



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement

by the

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
Senator the Honourable Anthony Hylton

at the

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Madam President

It is an honour for me to address the 61st Session of the General Assembly on behalf of my country Jamaica.

I congratulate you on your election as President of this Assembly. It is an added pleasure for me today to recognize your assumption to the Presidency, being one of only three women in the history of the General Assembly to assume this position, and significantly, the first since 1969 - nearly 40 years.

I also take this opportunity, to express deep appreciation for the work carried out during the 60th Session of the Assembly by Mr. Jan Eliasson under whose leadership so much was accomplished in an extraordinarily challenging year, notably, the adoption of the World Summit Outcome Document.

Madam President

As we begin this new United Nations year we ask ourselves, what is the state of our world? We ask this particularly in the context of the determinations and resolutions of our Leaders in 2005 to urgently address the storm clouds which were overwhelming the vast majority of humankind, particularly in the developing world. We see a continued challenging time for development; for peace and security; for democracy and social institutions and for multilateralism. We see an environment in which the credibility of the international system to deliver fairly and equitably is being increasingly questioned.

These were the very issues and circumstances which world leaders sought to address at the beginning of the 60th Session in 2005. Their Summit Outcome Document contained a raft of resolutions, commitments and recommendations to deal with the fundamental issues and constraints and was intended to give political momentum to achieving the commonly agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. The Leaders, while recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing reaffirmed that development is a central goal by itself. Jamaica remains deeply committed to the three pillars of the United Nations but with development as the very core. It is for this reason that Jamaica is concerned that we have not discerned any significant focus on implementation in the area of development over the last year – a year dedicated to implementation. The implementation gap has been greater in this area than in any of the other two areas.

Madam President

There has been increased, but still insufficient, attention to those who live in extreme poverty – note extreme poverty or living on less than one dollar per day.

The Secretary-General has cited some startling statistics in his report on the Organization to this General Assembly. I refer to two. Ten million children die before their 5th birthday; and women in developing countries are 45 times more likely to die during pregnancy than women in developed countries. Irrefutable evidence that the situation remains absolutely and comparatively very unsatisfactory and unsustainable in an interdependent world.

Madam President,

Jamaica and other developing countries have consistently argued in all the debates leading up to and during the 2005 Summit that, in addition to the poorest countries, the situation of vulnerable middle and lower middle income countries, especially small island and highly externally dependent economies needed to be addressed. A number of potentially very useful provisions were incorporated into the Summit Outcome Document to address their particular circumstances. But, frankly, Jamaica has seen little resolve on the part of the international community to implement those commitments. We have seen no work for example, to:

- 1) implement the commitment to support the development efforts of middle income developing countries to help them meet, *inter alia*, their financial, technical and technological requirements;
- 2) develop any framework to provide significant debt relief or restructuring for middle income developing countries with unsustainable debt burdens that are not part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, as well as to comprehensively address the debt problems of those countries;
- 3) implement the development dimension of the DOHA Work Programme, in particular the work programme for smaller economies in the World Trade Organization.

We recognize that there was a welcome increase in ODA, from US\$69 million in 2003 to US\$106 million in 2005. Much of this additional funding was targeted to a small number of admittedly very deserving countries mainly for debt relief and to peacekeeping. There was little new money for investment in development projects even in the poorest countries.

Madam President

It was always recognized that much of the resources for financing development must come from trade. This was clearly stated in the Monterrey Consensus and repeated in the 2005 Summit Outcome Document. In the Outcome Document, leaders of developed and developing countries committed to work expeditiously towards implementing the development dimensions of the DOHA Work Programme. They also emphasized the need to address the weak and volatile commodity prices and support the efforts of commodity dependent countries, to restructure, diversify and strengthen the competitiveness of their commodity sectors.

Instead of expedition and facilitation, we have had stalemate and a breakdown in the DOHA round of negotiations. Perhaps even more significant is that in the negotiations that did take place, the development dimension, especially as this relates to the small and vulnerable economies such as Jamaica, was conspicuously absent from the debate. These issues must be addressed in any effort to restart the negotiation.

Jamaica strongly supports the view that fundamental to a viable and equitable trade regime is the need to take account of the wide disparity in structural characteristics and approaches to economic policy among the many members of the WTO, and the consequent need for flexibility. We would add, for clarity, the need to include the differences in levels of development among the economies and the asymmetries that exist between developed and developing countries.