

Remarks by Ambassador E. Courtenay Rattray
Steering Committee on Partnerships for SIDS
New York 25th February 2016

Co-Chairs, Under Secretaries General,

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Dear Colleagues,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Deputy Permanent Representative of Thailand on behalf of the G77 and China, and the distinguished Permanent Representative of Barbados on behalf of the Caribbean Community.

It is my pleasure to participate in this first meeting of the Steering Committee on Partnerships for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It marks a significant moment in the process towards further operationalising the mandate of the Samoa Pathway to ensure the full implementation of pledges and commitments through partnerships for SIDS. In this regard, I must congratulate you both on your appointment as the first co-facilitators of this important mechanism and assure you of Jamaica's support in this endeavour.

Let me also join others in extending condolences to the Government and People of Fiji as they embark on the process of recovery following the devastation caused by Cyclone Winston. As a country frequently ravaged by hurricanes and other extreme weather conditions, Jamaica appreciates only too well the human and infrastructural losses that occur.

Distinguished co-Chairs, yours is the task, through this Committee, of guiding us as we seek to transform our societies and deliver real and sustainable development at all levels for our citizens. This is something which we cannot accomplish on our own. It can only be realised

through partnerships and with determination and full commitment to the objectives outlined in the Barbados Plan of Action, the Mauritius Strategy and the Samoa Pathway.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement complement our efforts to advance the developmental priorities of SIDS and therefore give us cause for optimism. The adoption of these landmark multilaterally negotiated intergovernmental agreements demonstrate that even in the face of our challenges, progress though incremental, is being made.

This Steering Committee can and must play a critical role in accelerating that progress. Jamaica is confident that with strong and durable partnerships, public and private, bilateral and international, we will be able to deliver on our ambitious undertaking.

Once again, it is my pleasure to share in this auspicious occasion and we commit to supporting and working constructively with all our partners to advance the common interests of SIDS through this Committee.

I thank you.