



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

STATEMENT BY

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

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

**SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, let me begin my extending, on behalf of the Government and People of Jamaica, heartfelt condolences on the passing of Director General Yukiya Amano, who gave unselfishly and unreservedly in his dedicated years of service to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). He will be sorely missed and forever be held in highest esteem and respect.

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to express appreciation for the very comprehensive report provided on the work of the IAEA for 2018. We applaud continued efforts to ensure that the Agency responds to the full range and gamut of its work, in keeping with its principal objective "*to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world.*"

Mr. President,

Jamaica has benefitted tremendously from its engagement with the IAEA. As a result of the Agency's strong emphasis on capacity-building through technical cooperation, we have witnessed the strengthening and deepening of our relationship with the Organisation since we first became a member some 54 years ago. Since that time, we have collaborated with the Agency on a range of national projects that have responded to some of our key priorities and concerns in such areas as agriculture, medicine, water quality control and infrastructure development. Jamaica has nine (9) active national projects and is also participating in approximately thirty (30) regional and three (3) inter-regional projects. It is noteworthy that the value of the national projects currently being funded in Jamaica stands at EUR 2.6 million.

We deeply appreciate the fact that approval has been granted for the funding of new projects for the 2020-2021 cycle, which would be focused, among other things, on coastal and marine pollution. As a small island developing state acutely dependent on our marine resources for our socio-economic survival, support in this area is of particular significance.

Jamaica has hosted a number of regional capacity building workshops throughout 2019. These include workshops on radiation protection in medical imaging; water resources assessment using isotope hydrology and on the application of stable isotope techniques in environmental enteric dysfunction assessment and understanding its impact on child growth.

Against this background, therefore, we have a special interest in the elements of the annual report that detail how the Agency manages its Technical Cooperation Programme and efforts to improve the quality of this Programme, including through monitoring and evaluating projects.

Mr. President,

Jamaica strongly supports the work of the IAEA in nuclear safety and security. We have read with interest this aspect of the report and continue to be advocates of the Agency's work in this regard. We too are receiving capacity-building and training to improve our radiation safety infrastructure. In fact, the Government of Jamaica, through the Ministry of Science, Energy and Technology and the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Science (ICENS), is working with the IAEA to provide for effective "cradle to the grave" control of radioactive sources. Regulations governing the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear sources were also promulgated in 2019.

With respect to nuclear verification, we continue to support the work of the Agency in this particular field. We believe that it is central to our collective efforts to promote and maintain international peace and security, given the Agency's indispensable role in detecting the potential misuse of nuclear material or technology. Jamaica, therefore, supports the work undertaken by the Agency over the past year to enhance safeguards, including through greater cooperation with states and regional authorities.

Mr. President,

The IAEA deserves commendation for its efforts to integrate the SDG framework within the context of its work. This approach augurs well for our collective move towards the attainment of the SDGs by the fast approaching 2030 timeline. We applaud the attention being given to climate change and sustainable development, particularly in the context of SDG7, as noted in the 2018 annual report. The signing in August 2018 of the Practical Arrangements between the IAEA and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre to cooperate in the use of nuclear science and technology to combat climate change as well as with a number of other regional organisations and frameworks, including the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism and the Caribbean Public Health Agency, for the promotion of technical cooperation activities are also noteworthy.

Mr. President,

It remains a source of satisfaction that the membership of the IAEA continues to witness steady increase. Against this background, Jamaica joins other delegations in welcoming our fellow CARICOM Member State, St. Lucia, as the newest member of the IAEA. We look forward to cooperating with them and all Member States in advancing the work of the Agency.

I thank you.