



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

STATEMENT BY

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ON

**AGENDA ITEM 24: AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT, FOOD SECURITY AND
NUTRITION**

**IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE
79TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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FINAL TEXT

Mr. Chair,

1. Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by Uganda on behalf of the G77 and China, and by Grenada on behalf of the Caribbean Community and takes the floor in our national capacity to speak on Agenda Item No. 24: Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition.
2. The world is off-track to achieve SDG2 on zero hunger. Climate extremes, economic downturns, lack of access to healthy diets and inequalities continue to drive food insecurity and malnutrition at the global level. All indications and reports underscore the need to accelerate transformation in agri-food systems to strengthen resilience to the aforementioned drivers of food insecurity to promote healthy diets that are available to all.
3. Small Island Developing States face high food import dependence and multiple structural fragilities, including high vulnerability to climate change and associated extreme weather events, including droughts, change in rainfall and or sea-level rise.
4. The agricultural sector plays a strategic role in Jamaica's economic development and prosperity, not only as an economic driver but also as a vital source of food supply for domestic consumption and for export. The engagement of women, youth and persons with disabilities in agriculture is tantamount to its success and Jamaica has made significant strides in creating greater opportunities for their inclusion in agricultural pursuits.
5. Jamaica has undertaken strategic initiatives to strengthen food and nutrition, develop agribusiness and to pursue the proliferation of technologies and information that will enable farmers to boost productivity, despite the significant changes to regional and national geographical micro-climates to which our traditional practices were adapted through several generations.
6. In this vein, Jamaica has embedded food system transformation in national strategies and sectoral plans. At the forefront of this strategy is the 'NEW FACE of FOOD' campaign which targets improved **Food Security, Agri-business Development, Climate Change Adaptation and Export Expansion**.
7. The NEW F.A.C.E, dually serves an acronym for these areas of focus and, more critically, signals the need for improved adaptation and development strategies

to revolutionize the agriculture sector to cope and outpace the impact of the changing climate.

8. The strategy is aligned with a larger initiative that exists at the regional level under the CARICOM 25 by 2025 Campaign, which was developed to improve intra-regional production and trade, limit foreign expenditure and improve regional food security. In addition, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS promotes enhancement of food security by developing and implementing adaptation and mitigation strategies.
9. Jamaica has been working to improve the resilience of the agriculture sector through investments in storage, distribution, irrigation, crop diversification, land utilization, increased yields and improved productivity.

Mr. Chair,

10. These efforts were severely impacted by Hurricane Beryl on 3rd July 2024, which brought extensive damage to the sector, estimated at close to JMD\$10 billion in August 2024.
Efforts are now focused on recovery and rebuilding in the areas affected, such as damages to thousands of hectares of farm land, infrastructure, farm buildings, greenhouses, road networks, drainage and irrigation systems, as well as damage to crops and animals, including small ruminants, poultry and cattle.
11. In light of the impact of climate change on the critical sectors to the Jamaican economy, we emphasize the need for investments to be aligned to climate proof infrastructure that is adaptable and suitable to foster sustainable development. The current finance is inadequate for the scale of transformation needed in the agriculture sector. We therefore need to scale up efforts to enable longer-term structural, predictable, accessible and affordable financing and to ensure that investments in agriculture are aligned to mitigation, adaptation and resilience strategies.
12. Jamaica attaches significant value to the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships and cross-sectoral coordination to accelerate the transitions towards a more sustainable, equitable and resilient agri-food system. To this end, we continue to promote and support the leveraging of collaboration and partnerships, complementary resources, technologies and expertise to advance sustainable agricultural practices as an imperative for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.