



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

REMARKS BY

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OF JAMAICA

AT THE

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ON

*ERADICATING POVERTY & PROMOTING PROSPERITY
IN A CHANGING WORLD*

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Salutations:

The Moderator,

Esteemed Fellow Panelists from SAMOA and the FAO

Discussants from Trinidad and Tobago, & the UN Secretariat

The Jamaican Delegation

Other country delegations

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good afternoon,

It is indeed a pleasure for me as Minister of Labour & Social Security in Jamaica, to be participating in this panel discussion this afternoon themed Eradicating Poverty & Promoting Prosperity in a changing world. My contribution this afternoon will be on how we can ensure that the three dimensions of sustainable development are synergized in our national development processes. Special focus will be on the National Development Plan (Vision 2030 Jamaica); and the institutional framework for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). I will also provide some recommendations to address the critical issue of implementing an integrated development process to achieving SDGs.

The development of Jamaica's first long-term National Development Plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica is the country's deliberate attempt at pursuing sustainable development and ensuring the alignment of the three dimensions of sustainable development in all national frameworks. The Plan was finalized in 2009 following extensive consultations and was, as the name suggests, "visionary" as it not only incorporated the three dimensions of sustainable development, but was also established on the principle of "leaving no one behind". For Jamaica, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will naturally be implemented through Vision 2030 Jamaica. It introduced a new paradigm in development planning and represents a strategic road map by which the country will progress to become a developed country and achieve sustainable prosperity by 2030. In other words, its aspirational vision is "Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business".

Throughout the Plan, economic, social and environmental issues have been effectively integrated towards enabling us to make the best decisions on the use of our capital stocks – that is our natural endowments, man-made capital, financial capital, institutional capital, human capital, knowledge capital and cultural capital in order to meet the needs of our present and future generations. In fact, the four national goals and 15 outcomes articulated in Vision 2030 Jamaica – provides the comprehensive framework in which the linkages among economic, social, environmental and governance spheres are made, and as such presents the broad strategic thrust for the transformation of the Jamaican economy and society towards sustainable development and prosperity for the Jamaican people.

But how is this integration undertaken in real terms. Let me focus a bit on the notion of mainstreaming and alignment with key national frameworks. The implementation framework for Vision 2030 Jamaica is undertaken through the Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (or MTF). The MTF sets out every three years – the priority strategies and actions that are to be implemented over that period. We are currently implementing the 3rd MTF - that is MTF 2015 - 2018. The medium-term priorities are identified at two levels: at the national level and at the sectoral level. The priorities at the national level represent critical areas for the country to focus its efforts and resources over the medium term to address the greatest challenges to national development. The priorities at the sector level represent the imperative strategies and actions to be implemented within each sector over the medium term, based on the key issues and challenges identified for each sector. National and sectoral priorities are implemented across each of the four national goals – therefore facilitating the integration of the 3 dimensions of sustainable development while incorporating good governance.

It is noteworthy that, the two levels of prioritization mentioned – national and sectoral - also correspond to the two levels at which resource allocation takes place within the annual government budgeting process. The budgetary resources are allocated among Ministries, reflecting the prioritization at the national level to address the greatest challenges to national development. Within the budgetary envelopes allocated to each Ministry, further prioritization is undertaken to achieve the most important results for each sector. This ensures that our budgetary process facilitates the alignment of the 3 dimensions of development.

We also recognize that the successful implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica is dependent on the institutionalization and mainstreaming of processes to align the MTF with the strategic and operational plans and budgets of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Additionally, the implementation process also is aligned to the Whole-of-Government Business Plan as well as the Public Investment Management System (PIMS) and Medium Term Results Based Budgeting (MTRBB) in the public sector.

The MTF also represents the process by which we can facilitate continuous improvement in our development planning process and also incorporate new and emerging issues in our development planning as a new MTF is developed every three years. So whilst the Plan itself does not change – since our overall goals are not changing – it is the dynamism of the MTF that allows us to take corrective action along the way, build on existing ones and take into account lessons learned. So for example, in the development of the third MTF in 2015 - we were able to align the Global goals for Sustainable Development with the national goals and outcomes contained in Vision 2030 Jamaica. This has augured well for us since a 2016 UNDP Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support mission to Jamaica concluded that by continuing to implement Vision 2030 Jamaica, Jamaica will be doing its part to contribute to the global goals. In other words... “Vision 2030 Jamaica.... advancing the implementation of the SDGs... leaving no one behind”.

This holds true for other international frameworks – notably the SAMOA Pathway as well as for the Addis Ababa Financing for Development Agenda.

A Rapid Integrated Assessment was conducted of all Jamaica's national planning documents. Results from the assessment confirmed that Vision 2030 Jamaica, the Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF), sectoral policies and plans are strongly aligned with the SDGs. The results indicate that Jamaica's planning documents reflect either full or partial alignment, with 91.0 per cent of the 115 SDG targets deemed relevant for the country. In addition to highlighting the areas of alignment, the Roadmap identified gaps. Of the five pillars of the SDGs which are: people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership — the main gaps are on the "Planet pillar" (72% alignment) and the Partnership pillar (50%).

The Road Map also proposes a set of accelerators in each of the four national goals identified in Vision 2030 Jamaica which have been approved by our Cabinet. These include interventions that could be implemented within existing programmes to improve efficiency thus engendering goal attainment of all pillars of the SDGs. To this end, efforts are being made to:

- Strengthen the outreach efforts of social protection programmes, expanding care services for children and the elderly, pursuing multi-disciplinary non-communicable disease (NCD) prevention efforts, and addressing the health and psycho-social consequences of violence within communities.
- Strengthen the Judiciary and Police Systems and stimulate education and community environments that help prevent violent behaviour within the youth.
- Support Medium and Small Enterprises by establishing inclusive procurement processes, strengthening supply chains and encouraging inclusive financing.
- Strengthen the land use management system, building on disaster and climate risk management efforts, strengthen protected areas, enhancing public awareness and improving waste management.

We should be mindful though that integration is not an easy task and does have its challenges. But rather than outline the challenges let me state some of the key ingredients that will make development work:

- There must be commitment at the highest level – that is at the level of Cabinet as well as in Parliament
- There must be bi-partisan support – support of all political parties in the process – political parties must be seen as organizations in and of themselves and must therefore be consulted throughout the development process so that their views and strategic ideas are incorporated
- Transformational leadership must be at the core – leadership that will strategically guide all sectors

- We must build the implementation capacity across all sectors, particularly understanding the current and future demands and associated actions that are necessary.
- We must monitor and evaluate our progress regularly and report same to the public – this builds not only a culture of transparency and accountability but also trust
- Stakeholder engagement and effective partnerships is a key ingredient - public private partnerships... partnerships with civil society, partnerships with our youth, partnerships with academia... partnerships with our development partners - in other words we will need to have multiple partnerships to facilitate implementation and guide continuous improvement

In closing, I wish to use this platform to underscore Jamaica's commitment to the 2030 Global Agenda to attain sustainable development for all, so that none of our citizens are left behind. Ladies and gentlemen, I thank you.