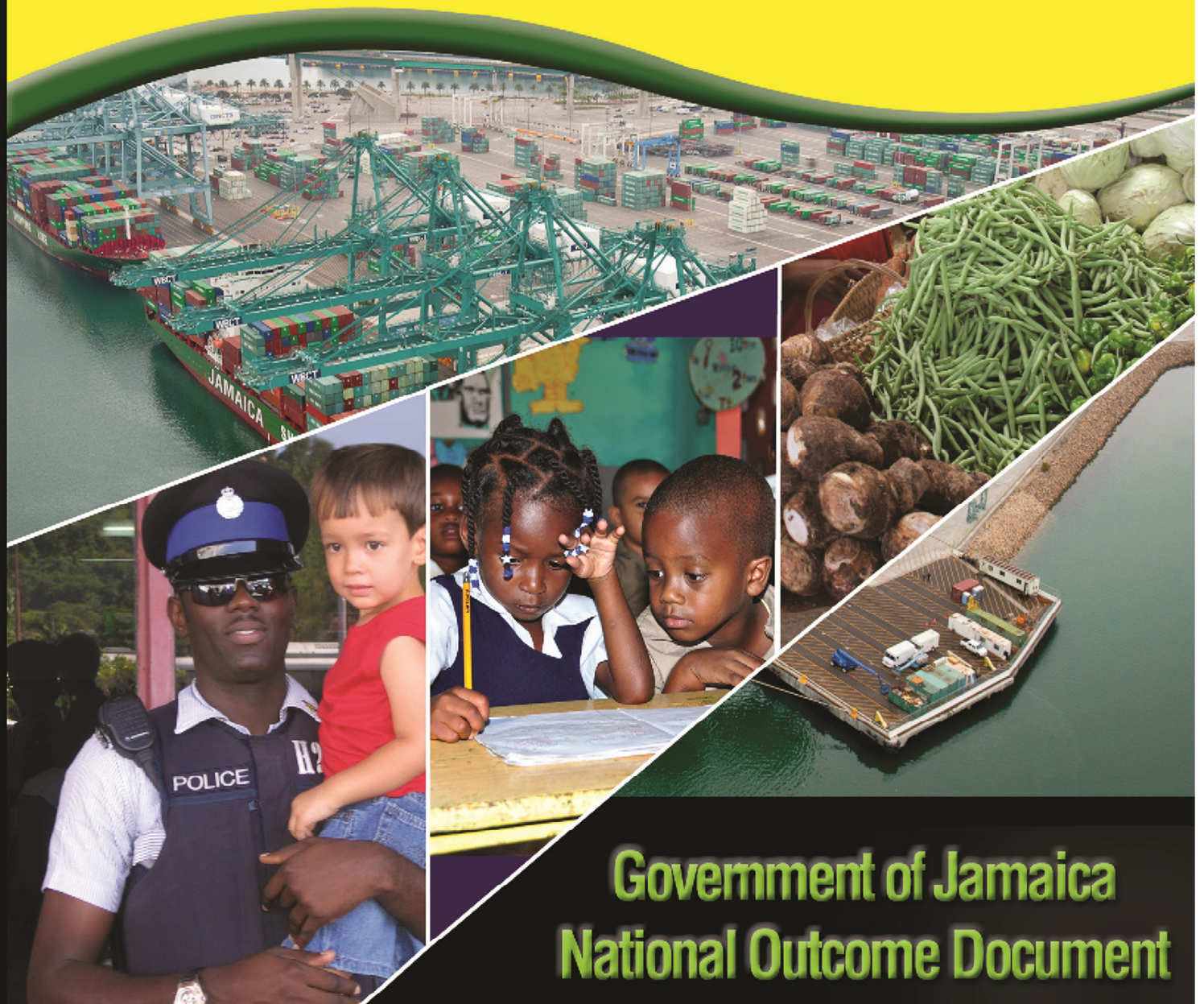




POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Government of Jamaica
National Outcome Document

POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Government of Jamaica National Outcome Document



JAMAICA

NATIONAL OUTCOME DOCUMENT POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Acronyms

Background

Executive Summary

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

Assessment

- a. Millennium Development Goals
- b. International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014
- c. Agenda of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

