

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 24: *OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT***

1. ***Operational Activities for development of the United Nations***

***&***

***b) South-South Cooperation for development***

**IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE**

**OF THE 72ND SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK**

**WEDNESDAY, 25TH OCTOBER 2017**

***FINAL TEXT***

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is pleased to participate in this discussion on Agenda Item 24 – Operational activities for development. Jamaica associates itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Group of 77 & China, CARICOM, CELAC and AOSIS.

We extend our thanks to the Secretary-General for his Reports on this agenda item, notably “Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all”. We concur with the Report’s assertion that the UN development system must effectively respond to the demands of the new development agenda. We see this as an imperative, given its role in supporting countries towards their attainment of sustainable development in all its forms and dimensions. In order to do this the UNDS must improve its effectiveness, efficiency, coordination, coherence and impact. These improvements should be complemented by efforts to reinforce national ownership and leadership; ensure country-contextual responses rather than a “one size fits all” approach; and to make country level delivery for all the litmus test for practical success.

Mr. Chairman,

We share the view that regional policy coordination is operating at a sub-optimal level, due to an unclear division of labour within the system and the inefficient use of the UN’s policy capacities on regional priorities. We, therefore, welcome the SG’s plan to conduct a review of the UNDS’ regional functions, policy and data management capacities, to improve coherence, foster a unified policy voice at the regional level and strengthen the UN’s policy backbone at the country, regional and global levels.

The proposed improvements to the Resident Coordinator system is a matter to which Jamaica attaches great importance. An improved RC system must ensure that there is empowered and well-resourced leadership, with clear lines of authority over UN country teams on system-wide responsibilities. Resident Coordinators should be enabled by a structure that facilitates their impartiality, independence, and ability to effectively manage dispute resolution and organizational governance mechanisms.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica is mindful that many aspects of the QCPR mandate have not been satisfactorily addressed in the current report. In this context, we look forward to the final report to be presented in December and anticipate that its reform proposals will be more pointed in their alignment with the QCPR mandate.

In addition to the issues already elaborated, a key concern relates to the fact that UN agencies have been experiencing a reduction in resources available for programme delivery, as they have limited core resources and are more reliant on resource mobilization from donors. Core resources are best able to provide the transformational results that addresses the critical developmental needs of our countries, such as the plight of the most vulnerable and promotion of equity. As far as our experience with the regional approach to programming is concerned, this has resulted in less direct funds channeled to countries, as well as an inability to quantify these resources.

The UN agencies need to augment their pool of resources and their contribution to national development priorities and by extension the SDGs, through adopting more creative approaches. The successes achieved through triangular and South-South cooperation are an example of this and we commend the Secretary General on his initiative to direct the OSSC to develop a comprehensive South-South Cooperation strategy. These have long been supported by UN agencies such as FAO, UNICEF and UNDP and the greater focus on this area is welcomed.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, the 2030 Agenda represents a bold new roadmap to guide us towards long-term sustainable development. In the case of Jamaica, it is recognized that the SDGs do not stand in isolation from our national development agenda and, as such, we expect that their achievement will benefit from the implementation of other related initiatives, at the regional and global levels.

Thank you.