



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 63: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE  
GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND  
PEOPLES**

**DURING THE**

**JOINT GENERAL DEBATE ON  
AGENDA ITEMS 50 - 63  
FOURTH COMMITTEE**

**76<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**Madam Chair,**

My delegation congratulates you and the Bureau on your election to the leadership of the Fourth Committee for the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly. We extend best wishes to you and your team, as you discharge your duties. We also commend your predecessor, the Permanent Representative of Botswana for the able manner in which he directed the work of the committee during the last session.

Jamaica associates itself with the Statements delivered earlier by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), Mexico on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). I now take this opportunity to say a few words in my national capacity on Agenda Item 63, the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

**Madam Chair,**

My delegation takes note of the *Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the granting of Independence to colonial countries and peoples for 2021*. We express our appreciation to the Chair of the Committee and her team for the work undertaken in the completion of the report.

In the year 2021, my delegation would not have imagined that the issue of decolonisation would feature prominently in discussions at the United Nations. After all the UN Charter, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (the ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural

Rights guarantees all peoples the right of self-determination. Sadly, the Caribbean remains one of the few colonised regions in the world.

We note that of the 17 territories identified as non-self-governing, seven (7) are part of the Caribbean region, one has been afforded full membership to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and five enjoy associate membership status in the community. The issue, therefore, is of special importance to my delegation as this status continues to present an obstacle to regional integration.

**Madam Chair,**

As a beneficiary of decolonisation, Jamaica reiterates the principles espoused in General Assembly resolution 1514 of the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1960, that is, *the need for the creation of conditions of stability and well-being and peaceful and friendly relations based on respect for the principles of equal rights and self-determination of all peoples. In addition, we remain convinced that the continued existence of colonialism prevents the development of international economic cooperation, impedes the social, cultural and economic development of dependent peoples and militates against the United Nations ideal of universal peace.* For us, it is clear that there is no room for complacency until the aim of decolonisation has been met.

It is for this reason that Jamaica has consistently supported the work undertaken by the United Nations to end colonisation. While we applaud the work of the United Nations over the years we recognize that much more needs to be done and greater momentum is needed in the decolonisation process. In this regard, we reiterate our call on the pertinent Administering Powers to initiate the necessary internal reforms and adopt the requisite measures in order to

facilitate the decolonisation of each of the non-self-governing territories, taking into account their specific situations.

**Madam Chair,**

We reiterate the call of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in its resolution 574 (XXVII) of the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1998, for the necessary mechanisms to be put in place to facilitate associate members, including Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate in the special sessions of the General Assembly, subject to the rules of procedure of the Assembly; to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories originally participated in the capacity of observer; and, in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies. My delegation looks forward to finalization of these arrangements.

**Madam Chair,**

Jamaica looks forward to the Special Committee undertaking the necessary actions, approved by the General Assembly, in respect of the Fourth International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in all Territories (2021-2030) that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence. We note, with optimism, that the eradication of colonialism will remain one of the priorities of the Fourth International Decade. We also welcome the Committee's intentions to formulate specific proposals, on a case-by-case basis, to bring about an end to colonialism, in accordance with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

In closing Madam Chair, my delegation reiterates its support for all resolutions on non-self-governing territories which will be presented in this committee, during this session. We call on all member states of the United Nations not to lose sight of the fact that colonisation, in any form, constitutes an impediment to social, economic and cultural development. If we intend to leave no one behind, the practice of colonisation must become a thing of the past.

I thank you Madam Chair.