STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON

AGENDA ITEM 19:
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IN THE

2ND COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica welcomes the opportunity to participate in this debate on Agenda item 19: Sustainable Development, and its sub-items and thanks the Secretary-General for his reports.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Fiji, on behalf of the Group of 77 & China, the distinguished representative of Nauru, on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and the distinguished representative of Barbados, on behalf of CARICOM.

Mr. Chairman,

In the period since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the international community has been engaged in a range of processes aimed at giving effect to the decisions taken by our Heads of State and Government and embodied in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference—"The Future We Want". Indeed, in the last year we have seen the establishment of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the inauguration of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee on Sustainable Development Financing and the preparation of an extensive Secretary-General’s report on the prospects for establishing a technology facilitation mechanism, including a range of important recommendations. These developments have been complemented by the adoption of Resolution 68/2, which has laid the groundwork for a more effective Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).
Jamaica welcomes these developments and underscores its commitment to continue to actively participate in these processes. Indeed, we are already doing so through our membership of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. We also regard these developments as essential to advancing the full and effective integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and providing an enabling environment for Member States to pursue policies, strategies and programmes that lead to poverty eradication through sustainable development. They also constitute key building blocks as we prepare to engage in the intergovernmental process of elaborating a development agenda for the post-2015 period. In this connection, my delegation regards the outcome document of the recent Special Event on the Millennium Development Goals as pivotal.

Mr. Chairman,

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), Jamaica fully supports the advancement of the sustainable development agenda in relation to SIDS, as embodied in the Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS (BPoA) and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (MSI) and reaffirmed at the Rio+20 Conference. Jamaica looks forward to the convening of the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa in September 2014. Our representatives have participated in the initial aspects of the preparatory process that have taken place to date, including through hosting the Caribbean SIDS regional preparatory meeting in Kingston in July 2013. We also participated in the interregional meeting in Barbados this past
August, which led to the adoption of the Barbados outcome which will inform our deliberations in the months to come. We call upon all delegations to work constructively throughout this Session as we engage in negotiations on the modalities resolution that will lay the groundwork for the remainder of the preparatory process and put in place arrangements for the Conference itself.

The Third International Conference on SIDS provides the international community with an opportunity to address the obstacles that have prevented the full and effective implementation of the BPOA and the MSI and to address new and emerging challenges to SIDS’ sustainable development. Jamaica looks forward to working with all other Member States to ensure that the Conference produces an outcome that provides support for SIDS in their efforts to build resilience and secure development that is sustainable.

Of course, the success of the Samoa outcome, like that of the outcomes of other major summits and conferences in the economic, social and environmental fields, will depend on the provision of the appropriate means of implementation and the fulfilment of all commitments undertaken at the Conference. We must recognise the organic linkages between the SIDS sustainable development agenda and the broader post-2015 development agenda and the need to maintain the progress SIDS have made in implementing the BPOA and MSI.

At our last Session, the General Assembly took the decision to designate 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States. We look forward to the continued support, engagement and interest of the international community as
we prepare to engage in activities that highlight the work that SIDS have undertaken in advancing their development as well as the key contributions of international cooperation in that regard.

Mr. Chairman,

For my delegation the matter of disaster risk reduction is a key developmental issue and we welcome the report of the Secretary General contained in document A/68/320 entitled *Implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*, which outlines recent progress in the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. Like other island states of the Caribbean, Jamaica has had to grapple with the social, economic and environmental consequences of the increased frequency of hurricanes and other extreme weather events. Jamaica remains committed to supporting the ongoing efforts to advance the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 – 2015 and looks forward to actively participating in the development of a successor framework for the post-2015 period. In this context, Jamaica was pleased to have hosted the 6th Regional Meeting on International Humanitarian Assistance Mechanisms (MIAH) in Kingston from 17th to 18th October, 2013, given that the MIAH process, which began in Mexico in 2008, has become one of the most important regional forums for action in disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

We are seized of the importance of addressing the wide-ranging challenges posed by climate change and regard the upcoming 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a key step in laying the groundwork for a comprehensive climate change agreement in 2015.
The findings contained in the assessment report of Working Group 1 of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have further underscored the magnitude of the challenge posed by Climate Change and the importance of immediate action to forestall catastrophic consequences. There can be no doubt that the time for bold action on all aspects of the climate change agenda is now.

Jamaica looks forward to the 2014 Climate Change Summit to be convened by the UN Secretary-General, at the level of Heads of State and Government, with the participation of a wide-range of non-governmental representatives, as it has the potential to advance the UNFCCC negotiations and lay the groundwork for the successful conclusion of a comprehensive climate change agreement in 2015. We anticipate the provision of further information on the agenda of the Summit in the months to come.

Mr. Chairman,

We are at a key point in the evolution of the sustainable development agenda. We have before us an opportunity to fulfill the decades-long promise of an approach to development that truly and effectively integrates its social, economic and environmental dimensions in a manner that leads to poverty eradication and social inclusion. Let us take full advantage of the opportunities before us and work constructively so that we will truly be able to realise the future we want.