National Cross-Cutting Issues

Proposed Sustainable Development Goals – National Position

- Proposed Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Proposed Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- Proposed Goal 3: Attain healthy lives for all at all ages
- Proposed Goal 4: Provide inclusive and equitable quality education and life-long learning opportunities for all
- Proposed Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls everywhere
- Proposed Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Proposed Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- Proposed Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Proposed Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Proposed Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Proposed Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and sustainable
- Proposed Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Proposed Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Proposed Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Proposed Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of territorial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Proposed Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Proposed Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Means of Implementation

Monitoring and Evaluation of Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

List of Acronyms

BWA	Bureau of Women's Affairs
BPOA	Barbados Programme of Action
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CSJP	Citizens' Security and Justice Programme
CRP	Community Renewal Programme
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EFF	Extended Fund Facility
ESSJ	Economic and Social Survey Jamaica
FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
G20	Group of 20 countries
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GIS	Growth Inducement Strategy
GOJ	Government of Jamaica
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMWG	Inter-Ministerial Working Group
ITPGRFA	International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food And Agriculture
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MFAFT	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade
MICs	Middle Income Countries
MOAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
MOE	Ministry of Education
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOI	Means of Implementation

NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
NFPB	National Family Planning Board
NHF	National Health Fund
NPGE	National Policy for Gender Equality
NWC	National Water Commission
OWG	Open Working Group
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PATH	Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PoA	Programme of Action
SAMOA	Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEA	Strategic Environment Assessments
SFP	School Feeding Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPF	Social Protection Floor
SPS	Social Protection Strategy
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

BACKGROUND

BACKGROUND

As the period for implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) comes to an end, the international community has begun the engagement of an intergovernmental process to determine the Post-2015 Development Goals. This process draws on assessments of the successes, failures and lessons learnt from implementation of the following:

- MDGs
- Programme of Action (PoA) of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)
- UN Conference on Environment and Development
- UN Framework Conference on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- Beijing Social Summit
- Agenda of the Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The post-2015 agenda will reflect new development challenges and is linked to the outcome of “Rio+20”, the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The Outcome Document from RIO+20, “The Future We Want,” called for the creation of an intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to develop a proposal for consideration by the 68th Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. It is the intent of the UN to develop a single development framework with sustainable development at its core. This inclusive state-led process builds on the momentum of the MDGs and will address new and emerging developmental challenges and involve global consultations, including a mainstreamed process through the OWG.

A mechanism established by the UN to contemplate this new global development framework is the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (January 2012). The Task Team published its first report titled “Realizing the Future We

Want for All” in June 2012. The report outlined the vision of the United Nations system on the global development agenda beyond 2015 to include:

- A vision for the future which rests on the core values of human rights, equality and sustainability
- An agenda format based on concrete end goals and targets, along the lines of: (i) inclusive social development; (ii) inclusive economic development; (iii) environmental sustainability; and (iv) peace and security
- Policy coherence at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels
- Shared responsibility for all countries
- Broad and inclusive consultation processes to shape a shared vision.

The OWG has outlined goals with the requirement that they be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. After the conclusion of its negotiations, in accordance with paragraph 248 of the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the OWG “will submit a report to the 68th Session of the General Assembly containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action”.

In addition to the outputs of the OWG, there are several other inputs that will be factored into the agreed post-2015 development framework. In July 2012, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced a 27 member High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to advise on the global development framework beyond 2015. The High-Level Panel produced the Report entitled “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development”. The report articulated that the post-2015 agenda is to be driven by five transformational shifts:

- Move from “reducing” to ending extreme poverty, leaving no one behind
- Putting sustainable development at the core of the development agenda

- Transforming economies for jobs and drive inclusive growth
- Building accountable institutions, open to all, that will ensure good governance and peaceful societies
- Forging a new global partnership based on cooperation, equity and human rights.

Considering all these inputs, the OWG has articulated a comprehensive listing of 17 Focus Areas for refinement and prioritization. These will provide the framework for what will ultimately coalesce into the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Jamaica, through the involvement of representatives from its Permanent Mission in New York and a national Inter-Ministerial Working Group, have been actively engaged in the deliberations and providing inputs towards the identification of priorities for this global development framework.

