



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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**AT THE**

**FIRST PREPARATORY COMMITTEE MEETING FOR  
THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK  
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*PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies and Colleagues,  
Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Jamaica welcomes this opportunity to participate in this First Preparatory Committee Meeting for the Third International Conference on SIDS.

We congratulate you, Co-Chairs, and the other members of the Bureau on your election. You can be assured of Jamaica's full support as you provide leadership to the preparatory process for the Third International Conference on SIDS over the next few months.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 & China, Nauru on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines on behalf of CARICOM. We wish to deliver a few additional remarks in our national capacity.

Co-Chairs,

This morning, we were pleased to have witnessed the launch of the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The designation of 2014 as the International Year of SIDS constitutes a significant milestone in the advancement of the international agenda to support the sustainable development of SIDS. The Year, in conjunction with the preparations for and the convening of the Third International Conference on SIDS, provides an opportunity to ensure that 2014 is a key inflection point leading to the fulfilment of our shared aspirations for an effective international enabling environment for SIDS' sustainable development.

It will also provide a platform for open and frank dialogue and cooperation among SIDS, and between SIDS and our non-SIDS partners, on how to address the socio-economic and environmental challenges that we continue to face due to our intrinsic vulnerabilities. Indeed, it is an opportunity to bring SIDS issues to the top of the international agenda – let us seize this

opportunity. Jamaica will certainly do its part to highlight SIDS' accomplishments and challenges throughout this International Year of SIDS.

Co-Chairs,

Jamaica was pleased to host the Caribbean SIDS Preparatory Meeting in Kingston last July and to participate in the SIDS Interregional meeting in Bridgetown, Barbados last August. That first phase of the preparatory processes produced the Barbados Outcome Document, which we consider a good basis for preparing an outcome for the Third International Conference on SIDS.

For Jamaica, this Preparatory Committee meeting marks the beginning of an important phase in our preparations for Samoa. We must build on the efforts that have been made to identify SIDS' priorities and challenges and explore strategies for the effective advancement of our agenda. Indeed, we must continue to engage in a manner that ensures that we depart Samoa with a practical, forward-looking and transformative outcome, that builds on existing international commitments and that includes the means of implementation to support the national and regional development efforts of SIDS. The outcome must also address the full range of development challenges facing SIDS, including the ways in which their precarious fiscal situations inhibit action to address social and environmental challenges.

It is imperative that the outcome of The Third International Conference on SIDS be a call to action – at all levels - that effectively addresses the vulnerabilities and development challenges faced by SIDS, while acknowledging their significant contribution to global sustainable development. The outcome must resonate with our Governments and our Peoples and serve as the basis for deepening engagement between SIDS and their partners. While we take the time to appraise what has gone before, we must seize this opportunity to be more pro-active, innovative and forward-looking.

Our preparatory process for the SIDS conference will unfold in parallel with the intergovernmental process to elaborate a post-2015 development agenda. We must take full

advantage of this coincidence of processes to ensure that SIDS priorities are effectively addressed both in the focused, strategic, programme of action which comes out of Samoa, and in the post-2015 development agenda, including the elaboration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Of course, our ongoing efforts to secure a legally binding international agreement to address climate change by the Paris Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in 2015, will inform our efforts here.

Co-Chairs,

In charting the way forward, Jamaica recognises that effective and enduring partnerships will be a key element in addressing the persistent sustainable development challenges faced by SIDS. Indeed, one of the key outcomes of The Third International Conference on SIDS could be the development of a **partnership framework**. Such a framework could allow SIDS to work collaboratively among themselves and with other stakeholders in identifying new opportunities for growth, development and innovation, whilst forging alliances in addressing new and emerging challenges. The Partnership Framework should be people-centred and focus on SIDS priority issues, including climate change, sustainable energy, oceans governance, health, food security, sustainable consumption and production and biodiversity with a view to the formulation and effective implementation of SIDS-appropriate - programmes.

Jamaica looks forward to actively engaging in this first Preparatory Committee meeting as we prepare for a successful Third International Conference on SIDS.

Thank You.