



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

STATEMENT BY

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**AGENDA ITEM 50:
QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION**

**FOURTH COMMITTEE
SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China, and by Belize on behalf of CARICOM.

My delegation takes full note of the Reports of the Secretary General issued under this agenda item. We thank the Under-Secretary for Global Communications for her presentation to the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

In today's world, the role of information is of utmost importance both as a tool of engagement and a means of inspiration. With the challenges and crises we now face, there can be no doubt that both engagement and inspiration are urgently needed.

In these times, we need to reinforce the importance of multilateralism and the central role of the United Nations in fostering dialogue, peace and development. Information and Communication are integral to this goal.

Against this background, we commend the work of the Department for Global Communications in developing and implementing innovative and multifaceted strategies and programmes to bring accurate and relevant information to people on the ground, where they are.

We are pleased to note that the Verified initiative, for example, expanded its reach to the local level and was able to address not only COVID-19, but also climate change misinformation and disinformation.

Jamaica is also pleased to note the increasing growth in the reach of UN media channels, from social media to UN News; from web services to UN photo and digital media services. This trend reveals that people are interested in the work of the Organisation and the issues we are addressing.

As such, we emphasise that we should utilise these opportunities to ensure diverse, relevant, accurate information is available and presented in an accessible manner. I emphasise this point noting that Global Media and Information Literacy Week will be celebrated next week. We should always strive to reach people in their language and with images and material with which they will relate.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica welcomes the efforts of the United Nations to connect our work with people in their own spaces. We take note of the successful participation in Expo 2020 and the resumption of in-person Visitor's Services earlier this year.

Outreach to youth is an area we recommend that the Department should further develop, including through support to schools and Model UN clubs. It is important that these kinds of outreach be replicated not only at UNHQ locations but also importantly within our countries.

We have to showcase how the work we are doing is pertinent to the concerns of people, whether it be on SDGs or Climate, peace or tolerance, addressing the past or looking to the future. UN Information Centers and UN Country Teams should play an active role in this regard.

We are also pleased to note the important Outreach and Advocacy work being undertaken and the resumption of in-person engagements for the various mandated programmes implemented by the Department.

On this note, Mr. Chairman, Jamaica congratulates the Department on the successful activities for the Remember Slavery programme and encourages the Department to maintain and broaden its reach in keeping with the mandate to ensure information on the Transatlantic Slave Trade is accurately and broadly disseminated.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, I reiterate the importance of establishing high standards and safeguards for protecting access to accurate information. We must continue to support work to expand the reach of information, bridge the digital divide and allow citizens the opportunity to use information to improve their lives. Effective communication supports positive engagement of states, stakeholders and individuals to address the myriad challenges we face now and those on the horizon.

I thank you.