



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AT GENEVA**

STATEMENT BY

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ON

**THE OCCASION OF THE 69TH REGULAR SESSION OF
THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA - 15TH TO 19TH SEPTEMEBR 2025

Thank you, Mr. President

Jamaica congratulates you on your election to preside over the 69th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. You can count on our full support. We join other Member States in welcoming the Republic of Maldives as the newest member of the Agency.

Mr. President

Jamaica applauds the IAEA for its achievements in the last year, as reflected in its 2024 Annual Report. The Report underscores the IAEA's role as a global vehicle for peace, progress and economic development. We, therefore, welcome the theme of the Conference, "leveraging science, technology and innovation for sustainable development," which encapsulates the achievements of the IAEA in 2024. Jamaica welcomes the many successes of the IAEA in improving access to nuclear technology and applications in the areas of health, food, agriculture and environmental protection, as well as efforts to promote the participation of women in the nuclear field, through programmes such as the Marie Skłodowska – Curie Fellowship and Lise Meitner programmes.

These initiatives complement Jamaica's policy objectives. Vision 2030 Jamaica, Jamaica's National Development Plan, recognises science, technology and innovation (ST&I) as crucial for its goals of achieving sustainable prosperity. In this regard, the IAEA has been a key partner in realising this goal, as well as in supporting the implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy, launched in 2022.

In addition, Jamaica is poised to become the first Small Island Developing State (SIDS) in the Caribbean with a *UNESCO Global Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Instruments (GO-SPIN) Science, Technology, and Innovation (ST&I) country profile*. This will serve as a useful tool in policy and decision making, thus enhancing coherence between the activities of the IAEA and the Policy thrust of the Government of Jamaica in our longstanding and successful partnership with the Agency. Jamaica is committed to harnessing the power of innovation and collaboration to address the multifaceted challenges facing our society, as we unlock new opportunities for the growth and prosperity of the country.

Jamaica remains committed to building its human capital and expertise in science, technology and innovation. We take this opportunity to commend the team of the Division for Latin America and the Caribbean, in the Department of Technical Cooperation for effectively coordinating and facilitating the smooth delivery of technical cooperation activities. The IAEA has greatly assisted Jamaica through several technical assistance and capacity building activities such as trainings, expert missions, fellowships, scientific visits, and ongoing support for the establishment of the Postgraduate Educational Course in the Radiation Protection and the Safety of Radiation Resources at the UWI, Mona Campus.

Given the slow global progress in the implementation of the SDGs, the role of the IAEA in tackling global development challenges through the application of nuclear technology has been indispensable. In this context, we applaud the IAEA's efforts in addressing new and emerging issues, such as nuclear energy, combating zoonotic disease outbreak through its Zodinac initiative, and using nuclear technology to tackle the global issue of plastic pollution. These are inextricably linked to sustainable development.

My delegation, therefore, welcomes the focus on the NUTEC Plastics Initiative which will prove useful in helping SIDS, like Jamaica, meet its international commitments under the Paris Agreement, as well as strengthening capacity for climate mitigation and adaptation. Jamaica recently hosted two (2) regional training courses under the technical cooperation programme, “Applying Nuclear Technology in Agriculture, Water Resource Management and Environment in Caribbean Member States (CARICOM), which included a regional training course on *Sampling and Microplastic Analysis Using Nuclear and Isotopic Techniques*. Initiatives, like these, will also help countries to better implement the Global Plastics Treaty, when finalised.

Mr. President

Jamaica reaffirms its longstanding and unwavering commitment to combating climate change and continuously exploring new and innovative approaches towards adaptation and mitigation. We, therefore, see merit in the IAEA’s *Atoms4NetZero* initiative and programmes such as IAEA’s *Capacity Building and Nuclear Knowledge for Sustainable Energy Development Programme* and the *Milestones Approach*, which support Member States’ pursuits to develop nuclear energy. Given the signalled interest of the Government of Jamaica in exploring nuclear integration into the energy mix, as the country moves closer to 50 per cent renewables by 2030 in line with the National Energy Plan (NEP), we look forward to working with the IAEA to explore opportunities for collaboration.

Mr. President,

Water is fundamental to human life, economic development, food security and environmental sustainability, and thus we appreciate the partnership with the IAEA in the sustainable management of our water resources. Through partnership with the IAEA, we have received advanced equipment for isotope hydrology to obtain data for the interpretation of hydrological processes in groundwater and surface water, thus contributing to the effective allocation and use of water resources.

We, therefore, welcome the convening of the IAEA Scientific Forum on Atoms for Water on the margins of this Conference, given its dedicated focus on advancing global water sustainability and management, using nuclear and radiological techniques. Jamaica also looks forward to the implementation of the IAEA project, *“Developing a comprehensive water sector assessment towards the sustainable management and security of Jamaica’s water resources using the water availability enhancement approach”* in the new technical cooperation programme cycle.

As research and development are crucial to advancing the work of the IAEA, we are pleased about the completion of the refurbishing work at the IAEA/FAO Agriculture and Biotechnology Laboratories at Seibersdorf. Given the importance of food security and livelihood to Jamaica, we are particularly pleased about the technologies geared towards establishing effective systems to support plant mutation, soil management, food authenticity, food traceability and contaminant control to enhance food safety and international agricultural trade.

In this connection, we also wish to express gratitude to the IAEA for the self-contained gamma irradiation facility, installed in October 2024, which will support efforts across several sectors, including crop production and irradiation of

agricultural crops as a phytosanitary measure. These efforts, collectively, will help boost the nation's food security and trade in agriculture.

I could not close without highlighting our partnership in health which provides support for cancer diagnosis, treatment and care, through the Ray of Hope initiative, non-communicable diseases and mosquito-borne diseases, including through irradiation facility. In this context, we wish to highlight, among activities undertaken in 2024, the IAEA's assistance in the introduction of brachytherapy for the treatment of cervical and prostate cancer and expert advice for acceptance testing of two (2) mammography units to strengthen capacities for breast cancer screening and diagnosis in the public sector, as well as long-term fellowship training of health professionals in nuclear medicine imaging. We look forward to further collaboration to further improve oncology services to the Jamaican populace.

In closing, let me extend very best wishes for continued success at this important Conference as we seek to “leverage science, technology and innovation for sustainable development”. I thank you