



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

STATEMENT BY

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE**

AT THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE

**"ACCELERATING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGS BY 2030: ADDRESSING ONGOING
CRISES AND OVERCOMING CHALLENGES"**

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Mr President,

Jamaica has worked diligently to maintain close alignment of our policies and programmes with the SDGs. However, we cannot overstate the deleterious effect of the pandemic, other economic shocks, and our vulnerabilities as a highly indebted Middle Income Small Island Developing State.

Accelerating progress on the SDGs requires strengthening the knowledge and capacity of all stakeholders to take actions that have multiplier effects on the key drivers of growth and development. Strengthening the evidence base for SDG monitoring, including gender disaggregated data, is also crucial to support strategic planning. No less so, is a strong governance framework which mobilizes participation through a whole-of-society approach. We therefore encourage the participation of key actors, including civil society, international partners and the private sector in development planning.

Mr President,

Jamaica's national development planning framework seeks to address structural and systemic challenges, and to create a domestic environment conducive to sustainable development.

In this vein, we continue to work towards becoming a technology-enabled society. The pandemic powerfully highlighted the intrinsic value of technology in our daily lives, and as a key driver for continuity and growth in all sectors, including health

and education.

The Government of Jamaica is determined to ensure that Jamaicans fully benefit from the digital revolution. We are increasing broadband connectivity, rolling out community Wi-Fi hotspots and recently introduced a National Identification System and a digital currency backed by our central bank.

Despite the rapid pace of innovation during the pandemic, especially to support collaboration in the health sector, more action is needed at the domestic and global levels to address the digital divide and its associated challenges.

Mr. President,

Jamaica believes that national ownership of development is important. We are working to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including private sector participation, and to foster an enabling environment for the development and use of innovative financing instruments, to support all areas of development.

While confronting ongoing global crises, however, the financing needs to support the 2030 Agenda and related frameworks for development, must be adequately addressed by the multilateral system. Jamaica, therefore, continues to call for the reform of the international financial architecture to ensure appropriate access to financing for highly indebted Middle Income Countries and SIDS.

Mr. President,

Mindful of the importance of multilateral cooperation, Jamaica also continues to advocate for meaningful reform of the UN system, to enhance its utility and value to all Member States.

Comprehensive and transformative policies, effective partnerships and co-operation are required to strengthen recovery and accelerate achievement of the SDGs.

We must also seize the opportunity for deeper analysis of the impact of on-going crises on the world's ability to meet the 2030 timeline.

I thank you.