



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

STATEMENT BY

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**TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF
HIS MAJESTY SULTAN QABOOS BIN SAID
OF THE SULTANATE OF OMAN
ON BEHALF OF
THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES**

**SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**31st JANUARY, 2020
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FINAL TEXT

Mr. President,

Mr. Secretary-General,

Excellencies,

I have the honor, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to pay tribute to His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said who passed away on January 10, 2020. It is with sadness that we received the news of the passing of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said.

The region loses a leader who is revered as the father of the Omani renaissance, who upheld a policy of peaceful coexistence with all nations. He leaves a profound legacy, not only in Oman but across the region.

When his Majesty ascended to the throne in 1970, Oman was isolated from much of the world, and almost totally lacking modern infrastructure and services. The life expectancy was around 50 years; there were just over six miles of paved roads; three public schools; and minimal medical care. Today, highways, public utilities, high-speed internet, world-class sports and cultural centers, attest to the success of his modernization program. Life expectancy exceeds 77 years, and literacy is estimated at 96 percent of the adult population.

His Majesty Sultan Qaboos advocated greater gender equality by appointing women to positions of power, and created employment opportunities for all, including “equal pay for equal work,” in both the private and public sectors.

Beyond all this, the most enduring legacy of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos will likely be his foreign policy. Oman practices a policy of moderation and dialogue in international affairs and the sultanate has persistently pursued a path of independence and nonalignment. As such, in an area wracked by warfare and division, there are no Omani “boots on the ground” outside the borders of the sultanate.

In conclusion, I express on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States our deepest condolences to the Government and the people of Oman. May His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said rest in peace.

I thank you.