



## **OPENING REMARKS**

**BY**

**Senator the Honourable Pearnel Charles Jr.  
Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Foreign Trade**

**AT THE SIDE EVENT**

**“2030 Agenda: A Whole-of-Society Approach”**

**NEW YORK – 17<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2018**

- Moderator, Mr. Jose Luis Rodriguez
- Rebeca Grynspan
- UNDP RBLAC Director, Lenni Montiel
- *Ministers*
- *National Delegations*
- International Development Partners
- Representatives from Academia
- Youth representatives
- Distinguished Guests
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening

On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, I am pleased to participate in this side event with the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC) in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Mexico, the Permanent Mission of Colombia and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB). UNDP has been a critical development partner in Jamaica and I would like to recognize their efforts through its regional bureau and the country office in Jamaica. UNDP has demonstrated consistency and commitment in championing the SDGs, particularly at the national level and in supporting accelerated implementation.

Colleagues, achieving the SDGs requires an unprecedented level of commitment at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels. It calls for coordinated, committed and decisive action to translate these aspirational goals into concrete outcomes. In this regard, the focus of this side event on whole-of-government to whole-of-society approach is timely, as we collectively grapple with framing and implementing solutions to our development problems through multi-disciplinary, multiagency, multi-stakeholder approaches. Within this context, I wish to echo the sentiments of the UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed that “Our efforts to leave no one behind will be a test of our common vision, resolve and ingenuity. A whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach must become our new norm”.

For us in Jamaica, we recognize that the successful achievement of the SDGs and our own Vision 2030 Jamaica is dependent on our collective efforts to engender participatory and inclusive development by creating a system built on partnerships to show how acting cooperatively can further all interests at all levels. Permit me to use this as an opportunity to highlight Jamaica’s history in employing a whole-of-society approach in our national development planning frameworks and mechanisms for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Vision 2030 Jamaica, the country’s first long-term national development plan, provides a strategic roadmap for Jamaica to achieve developed country status by 2030. The plan represents a paradigm shift to achieve sustainable development, which is informed by the people and ultimately benefits the people. The whole-of-society approach is evident through all our planning, implementation and monitoring processes. These are reflected in:

- Ownership of the Vision 2030 Jamaica process – high-level representation by the private sector as chair of the national multisectoral oversight body for coordinating the development of the Plan;
- Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation – the Task Forces for the formulation of all 31 Sector Plans comprise representatives from Ministries, Departments and Agencies, private sector, international development partners, civil society and academia. The Thematic Working Groups, which monitor the implementation of these sector plans, comprise a wide cross section of representatives across all sectors and major groups; and
- The National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee established for monitoring the implementation of the SDGs embodies a whole-of-society approach. The National SDGs Core Group, which is the secretariat to the Oversight Committee, comprises the three national focal points for the SDGs – the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade – all government institutions.

A key dimension of this approach is the alignment of national planning frameworks with the SDGs. In June 2017, the UNDP undertook a Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support Mission, which in collaboration with the Government, developed a Roadmap for SDG Implementation in Jamaica. This Roadmap identifies and prioritises strategic entry points and policy bundles to accelerate and achieve sustainable, inclusive and equitable social, economic and environmental development. The process of formulation and implementation of the Roadmap fully reflects the whole-of-society approach being pursued by Jamaica.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, as a small island developing state, Jamaica is acutely aware of the impact of weather-related events and climate change on our efforts to achieve sustainable development, particularly with the majority of our population residing in coastal areas. In this regard, we want to underscore that we cannot have sustainability without resilience. Our efforts to reduce vulnerabilities and further improve our structural response, rely principally on a whole-of-society approach. We are doing this by building and continuously solidifying partnerships with all stakeholders while ensuring that citizens are engaged as participants, contributors and beneficiaries of development. A participatory and people-centred approach through building awareness is important as we seek to leave no one behind. To realize the full benefits of a whole-of-society approach, full consideration of youth and gender is imperative in the design and implementation of our policies.

Jamaica's experience is far from perfect but we look forward to the dynamic discussions from this side event, to learn from the experiences of other countries and partners in development. We believe that the launch of the UNDP publication here today, will be an important resource for countries in assisting to improve their national mechanisms for whole-of-society approaches to the delivery of the SDGs. We are committed to working together to strengthen partnerships to achieve this shared ambition – an inclusive, equitable, prosperous and sustainable world, for everyone, and by extension, achieving the Jamaica We Want.

Thank you for your attention.