



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

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY
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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON “BUILDING SUSTAINABLE
PEACE FOR ALL: SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINING PEACE”**

71ST SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. President,

My delegation congratulates the PGA on his initiative to focus our attention on the synergies inherent in the attainment of the SDGs and sustaining peace. It is both prudent and practical that we should begin our discussions in 2017 with a critical assessment of how we can bring renewed impetus and spark meaningful action to efforts aimed at realising the SDGs.

Our focus is also consistent with the priorities elaborated by the Secretary-General who, from the outset, has underscored his intention to make preventive diplomacy and sustaining peace a centre-piece of his tenure at the helm of our Organisation.

For my delegation, the relationship between the SDGs and sustaining peace is grounded in the recognition that the two are mutually reinforcing. As is recognized in the 2030 Agenda and reiterated here today “Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development”. Indeed, societies cannot thrive if they are riven by conflict and strife and citizens cannot realise their full potential in the face of instability and insecurity.

With the inclusion of Goal 16, which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies, the 2030 Agenda aligns the global development and disarmament agendas. Of particular note is target 16.4 that seeks to control the proliferation of illicit arms, including in non-conflict settings.

Mr. President,

My delegation is seized of the need to adopt a coordinated, coherent and integrated approach towards achieving our development objectives. An Assessment conducted by the UNDP in October 2016 found that there were 115 SDG targets considered relevant for Jamaica, and we were found to be aligned, either fully or partially, with 91.3 per cent of these.

Mr. President,

We recognise that the root causes of conflict and instability are varied and multidimensional. Sustaining peace and attaining the SDGs will, therefore, require an equally varied and multidimensional approach with requisite provisions to mitigate against factors that give rise to instability.

The OECD's 2015 "States of Fragility Report" notes that conflict can reverse national development gains by more than 20 years. It highlights the worrying trend of the growing concentration of absolute poverty in fragile situations. In order to sustainably address this problem we must identify and eradicate the key drivers of conflict. Our efforts must include attention to a wide range of inter-related issues, including the provision of access to justice for all, the building of strong institutions, tackling inequality, ensuring access to basic social amenities and establishing solid macro-economic foundations. All of these are indispensable components to advance development and allow societies to thrive.

Mr. President,

The SDGs represent the embodiment of a comprehensive, holistic and integrated approach to advancing sustainable development. We must continue to work to ensure that synergies are not only identified but are fully harnessed.

I thank you.