



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

STATEMENT BY

**MRS. CYETH DENTON-WATTS
COUNSELLOR**

ON AGENDA ITEM 24: AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

**IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE
77TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

WEDNESDAY, 12th OCTOBER 2022

NEW YORK

FINAL Statement

Madam Chair,

1. Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by Pakistan on behalf of the G77 and China, and takes the floor in our national capacity to speak on Agenda Item No. 24: Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition.
2. The agricultural sector plays a strategic role in Jamaica's economic development and prosperity, not only as an economic driver but also as a vital source of food supply for domestic consumption and for export.
3. At the domestic level, Jamaica is focused on SDGs 2,8,12 which are premised on *eliminating hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture*. To this end, Jamaica has promulgated a National Strategic and Action Plan to transform the agricultural sector and to implement key priorities in the agribusiness sector. It aims to boost resilience and enhance the national food security strategy "*Grow Smart, Eat Smart*", while taking into account Climate Smart Practices and Technologies, Crop production efficiency, Access to Finance, Scale and Consistency.
4. The increasing frequency and severity of climate shocks, and the COVID-19 pandemic which resulted in severe disruption of food production and distribution, were the harbingers of increasing costs contributing to growing food insecurity. Geopolitical tensions have precipitated the triple crises of food, energy and inflation, pushing the prices of commodities, including the cost of fertilizers and goods further out reach of many populations, particularly in developing countries.
5. The impact of food supply and price shock is being felt everywhere, particularly in low-income countries, middle-income countries and Small Island Developing States.

Madam Chair

6. Jamaica has not been spared from these crises. The agrifood system remains one of the most vulnerable sectors. The intense and more unpredictable climatic events are increasing food insecurity and lowering economic outlook. The recent passage of **Tropical Storm Ian** in September 2022, left an estimated US\$2 million Dollars in damages in the agricultural sector, from which we will have to recover.
7. Jamaica strongly believes that through sustainable food production systems and the implementation of resilient agricultural practices we will be able to: *increase*

productivity and production, strengthen the capacity for climate adaptation and mitigation, and foster improvements in soil and land quality.

8. The agrifood sector requires support at the international level to strengthen resilience against shocks, to safeguard lives and livelihoods and to maintain food security, including through better integration of development assistance. Investing in climate-resilient agriculture is integral.
9. We need open markets to facilitate the smooth flow of trade and improved access by food producers, especially smallholders in developing countries, to adequate seeds, fertilizers and finance. These are necessary measures to address the current food crisis by contributing to crop diversification to expand local and national food production, with the support of appropriate transfer of technology.
10. It is of utmost importance that the international financial system be positioned to provide much-needed financing to deal with emergencies and strengthen medium to long term agriculture, food security and nutrition. More grants and concessional financing are needed to reverse hunger and malnutrition and avert human suffering globally as well as the prospects of social instability and conflicts in developing countries.
11. Collective action, including fostering partnerships and investments through South-South and triangular cooperation is key to building resilience towards food and nutrition security. Concerted investment in resilient and sustainable agrifood systems will be a significant contributor to peace and stability for this and future generations.

I thank you.