STATEMENT
by
Senator the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

High-Level Meeting to commemorate the UN’s 75th Anniversary
21ST SEPTEMBER 2020

Theme: ‘The Future we want, the UN we need: Reaffirming Our Collective Commitment to Multilateralism’

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the face of multiple complex challenges, growing anti-multilateral sentiments, a global pandemic and related economic crisis, this 75th Anniversary assumes added significance. The pledge our governments made 75 years ago to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, is worthy of deep reflection.

The UN Charter embodies our vision of a world defined by inclusive, sustainable development, in an environment of peace and security. This is the world to which we aspire and the world we need.

The UN has brought international focus on the critical issues of human rights, decolonisation, racism, climate change, economic cooperation, indebtedness, and disarmament which are all fundamental to development and remain relevant for individual, national and global equality and prosperity.
Indeed, it is only through international dialogue, cooperation and assistance that we will achieve our socio-economic development goals and a lasting legacy of peace, security and prosperity for this and future generations.

The unprecedented events of the COVID-19 pandemic, have concretised our long-held view that, “going it alone” is not a feasible option for Small Island Developing States like Jamaica. We know that in these challenging times, countries large and small, rich and poor have experienced the commonality of our humanity and the reality of our interconnectedness. The tremendous contribution of the United Nations in addressing the many challenges afflicting our global citizenry is without question. Today, we thank the UN in particular for the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund.

Recognizing the pivotal role that multilateralism plays in an interdependent world, Jamaica continues to support the work of the UN. Jamaica remains committed to all efforts towards making the Organization more coherent, effective and fit-for-purpose. Jamaicans have therefore, continued to serve the Organisation, its bodies and Specialized Agencies, in various capacities with the sole aim of securing the United Nations we need and the future we want.

As we celebrate this 75th milestone in the midst of an ever changing global environment, each Member State must assume responsibility for promoting increased understanding and compromise as well as continued dialogue and cooperation so that together we can create the UN we need to foster the future we want for us and generations to come.

I thank you.