



GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

STATEMENT BY

**THE HONOURABLE DESMOND MCKENZIE, CD, MP, JP
MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE
HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE MIDTERM REVIEW OF THE SENDAI
FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2015-2030**

18-19 MAY 2023

NEW YORK

As advised

**President of the General Assembly, Heads of States,
Honourable Ministers, Excellencies, Delegates, Distinguished
Ladies and Gentlemen.**

On behalf of the Jamaica delegation, let me express our appreciation to the United Nations for convening this High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Mid-term Review of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

We thank the President of the General Assembly for his leadership, and we recognize the UNDRR team for their excellent engagement and the extensive work done leading up to this successful high-level meeting.

Mr. President,

Jamaica recognises that this high-level meeting provides an immense opportunity for countries, civil societies, private sectors and all members of the Disaster Risk Management Community globally, to reflect on the findings and recommendations of the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework, to assess progress and address the challenges in its implementation. It is also an opportunity to identify innovative ways to accelerate actions in the quest to achieving the seven global targets.

As a Small Island Developing State, Jamaica's vulnerabilities have been further compounded by climate risks, and other hazards, which have significantly impacted our people,

economy, infrastructure, environment and culture. The Covid-19 pandemic is one such occurrence.

The COVID-19 experience has further reinforced that disasters are systemic and cascading and requires an integrated approach that is multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional and people centered, as we adhere to the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

Mr. President,

Jamaica reaffirms our commitment to the implementation of the Sendai Framework to reduce disaster risk through the alignment of our policies, programmes and plans and by extension our National plan Vision 2030.

Jamaica continues to strengthen Disaster Risk Governance and our legislative agenda by passing The Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Policy and Plan which was tabled in our parliament as a Green Paper. This policy is intended to guide the national disaster management process and structure by using a whole-of-society approach.

Mr. President,

As it relates to the “*Making Cities Resilience 2030 Initiative*”, to strengthen our local capacity, The City of Kingston has recently adopted the UNDRR Public Health and Cultural Heritage Scorecard Addendum through a workshop supported by the UNDRR. This Municipality is well advanced in achieving its disaster management priorities through enhanced partnerships.

Mr. President,

The Government of Jamaica is serious about building our resilience against the financial impact caused by natural hazards, hence, we have improved the country's disaster risk financing programme which is critical to the overall risk reduction process.

Mr. President,

Jamaica continues to be a major player in the global and regional disaster risk management community.

Jamaica called for the name change of the Regional Platform from Regional Platform of the Americas to the Regional Platform of the Americas and the Caribbean which has given the Caribbean greater prominence.

We were the first country in the Caribbean to host this conference, which was the 7th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas and the Caribbean in 2021, held in a hybrid format. In addition, the 2021 Regional Platform saw for the first time the inclusion of a Youth Forum and having a youth representative at the Ministerial and High-Level Authorities Meeting.

Mr. President,

Jamaica continues to build on its disaster response capabilities by the continuous enhancement of our Early Warning Systems which is fundamental to Disaster Risk Reduction, thus fulfilling the requirements of Target G of the Sendai Framework, “Increasing the availability of multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information by 2030”

The country has received support from The Government of Japan through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to strengthen our early warning communication systems and capabilities to respond to emergencies and disaster events.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, the disaster risk reduction measures that the Government of Jamaica is initiating are crucial to ensure the economic viability and survival of our country and our people. We are committed to reducing disaster risk and increase resilience.

Mr. President,

As Leaders, we must all make a concerted effort to create a pathway to reduce disaster impacts on our countries there by building stronger economies and forging greater partnership with the international community as we move towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.