



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

**REMARKS**

**BY**

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**ON**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT UNDER THE  
GLOBAL FUEL ECONOMY INITIATIVE (GFEI)**

**AT**

**THE GFEI SIDE EVENT - HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM OF THE  
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

**16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018**

**NEW YORK**

Salutations...

- Ms. Ligia Noronha, Director of UN Environment's Economy Division
- Sheila Watson, Executive Secretary of the Global Fuel Economy Initiative, and Deputy Director of the FIA Foundation
- Mrs. Diedre Mills, Jamaica's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations
- Other distinguished guests
- Ladies & gentlemen

Good Evening

Let me first extend warm wishes on behalf of the Government of Jamaica, and express my thanks for the invitation to share a few words on Jamaica's transition to a cleaner, greener, more sustainable transport sector.....and more specifically on the exciting developments which have taken place since the launch of our national project: *Stabilizing Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Road Transport through Doubling of Global Vehicle Fuel Economy* under the Global Fuel Economy Initiative in July 2015.

The work that is currently being done under the GFEI Jamaica Country Project is just one facet of a multidimensional approach to create a sustainable transport sector, which currently accounts for more than 40.0 percent of total petroleum consumed - the majority of which goes to road and rail transport (30.0 per cent). **It is evident that transformation of the transport sector is a critical pillar in reducing our dependence on imported fossil fuels and aiding Jamaica's low carbon transition.**

The global goal is to double the average fuel economy of new cars by 2030 and all cars by 2050. The GFEI Project outcomes are therefore of great importance from a number of standpoints. **Improving fuel efficiency, whilst reducing the emission of Greenhouse Gases and other air pollutants supports the achievement of the goals and targets of Vision 2030 Jamaica - National Development Plan...which is our blueprint to make "Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business". Intrinsic to making Jamaica the place of choice are outcomes related to a healthy and stable population; energy security and efficiency; sustainable management and use of environmental and natural resources; and climate change adaptation.**

The project builds on previous actions in the sector such as expansion of the highway network and improvements to our urban traffic corridors. We have also phased out the use of leaded gasoline, with E10 fuel blends (which incorporates 10 per cent ethanol) being marketed since 2008, and ultra-low-Sulphur diesel since 2013. We are also actively engaged in researching the use of alternative fuels such as natural gas in the public fleet, and looking ahead we are exploring the feasibility of electro mobility<sup>1</sup> for Jamaica. In addition, our motor vehicle import policies place restrictions on the age of vehicles which can be imported, which engenders the adoption of newer and "cleaner" technologies. **For the first time, under the GFEI country project, an auto fuel economy database has been established**

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<sup>1</sup> Electro mobility (e-mobility) is a general term for the development of electric-powered drivetrains designed to shift vehicle design away from the use of fossil fuels and carbon gas emissions.

**for Jamaica. The data reveals that average fuel economy is improving - 14.8 per cent overall since 2005. Average carbon dioxide emissions have also been trending downwards despite the growing number of motor vehicles.**

Notwithstanding the progress made, there is still much work to be done. Air quality and pollution management remain critical sustainability issues requiring global action. In this regard, Jamaica has expanded its Air Quality Management Programme to better monitor densely populated areas in the parishes of Clarendon, St. James, Manchester, Kingston and St. Catherine. An air quality diagnostic study was also facilitated under the GFEI project, with a view to optimizing the functioning of the system and expanding the suite of air pollutants being monitored. Motor Vehicle Emissions Standards have also been drafted with the intention of including these standards in the new Road Traffic Act. **It is hoped that motor vehicle emission testing will be a feature of the annual fitness regime for the country's fleet in the near future.**

Although there are several global efforts to regulate emissions, there is still a long way to go. The May 2, 2018 news release of the World Health Organization stated that 9 out of 10 persons worldwide breathe polluted air; more precisely, 91.0 per cent of the world's population live in places where World Health Organisation (WHO) air quality guidelines levels were not met. Colleagues, poor air quality causes 1 in 9 deaths worldwide. We also know that air pollution is a major driver of the non-communicable disease epidemic; that children and outdoor workers are most impacted by air pollution; and that it accelerates climate change. The 2016 WHO air quality report noted that 693 deaths in Jamaica were attributable to poor air quality. These are all startling statistics. **It is therefore clear that all nations, including small island developing states such as Jamaica, must protect our small and vulnerable populations by improving our environmental performance and addressing air quality matters head on.**

The GFEI Jamaica Project is a key strategy in our country's arsenal of actions towards improving these statistics and further underscores Jamaica's commitment to transformative action in becoming more environmentally resilient and combating climate change. Whereas Phase 1 saw the establishment of a National Auto Fuel Economy Database which has greatly improved our capacity to measure and track vehicle carbon dioxide emissions and identify a number of possible solutions, we now look forward with great anticipation to driving significant and scalable change in fuel economy in Jamaica, reduced vehicle emissions, and practical policy recommendations to facilitate fuel efficient vehicle use. The technical know-how, toolkits and information resources afforded under the project will assist us in doing the further analysis and identifying policy options appropriate to Jamaica's unique circumstances and long-term development goals. **We are particularly pleased to be arming the public with information to make better choices regarding fuel economy which will, along with other measures, contribute to improved health and well-being.**

These developments not only support the objectives of national policy frameworks such as Vision 2030 Jamaica, the National Energy Policy (2009-2030), Climate Change Policy Framework (2015) and draft Transport and Emissions policy frameworks – but will also assist Jamaica in meeting global commitments under the Paris Agreement, for example...and

advancing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 7 (Renewable Energy), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action), among others.

Ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, we could not have done this alone. I would like to take the opportunity to now thank our international partners: UN Environment, Centro de Gestion Tecnologica e Informatica Industrial (CEGESTI), Centro Mario Molina Chile (CMMCh), International Energy Agency (IEA), and the FIA Foundation, for their invaluable support. I would also like to mention the contributions of our local partners including the University of Technology, Jamaica (which has anchored the project), the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, the Ministry of Transport and Mining, the Jamaica Automobile Association (JAA), the Tax Administration of Jamaica (TAJ), the National Environment and Planning Agency and others. Indeed, the partnership-driven approach in the execution of this GFEI Project is one that we are truly proud of, as we view partnerships as key to the success of any undertaking, but particularly in projects with such a wide scope of benefits and impacts.

The Government of Jamaica looks forward to continued collaboration and future successes under the GFEI. We will continue our efforts to advocate and educate on the issue of fuel economy and fuel quality, and make the necessary representations towards creating an enabling environment which will support the adoption of cleaner and more efficient fuels and vehicles in Jamaica. Jamaica is committed to advancing our national development agenda in tandem with Agenda 2030...leaving no one behind!

Ladies and gentlemen...have a great evening!