



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

STATEMENT BY

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

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
ECOSOC HIGH LEVEL SEGMENT**

**Topic: Multilateralism after COVID 19: what kind of UN do we need at
the 75th anniversary?**

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FINAL TEXT

Madam Chair,

In the face of our multiple global challenges, this timely discussion on "an ideal United Nations", reminds of the value of original collective efforts to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. Notwithstanding this different context, Seventy-five years ago, the UN Charter established a vision for the future of generations to come. Jamaica still holds steadfast to this vision.

We firmly believe that International cooperation and dialogue based on common goals and principles, are essential tools in the quest for peace and security, sustainable development and the well-being of our citizenry.

We celebrate the fact that the UN has worked assiduously for social protection for the vulnerable; to protect fundamental freedoms and human rights; to secure social and economic improvements for workers; and to stem the progression of conflicts worldwide. However, in an uncertain and ever-changing world we must do more to attain the visionary legacy of the Charter.

Today we see increasing retreat from multilateralism in the midst of enormous social and economic challenges, the threat of climate change, protracted conflicts, pervasive poverty, rising inequality and racism. COVID-19 has heightened the impact of these challenges and threatens to severely roll back decades of successes and stymie SDG implementation.

The experience of COVID-19 has also highlighted the need to restructure the way our countries and the international community operate. Firstly, we must not only recommit to the strengthening of multilateralism, but we must ensure, and demonstrate by our actions, that our interconnectivity, dialogue and international cooperation promote **and** deliver development and prosperity for our people.

Unprecedented times demand a robust United Nations that can respond with pragmatism to an ever-changing world without compromising its fundamental principles and values. We need an institution that is innovative and empowered to lead the way in times of global crises. Ours must be a United Nations that demonstrates equality, inclusivity and transparency in the creation of a transformed world for all. That is the “future we want and the United Nations we need”.

I thank you.