



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

STATEMENT BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING THE

**MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION**

AT THE UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

ON

18TH to 20TH JULY 2016

Please check against delivery

Mr. President,

Excellencies and Colleagues

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the Government of Jamaica at this first meeting of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

In Jamaica, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda has led to a review of our national development processes, in order to maximize the synergies between the global agenda and our national development plan, Vision 2030. We have established an Inter-Ministerial mechanism to allow for the effective participation of all relevant stakeholders in the national, local and community-based follow-up processes for the implementation of the Agenda.

The global review process will be central to ensuring that all our citizens benefit from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and must allow a representative cross-section of countries to share their experiences. We are off to a good start with the twenty-two countries providing national voluntary reports at this Session. However, we must ensure that the process is flexible enough to allow for consideration of all the SDGs, as well as emerging issues that warrant collective reflection to determine shared solutions.

Mr. President,

National level implementation is the *sine qua non* for the coherent and successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We must align our international commitments and our national development plans. Jamaica has aligned the provisions of the 2030 Agenda and other agreements to our national development plan – Vision 2030, and to our Medium Term Socio-economic Framework for 2015 - 2018. Significant investment and resources will be required to ensure appropriate strategies are implemented and that national statistics reflect quality data consistent with the call to “leave no one behind”. Over the next 5 years, Jamaica will revise and formulate critical policies and strategies to address specific vulnerabilities associated with population, poverty reduction, senior citizens, youth, climate change and hazard risk reduction.

Regional level follow-up and review is a major part of the multi-level review architecture mandated by the Agenda and constitutes an effective means to ensure multi-level integration of the Agenda. The regional commissions, including our own Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), have a central role to play in implementation. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have agreed to establish a regional forum on sustainable development aligned with the HLPF, under the auspices of ECLAC, which will serve as the locus for review and follow-up activities for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. President,

For SIDS, data collection and statistical analysis remain a major challenge. These are vital components of any effort to measure progress in implementation. If SIDS are not to be left behind, the international community must make good on its commitments to support SIDS efforts to strengthen our national statistical offices.

In addition to Member States' participation in review and follow up, we must provide room for the participation of representatives of civil society, academia and the private sector in our deliberations. Their engaged participation was one of the hallmarks of the intergovernmental process to develop the new Agenda, and it is imperative that they remain an active and vital constituency in our shared effort to achieve sustainable development.

Jamaica stands ready to actively participate in the work of the HLPF.

I thank you.