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**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT BY

MR. KAVOY A ASHLEY

FIRST SECRETARY

**PERMANENT MISSION
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON THE ORGANIZATION OF WORK FOR THE FIFTH COMMITTEE DURING
THE MAIN PART OF THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE**

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

MONDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2020

NEW YORK

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

The delegation of Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Representative of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Excellency,

Allow me at the outset, to congratulate you and Members of the Bureau on your appointment to your respective posts, and to wish you all the very best at the helm of this vital Committee. Jamaica is indeed committed to supporting you throughout this session. We also thank the chair of the 74th Session Ambassador Andreas Mavroyiannis, as well as his bureau for their sterling service over the period of the last session.

Mr. Chair,

We are truly living in calamitous times. The evolving impact of the global COVID-19 pandemic has tested our ability to effectively work as a Committee. Notwithstanding, we have devised new working methods, in line with the mandates we received.

In this regard, the Secretariat must be commended for their able stewardship of the Committee during the last session, and in particular, during the First and Second Resumed sessions, which required much adjustment and innovation.

Mr. Chair,

When the United Nations was established some 75 years ago, it was envisioned to be a beacon of hope for all peoples, across all nations. Today, the United Nations remains this global institution, with the potential to resolve some of the world's greatest challenges which have not diminished with time, but simply evolved. As a global community, we are called to work in concert towards the remediation of these challenges which, in one way or another, fundamentally continue to impede the fulsome/sustained development of our countries.

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For Small Island Developing States like Jamaica, the UN's vision of sustainable development is one with which our own Foreign Policy imperatives are aligned. As such, Jamaica is in full support of multilateral cooperation as the preferred and most advantageous method of achieving this goal.

The UN in a liquidity crisis

However, if we are to achieve the future we want, we must commit to ensuring that the United Nations is properly equipped with the necessary resources, to work at its fullest capacity. As we are all aware, during the last session, the regular budget of the Organisation was impacted by a serious liquidity crisis. This was the second successive year that the UN exhausted all regular budget cash reserves, despite several measures implemented to reduce expenditures.

Implications of Liquidity crisis on the "future we want"

To reduce expenses during the final quarter of 2019, several austerity measures were introduced which significantly constrained the operational effectiveness of the UN, and challenged its ability to deliver its policy-based mandates.

Jamaica recognizes that unfortunately, this situation has carried over into this new session of the General Assembly, and has been further exacerbated by the new demands of the COVID – 19 pandemic.

Call for Member States to reduce arrears to the UN

Jamaica therefore is in full support of the Secretary-General's exhortation that we ensure timely and full payment of assessed contributions, in order to reduce the high level of arrears with which the Organisation is confronted.

Mr. Chair,

As we seek to advance deliberations on key issues of interest over the coming weeks, including the programme plan and the programme budget for 2021, let us commit to being as constructive and transparent as possible, noting that all budget proposals that we will make and eventually approve must be in line with the mandates accorded to the Committee by the General Assembly.

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The delegation of Jamaica re-confirms its commitment to actively collaborating with the Bureau and all Member States, to ensure the timely conclusion of the work of the Fifth Committee.

I thank you.