STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

68TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

FRIDAY, 11TH OCTOBER 2013

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Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of the Second Committee for this 68th Session of the General Assembly. I assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation, as you undertake your responsibilities during this critical period in the work of the Committee.

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 & China, the distinguished Permanent Representative of St. Kitts and Nevis on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and by the distinguished representative of Cuba on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Mr. Chairman,

We have a rather extensive agenda before us that provides a framework for deliberations on a wide range of development challenges and other key macro-economic and environmental issues with which we are collectively grappling. These include tackling unsustainable levels of indebtedness, endeavouring to make key sectors of our economies such as transport, agriculture and tourism more sustainable, and determining how to provide our citizens with quality education that meets the requirements of the twenty-first century.

Throughout our deliberations and negotiations, we must remain mindful of the fact that we are not engaged in abstract discussions but, rather, are creating the normative framework for effectively addressing matters of survival for our People.

Mr. Chairman,

At this Session, our deliberations are taking place against the backdrop of our consideration of how best to create an effective post-2015 development agenda. Issues that we will have to tackle include effectively addressing the unfinished business of the MDGs, adopting a multidimensional approach to poverty eradication, scaling-up the global partnership for development, and improving developing countries’ market access and access to technology.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the improvements in the global economy in the years since the onset of the world economic and financial crisis, global economic recovery continues to be slow and unbalanced and beset by a degree of volatility that has compounded the challenges faced by small, open economies such as Jamaica’s, which have long been susceptible to the effects of exogenous shocks. We therefore must take full advantage of the opportunity to consider the macro-economic issues on the agenda of the Committee that affect our ability to achieve more inclusive job creating and sustainable growth, such as ‘external debt sustainability and
development’, the ‘international financial system and development’, ‘international trade and development’ and ‘financing for development’.

My delegation retains cautious optimism that the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the WTO, which will take place in Bali, Indonesia in December, will serve to break through the impasse in the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Mr. Chairman,

We look forward to discussions during this Session of the many challenges still faced by Middle Income Countries (MICS), particularly as it regards persistent poverty and inequality, and wish to underscore our support for an approach to development that addresses the needs of vulnerable populations wherever they reside, whether they be LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, Africa, or in Middle Income Countries. The matter of the unsustainability of the high debt burdens of many developing countries, including the small, vulnerable, island economies of the Caribbean remains one that requires comprehensive consideration through the work of this Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

We agree that consideration should be given to rethinking the clustering of the items addressed in this Committee, so that it better reflects our efforts post-Rio+20 to adopt an approach to sustainable development that effectively addresses its three dimensions. As it stands, the issues we examine within the context of our deliberations are largely those pertaining to the environment. Despite this concern, we look forward to engaging in robust deliberations on the items in the ‘sustainable development’ cluster, and will focus particularly on the preparations for the Third International SIDS Conference in Samoa in 2014. Indeed, we will continue to engage with fellow SIDS and other developing countries and our development partners, to determine how best to create an enabling environment for the fulfillment of the commitments set out in the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) and the Mauritius Strategy.

Mr. Chairman,

As a Small Island Developing State, climate change is a matter of pressing concern and we expect that the 19th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, will contribute to laying the foundation for a comprehensive climate change agreement in 2015.

There are many more key issues on the agenda that I would wish to address, such as the important contribution of culture to development, but time will not permit. Suffice it to say that we have an extensive and challenging agenda before, which we trust will be managed in a manner that acknowledges the interlinkages amongst the issues, while taking into account their differentiated effects on our economies and societies.
In conclusion, I assure you, Mr. Chairman, of my delegation’s full support and that we look forward to working with you and all other delegations to effectively accomplish the work of this Committee.

I thank you.