



**GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA**

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY BRIAN WALLACE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE MINISTERIAL  
SEGMENT OF THE  
2023 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
UNDER THE THEME "BUILDING MOMENTUM TOWARDS THE SDG  
SUMMIT"**

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**Madam President,**

This midpoint of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the upcoming SDG Summit presents a unique opportunity to reflect on the progress that has been made nationally and globally, as we review the strength of the processes through which the SDGs are delivered and the differentiated results across regions, to determine a better way forward to achieve our common goals. Perhaps more importantly, we have an opportunity to look at the reasons for the lack of progress made and to determine how to make the best use of the time remaining until 2030.

Accelerating implementation of the SDGs requires a multi-layered approach that mobilizes action at all levels. It requires the commitment of all stakeholders, fostered through transparent and accountable systems that build trust and provide timely, quality engagement. This engagement must be informed by relevant and accurate

information and data to enable targeted action. It requires strategic, timely investments in building capacity to upgrade and modernize systems and deliver the transformations needed.

**Madam President,**

Institutions with strong frameworks of transparency and accountability are required to build and sustain systems that put people at the centre of development. Good governance is an enabler of democratisation as much as it is an enabler of development, because it leverages citizen and stakeholder participation. A people-centred approach facilitates inclusive growth and development that address the needs of the population, by identifying and addressing disparities by geographic, economic and gender indicators. This promotes public trust in institutions and creates willing partners in the development process.

Our institutions must therefore have access to digital technologies to improve service delivery and reach all

citizens. This will unleash the capacity to improve national statistical and data retrieval systems, to enable accurate reporting on progress towards the SDGs. Data availability remains an impediment to developing countries, with many producing less than 50 percent of indicators.

**Madam President,**

Jamaica recognizes the need to focus on the systemic issues that are the critical entry points and pathways to structural transformations that are needed to drive achievement of the 2030 Agenda. These issues are common to Small Island Developing States and compounded in the Middle Income Countries - high domestic debt, vulnerability to natural disasters, food insecurity and high costs of energy. These challenges require a multi-stakeholder approach that includes national governments, civil society, the private sector, and the international community.

Innovative financing instruments that incorporate sustainable development perspectives and take account of

the unique vulnerabilities of small states are now critically needed.

We reiterate the value of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index as a tool for more equitable financing assessments and urge development partners to continue to support the country-led national development processes.

Low-cost development financing is required to spur investments in the blue and green economies, as avenues for economic diversification, climate resilience and adaptation and energy transition.

Innovative financing arrangements can also support domestic resource mobilisation by enabling reforms that increase tax compliance and revenue growth, creating more fiscal space for investments in social protection, health, education and skills training.

The pandemic highlighted the vulnerability of small economies to interruptions in global supply chains. Many

small islands are net food importers with limited space to produce food staples at scale. Access to advanced technology to improve domestic yields, develop alternatives and source affordable inputs, is vital to sustainability and food security.

**Madam President,**

As we face these challenges, we look forward to the SDG Summit, and the action-oriented discussions ahead to turbo-charge implementation in the coming years.