



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

STATEMENT BY

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FORESTRY DEPARTMENT**

**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND JOB CREATION (MEGJC)**

AT THE

19TH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS FORUM ON FORESTS

**AGENDA ITEM 6: HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT, INCLUDING A FOREST
PARTNERSHIP DIALOGUE WITH HEADS OF CPF MEMBER
ORGANIZATIONS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND
PRIVATE SECTOR CEOS**

NEW YORK

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Mr Chair
Distinguished Delegates, International Observers
Ladies and Gentlemen

Jamaica thanks the UNFF secretariat, the delegates and the co-chairs for the work done to present a consensus document at this meeting. The country acknowledges the achievements of the various partners work in forestry and welcomes the continued commitments to driving the implementation of the UNSPF and strengthening contributions to the International Arrangements on Forests including the CPF.

Jamaica continues to make strides in ensuring the availability of high-quality scientific information to guide decision making towards the achievement of sustainable forest management. Today we are proud to announce the following:

1. Jamaica continues to improve our capacity for forest monitoring, assessment, and reporting, and to the build out of information systems, in particular with the aim to increase the availability of knowledge and data for scientific and evidence-based policy decisions and actions on forests, biodiversity, climate change and land degradation. Having recently completed our Land Use Land Cover Change Assessment in March 2024, we are proud to announce that Jamaica's forest cover now stands at 46% which represents a 6% improvement over the levels recorded in 2013.
2. Jamaica recognizes and appreciates efforts at international cooperation, including by strengthening capacity building, technical and scientific cooperation, and technology transfer partnerships. We continue to build our technical capacity for sustainable forest management, notably with the support of the European Union through a Budget Support Programme over the last 4 years and with the ongoing collaboration of the US Forest Service.

3. Jamaica is also currently working on updates to our VNCs, with the announcements projected by the next meeting of COFO in Rome later this year. As a member of the high ambition coalition Jamaica remains committed and is advanced with activities to facilitate the designation of 30% of our terrestrial and marine space as protected by 2030.

Jamaica is pleased to note efforts to facilitate policy dialogues, information and scientific knowledge exchange at all levels on issues related to sustainable management of forests and trees outside forests, including through sharing best practices, nature-based solutions, and ecosystem-based approaches. We support the call for Members of the Forum to make use of UNFF country-led initiatives (CLI) in order to exchange experiences and develop new GFG-oriented solutions and we recognize the need for accelerated implementation of the UNSPF to effectively contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and other forest-related international commitments and agreements.

I thank you