The work on the SDGs has been coordinated and is coherent with the MDGs review process, without diverting efforts from the 2015 MDGs deadline. As the international community continues to develop an agenda for the post-2015 period following the deadline for the achievement of the MDGs, Jamaica remains committed to articulating its priority issues at the UN. The Government of Jamaica strongly supports the development of the SDGs with special interest in, and recognition of, the particular vulnerabilities of CARICOM countries as Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which constrain their efforts toward sustainable development, along with the significant impact of natural disasters and the negative effects of climate change on their economies. These SDGs should encompass the three dimensions of sustainable development¹ in a balanced and synergistic way, building on Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002). There is widespread consensus that the goals must be universal, limited in number, but at the same time, comprehensive and adequate.

¹ The three dimensions of sustainable development are: Social, Economic and Environmental.

THE NATIONAL OUTCOME DOCUMENT

As part of the preparation for this process, a national Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda – co-chaired by the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade – was established under specific mandate to formulate a National Outcome Document, outlining the country's priority areas to be included in the post-2015 development agenda. The IMWG therefore has responsibility for ensuring that Jamaica's priorities are reflected in the Agenda in the form of goals, targets and indicators at the relevant stages of the process. The country's position on the post-2015 development agenda is expected to reflect the goals, outcomes, strategies and priority actions of *Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan*, as well as the most recent assessment of Jamaica's performance in relation to inter alia, the MDGs, ICPD PoA and SIDS Agenda. The National Outcome Document will be the negotiating framework for all national delegations to the upcoming preparatory meetings, special sessions and summits of the UN for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of the preparation for the elaboration of the post-2015 development

framework, in particular the sustainable development goals (SDGs), a national Inter-Ministerial Working Group (IMWG) was established under specific mandate to formulate a National Outcome Document, outlining the country's priority areas to be included in the post-2015 development agenda. The Group is co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT) and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). The IMWG has responsibility for ensuring that Jamaica's priorities are reflected in the Post-2015 Development Agenda in the form of goals, targets and indicators at the relevant stages of the process.

The country's position on the Agenda is expected to reflect the goals, outcomes, strategies and priority actions of *Vision 2030 Jamaica — National Development Plan, Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF)*, the *Rio+20 outcome document – The Future We Want*, as well as the most recent assessment of Jamaica's performance in relation to inter alia, the MDGs, ICPD PoA and the outcome of the third international conference on SIDS - *the SAMOA Pathway*. The National Outcome Document will be the negotiating framework for all national delegations to the upcoming preparatory meetings, special sessions and summits of the UN on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The achievement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda will require, among other things, robust data systems to inform evidence-based decision-making and planning supported by effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

Since independence in 1962, Jamaica has made important strides towards sovereign state development within structured planning frameworks. Over the last decade, international, regional and local paradigms and approaches to development have included greater focus

on development planning, and the role of M&E as critical tools in ensuring that evidence-based decision-making is a core element of development planning frameworks. In 2009, Jamaica embarked upon the implementation of its first long-term development plan, *Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan* that utilises a Results-based Management Framework (RBM) to guide the process of achieving developed country status by 2030. The vision statement “***Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business***” encapsulates the holistic focus of the plan that aims to utilize evidence-based planning, and monitoring and evaluation of progress to address micro, meso and macro level development concerns. This is intended to strengthen state and local governance, and improve participatory democratic processes – that will effectively integrate development efforts at the community, regional and national levels – to achieve sustainable inclusive development. The link between evidence-based planning and assessment of progress is strengthened by the utilization of a periodically updated indicator framework and three-year strategic policy and action plans entitled the *Medium-Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF)*.

Jamaica is an active participant in the unprecedented process of global consultations to develop internationally relevant development goals for a Post-2015 Development Agenda, which will establish targets for achievement by 2030. The international process of development planning is highly aligned with the RBM framework of Vision 2030 Jamaica that comprises indicators and targets for the years 2012, 2015 ending in 2030, that were established based on extensive stakeholder consultations.

There is also close alignment between the outcome areas resulting from the various deliberations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the outcomes under Vision 2030 Jamaica. Vision 2030 Jamaica was utilized as the framework for agenda and priority setting for the local consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This facilitated an easier integration of the agreed outcomes and targets of the Post-2015 Development Agenda in: (1) the national development planning framework; and (2) systems for monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of development outcomes. The discussions on the post-2015 agenda is also timely as Jamaica is currently moving towards commencing

preparatory work on the MTF 2015/2016 – 2017/2018 and so the outcomes of this process can be more readily incorporated in national development planning.

