



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

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY BRIAN WALLACE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY HIGH-LEVEL OPEN DEBATE

ON

***'THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD INSECURITY
ON THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY'***

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Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. My delegation congratulates the Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on assuming its seat on the Council. Today's debate on the impact of climate change and food insecurity on the maintenance of international peace and security is timely given that climate change and conflicts are the leading drivers of global food insecurity. The significance of the consideration of the issue is even more striking as the international community mobilises to end hunger and to achieve food security, in keeping with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Climate change continues to adversely impact agricultural production, augmenting and intensifying risks to food security for the most vulnerable. For developing countries, the situation is especially acute. We often face disproportionate risks due to limited resources, geographic exposure, and reliance on the agriculture sector. Those most impacted include women and children in rural areas, countries in arid and semi-arid areas, landlocked countries and Small Island Developing States.

The displacement and involuntary migration of populations during climatic events also contribute to competition over natural resources, tensions, conflict and social disruptions - threatening livelihoods and worsening food insecurity. Consequently, the interlinkages between climate change and food insecurity must, therefore, be strategically and delicately balanced to ensure the residual effects do not directly or indirectly contribute to violence and conflict-induced incidences given their destabilizing effect and implications for reversing socio-economic development. The COVID-19 pandemic was instructive and provided valuable insights in the fragility of preserving and maintaining peace and security in countries and regions, in the sudden onset of global events.

Mr. President,

As a member of the Caribbean and the wider SIDS community, addressing the impact of climate change, food insecurity and maintaining safe, prosperous and inclusive societies are issues at the forefront of our sustainable development and survival. We have taken steps to build resilience to bolster economic growth and development. Jamaica continues 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 over several generations. At the forefront of this campaign is the ‘NEW FACE of FOOD’, strategy which targets improved Food Security, Agri-business Development, Climate Change Adaptation and Export Expansion.

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. The strategy aligns with a larger initiative that exists at the regional level under the CARICOM 25 by 2025 Campaign. This programme was developed in response to the grave food insecurity threats experienced by the Region during the COVID-19 pandemic, a period in which the World Food Programme reported that approximately 2.8 million to 3.7 million persons in the English-speaking Caribbean were estimated to be food insecure from 2021 to 2023. Port closures and logistical challenges resulted in increased vulnerability for the Region, which typically imports upwards of 80% of all the food that is consumed by the

domestic and tourism markets. The aim of this Programme is to reduce imports by 25% by 2025, to improve food security and to reduce the impact of environmental, political and even economic shocks at the global level on the region's ability to access nutritious and affordable food.

Cognisant of the linchpin between addressing climate change and promoting food security in a safe and prosperous environment, SIDS have anchored these concepts in a blueprint Programme of Action for the next ten years that will be the outcome of the 4th International Conference on SIDs to be held in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024.

Mr. President,

Jamaica attaches significant importance to coordinated efforts that align responses to climate change to conflict prevention and peacebuilding actions. Investing in climate adaptation and mitigation measures is an opportunity to strengthen cooperation, build trust and partnerships that will redound to fostering social cohesion as a bridge to lasting peace and security. The strengthening of food systems to eliminate acute food crises, risk-informed approaches through evidence-

based research, the use of science and technology, financing for development and broadening the fiscal space for countries to meet the development imperatives of the 2030 Agenda are a few of the prioritized areas that will inform the methodology applied to tackle these challenges. This will require international cooperation, sustainable development initiatives, and resilience-building strategies tailored to Member States' unique vulnerabilities.

In this context, my delegation emphasizes the paramount importance of strategic partnerships to strengthen regional and international cooperation. The alarming status of global hunger, the disparities in production and food trade, the increasing erosion of productivity by environmental and economic issues, and the widening gaps between the SDG Goals and our current trajectories require swift and practical interventions. While progress has been made in a number of areas through the United Nations System, we still have a lot of work to do given increased conflicts, food-insecure countries and the rise in hunger 'hotspots' around the world. A holistic approach is also needed to ensure that peace and security continue to contribute to food security

and, critically, that the threat of food insecurity is not, in itself, utilized as an active or passive weapon of war.

.Mr. President,

The multilateral system is best placed to foster collaboration and deliver coordinated and targeted approaches to address climate change, food insecurity and international peace and security. For this reason, Jamaica is committed to working in this and other fora to address these multidimensional issues. We stand ready to work with other Member States in this regard.

I thank you.