



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

**OPENING REMARKS BY**

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

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

**VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT HOSTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA IN  
COLLABORATION WITH THE WORLD BANK AND THE UN OFFICE FOR DIASTER  
RISK REDUCTION**

**“FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT: CATASTROPHE BONDS”**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 13TH 2022**

**UNITED NATIONS**

**NEW YORK**

**Excellencies,**

We must understand why **Disaster Risk Reduction** features so heavily across the SDGs and more importantly, why as we seek to recover and build back better we must examine and implement long term strategies and systemic fixes to prepare for and respond to disasters, which are our lived experience. For SIDS who already operates in an extremely tight fiscal space, the fact is that compounded costs of severe weather events and non-discretionary domestic priorities are crippling.

Over the last decade, the Caribbean has seen only one year with less than 10 named storms. In 2020, we experienced a historic high of 30 named storms and in 2021 the third highest with 21. An above normal season is forecasted for 2022. So the need for catastrophic financing solutions within the region is not only obvious but urgent.

It is within this context that the Government of Jamaica and international partners have successfully collaborated. The catastrophe bond developed through the multilateral system included technical assistance and support from the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Official development Assistance (ODA) was also provided by the Governments of the United Kingdom and Germany through the Global Risk Financing Facility (GRiF)

and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) financed the premium and transaction costs of the bond.

Jamaica has long embraced SDG 17,<sup>1</sup> and we have a history of doing so in the realm of development finance. As we review progress on the SDGs and strategies to strengthen means of implementation this week, we acknowledge the support of our development partners. Jamaica's experience to be shared today is a model for how innovative financing instruments can be used to support SIDS, without increasing our debt burden.

We believe looking more closely at the catastrophe bond is timely and relevant to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and developing partners, as we seek to finance the recovery, mitigate disaster risk, strengthen the resilience of the built and natural environment, and of course to lessen the economic impact and prevent loss of life.

This bond partnership is an example of how the established principles governing the Sendai Framework and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, can be applied in recovery. We therefore encourage further partnership among states and development institutions to enable countries to build back better.

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<sup>1</sup> SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

I hope this afternoon session invites discussion and creates that opportunity for the first steps towards deepening relations and developing more creative solutions.

**I thank you.**