



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

INTERVENTION BY

MR. KAVOY A. ASHLEY

**FIRST SECRETARY OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**HIGH-LEVEL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON ANTIMICROBIAL
RESISTANCE**

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

29TH APRIL 2021, 10:00 - 6:00 PM

NEW YORK

Madame Moderator:

The delegation of Jamaica thanks the President of the General assembly for conveying this very important engagement on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and expresses its gratitude for the presentations made by the distinguished panelists, in particular, on tackling AMR at the country level.

Jamaica recognizes the importance of addressing the global rise of Antimicrobial Resistance, which constitutes a veritable threat to our social and economic development, and in particular, to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The emergence and spread of drug-resistant pathogens that have acquired new resistance mechanisms threaten our ability to treat common infectious diseases. There is a need, therefore, to establish response mechanisms at the domestic, regional and global levels, to effectively combat this phenomenon.

For this reason, Jamaica endorses the Call to Action on Antimicrobial Resistance, and commends the Group of Friends for driving this initiative. We anticipate that it will serve as a useful tool as we continue to foster domestic and international alliances to combat antimicrobial resistance.

At the domestic level, the Government of Jamaica continues to strengthen coordination, political leadership and collaboration on AMR. Through the Ministry of Health and Wellness, the Government of Jamaica is developing a robust national action plan to tackle antibiotic resistance through improving surveillance of antibiotic-resistant infections and strengthening infection prevention and control measures.

Jamaica's multisector AMR national action plan is consistent with the World Health Organization's 'One Health' approach, which is critical to addressing health threats associated with animal, human and environmental interaction. It also takes into consideration contributions by appropriate focal points from human health, animal health, the environment, and food production sectors, including through engagement with academia, civil society, philanthropic organizations, and the private sector.

Jamaica is taking concerted action against AMR, which include plans to formalize a technical committee to provide oversight and governance in respect of this issue. We will continue to strengthen infection prevention and control by standardizing reporting protocols for all the infection prevention and control committees (IPC); by enforcing good hand hygiene practices; by ensuring the effective diagnosis and treatment of infections, and by adopting best IPC practices developed in COVID-19 management.

However, the ability to mobilize adequate financing for measures to combat AMR is an issue of concern, not only for Jamaica but for many developing countries. My delegation would therefore wish to raise the following question: **What is being done to ensure that there will be equitable access once the development of the new generation of antibiotics will have been completed, noting the prohibitive the costs in some parts of the developing world?**

I thank you.