



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

INTERVENTION BY

MS. DENIESE SEALEY

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

AND FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**ECOSOC HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**Theme: Mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action and embarking on
new pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathway: Small Island
Developing States**

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

ON

WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY 2020

FINAL TEXT

Guiding Questions:

- What kind of policy reforms are required to ensure that SIDS build back better in the aftermath of COVID 19 and remain on track with the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda?
- What are the channels of support currently available for such efforts? How can the required resources be leveraged to effectively assist SIDS?
- What innovative and other financial approaches, including support for debt restructuring and debt relief, are needed to complement international development assistance?
- How can SIDS' efforts be best supported to ensure effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SAMOA Pathways at national and regional levels?

Madam Moderator,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by Belize on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

It is no secret that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the inherent vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States¹. Critical sectors such as agriculture, finance and tourism have been placed under immense pressure due to the pandemic. The pandemic has forced Governments of SIDS to implement fiscal measures to safeguard businesses and vulnerable individuals.

However, the extent to which these measures can be maintained depends heavily on the fiscal space of our countries. Many of us are already heavily indebted. While my own country, Jamaica, has worked hard over the last few years to reduce its debt to a manageable level, we are now wary of the danger that our efforts will be nullified by the current crisis.

Unlike advanced economies, we lack the monetary, fiscal and administrative capacity to respond to this crisis on our own, thereby making multilateral support essential/critical. We are conscious too of the impact these challenges will have on our attainment of the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathways as well as the SDGS. In the short to medium term partnerships at all levels are critical to supporting the Government's agenda to assist in the attainment of our development objectives. Our countries require access to emergency liquidity support and rapid and sustained relief as we can least withstand shocks to our economies.

This pandemic is a wakeup call for the international community to re-invigorate a comprehensive system of global economic governance which can cope with global disruptions and can assist our countries to build back better.

¹ geographic location, susceptibility to natural disasters, small, open economies, high dependence on global trade and lack of economies of scale.

Thank you.