



**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 19: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

***(b) follow-up to and implementation of SIDS Acceleration Modalities of
Action(SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the further implementation
of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS;
(c) Disaster Risk Reduction***

**IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE
OF THE 74TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK

TUESDAY, 15TH OCTOBER 2019

FINAL TEXT

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to speak on this important agenda item (19) – sustainable development, particularly sub items b (Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States) and c (Disaster risk reduction), respectively.

Much like our Small Island Developing States (SIDS) counterparts, Jamaica has to contend with a combination of inherent vulnerabilities and external factors which constrain efforts to fully realize its development potential. In that vein, Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by the State of Palestine on behalf of the G77 and China, Barbados on behalf of CARICOM, and Belize on behalf of AOSIS.

During the recent High Level Week, our Prime Minister reminded the world that, “sustainable development for all is attainable only through concerted effort and partnerships;” and it is against this backdrop that I will share some of our experiences as we traverse the path towards sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica continues to demonstrate its commitment to achieving sustainable development at all levels. At the national level, our long-term National Development Plan - Vision 2030 is substantially aligned with the SDGs. At the multilateral level, we are playing a leadership role on climate finance and, in addition, in mobilizing the capital required to close the SDG investment gap. In this latter regard we are working with Canada, as Co-Chairs of the Group of Friends of SDG Financing, to unlock additional financial resources from the private sector to undertake critical SDG investments in sustainable infrastructure. We are committed to maintaining our activism in the area of financing for development, conscious that ODA targets remain less than half of that which has been pledged by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries.

Furthermore, we will continue to strengthen our national sustainable development framework with the aim of increasing coherence between our SDG monitoring and implementation activities

and the SAMOA Pathway. We regard the SAMOA Pathway is an effective framework for engendering genuine and durable partnerships for the sustainable development of SIDS.

In this regard, Jamaica continues to call on the United Nations system to reinforce the SAMOA Pathway, through the provision of adequate and coordinated support that addresses the specific needs and vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States.

There is also a need for UN system-wide support to enable better national, regional and interregional coordination among Small Island Developing States. Jamaica remains challenged in implementing policies, in an integrated and cross cutting manner, which will trigger fast and sustained progress towards sustainable development. This needs to occur in a context of limited fiscal space, with special consideration given to key groups in our society - women and girls, unattached youth, persons with disabilities, and all those who are vulnerable and marginalized. This is central to the principle of social and economic inclusion and represents an indispensable objective of our national development plan.

In order to accelerate SDG implementation, Jamaica's next steps include:

- Strengthening the national statistics system
- Improving the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework
- Identifying mechanisms and strategies for financing the SDGs
- Enhancing policy coherence and building capacity in policy integration through the use of goal-oriented, evidence-based, and participatory frameworks
- Ongoing SDGs communication and advocacy programme.

Mr. Chairman,

I will now share a little bit about our approach to Disaster Risk Reduction. As you may know, Jamaica is located in the second-most disaster-prone region in the world. We therefore accord high priority to reducing vulnerability and building resilience. Natural disasters result in unplanned public expenditure or the reallocation of already committed financial resources for reconstruction, rehabilitation and repair. Budgetary revenues also fall in natural disasters, as central bank reserves come under pressure, triggering a need to increase borrowing, which in turn exacerbate external debt balances.

Given these vulnerabilities, we will be pursuing a strategy that provides various layers of disaster risk protection that include:

- accumulating fiscal savings in a Contingency Fund that can only to be used in the event of natural disasters,
- securing contingent credit from multilateral financial institutions in the event of a natural disaster,
- utilizing the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility, our regional parametric risk pool, in the event of major natural disasters, and
- utilizing catastrophe bonds or catastrophe-linked insurance.

The strategic objective is to match particular risk financing instruments with the nature, intensity and frequency of the disaster in question. In so doing, some risk can and will be retained on-budget and some will be transferred.

Mr. Chairman,

As we draw closer to the next decade, Jamaica is firmly committed to advancing our shared global agenda to contribute to a better world – one in which there is peace, equity, prosperity, partnership and, importantly, a healthy natural environment.