

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY**

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**COUNSELLOR**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 110: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL**

**ON THE WORK OF THE ORGANISATION**

**SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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***FINAL TEXT***

**Mr. President,**

**Chef de Cabinet,**

At the outset, Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by St. Lucia on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Belize on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to reflect on the Secretary-General's Report on the work of the Organisation, contained in document A/74/1. We commend the Secretary-General for the quality of the report and the clarity with which the information is provided.  Allow me to make some brief observations on a number of key points.

First, it is significant that the Organisation is able to point to tangible results over the past year. They provide a useful barometer for gauging the extent to which we have all been able to live up to the mandate ascribed to us by the UN Charter, to work in pursuit of the wellbeing of all peoples.

This reflects multilateralism at work and at its best.

It is proof that the work of the Organisation remains relevant and present in people’s daily lives, while bearing testimony to the urgency with which further work must be undertaken to build on the achievements recorded to date.

This is especially obvious as we reflect on the challenges that persist in combatting extreme poverty, confronting violence, particularly against women and girls, responding to humanitarian crises, addressing conflicts, and advancing the promotion of human rights. It is discomforting that, as noted in the Secretary-General’s Report, “*more than 731 million people – 10 per cent of the world’s population – still live in extreme poverty and struggle to meet their most essential needs*……*that nearly 71 million people remained forcibly displaced because of conflict, violence and human rights violations – the highest figure ever recorded….and that in 2018 more than 60 million people were directly affected by natural disasters.*”

In the first instance, we commend the efforts of the Secretary-General to tackle these issues, including through the reforms introduced both at Headquarters and throughout the UN system. The objective is to ensure that the Organisation is nimble enough to provide the quality and quantity of support that Member States require to secure meaningful results on the ground at the national level. The reforms introduced to the UN Development System, the process of Management Reform, as well as reforms made to the Peace and Security Architecture, underscore the need for continuous assessment so that appropriate adjustments can be made to maximize impact throughout the course of implementation. Ensuring the alignment of these new reform measures will allow clarity of direction and for their harmonization. It will also provide for the effectiveness of strategic interventions made by the various UN bodies at work in our countries. As such, we concur with the Secretary-General that "*actions must be rooted in transparency, coordination and accountability*."

Secondly, it is clear from the Secretary-General's report that there are no quick fixes to the challenges we face as an international community. Neither is there a singular approach that needs to be brought to bear on addressing these challenges. Responses must take account of the dynamics on the ground and the multifaceted nature of the problems. We encourage such an approach with respect to the security challenges that continue to manifest themselves, including as they relate to the complex web of transnational organized crime. These illicit activities provide a lucrative market for those keen on benefitting from its ill-gotten gains. To successfully combat the ongoing threat posed by this monster will require cooperation at all levels. The UN system must, therefore, constantly enhance its capabilities in order to remain a viable partner in this regard.

My third point relates to the means of implementation. This remains a priority for all concerned, not just developing countries. There can be no real progress without adequate, predictable and sustainable resources. This holds true not only for the implementation of policies by Member States, but for the ability of the Organisation to effectively discharge its mandate. We, therefore, share the Secretary-General's deep concern about the severe cash shortfalls and deficits facing the Organisation and hope there will be positive action taken to avert this crisis.

Fourth, my delegation shares the Secretary-General's sobering conclusion regarding the paramount threat posed by climate change. Indeed, it is startling! As the Secretary-General notes, climate change-related disasters "*affect an average of 350 million people every year, and every day global warming is reversing hard-won development gains and exacerbating poverty.*" This has become the new reality for many of us, especially SIDS. Jamaica, therefore, strongly supports efforts aimed at developing strategies to adapt and build resilience to climate change and take this opportunity to applaud the Secretary-General's personal commitment to addressing climate change, as evidenced by the recently concluded Climate Action Summit.

My fifth point concerns new, emerging threats that have manifested themselves with the onset of technological advances. The figures speak for themselves. The Secretary-General's report points to cybercrime that generates an estimated USD 1.5 trillion in revenue every year. This is directly related to my earlier reference to transnational organized crime, as transnational criminal groups have incorporated cyber techniques into their illicit activities. Of equal concern are the threats posed by the possible weaponization of artificial intelligence, cyberspace and outer space. We must work together to confront these issues, as the development in autonomous weapons system (AWS) and the weaponization of Artificial Intelligence is progressing rapidly. To this end, we will carefully study the report of the independent High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation to see how we can harness new technologies for the greater good, in support of the SDGs.

**Mr. President,**

I close by registering Jamaica’s strong support for the efforts to promote gender parity at the UN. We are pleased to note that gender parity in the Senior Management Group and among Resident Coordinators has been achieved and that there is near parity among the senior leadership ranks across the Organisation. We are also heartened by the fact that the focus remains on preventing sexual harassment and exploitation, as well as on creating an inclusive workforce.

I thank you.