



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM 57:
QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION**

**FOURTH COMMITTEE
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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chair,

My delegation is pleased to participate in the debate on agenda item 57 on Questions relating to Information. I align my intervention with the statements delivered by Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Ecuador on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Mr. Chair,

It is fitting that we should continue to reflect on how we can improve the manner in which the UN communicates with those it serves. Such reflections are a necessary corollary to the ongoing effort to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our Organisation. It is important for there to be continued focus on how best to facilitate dialogue and raise awareness about the work done by the UN and how this can be made more effective through increased partnerships with communities and societies across the globe.

In order to enhance the prospects for this to be realised, the Organisation must have at its disposal a variety of tools with which it can effectively engage citizens. These tools should be both simple and accessible for as many people as possible. Their means of delivery should allow for their use beyond linguistic and cultural barriers. For this reason, my delegation encourages an inclusive approach to the use of traditional and modern communication media, spanning all official languages of the United Nations. We are best able to effect diverse and wide-ranging outreach when we are able to engage via a range of communication platforms that are reflective of the global community in which we live.

Mr. Chair,

The significance of embracing a suite of communication media is appropriate given the questions that arise concerning the relevance of the UN and its ability to impact the lives of ordinary citizens. In order to effectively respond to these concerns and maximise opportunities for wider public engagement, the UN must demonstrate, in the most vivid and practical terms, how our work, at headquarters and in the field, provide tangible benefits on a daily basis. In this regard, the Secretary-General's report, contained in A/72/258, provides a clear overview of the activities in which the UN has been engaged over the past year. We recall for instance the Ocean Conference and its Call for Action and the focussed attention given to the promotion and implementation of the SDGs. Also noteworthy are the ongoing strategic communication services being provided in respect of peace and security, human rights and youth.

My delegation attaches particular importance to the annual commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance for the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. We underscore the need for ongoing structured support for the DPI's Remember Slavery Programme through the provision of the requisite human and financial resources to implement its various activities.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation is appreciative of the work done by the Department of Public Information in publicising the activities of the United Nations. We acknowledge the contribution made by Cristina Gallach, who served as the Under-Secretary-General from 2014 and who oversaw the transformation of the Department during the period of her tenure. We warmly welcome Alison Smale who has taken over this portfolio and assure her of our full support as she assumes this important responsibility.

As a member of the Committee on Information, Jamaica will continue to play its part in supporting the work of the Department to ensure that the UN's communications are relevant, strategic and accessible. Consequently, we welcome the news that "a rapid realignment of functions within the Department in July and August offered workable opportunities to dramatically expand its outreach." Increasing support for the UN Information Centre will also be critical, in order to amplify the UN's voice across the globe and we therefore encourage continued action in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

I conclude by reiterating my delegation's full support as together we seek to deepen public understanding and mobilise popular support for our United Nations.