



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT

by

**HONOURABLE DEAN PEART
MINISTER OF LAND AND ENVIRONMENT**

at the

**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE
TWELFTH SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**30 APRIL 2004
NEW YORK**

Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairman,

Access to clean water and adequate sanitation are fundamental for the health and development of our citizens.

Jamaica's National Water Policy, in keeping with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and Millennium Development Goal 7, aims to achieve access to potable water by the year 2010 and the establishment of sewerage systems in all major towns by 2020.

The achievement of the goals set will not be easy given the level of resources required.

Some of the concerns are:

- the inability of poorer groups in society to pay for central services provided;

- the deterioration of watersheds and the associated impacts on water availability; and

- the conversion of upper watershed forest area to agriculture and housing.

In an effort to address these concerns our approaches include:

- the development of participatory approaches including working with communities and NGOs at the local level;

- the use of sweat equity and incremental development of facilities as important mechanisms for a greater degree of assistance to low-income groups; and

the provision of designs, professional supervision and guidance, during construction of facilities to reduce costs and develop effective systems.

Public education and awareness must be part of all programmes. In some cases, increasing awareness of the need for conservation of water and energy has led to up to 17% in savings.

Pricing policies must be realistic enough to stimulate conservation, discourage waste and ensure cost recovery.

Creative and alternative technologies must be used, for example, harvesting of mist, desalination, and the recycling of grey water for use in agriculture. In this regard, we stress the importance of adequate international support to developing countries to ensure wider use of such technologies and to improve water supply and access.

In the Caribbean, a regional research project is now underway involving valuing of watersheds and assessment of the use of market instruments and their ability to pay for watershed services, including water.

The availability of water for future use requires good governance, cogent policies and the involvement of all. Strengthened institutions with trained managers to run them; a responsible private sector and an enlightened public, working together are essential, if we are to meet our commitments in the Millennium Declaration and the JPOI.

Water management, including conservation, is everyone's responsibility.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.