



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

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
“Middle Income Countries: overcoming barriers in achieving the SDGs”

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Excellencies, Delegates,

The SDG Summit 2023, and the forward-looking approach anticipated from the Summit of the Future, confirms the global position on accelerating progress on the SDGs. This requires concerted effort, beyond business as usual, in all areas, including financing, disaster risk reduction, environmental management, and balanced development that leaves no one behind.

The status of countries in special circumstances must be carefully considered and an enabling environment secured for full implementation and acceleration of the SDGs. This, in the context of the systemic and transformational nature of the changes required to achieve the goals.

Jamaica, a small island developing state, also classified as a middle-income country, has since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, made strides in the full integration of the SDGs into its national development planning framework, and established institutional systems for its full implementation at the national and local levels.

At the macro level, Jamaica's debt-to-GDP ratio has been lowered from a high of 144 per cent a little over a decade ago, to 73 per cent at the end of March 2024, and we continue to pursue policies to drive debt downward. We are building fiscal buffers to ensure fast and efficient responses to shocks as part of a risk-informed approach to development and working with development partners to develop and utilize innovative financing tools, and mainstream climate resilience in infrastructure investments. Strengthening the social protection architecture further ensures targeted approaches to building resilience, promoting income security and empowering the most vulnerable.

What steps are needed to address the challenges of MICs in implementing the SDGs?

Notwithstanding these efforts, challenges remain, and urgent steps are needed. We continue to advocate for the full adoption of the multi-dimensional vulnerability index. This is timely given the preparations underway for the Summit of the Summit of the Future

We look forward to the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025, and for tangible deliverables to emanate from this conference, to address current financing challenges facing vulnerable Middle-Income Countries. These include:

- reform of the international financial architecture, to strengthen the voice and representation of developing countries in international decision making,
- the strengthening of international tax cooperation;
- implementation of innovative financing mechanisms, financial inclusion and improved access to concessional financing and development assistance;
- capacity building,

Jamaica remains committed to partnerships through our action in the Group of Friends on SDG Financing and the SDG Stimulus Leaders Group and other efforts that advance the position of countries in special circumstances.

Thank you.