



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

STATEMENT BY

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE ECOSOC HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
(HLPF) ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**THEME: "ACCELERATED ACTION AND TRANSFORMATIVE PATHWAYS:
REALIZING THE DECADE OF ACTION AND DELIVERY FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT"**

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

ON

FRIDAY, 17 JULY 2020

FINAL TEXT

Madam President,

The global community is now faced with one of the greatest challenges to the social and economic advancement of all our nations, but even more so are highly indebted Small Island Developing States already exposed to economic and environmental shocks long before COVID-19. Emerging from this unprecedented pandemic will require more from us all, individually and collectively, as we work towards achieving the SDGs.

As we in this high trade and travel dependent region start yet another hurricane season, we confront a multi-risk environment which has already started to undo years of hard-won development gains. Indeed, prior to the pandemic, Jamaica experienced development progress in critical indicators of sustainable development, including human capital development, governance and macro-economic stability.

As we begin the decade of ambitious action, we reiterate our commitment to achieving Vision 2030 Jamaica, our National Development Plan, in which the SDGs have been integrated. There is no doubt that the fallout of this COVID-19 crisis will have long-term impacts on our development prospects, but our recovery strategy is focussed on building back stronger.

Cognizant of the need to mitigate development reversal, build resilience and promote inclusive sustainable development and green growth, Jamaica is pleased to have recently submitted to the UNFCCC our enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution, demonstrating our commitment to good sustainable development practices.

Revitalization of the global partnership for sustainable development and the application of science and technology will assist our response and recovery. For optimal results however, leaders must consciously empower youth and enable innovation. Sustainable food and energy security must also stay at the forefront of our considerations given the impact that COVID-19 has had on global supply chains.

I take the opportunity to thank the UN system for its COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund in support of some 16 SIDS, including Jamaica. I must, however, highlight the urgent need for innovative financing options as well as

access to concessional financing given our reality of reduced available public resources and fiscal space. As a co-convenor of the High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of Covid-19 and Beyond, Jamaica remains committed to the process aimed at producing concrete and comprehensive solutions to recover better.

Madam President,

In closing, I am assured of one thing during this time of uncertainty: now more than ever, we must stay connected in purpose to ensure that we deliver on our global vision for enduring prosperity for all. We must re-energise South-South, North-South and triangular partnerships to secure the 2030 Agenda. Together we will attain the SDGs if we commit to leaving no nation and no one behind.

I thank you.