



**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE  
OF JAMAICA**

**ON**

**THE OCCASION OF THE 64<sup>th</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF  
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC  
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA – 21<sup>st</sup> TO 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2020**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,

Congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this 64<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the General Conference.

We also congratulate the new Director General, Mr. Rafael Mariano Grossi, and assure him of Jamaica's full support during his tenure.

We also express our appreciation for the valuable contribution of Mr. Cornel Feruta for his work in the capacity of Acting Director General.

Having been the first English speaking Caribbean country to have joined the IAEA 55 years ago, Jamaica continues to enjoy a beneficial relationship with the Agency, and to rely on that partnership to peacefully harness nuclear energy for sustainable development in the pursuit of our Vision 2030 National Development Plan.

As a Small Island Developing State committed to attaining the SDGs, Jamaica is deeply grateful for the support provided by the IAEA under its Technical Cooperation Programme, through the transfer of nuclear technology and technical cooperation resources.

COVID-19 has created an unprecedented crisis and highlighted the importance of collective action to protect human health. The Government of Jamaica wishes to place on record our sincere gratitude to the IAEA for its support in providing important COVID-19 emergency response equipment.

We also welcome the thrust to synergise national development priorities and IAEA assistance within the broader UN development Assistance Framework.

Of note, Jamaica has twelve (12) active national projects, under the 2020-2021 cycle covering: health, agricultural production, water quality control, infrastructure development and coastal and marine pollution.

It is important that I highlight the following two areas of cooperation, namely :

- the 'Building Capacity for Cancer Diagnostics and Treatment' project, where our first nuclear medicine centre for diagnostic imaging will be inaugurated in November 2020.
- the establishment of a self-contained gamma irradiation facility which, has been effective in controlling the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, and the spread of dengue fever. The irradiation infrastructure will also enhance the production of certain crops such as ginger varieties and sweet yam.

Mr. President, we note with great satisfaction that the Agency now implements safeguards for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology in over 180 countries. This is testament to the fact that the Agency remains indispensable for promoting cooperation in the nuclear field and for promoting safe, secure and the peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

Jamaica remains committed to total disarmament and looks forward to the 2020 Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in early 2021.

In collaboration with the International Centre for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences (ICENS), Jamaica is working closely with the IAEA to strengthen the regulatory infrastructure in the Region to provide for effective 'cradle to the grave' control of radioactive sources.

We also thank the IAEA for facilitating human resource capacity building at the Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority of Jamaica.

In closing, Jamaica wishes to reiterate its full support and unwavering commitment to the IAEA. We congratulate you on the resilience, innovation and adaptability shown in trying to continue the important work of the agency in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic and we look forward to its continuation.

I thank you.