



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

REMARKS BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING THE DIALOGUE TO DISCUSS

***“IMPROVING THE INTEGRATION AND COORDINATION OF THE WORK OF
THE UNITED NATIONS ON THE WATER-RELATED GOALS AND TARGETS
UNDER ITS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PILLAR, WITH A PARTICULAR
EMPHASIS ON THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”***

**22ND MARCH 2017
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to join others in welcoming this working-level dialogue that has been so aptly organised to coincide with World Water Day.

Even as we are meeting here in New York, our Water Resources Authority (WRA), in collaboration with private sector and other stakeholders, is staging activities in Jamaica in commemoration of World Water Day, under the theme “Wastewater”. We recognise the important nexus between water, food, energy, health, economic growth and the environment. This requires that we accept a multi-sectorial approach at the policy making level. It is only through coherent and integrated policies and programmes that we will be able to advance efforts to ensure the availability, sustainable management and delivery of water and sanitation for all.

Mr. Co-Moderator

Jamaica faces gaps and challenges in achieving our goal for universal access to water by 2030. The most glaring are:

1. Weak and fragmented legislation;
2. Poor infrastructure to support access to water;
3. Limited financial resources to increase access to potable water supply;
4. High energy costs to deliver water;
5. High levels of non-revenue water, which impacts the financial viability of our main water provider;
6. Inadequate storage capacity in many regions to increase the reliable yield and to ensure that there are sufficient supplies of water during the dry season;

7. Poor waste management practices including inadequate treatment and disposal stemming from domestic, industrial and commercial activities, which affect both surface and ground water quality; and
8. Watershed degradation.

Some key considerations for us are:

- (i) The need for reliable, accurate and continuous data, on which the assessment of climate change impacts using modeling tools is dependent. Our WRA has expanded and upgraded its national hydrologic monitoring network for groundwater, surface water, rainfall and soil moisture. The collection of water abstraction remains a top priority.
- (ii) The need for strengthened institutional capacity and the scope for retention of our human capital, which is put under stress because of the "brain-drain" phenomenon is also an issue. While we may have legal instruments, institutions and technical strategies to ensure that best practices in water resources governance are implemented, the capacity to effectively carry out the strategies and projects is a major constraint.
- (iii) Finally, as the representative of Panama has noted, the importance of public education among all stakeholders concerning water conservation, pollution, and waste disposal cannot be overstated.

Mr. Co-Moderator,

Water is a vital and essential prerequisite for the effective pursuit of all aspects of human and social development as well as environmental sustainability. Jamaica is confident that through this initiative and subsequent dialogues, progress will be made in advancing the attainment of the water related SDGs within the timeframe of 2030.

I thank you.