



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

STATEMENT BY

**MRS. DIEDRE MILLS
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 88: *REPORT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY***

71ST SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
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Thank you Mr. President.

From the outset, my delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for his statement and for his able stewardship of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He can be assured of my delegation's continued full support.

Mr. President,

As the first English speaking country in the Caribbean to join the IAEA over 50 years ago, Jamaica values greatly its relationship with the IAEA. Since 1965, we have had a long and fruitful tradition of cooperation with the Agency, in keeping with the importance we attach to the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and the application of a safeguards regime for verification, safety and security.

This cooperation has grown from strength to strength and affords my Government the opportunity to benefit from IAEA's technical expertise in priority areas related to our sustainable development efforts in education, health and research. These include but are not limited to training courses, the development of the programme of action for cancer therapy (PACT), re-establishment of nuclear medicine capacity in the public sector and the conversion of the SLOWPOKE reactor in Jamaica from high enriched uranium (HEU) to low enriched uranium (LEU). This commitment to working with Jamaica was reaffirmed through a series of visits to Jamaica by senior IAEA officials, including the Director-General, who we had the pleasure of hosting for a series of Ministerial Meetings earlier this year.

Mr. President,

We are heartened by the increased membership of Caribbean small island developing states in the Agency and the continued willingness of the Agency to support the sustainable development efforts of the region, which are closely linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We are confident that the level of interest that has been shown bodes well for the further deepening of the relationship.

The interlinked and mutually reinforcing nature of the sustainable development goals provide much scope for the Agency's vision for the peaceful use of nuclear technology for sustainable development. My delegation therefore reaffirms the commitment given by the Minister of Science, Energy and Technology at the 2016 IAEA Scientific Forum and General Conference of Jamaica's continued cooperation and support for the work of the Agency towards the fulfillment of its mandate.

I thank you.