



STATEMENT BY
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HEAD OF JAMAICA'S DELEGATION

on

**Theme: Role of South-South Cooperation and the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development: Challenges and Opportunities**

SECOND HIGH-LEVEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

20th to 22nd MARCH 2019

I join colleagues in congratulating the United Nations for convening the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation and expressing thanks to the government of the Argentine Republic for hosting such an important event and for the warm hospitality extended to us all.

Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by Palestine on behalf of the G77 and China.

It is opportune that we are again gathered in Buenos Aires 40 years after the adoption of the Plan of Action which provided the framework for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries. We now have the opportunity to take stock of the progress made and address the challenges which continue to hinder the full implementation of the BAPA.

Jamaica recognizes South-South Cooperation as an important complement to its engagement with development partners. We therefore support bilateral and multilateral efforts aimed at increasing economic and technical cooperation among the countries of the South and in particular those that target the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This kind of partnership supports self-reliance through innovation and technology. We note further, that as the scale and scope of South-South cooperation expands significantly with the increased engagement of the South, the dependency of our countries on North-South partnerships decreases. Jamaica also sees economic cooperation between developing economies playing an important role in maintaining the necessary multilateral relations between member nations of the South.

Mr. President,

My delegation takes this opportunity to recall the fruitful and credible bilateral and multilateral partnerships we have forged over the years through South-South cooperation. Partnerships enjoyed through knowledge sharing and capacity building on various issues, including in the areas of Climate Change, Healthcare, Energy and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. These partnerships which have also improved knowledge and expertise across our countries have assisted in the achievement of a number of national priorities.

From our experience, we recognise that South-South cooperation has withstood the test of time, and the solidarity engendered has not only endured but has also resulted in stronger and deeper economic bonds among our countries. We welcome, therefore, the convening of this conference and view our participation as an opportunity to explore areas of mutual interests to build stronger relations among our countries.

While Jamaica has made commendable strides in the country's implementation of the SDGs, we are still faced with significant challenges. Among the challenges which confront us are our economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities. We are frequently adversely impacted by extreme weather events, which severely retard our development prospects.

We are also constrained by the country's upper middle income classification. This has made it increasingly more difficult to secure aid and concessional financing for development programmes, as it ignores the disparities and structural inefficiencies of countries such as Jamaica.

Climate change, we all know, affects all states, and there is no denying the destabilizing and devastating impact it has on vulnerable countries such as Jamaica. Over the past 25 years, we have experienced an increase in the frequency and severity of natural events, including floods, tropical storms and hurricanes. These have had significant impact on the economy and the lives of our people. Concessional financing is therefore critical to building resilience.

Although the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides the framework for financing Agenda 2030, we grapple with identifying practical ways to mobilize resources to drive our ambitious sustainable development agenda. Strategic resource mobilisation is, therefore, required towards the identification of new, non-traditional and innovative financing modalities.

We remain concerned about inadequate access to high quality data, which is a critical requirement for making Agenda 2030 a reality. We cannot overstate, therefore, the importance of capacity building to support the strengthening of data systems and producing high-quality disaggregated data.

The opportunity to discuss these challenges in fora such as this Conference, represents an occasion to define collective action to ensure that none of our countries are left behind. We believe that our shared commitment can transcend boundaries and create avenues for lasting partnerships that would support our common development aspirations.

We concede that we still have a long way to go in realising these ambitions. We continue, therefore, to call for partnerships at the global and sub-regional levels to mitigate and adapt to the economic, social, environmental and other influences which have a disproportionately high degree of impact on countries of the South.

This Conference offers us the chance to think in concrete terms of the kinds of initiatives we must pursue among our countries and across the miles and regions, based on the sharing of experiences and in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

In that regard, I look forward to our continued deliberations.

Thank you.