



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**SENATOR THE HON. LESLIE CAMPBELL  
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON**

*Major priority issues and the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic  
and the obstacles poses to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and  
Achievements of the SDGs*

**AT THE**

**FORTY-FIFTH MINISTERIAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)**

**ON**

**TUESDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

*Please check against delivery*

**H.E. Dr. Mory Sandan Kouyaté, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Guineans Abroad (Outgoing Chair of the G-77)**

**H.E. Makhdoom Qureshi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan (Incoming Chair of the G-77)**

**H.E. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations,**

**H.E. Abdulla Shahid, President of the 76<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

**Colleague Members,**

At the outset, Jamaica warmly congratulates Foreign Minister Kouyaté and his team for their Chairmanship of the G-77 during this challenging year. It is a remarkable feat to steer the work of the largest negotiating bloc of the Global South across the many UN processes and advocate for and simultaneously protect the interests of this diverse membership.

**Mr. Chair,**

The need for a strong and effective G-77 is probably more urgent today than ever before. Like many of us, Jamaica grapples with persistent challenges to the achievement of our sustainable development goals (SDGs), including high indebtedness, limitations in our fiscal space, gaps in human capital development, and slow progress in mobilizing financing, including for infrastructure, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. All of these hindrances to sustainable development are further exacerbated by the socio-economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Mr. Chair,**

In addressing our challenges and implementing our priorities, Jamaica recognizes the need to deepen multilateral functional cooperation. It is crucial that the international community continue to prioritize the timeliness of the financial response to the pandemic to ensure reliable access for developing countries to resources aimed at addressing the urgent needs brought about by the pandemic, such as COVID-19 vaccines. It is also critical that recovery and resilience be targeted, so that the available resources are utilized in a manner that facilitates inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery.

Jamaica, therefore, continues to place high priority on the ongoing work under the Financing for Development Initiative in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond, for which our Prime Minister is one of the co-convenors. We are confident that the policy options will greatly assist the international community to take the decisive action needed to shape the COVID-19 response and recovery, in particular for small island developing states (SIDs) and middle income countries (MICs).

**Mr. Chair,**

In the face of these challenges, a unified G-77 remains critical to advance our strategic interests, as we engage with our developed partners in support of the revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development, and to respond and recover adequately to the ongoing and evolving pandemic.

Jamaica, as one of the founding members of the G-77, remains committed to supporting the Group as it continues to pursue its key objective. This, we recall, is to articulate and promote our collective economic interests and enhance our joint negotiating capacity on all major international economic issues within the United Nations system, and promote South-South co-operation for our development. In this regard, we look forward to supporting the work of the incoming Chair of the G77, Pakistan, in 2022.

**I thank you.**

**PMUN New York  
26 November 2021**