



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

STATEMENT BY

***HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS***

**AT THE HANDOVER CEREMONY OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE G-77
(FROM THE STATE OF PALESTINE TO THE COOPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF
GUYANA)**

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FINAL TEXT

Your Excellency Moses Nagamootoo, Prime Minister of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and H.E. Dr. Karen Cummings, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana

H.E. Dr. Riad Al-Malki Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Palestine,

H.E. The Secretary General of the United Nations,

H.E. The President of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Colleague Members,

At the outset, Jamaica warmly congratulates and thanks Foreign Minister Al-Malki and his team for Palestine's able Chairmanship of the G77 over the past year. Under the steadfast leadership of H.E. Riyad Mansour, they expended tireless efforts during many negotiation processes across the Main Committees and other bodies of the UN.

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to quote former Prime Minister of Jamaica, P.J. Patterson, who described the G-77's Group system as *the most enduring instrument of multilateral international cooperation and negotiation*. He recognised that it is no simple feat to advocate for, and simultaneously protect the interests of, a diverse membership of over one hundred and thirty developing countries. He said that it was remarkable that the G-77 has accomplished this *without a formal constitution or rules of procedure and it has managed to endure through the world's political and economic turbulences and remain true to its original mission*". It is a testament to the vision of our founding members that we continue to find strength in our common voice and provide a platform that serves as a vital negotiating instrument and exemplar of multilateral cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

The State of Palestine has fulfilled the promise it made when it assumed the reins of leadership, which was to spare no effort in ensuring that the Group collectively built upon its achievements across the span of the past 55 years.

The need for a strong and effective Group of 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, including high indebtedness, limitations in our fiscal space, gaps in human capital development, and slow progress in mobilizing financing, including for SDG implementation, infrastructure development, climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction. 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.

In doing so, we must use the momentum of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations to not only reflect upon our past decisions and actions but develop and implement innovative and sustainable solutions to existing and emerging issues.

Mr. Chair,

As we undertake our work within the Group, Jamaica is convinced that under the leadership of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, the G-77 will continue to rise to the challenges of a rapidly changing global environment. We reiterate our commitment to fully support our CARICOM sister nation, Guyana, as it embarks upon its important and significant role as President of the Group of 77.

Thank you.