These efforts are largely intended to promote the institutionalization of evidence-based management cultures and international standards for data quality and management. The papers and deliberations of various working groups and regional groupings on the post-2015 agenda have given focus to the need for development of capacity in the area of “data, monitoring and accountability” systems as an important element of the “Means of Implementation”. An issue of high priority within the discourse is increased access to quality data disaggregated, particularly for variables that represent cross-cutting areas of focus such as sex, age, disability and other country specific relevant variables.

In the last 20 years, there has been a protracted global crisis: “unemployment rates are at an all-time high, environmental threats have heightened, unsustainable consumption and production patterns as well as population growth have increased pressure on natural resources, and persistent inequalities are eroding social cohesion”². Technological advancements and innovations in all areas have provided opportunities to be harnessed. This situation presents both challenges and opportunities for both developed and developing countries, and will require a more strategic, inclusive and broad based approach for the new global development framework.

The global political landscape has also changed: challenges such as economic and climatic shocks as well as interdependence have increased global risks and insecurity, making cooperation more important. At the same time, emerging economies have changed the face of multilateralism, e.g. with the emergence of the G20. Emerging economies are also increasingly important as donors to low income countries. While official aid budgets are

² Swiss Position on a Framework for Sustainable Development Post-2015, June 2013.

increasingly under pressure in the context of the ongoing economic downturn, non-governmental actors, private or philanthropic donors assume an important role³.

The structure of the new framework must encapsulate the lessons learnt from the previous global process of the 1990s while addressing the unfinished business of the MDGs. A meaningful post-2015 development agenda will be determined by States fully implementing and reaffirming their commitment to a number of international agreements⁴.

Successful negotiations for a strong post-2015 development agenda will also depend on commitments to the outcomes of all of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields. These include the: United Nations Millennium Declaration; the 2005 World Summit Outcome; the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development; the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development; the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals; the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. At the national level, reviews have been undertaken to assess Jamaica's performance in all these global commitments. An outline of the performance in the implementation of the MDGs; the ICPD PoA; and other international agreements form part of the National Outcome Document.

³ Swiss Position on a Framework for Sustainable Development Post-2015, June 2013.

⁴The United Nations Millennium Declaration; the 2005 World Summit Outcome; the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development; the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development; the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals; the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, and the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development; and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda will be adopted in September 2015 at the Heads of Government Summit at the UN Headquarters in New York. Key decisions on the elements that are to be included in the agenda are currently being negotiated. This process is iterative with various levels of deliberations on the goals and targets. The OWG has proposed 17 broad based goals for consideration. The inter-governmental negotiating process is scheduled to begin in January 2015. The first step in this process is the identification of Jamaica's priorities including but not limited to those articulated by the OWG. The specific criteria outlined by the OWG require that priorities be:

- action-oriented
- concise and easy to communicate
- limited in number
- aspirational
- global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

In this regard, Jamaica has taken the initiative to ensure that national priority issues are included in the Agenda, with the formation of the IMWG and national consultations for effective engagement throughout the process. Once priority thematic areas are clearly identified, there are other considerations to ensure that they are effectively framed and advanced through the process:

- Measurement, data collection and statistics – the goals defined must be measurable. This requires that rigorous statistical capabilities and frameworks are in place at the various levels for accurate and effective measurement
- Universality – goals must be applicable to all countries and not just developing countries
- Cross-cutting issues vs stand-alone issues – a clear determination must be made on issues that warrant being addressed as stand-alone and those which should be dealt with as cross-cutting

- Means of implementation (MOI) - financing, technology transfer and capacity building. The absence of MOI for developing countries like Jamaica can pose difficulties for achieving the goals and targets to be outlined in this framework
- Treatment of SIDS and MICs – Linked to the issue of MOI is the peculiar challenge of Jamaica being both a SIDS and a member of the group of Middle-Income Countries (MICs). In relation to our status as a SIDS, a strong connection must be made between the outcome of the Third International Conference on SIDS in Samoa in September 2014 (the SAMOA Pathway), and the related processes that will culminate in the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Jamaica is proposing that the following be treated as cross-cutting issues as agreed by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Population dynamics; International Migration and Development; Gender; Equality; Environmental issues; Human Rights; Equity and Culture.

