



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE ARNOLD J. NICHOLSON  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND  
FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA**

**DURING THE**

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON  
THE FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

**New York**

**22 September 2014**

Mr. President,

I am indeed pleased to be participating in this Special Session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Jamaica is deeply committed to a global partnership that provides a holistic and integrated framework for achieving an improved quality of life for the world's people. We believe therefore that the PoA of the ICPD should prioritise the development and protection of human capital; facilitate economic stability, competitiveness and employment; and promote environmental resilience and appropriate climate change responses.

Jamaica is privileged to be among a select group of countries that sits on the United Nations Commission on Population and Development (UNCPD). We have been contributing to the annual and longer-term review and appraisal of the implementation of the ICPD PoA.

We have also been at the forefront in population and development policies in the Latin American and Caribbean region, being the first Caribbean country to have developed a National Population Policy (Revised, 1995) and Plan of Action on Population and Development (1995), consistent with the ICPD PoA up to the year 2015.

Mr. President,

We note the report of the Secretary General on the framework of actions for the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014 as well as the Index report on the interactive debate of the 47<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Population and Development.

Jamaica's position, as it relates to the ICPD beyond 2014 process, is to reaffirm the CAIRO Programme of Action adopted in 1994 and ensure implementation of those key actions that have not yet been completed. We are not in favour of a renegotiation of the existing agreements contained in the text.

We are pleased to have contributed to the global survey for the ICPD beyond 2014 review and to report that we have made considerable progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

We recognise the work of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) which contributed significantly to the review process in Jamaica. UNFPA continues to work tirelessly at the country-level towards national attainment of the objectives outlined in the ICPD.

This review revealed that Jamaica has made progress in more than 80 per cent of the 110 issues explored in the survey. The achievements varied from development and implementation of policy and legislation to infrastructure development; from improvements in the reach and content of service delivery systems to strengthening research capacity and improving research relevance and applicability. Strengthening

partnerships between government agencies, between agencies and communities and between government and civil society organisations was another key achievement.

For the period under review, Jamaica also recorded:

- Substantial reduction in population growth;
- Reductions in fertility among all reproductive age groups, including adolescents;
- Significant progress in legislation and policy reforms relating to children, adolescents, youth, elderly, trafficking in persons, sexual offences, international migration and development;
- Substantial reductions in mother-to-child transmission of HIV and deaths due to HIV/AIDS;
- Reductions in infant, child and maternal mortality;
- Universal access to quality and affordable health services, including reproductive health, family planning and sexual health;
- Gender equity and equality and women's empowerment;
- Universal access to primary and secondary education;
- Reduction in average household size and poverty.

There are areas that have been identified for the further implementation of the ICPD PoA and which we recommend for inclusion in the Post-2015 Development Agenda to facilitate the achievement of sustainable development goals. These include:

- Stronger focus on sustainable development as the framework for population policy and programme interventions;
- Continuing focus on reduction in fertility among adolescents and youth as a strategy to break the inter-generational linkages to poverty, inequality and deprivation;
- Concerted efforts to address infant, child and maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS;
- Ensuring the integration of population aging in all development policies, plans and programmes;
- Greater efforts at incorporating population growth and distribution into urbanization and climate change policies and planning;
- Greater focus on the role of international migration and Diaspora in national development; and
- Ensuring that human rights and gender issues are integrated into all policies, plans and programmes.

Mr President

We express our commitment to continue to work together with the international community to forge a more effective global partnership for development. Let us together rise to the challenge in shaping such an agenda, which will truly be transformative and secure the well-being of our peoples.

I thank you.