



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

**Statement By
Mr. Denzil Thorpe
Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government and
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**in the
Announcement Plenary**

**at the
World Humanitarian Summit (WHS)**

**Istanbul, Turkey
23rd – 24th May 2016**

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me first thank the Government and People of Turkey and more so the citizens of Istanbul for the warm hospitality extended to my delegation. We acknowledge Turkey's leadership on the global humanitarian landscape. We also commend the Secretary-General and the UN for convening this most timely Summit.

The Summit provides a significant opportunity for countries and civil society to take a pointed look at progress, current trends and issues affecting humanitarian action. It is also an occasion to strengthen the humanitarian framework to ensure the proposed Agenda for Humanity.

The global community continues to grapple with the effects of climate change, the increased intensity and numbers of natural disasters, population growth, environmental degradation, as well as numerous conflicts and their attendant displacement. The frequency and growing complexity of humanitarian issues have also tested the limits and capabilities of the global humanitarian system.

Jamaica recognises that many of our own humanitarian challenges, inclusive of population displacement are related to natural hazards. Extreme events are putting increasing pressure on our human and economic resources. Just one adverse event can significantly impact the economy and place the country into recurrent economic distress. We have long accepted the fact that poverty, vulnerability and humanitarian issues are inextricably linked, and that it is the poorer nations such as ours that suffer disproportionately from the impact of disaster events.

This results in greater challenges in resolving developmental issues related to the provision of healthcare, protection and preservation of livelihood, addressing gender issues and upholding human dignity.

We continue to place high priority on disaster risk reduction and humanitarian efforts at all levels. We recommit to placing people at the centre of our development efforts and building partnerships and alliances across all sectors.

Jamaica through its national disaster organisation, has embarked on a number of initiatives aimed at: (i) strengthening the national risk management and regulatory process (ii) building the capacity of vulnerable communities, and (iii) strengthening the national risk management and humanitarian framework, as well as national welfare mechanisms.

Recognising climate change as an ever present threat, Jamaica has signed on to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and has submitted our intended national determined contribution (iNDCs) on greenhouses gas emissions. We have focused on climate smart procedures for mitigation and adaptation.

Mr President,

In implementing the Sendai Framework, Jamaica is actively promoting the collection, analysis, management and use of geo-spatial information for disaster risk reduction and management. Jamaica supports the adoption of a strategic framework on geo-spatial information and services, in order to ensure the availability and accessibility of geo-spatial humanitarian information across the entire management cycle for emergencies.

Our local collaborative framework is equally strong in disaster preparedness, management and recovery programmes. We have deepened the multi-stakeholder approach to development by fostering, encouraging and enhancing public-private partnerships and we encourage others to do likewise.

In Jamaica we have crafted a national disaster management policy and have moved to mainstream disaster risk management at all levels. We have decentralized responsibilities as it is clear that the local mechanisms provide the most appropriate and effective means of addressing disaster risk management while upholding human dignity. We commit to implementing systems to address the needs of the most vulnerable in our society, including our women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

Mr President,

We view the outcome of this Summit as a complementary part of the emerging sustainable development framework emerging from the SAMOA Pathway for SIDS, the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Financing for Development and the Paris Climate Change Agreement. Jamaica supports, in principle, the five core commitments of the Summit and will work with our regional partners and other members of the international community as we translate these commitments into concrete actions.

Mr. President,

As I close, permit me to sum up the objectives of this Summit by paraphrasing the famous words of my late countryman, Bob Marley, by saying "One Love, One Heart, Let's get together and do what's right".

I thank you.