



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

STATEMENT BY

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE ARNOLD J. NICHOLSON, QC
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA**

TO THE

**UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

70TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**New York
25th September 2015**

Mr. President
Mr. Secretary-General
Heads of State and Government
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to represent the Government and People of Jamaica at this Summit to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2015 has been a pivotal and decisive year for the international community. We celebrate the Seventieth Anniversary of the United Nations, recalling its origins as an institution that rose from the ashes of war to embody the hopes and aspirations of peoples around the world for peace and development.

From the Third International Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai in March, to the Third United Nations Conference on Financing for Development, in Addis Ababa in July, to this Summit, the Member States of the United Nations have been working together to develop solutions to some of the most vexing and complex challenges confronting our nations.

We remain hopeful that this high level of commitment to tackling multi-dimensional challenges through global action will continue through the end of the year, to our next meeting in Paris at the Climate Change Conference.

The 2030 Agenda was designed to be transformative, to ensure that people are placed at the centre of the development process and that our stewardship of the planet is characterised by our respect for its resources. Indeed, the agenda has the potential, if properly funded and implemented, to change the lives of our peoples, to protect the planet and to engender prosperity in ways we are yet to realise.

Mr. President,

Jamaica stands fully behind the 2030 Agenda. We believe that it is a worthy successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). For while the MDGs provided a useful tool for focusing development efforts, this Agenda will help ensure that these efforts are sustainable. It is no coincidence that it is an Agenda for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. These are the ingredients that will make for a world free of extreme poverty, where prosperity can be achieved and sustained.

Mr. President,

At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, in Rio de Janeiro, in June 2012, we made a clear commitment to shift the paradigm towards sustainable development and away from the fragmented approach that until then had dominated the treatment of development issues. The 2030 Agenda makes good on this commitment. However, while we laud the breadth of the new agenda, we must also acknowledge that this is the very quality which will make it difficult to be effectively implemented. Significant external support will be required in many cases. In this regard, we are pleased with the commitment to a more robust and revitalised Global Partnership for Development.

We must work, therefore, to ensure that the Global Partnership not fall behind. This is one lesson we have learnt from the MDGs - that deviation from our commitment to partnership can lead to underachievement.

We are conscious that implementation of the Agenda requires financing from a range of sources, inclusive of domestic, international, public and private; as well as capacity-building support and transfer of appropriate technology. We are therefore pleased that the Technology Facilitation Mechanism is being launched at this Summit. Access to scientific research, technology and innovation is central to our efforts to ensure successful implementation.

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) and a Middle Income Country (MIC), Jamaica is familiar with the range of challenges that attend both categories. We know that SIDS, in particular, will face numerous challenges in their implementation efforts. We welcome the support for SIDS that has been built into the Agenda, particularly in relation to the means of implementation. We look forward to working with other members of the international community to ensure that SIDS are able to make effective use of this support. We are particularly attentive to the need for capacity-building in the areas of data collection and statistical analysis, given that in the absence of these capabilities it will be difficult, if not impossible, to measure our progress. We would not wish to be left behind in the wake of the advances facilitated by the ongoing 'data revolution'. After all, the basic premise of the Agenda is to leave no one behind.

Mr. President,

This is but the beginning of our journey towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We must forge ahead in the knowledge that the Agenda is emblematic of the range of challenges that are currently before us. We are all aware that poverty, gender inequality, inadequate access to and poor quality education, environmental degradation and unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are challenges that are found throughout the international community, in countries both of the north and the south.

We must, therefore, remain committed to this agenda and work together to tackle the challenges and embrace the opportunities. Jamaica is firmly of the view that it is only through joint action at the international level and adherence to the principles of multilateralism, that we will be able to achieve our developmental aspirations.

Let us not be daunted by the estimated multi-trillion dollar price tag. We must each do our part, in keeping with our respective capabilities, to ensure that succeeding generations are truly the beneficiaries of the future we want. We owe no less to current and future inhabitants of our planet.

I have no doubt that we are equal to the task ahead.

I thank you.