



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

STATEMENT BY

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE**

IN EXPLANATION OF VOTE

**ON THE ADOPTION OF THE OUTCOME DOCUMENT
FOR THE**

**30TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
ON THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
19TH APRIL 2016**

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Thank you Mr. President for giving me the opportunity to take the floor, to explain Jamaica's position on the Outcome Document which has just been adopted.

Jamaica supports the consensus on the outcome document which, we acknowledge, is the result of a long and difficult negotiation process. This included multi-stakeholder consultations, and the submission of inputs from Member States, civil society, international organisations and UN agencies. Despite the wide divergence of views, we note that important advances were made, including references to the need for comprehensive and balanced strategies; alternatives to incarceration for minor drug offences; the importance of scientific evidence in the evaluation of drug policies; and alternative development and demand reduction.

Jamaica is, however, disappointed. The document does not allow countries sufficient flexibility to design our domestic policies to fit national circumstances, including recognition of traditional uses of cannabis in our society and as a religious sacrament. Additionally, there is no follow up mechanism to review the global drug control architecture and make recommendations, for the consideration of Member States, on how best to recalibrate the global response.

Although the document does not fully live up to the aspirations of Jamaica, we remain committed to continued constructive dialogue. We encourage the international community to move forward to address the world drug problem in a manner that reflects contemporary and evolving realities.

Thank you Mr. President.