorities, we remain resolute in our commitment to advance social and economic development, the protection of human capital and the promotion of resilience in our social and economic infrastructures to ensure that a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery is pursued, in alignment with Vision 2030, Jamaica's National Development Plan.
8. Since the implementation of Jamaica's National Development Plan, we have made significant strides towards the creation of an enabling environment a cohesive and just society, a prosperous economy and a healthy natural environment in which our citizens can achieve their full potential. We are pleased to note that our NDP is 98.6% aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. Jamaica remains firm in our position that the successful implementation of the SDGs must be underpinned by the fulfilment of the range of commitments embodied in the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It is therefore of utmost importance that our successes to date are enhanced and strengthened through solidarity, the exchange of support, and multilateral cooperation and partnership. Only in this way can we achieve a holistic integration of the global development agenda that leaves no country behind.
10. Jamaica also believes that a strong and effective response to the sustainable development goals, requires the United Nations Development System to be fully equipped and well-resourced to cater to the prioritized needs of member states, ensuring that there is coherence in the delivery of support to Member states in alignment with the implementation of the SDGs.

Madam Chair,

11. We continue to underscore the intricate nexus between climate resilience and the SDGs. The vulnerability of Jamaica to the effects of climate change and its estimated economic costs continue to present an existential threat. As a result, we seek to prioritize reducing vulnerability and building resilience. To this end, we call upon the developed world to meet the commitments and contributions of climate change targets to include adaptation and a facility for loss and damage. Jamaica looks forward to COP27 and the scaling-up of concrete action to halve emissions by 2030 and to limit global temperature rise to 1.5° C to protect people and planet.
12. For Jamaica, Financing for Development is a key driver to support more sustainable growth and the recovery of our economies. Access to financing options remains a challenge for Jamaica especially since our classification as a middle-income country curtails access to critical ODA Funding for developmental needs, thereby threatening progress towards economic growth and development. The development and implementation of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index will provide a more comprehensive and equitable metric to determine development finance needs and to make those resources accessible to MICs and SIDS in particular.
13. The revamping of the international financial architecture to adjust its framework and fiscal policies to adapt to the new realities would be transformational to unleash inclusive recovery, thereby assisting developing countries to get back on track with the SDGs.
14. Madam Chair, please be assured of Jamaica's continued support in the work of this Committee to address the issues under this agenda item.