



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

INTERVENTION BY

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**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
ECOSOC HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM (HLPF) ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT**

**Topic: Means of Implementation to match the scope of the crisis and the breath of
our ambition for 2030: Science, Technology, and Innovation**

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

ON

FRIDAY, 10TH JULY 2020

FINAL TEXT

Topic: How can we mobilize science technology and innovation to improve the lives of the furthest behind, and reduce inequalities, especially during rapid technological change?

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed new innovation and forms of collaboration across many sectors. However, within the promise afforded by these developments, gaps in access and resilience with serious implications for national development have emerged. Remote education and remote working has exposed the dichotomous nature of the science and technology policy outcomes in rural and other underserved constituents. The relative poverty and remoteness of rural areas have had a deleterious effect on the ability to take advantage of the past three decades of scientific and technological change.

Small island developing states (SIDS) like Jamaica are keenly aware of the correlation between scientific and technological capacity, productivity and economic growth. Not only has the Covid-19 pandemic forced remote working and education arrangements in Jamaica, but it has also exposed the serious challenges lack of access to the relevant technology can have on both productivity and the education system.

These gaps therefore call for greater investment in communications infrastructure with emphasis on community access points and the provisioning of creative payment solutions that can facilitate access to technology solutions for low income rural families. This is also relevant as we look at partnerships between developed and developing countries in lowering the digital divide.

It is a national imperative that innovations such as remote education along with entrepreneurial ventures in agriculture be facilitated by technological

development and digital connectivity. Inequalities between rural and urban areas and among and between states can be tackled effectively via greater investment in broadband connectivity and the provisioning of affordable ICT solutions. Access will be key as a critical driver in the mobilization of science, technology and innovation for improving people's lives.

Evidence has indicated that greater investments in a resilient digital infrastructure is a proven force multiplier in narrowing developmental gaps that cause inequity of outcomes.

Thank you.