



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

STATEMENT BY

**MS DENIESE SEALEY
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**AGENDA ITEM 56:
QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION**

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

**13TH OCTOBER 2020
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Mr Chair,

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to participate in this Joint general debate of the Fourth Committee and assures of our continued support to you and your Bureau during this 75th Session.

We extend our appreciation to the team at the Department of Global Communications for their work over the years. We wish to use this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on the activities of the Department of Global Communications in the areas of: Strategic Communications Services (A/AC.198/2020/2); News services (A/AC.198/2020/3); and Outreach and Knowledge services (A/AC.198/2020/4).

Jamaica aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the Group of 77 and China as well as the statement delivered on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and takes this opportunity to make a few remarks in its national capacity on agenda item 56.

Mr Chair,

Jamaica is pleased to note that the work of the Department of Global Communications to further streamline and reform its operations is progressing satisfactorily. We welcome the Department's continued engagement in activities across all pillars of the work of the UN. We support the Department's efforts to ensure that the communication of UN messages on priority issues not only transcends national borders, but are made accessible and understandable to ordinary citizens across the globe. In this regard, the need for continued emphasis

on multilingualism becomes even more critical. We welcome, therefore, the Department's utilization of multilingual communications platforms.

The Department's outreach activities pertaining to sustainable development, climate change, financing for development and youth engagement are of particular importance to Jamaica. Sustainable development is an imperative for my country, and heightened focus on the issue globally is necessary as we seek to end poverty and hunger and reduce inequality. Small island developing states (SIDS), like Jamaica, continue to face existential threats from the effects of climate change, and the continued reminder to the world of the fact that our very existence depends on their action is essential. Financing prior to and in the era of COVID-19 was and remains crucial for our countries to attain sustained development. Youth engagement is important as young people have the potential to be the driving force for the most effective transformation of the world. As such, we support the Department's strategies to accelerate action and increase levels of ambition in these critical areas of importance at the global, national and local levels.

Mr Chair,

Jamaica is pleased to note the Secretary General's report that global interest in the work of the United Nations and a desire for accurate, timely information on world affairs continues to grow. We note with appreciation the Department's continued efforts to find new ways and approaches of meeting that interest, and engaging global audiences, with a view to strengthening support for the work, principles and purposes of the United Nations.

During this global COVID-19 pandemic, the work of the Department has become even more vital. We therefore commend the Department for the partnership it has forged with civil society to amplify the UN's message while fighting misinformation.

Mr Chair,

We all agree that the internet and information technology are very powerful tools for the dissemination of information critical to promoting development. However, it is undeniable that the goal of closing the digital divide or the information gap between developed and developing countries remain stubbornly elusive. The Department's efforts to produce and deliver balanced news and information material and making them available through both traditional media and newer web-based and mobile distribution platforms, have not gone unnoticed.

For Jamaica, the COVID-19 pandemic has proved to be an accelerant towards the practical realization of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a core area of strategic focus in our National Development Plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica. We recognise ICT as an integrated and comprehensive enabler of economic development and a driver for all sectors and involving all stakeholders. However, despite years of progress, the disruption and demands caused by the pandemic has called attention to the limitations of our telecommunications infrastructure. It has laid bare the digitization and automation gaps that exist within our society and wider economy

that impede our digital transformation. Developing countries should be supported in our efforts to build resilient digital infrastructure, as public investments of this sort can serve as a force multiplier in narrowing the gaps that result in inequitable developmental outcomes.

In our quest to transition to a digital economy we are focused on building our human resource capacity, by enhancing the digital competence of our workforce. We see digitization as a fundamental element and centerpiece of our post-Covid recovery effort.

Mr Chair,

In closing, we commend the Secretariat for the content and quality of the work detailed in the Secretary-General's reports placed before the committee. We reiterate that the Department, as the voice and public face of the UN, plays an indispensable role in providing a link between the UN and the global populace.

I thank you.