



STATEMENT

BY

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ALTERNATE TO THE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF JAMAICA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
(IAEA)**

ON

**THE OCCASION OF THE 65th REGULAR SESSION OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

**VIENNA, AUSTRIA –20th to 24th SEPTEMBER 2021
(VIRTUAL)**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

Mr. President, I wish to extend my delegation's congratulations on your election to the Presidency of this 65th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference.

Jamaica values its longstanding partnership with the IAEA which spans over five decades. Our partnership continues to contribute to Jamaica's scientific, economic and social development. We are particularly appreciative of the Organization's support to Jamaica's thrust towards enhancing research and development and harnessing nuclear energy for sustainable development, in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and our own National Development Plan, Vision 2030.

Jamaica wishes to commend the IAEA Secretariat under the leadership of Director General, Mr. Rafael Grossi for its agility in responding to challenges brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic. The rapid pivoting and response of the Organization is testament of the IAEA's unwavering commitment to supporting the needs of its Member States.

Since the start of the pandemic, over 127 members states including Jamaica, have benefitted from the largest technical cooperation project in the Agency's history which involved the delivery of diagnostics kits and other medical equipment. The support received from the IAEA in this regard, not only helped to bolster

Jamaica's capacity to prevent and contain the spread of the virus but saved the lives of many of our citizens.

Jamaica remains deeply grateful for the support provided by the IAEA under its Technical Cooperation Programme 2020-2021 cycle. I wish to highlight three areas in which our cooperation has borne fruit:

- At the end of October last year, Jamaica officially launched the Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority (HSRA), becoming the first country in the English-speaking Caribbean to establish a full regulatory body for radiation protection and safety.
- In the area of water and environment, we have seen excellent results from a project with the National Irrigation Commission to assist farmers in improving water and fertilizer use to increase production yield. Projects such as these complement ongoing national efforts aimed at expanding agricultural production and trade, building resilience to the impact of climate change and strengthening our food security.
- In the area of health, the procurement of digital mammography units to support our two major hospitals to improve the quality and safe screening and diagnostics of breast cancer.

These are just few of the tangible benefits characterising our successful collaboration, which Jamaica is committed to strengthening going forward.

Mr. President,

At the regional level, ARCAL remains an important mechanism for technical cooperation and earlier this year Jamaica was pleased to deposit an instrument of acceptance to further extend the Agreement. Jamaica, through the International Center for Environmental and Nuclear Sciences (ICENS), is committed to contributing to the transfer of knowledge and the promotion of the use of nuclear energy to other CARICOM Member states and by extension the Latin American region.

Jamaica is encouraged but the continued efforts of the IAEA to be innovative and solutions oriented, as evidenced by the launch of initiatives such as :

- The Zoonotic Diseases Integrated Action (ZODIAC) aimed at reducing the risk of the next zoonotic disease becoming a pandemic;
- The IAEA Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship Programme (MCSFP) which aims to encourage women to pursue a career in nuclear science and technology; and
- The NUclear TEChnology for Controlling Plastic Pollution (NUTEC Plastics) which builds on the IAEA's efforts to deal with plastic pollution.

We will be engaging with the Secretariat on these initiatives and stand ready to contribute to their successful implementation.

As we work collectively towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Agency has demonstrated its creativity, readiness and commitment to join other multilateral organisations in addressing some of the most pressing global challenges, among them being the impact of climate change, the need to accelerate the development of renewable energy, sustainable industrial development, food security and health care delivery

In closing, Mr. President, allow me to reaffirm Jamaica's full support to the Director General and his team and assure them of our commitment to the goal of safe and effective use of nuclear technology for the greater good.

I thank you.