



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

**WELCOME REMARKS  
BY**

**MR. KURT DAVIS  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
“DELTA DAYS AT THE UNITED NATIONS” (DDUN)  
&  
20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INC.  
RECEIVING NGO SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH THE UNITED  
NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**ON THE MARGINS OF  
THE 67<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**UNDER THE THEME  
“FORWARD WITH FORTITUDE: 20 YEARS OF ELEVATING OUR GLOBAL  
IMPACT THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS, PROGRAMS AND SOCIAL ACTION”**

**13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

**ECOSOC CHAMBER, UNHQ  
NEW YORK**

**National President,**

**Past Presidents and other Executives,  
Distinguished Ladies of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority,  
Good afternoon.**

I have the honour of bringing warm greetings on behalf of His Excellency Brian Wallace, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations, who is regrettably unable to join you on this auspicious occasion due to a prior commitment. It therefore falls to me to extend a very warm welcome once again to the United Nations.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council. When I arrived at the Permanent Mission in 2013 as Counsellor, “Delta Days at the United Nations” was one of the activities under my portfolio. It, therefore, gives me great pleasure to join in the commemoration of this significant milestone, as well as the stock taking of the meaningful contributions and global impact, a decade later.

The theme for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, “Forward with Fortitude”, is most fitting. As a proud graduate of Kingston College in Jamaica, “fortitude” is a concept which resonates very deeply. We were taught, as young men, to live by the motto: ***fortis cadere cedere non potest; the brave may fall but never yield.*** In a time where humanity is faced with much adversity – a pandemic, the scourge of war, the existential crisis of climate change – fortitude is not only necessary, it is critical.

This, of course, is not a novel concept to the distinguished women of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, which was borne from and continues to be driven by the need to combat social injustices and advance gender equality. In the past twenty years, and moreover in the past one hundred years since its inception, this organisation has made its mark on the world - from its participation in the Suffrage movement to the valuable contributions in the areas of education and healthcare to underserved communities in the United States, Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.

Here at the United Nations, we are re-doubling our efforts to reinforce the multilateral system as a means to ensuring that no-one is left behind, especially our women and girls. As 2030 fast approaches, we are acutely aware that there is still much to be done if we are to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Organisations such as yours play an important role in the development and implementation of effective socio-economic policies and in raising awareness of the needs at the grassroots for which greater action is required at the political level. NGOs with special consultative status with the ECOSOC, like Delta Sigma Theta, play a particularly important role by informing the decision-making of member states towards ensuring a people-centred, inclusive and just approach to solving global issues.

On the part of Jamaica, the achievement of gender equality; women's full, equal and meaningful participation; the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres; and the elimination of racial discrimination is paramount in all multilateral fora. To this end, we salute the work of Delta Sigma Theta and encourage you to remain steadfast in your social action and partnership towards empowering the present and future generation of women and girls, and our global family as a whole.

As you take this opportunity to celebrate how far you have come, together, it is my sincere hope that you will continue to forge ahead with vigor and vitality, and never yield to the challenges come what may.

I thank you.