



**STATEMENT BY SENATOR THE HONOURABLE DELANO FRANKLYN, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA, TO THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF ECOSOC: ACHIEVING THE INTERNATIONALLY AGREED DEVELOPMENT GOALS INCLUDING THOSE CONTAINED IN THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION AS WELL AS IMPLEMENTING THE OUTCOMES OF THE MAJOR UN CONFERENCES AND SUMMITS: PROGRESS MADE, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES (New York, 30 June 2005)**

Mr. President

The outcomes of UN Conferences and Summits held over the past 15 years have given us a vision for co-operation and defined different dimensions of a comprehensive Development agenda.

In each sphere of co-operation and for each grouping of special needs, a framework was devised and a strategy determined for reaching established targets.

The plans and programmes elaborated all fit in a framework of complementary objectives and interlocking strategies. They represent the elements of a shared vision of a global partnership in which each participant is expected to undertake various commitments and actions to advance the development agenda.

Developing countries have placed great importance in this overall approach. This is as in view of our traditional support for multilateralism and the potential of international economic co-operation. On the basis of the various outcome Documents, we had great hopes and expectations.

Mr. President,

Regrettably, we are all of the view that achievements have been well below expectations.

Implementation has been slow and uneven across and within regions. This uneven pattern has increased the disparities and the ever widening gap between developing and developed countries, especially in Africa.

Mr. President,

The main challenge facing the international community has not been a lack of strategies and objectives but rather the means and will for implementation; the fulfillment of commitments undertaken. We require renewed political will and commitment if the development agenda is to be accomplished with the agreed time-frames. In order to do so we need to commit to four (4) things:

First, to place the issue of development as the major priority of the international community. This must be the foundation for a renewed global partnership if broad-based development is to be advanced and the Millennium Development Goals achieved by 2015.

Second, is the need for the mobilization of substantial resources for development co-operation. A priority has to be the implementation of the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) commitments, the target for which time tables and monitoring arrangements was set over 30 years ago.

Firm commitments are now required to ensure that all developed countries meet the targets before 2015. The front-loading of the flow of ODA resources and the provision of debt relief are vital. Developing countries need real resources to undertake required developmental activities. There is also the need to improve delivery mechanisms to make development assistance more effective. This involves a reduction of transaction costs, the untying of both financial and technical assistance, simplification of procedures and the removal of political conditionalities which are significant impediments to the delivery of development assistance.

Third, is the need for a co-ordinated effort to eliminate systemic inequities especially in the rules relating to trade, finance and technology. The process of development will be facilitated only within a favourable international economic environment which allows developing countries to benefit from opportunities within the global economy. The rules must be fair and equitable for access to markets, the transfer of technology and the mobilization of investment flows.

Fourth, developing countries should have the policy space to develop their own strategies tailored to their

development needs and circumstances within a framework which provides for accountability, transparency and integrity. Development cannot proceed in the context of ideological rigidities and a single model given the diverse conditions and circumstances among developing countries. That is why an inclusive process of decision-making in which developing countries can play a meaningful role is so important in global economic governance and in the shaping of policies affecting international economic relations.

Mr. President,

We start from the premise that the goals that have been set in the UN Summits and Conferences are achievable. This year offers many opportunities for making progress. There are several Summits and Conferences which will provide opportunities for a renewed effort to advance the Development Agenda.

There are already encouraging signs. During the recently concluded South Summit in Doha, Qatar, for example, there was special emphasis placed on strengthening and increasing the level of South/South Co-operation and in promoting constructive engagement with the North towards a stronger global partnership. We also recognize significant positive signals of greater recognition of urgent and firmer commitment coming from the European Union which has decided to double its ODA by 2010 and to reach the 07. target by 2015. These steps are commendable and are welcomed by developing countries. They set the stage for even more significant steps in other fora during the rest of this year.

The G8 Summit in Gleneagles in July presents a significant opportunity both in terms of implementation of commitment of resources as well as in the re-alignment in global economic policies. A good start has been made by the G8 Finance Ministers in deciding on the cancellation of debt of a number of HIPIC countries. We look forward to a broadening of this initiative and other steps to advance development prospects. These could include;

the complete cancellation of debts where not to do so will undermine the country's ability to achieve the MDGs.

- the immediate setting up of a fair and transparent procedure to address unsustainable debt burden.
- a commitment from each G8 member that has not yet reached or established a schedule to present plans to the September Summit on how it will reach the UN target.

The High-level Summit in the General Assembly's 60 th Session offers world leaders the opportunity to decide on practical measures to address current development needs and for strengthening the UN system to support development.

Additionally, in December the Trade Ministers Meeting in Hong Kong can contribute by fulfilling the development promise of the Doha Development Round. The process needs a trade system that is fair and just. A trade system which allows for:

- special and differential treatment for developing countries.
- effective international mechanisms to support the prices of commodities, and to compensate developing countries for price fluctuations.

The upcoming international meetings give us a significant window of opportunity to speed up the process of implementation of decisions we have taken. It is important therefore that momentum is maintained and that there is focus on making concrete and substantial progress this year so that in time the year 2005 could be remembered as the Year of Development.

Thank you, Mr. President.