

**Intervention by Jamaica**  
**1 May 2006**  
**Opening and General Statements**

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica welcomes the report of the Secretary General on the Overview of progress in the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, as well as on the Mauritius Strategy, contained in document E/CN.17/2006/2.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past number of years, most experts agree that the progress towards the goals as enumerated under Agenda 21, the BPOA and other internationally agreed development targets is far from satisfactory especially for some developing countries.

The Secretary-General's Report has noted that only 36% of the 191 states members of the UN have met the JPOI goal of formulating and elaborating and further implementing national sustainable development strategies. Indeed, implementation reviews have shown that in many areas, natural resources are being more depleted and social conditions are worsening. It is discouraging to note that many developing countries are not on track to achieving poverty reduction goals and that half of the developing world lives without improved sanitation. It is for this reason that the issue of resources - and the adequate provision thereof - remains critical to providing developing countries with a platform to achieve sustainable development. I will return to this issue in subsequent paragraphs.

One reason for the slow progress in implementation is that in our general approach we have often tended to treat environment and development in an isolated manner, not taking critical note of the crosscutting issues. At this stage, we should be able to realize the critical interdependent and mutually reinforcing linkages between the social, economic, environmental and governance pillars of sustainable development and achieve progress in implementing, at national levels, these strategically focused international blueprints for improvement in the lives of our peoples.

Mr. Chairman,

Various goals and targets have resulted from recent international conferences, including the MDGs and the JPOI and the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative. As a small island developing State, the issues for action identified in the MSI in particular climate change, coastal resources, energy, natural resources and biodiversity, natural and man-made disasters, and land degradation remain priorities for implementation especially as it regards the issue of resilience.

In this regard, Jamaica aligns itself with the statement by AOSIS. In order to achieve sustainable development, and protect our common future we must practice sustainable production and consumption patterns, as clearly articulated in Agenda 21 and the JPOI.

Mr. Chairman,

Small Island Developing States like Jamaica continue to face formidable challenges in effectively advancing the goals of sustainable development. While we have made some progress, we are constrained by the lack of capacity to address all the complex development issues. What we need most is the support of the international community in building capacity - whether it is financial, human or institutional - in order to ensure the implementation of the agreed goals and objectives of the outcomes which we are the subject of our deliberations.

Jamaica notes with interest section D of the Secretary-General's Report dealing with natural disaster risk reduction and mitigation. It is particularly important for SIDS, many of whom are located among the most vulnerable regions in the world and for whom integrating hazard mitigation into policies, programmes and plans at the national and community levels is a priority. We believe greater support can be given to such an approach through the provision of special reinsurance arrangements for SIDS'.

Jamaica's economy, social and physical assets have on numerous occasions been negatively impacted by natural and environmental disasters. The increased frequency and intensity of tropical storms (especially the very active 2005 hurricane season) makes this an issue of particular concern given the tremendous resources which have to be devoted to responding to such disasters, resulting in the derailment of planned Government activities on social and economic programmes from which crucial funding sometimes has to be diverted. Despite such challenges, the integration of disaster risk reduction and hazard mitigation into the development approval process is something to which we remain fully committed.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the key constraints to implementation is the lack of access to adequate financial resources, capacity, technology and political support. The JPOI emphasizes that "the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and Agenda 21, as well as in the Plan of Action, will require significant increases in the flow of financial resources, in particular to developing countries, to support the implementation of national policies and programs developed by them." The implementation course that we have chosen calls for an urgent exploration of effective, durable reliable and measurable means of implementation for developing countries. Undoubtedly, our efforts will need to be supplemented by effective technical and financial support from the international community. What is urgently required, therefore, is focused action to support programmes and projects aimed at advancing this objective.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, Jamaica remains committed to working with the international community in advancing the sustainable agenda. We welcome opportunities to forge such relationships and look forward to working with the international community in this regard.

Thank You.