

**Presentation**  
**Bahamas Symposium:**  
**Implementing Agenda 2030**  
**& the SAMOA Pathway in SIDS**

**Introduction**

Jamaica, located in the northern Caribbean, is the third largest of the islands and has the largest English speaking population of approximately 2.8 million people.

As a SIDS, the country is faced with many challenges to its developmental aspirations. These include:

- Undiversifiable structural vulnerabilities – small size, open economy, geography, which makes it vulnerable to natural hazards;
- High indebtedness;
- Low growth rates; economy grew at an average of half a per-cent over the last two decades;
- Susceptibility to exogenous shocks, given high level of dependency on global economic conditions;
- Brain drain

## **Incorporation of SDGs and targets into national plans and policies**

The SDGs are aligned with *Vision 2030*, Jamaica National Development Plan. This approach facilitated a seamless integration of the agreed outcomes and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into (i) the national development planning framework; and, (ii) the system of monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of development outcomes.

A concerted effort was made thought-out the inter-governmental negotiating process to ensure that all proposed goals and targets were in keeping with existing national policies, programmes and legislation. Careful consideration was also made to identify, as well as to align targets to those reflected in Vision 2030 Jamaica and the Medium Term Socio-economic Policy Framework (MTF) 2015 -2018.

The institutional apparatus for implementation and monitoring of the SDGs include:

- The inter-ministerial working group co-chaired by the MFAFT and the PIOJ, and comprised representatives from all MDAs. In addition, to the MDAs, the national consultations included representatives from the private sector, the UN system and other development partners, and NGOs/CSOs;
- The thematic working groups under Vision 2030; and,

- Sector Committees.

## **The Roadmap**

The Roadmap for SDG Implementation in Jamaica, done in collaboration with the UNDP, outlines critical steps towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It covers alignment with national priorities, acceleration, financing, data requirements, institutional coordination and advocacy.

It is based on insights and information collected from a series of consultations and bilateral meetings. It also draws from the recommendations of the Economic Growth Council.

In relation to the Sendai Framework and the Paris Agreement, while the coordination and collaboration is not as pronounced as for the SDGs, there have been attempts to integrate these agreements into the national planning and implementation framework.

Jamaica has taken steps to align key national and corporate policies to the goals and objectives of the relevant international agreements on disaster risk reduction. A comprehensive strategy, predicated on the following priority areas, has been put in place:

1. *Enhanced community capacity to cope with the adverse effects of climate change and disasters;*
2. *Disaster Risk Management mainstreamed at national and parish levels and incorporated into key sectors;*
3. *Disaster Risk Management information utilized to build a culture of safety at all levels;*
4. *Strengthening of Preparedness, Mitigation, Response and Recovery Systems.*
5. *Strengthening the National Risk Management Machinery, to include housing designs that reflect modern construction techniques*
6. *Building the risk reduction capacity of vulnerable areas through community action*
7. *Strengthening human resources and provision of equipment*
8. *Strengthening risk management legislation and regulations (eg. the Building Act 2016 – to facilitate the adoption and efficient application of national building standards)*
9. *Enhancing Vulnerability analysis and risk assessment for communities to include at risk coastal communities.*

In so doing, we have, among other things, established a National Disaster Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister, and Parish Disaster Committees across the island, which are chaired jointly by the Custos and the Mayor of each parish. Each parish also has a Disaster Coordinator, who is responsible for coordinating all the activities geared towards preparedness, prevention, mitigation and response of every aspect of the disaster management cycle.

Climate Change incorporation is on-going with the establishment a Climate Change Division in the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation, along with the national climate change focal points network. This enables mainstreaming of climate change resilience into the national development planning framework of MDAs.

A number of programmes and projects have been designed, and implemented, to reduce the impact of climate change through capacity building and institutional strengthening and support mechanisms. (eg. training of trainers in the agricultural sector, energy, etc,).

The aim is to mainstream the SDGs into the work of the MDAs and to sensitise the private sector and the NGO communities to the new development paradigm and the fact that it needs the entire country to ensure that the development agenda is realised for Jamaica.

### **National requirements for implementing the SDGs**

- Capacity Building
- Enhanced Partnerships at all levels
- Provision of financial resources for implementation

- Alignment of UN country programmes to support SDGs' related priorities at the national level.

*SJM*

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