The following areas were identified as important for moving forward with successfully implementing the proposed goals:

1. Enabling environment for business development and sustainability
2. Sustainable macro-economic development to drive job creation
3. Strengthen and broaden the national consultative process to include more robust multi-stakeholder social dialogue and processes, along with partnerships with civil society, to ensure that sustainable development occurs
4. Increased dialogue between the Ministry that deals with finance and the Ministries that deal with social issues
5. Greater coordination internationally and locally according to countries' priorities and programmes
6. Strengthen the regulatory and policy frameworks for partnerships

7. Ensure coherence and coordination of various policies and processes. This should be extended to the macro-economic processes, to strengthen and broaden policy coordination and policy coherence for sustainable development.

The 17 goals proposed by the OWG, as listed below, have been accepted by Jamaica, as they are in line with Vision 2030 Jamaica and the targets set for the Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF).

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8: Promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts⁵
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17: Strengthen the processes of implementation and revitalize the global partnerships for sustainable development

⁵Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response for climate change.

ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT

In the last 20 years, there has been a protracted global crisis: “unemployment rates are at an all-time high, environmental threats have heightened, unsustainable consumption and production patterns as well as population growth have increased pressure on natural resources, and persistent inequalities are eroding social cohesion”⁶. Technological advancements and innovations in all areas have provided opportunities to be harnessed. This situation presents both challenges and opportunities for both developed and developing countries, and will require a more strategic, inclusive and broad based approach for the new global development framework.

“The global political landscape has also changed: challenges such as economic and climatic shocks as well as interdependence have increased global risks and insecurity, making cooperation more important. At the same time, emerging economies have changed the face of multilateralism, e.g. with the emergence of the G20. Emerging economies are also increasingly important as donors to low income countries. While official aid budgets are increasingly under pressure in the context of the ongoing economic downturn, non-governmental actors, private or philanthropic donors assume an important role”⁷.

The structure of the new framework must encapsulate the lessons learnt from the previous global process of the 1990s while addressing the unfinished business of the MDGs. The global landscape has changed significantly and the new framework must reflect issues and priorities emanating from previous global development frameworks.

A meaningful post-2015 development agenda will be determined by States fully implementing and reaffirming their commitment to a number of international agreements including the Rio Declaration; Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21; the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development; the Programme of Action for the Sustainable

⁶ Swiss Position on a Framework for Sustainable Development Post-2015, June 2013.

⁷ Swiss Position on a Framework for Sustainable Development Post-2015, June 2013.

Development of Small Island Developing States {Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)} and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the BPOA for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (MSI); and the UNFCCC.

Successful negotiations for a strong post-2015 development agenda will also depend on commitments to the outcomes of all of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and environmental fields including the United Nations Millennium Declaration; the 2005 World Summit Outcome; the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development; the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development; the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs; the Programme of Action of the ICPD, and the key actions for the further implementation of the PoA of the ICPD; and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

At the national level, reviews have been undertaken to assess Jamaica's performance in all these global commitments. The following section outlines the performance in the implementation of the MDGs; the ICPD PoA; and other international agreements.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The MDGs were established following the adoption of the UN Millennium Declaration in 2000. They are eight international development goals with specific targets that focus on key development issues, which UN Member States have committed to achieving by 2015. The MDGs were considered a milestone as they fostered global commitment and provided a roadmap for development efforts at the global and national levels.

Jamaica has made significant progress in achieving these goals, namely to: reduce extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and develop a global partnership for development.

In 2009, a National MDG Report was prepared by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT). The report was an assessment of the progress made in achieving the MDGs, particularly the attainment of universal access to primary education and reduction in extreme hunger. It also underscored that Jamaica was on track to combat HIV/AIDS, halt and reverse the incidence of malaria and other diseases, halve by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation and achieve universal access to reproductive health. Notwithstanding these achievements, the Report revealed that Jamaica was lagging in gender equality and empowerment of women; poverty eradication; and in environmental sustainability; and was far behind in child and maternal mortality.

