



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE**

**HANDING-OVER CEREMONY OF  
THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA**

**WEDNESDAY, 10 JANUARY 2007  
United Nations, New York**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr Chairman,

Let me begin by reiterating the congratulatory sentiments formally conveyed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan by Senator the Honourable Anthony Hylton, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica, on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 and China, as well as Jamaica's confidence that under your able leadership the interests and concerns of the developing countries will be advanced in what will be a very challenging year. We look forward to working with Ambassador Munir Akram and his team in this regard. Jamaica will remain active, committed and reliable in support of the Chair and in advancing the interests of developing countries.

Jamaica also reiterates its sincere appreciation to the Government of the Republic of South Africa for the excellent manner in which they presided over the affairs of the Group in 2006. Jamaica is pleased to have had the opportunity to work with Ambassador Kumalo and his staff here in New York. We wish them the best in their future endeavours.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to make three brief points that Jamaica believes are of particular importance to developing countries in 2007 and with which I know Pakistan is already quite familiar.

The first concerns the need for continued work in order to ensure full implementation of the commitments made in the area of development. This process was advanced under South Africa with the successful adoption of resolution 60/265. However, significant challenges remain in relation to systemic issues and policy reform in the areas of trade, finance and technology, and in relation to the democratisation of global economic governance, increased development assistance and support for the development of human and institutional capacities in developing countries. The reality is that among our developed partners there have been mixed responses and negative approaches making it difficult for any advance to be made on certain issues. For this reason, the issue of implementation must remain a constant preoccupation of our Group in the foreseeable future.

Secondly, it is imperative that greater coherence and coordination be brought to the work of the UN in the field of development. We have a shared responsibility in strengthening the role of the UN in advancing economic co-operation to promote development and to advance the welfare of our peoples. We expect the deliberations with respect to system-wide coherence, and in the context of the 2007 Triennial Comprehensive Policy Review of operational activities for development of the UN system, will provide an important opportunity for firm decisions to be taken in this regard. The G77 must be prepared to articulate very clear, concise suggestions in keeping with the urgency with which the UN needs to grapple with these issues. As many others

have cautioned, the exercise should not be one of simply cutting costs or merging entities but should be informed by the broader objective of effectively transforming the work of the Organisation.

Similarly, the successful adoption of the resolution on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and, in general the work of the Council in 2006, remain a source of encouragement and we take this opportunity to again thank South Africa for its leadership in this regard. We also acknowledge the tireless efforts of our fellow G77 member, Tunisia, who held the Presidency of the Council in 2006. Also significant is the need for strengthened collaboration and cooperation with the entities of the South as well as our G77 counterparts throughout the wider UN system.

Finally, as the main voice of developing countries on economic and social issues in the UN system, the G77 has to remain vigilant in its efforts to promote an international agenda that takes account of the vital interests of the developing world. To this end, the G77 has to be strategic in its approach to these and the other important issues with which it will have to grapple in 2007. To do so requires that the Group abides by the strong bonds of solidarity and unity that have guided its work since 1964. Unity is strength and the maintenance of solidarity will be critical in the struggles ahead.

I thank you.