



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

STATEMENT BY

**MS. LEESHA DELATIE-BUDAIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE OF JAMAICA**

AT THE

**FIFTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS STATISTICAL
COMMISSION**

AGENDA ITEM 3 (I): POPULATION AND HOUSING CENSUSES

NEW YORK

28th FEBRUARY 2024

FINAL TEXT

Distinguished Chair,

Allow me to congratulate you for your leadership as Chair of the 55th Session of the Statistical Commission.

Jamaica acknowledges and appreciates the efforts of the Division in assessing the impact of the COVID-19 on the 2020 Round of Censuses. I'm sure the statisticians here will agree that this round was unprecedented in the sheer number and scale of the challenges faced.

We ask for the support of the Division and other stakeholders in improving and enhancing the global public discourse around the challenges associated with the 2020 round of Censuses. Specifically, we urge support in communicating this to the political directorate, the media and the general public. Within countries, the comparison is often relative to the experience of the last Census, with insufficient appreciation for the impact of the pandemic on this round of Censuses. By clearly communicating the challenges of this round on a global level, statistical offices will be better supported and better equipped with information when explaining this to our respective populations.

Regarding the ongoing revisions to the P&R, we recommend that the Division considers reducing the set of core modules. While we all endeavour to move towards a register-based census, unfortunately, some of us will not be ready in time for the 2030 round. We will therefore have to consider what worked in the 2020 round, which was for most of us a shortened questionnaire. In the interest of standardization, we therefore recommend a reduction in the core modules, for your consideration

Finally, in light of the ever-declining response rates, we ask for greater support in training and capacity-building for data imputation and estimation techniques as we seek to compile robust estimates of our respective populations.

I thank you.