Another comprehensive assessment of Jamaica's performance in achieving the MDGs was undertaken in 2014, which highlights that Jamaica has suffered a combination of setbacks from environmental and economic shocks, including declines in many of its sectors, increases in debt-to-GDP ratio, unemployment and poverty rates⁸. This has resulted in the unlikelihood of the country achieving the remaining goals and targets of the MDGs by 2015, specifically, the goal to reduce infant, child and maternal mortality by 75.0 per cent. Indicative of the environmental and socio-economic challenges that Jamaica has experienced, there have been minuscule changes with respect to the achievement of the MDGs since the assessment in 2009.

⁸ Comprehensive Assessment of Jamaica's Progress towards the MDGs, A Review of Policies and Programmes, March 2014 (unpublished work).

According to the UN System Task Team, the success of the MDGs has been associated with characteristics including:

- (i) a clear focus on national policy efforts
- (ii) simple and clear quantitative targets
- (iii) tool for advocacy to strengthen international development co-operation.

The perceived weaknesses range from issues surrounding inadequate consultations and consensus, which resulted in a lack of ownership, to criticisms around the largely global definition of targets, which failed to recognize the existing conditions within countries and regions.

At the national level, lessons were learnt from the implementation of the various policies, programmes and plans developed by Jamaica to achieve the MDGs, which must be considered in the identification and formulation of priorities for the post-2015 development agenda. The main lessons are as follows:

- MDGs are universal/global goals which need to be localized (goals/targets/indicators) in order to be meaningful. Goals, targets and indicators must relate to local (country/community) circumstances in order to be meaningful
- The goals and targets need to promote the field of development statistics (economic, social and environmental) and enhance the data collection capacity of countries
- Local priorities must be established given resource availability (financial, human and institutional). Greater advocacy at the local level is needed to ensure sustainability of action
- Increased attention to the need for strengthening statistical capacity
- Public-private partnerships and broad participation (consultations) would assist in goal achievement.
- The need to identify projects/programmes with greatest impact on goals. Sequencing of goals was needed as well as identification of best practices with respect to goals

- Reversal of progress would be avoided if there were greater monitoring and evaluation of projects – to determine impact, target changes
- The need to look beyond the MDGs to Vision 2030 Jamaica
- MDG mainstreaming and capacity building are required (MDAs, NGOs, FBO, CBOs, civil society and academia and political arena) to ensure effective implementation
- Strong partnership between the international statistical systems and countries to develop statistics for MDG indicators.

Jamaica, in recognizing that some of the specific goals and targets were not relevant to a country at its level of development, made adaptations to the MDG framework and developed, in conjunction with other countries in the region, goals and targets which were more in keeping with its own national development agenda.

The main areas for which adaptations were made for Jamaica are:

Extreme Poverty and Hunger:

Jamaica uses an absolute measure of poverty and not the US\$1.25 per day used in MDG 1. Thus, Jamaica’s poverty reduction target was to halve the proportion of persons living below the poverty line, as well as suffering from hunger by 2015. Indicators of inequality (percentage of national consumption by the poorest and wealthiest quintiles), hunger (percentage of population consuming below the minimum dietary requirement) and deprivation (prevalence of underweight children under 5 years old) are also used to monitor movement towards this goal.

Achieve Universal Access to Primary Education:

Jamaica has set itself new goals in education as the country achieved universal access since 1990. The new goals relate to universal access to five full years of secondary education, retention and completion rates; and improvements in the quality of the education product at all levels. Hence, in addition to net enrolment rates, Jamaica monitors two modified indicators to support this goal: percentage of students starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5 and the youth literacy rate.

Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women:

Not yet achieved in Jamaica, some of the targets related to the gender equality goal remain relevant but, in some instances, with a focus on boys, not girls. For Jamaica, the target to remove gender disparity in access to education at the secondary level pertains to enrolment of boys at the upper secondary level, where girls have a higher enrolment rate than boys. Other targets, such as increasing women's political participation, labour market participation rate and employment levels remain important for Jamaica.

Other Goals:

The other goals regarding child and maternal mortality, HIV/AIDS malaria and tuberculosis, environmental protection and the building of global partnerships were unaltered despite the fact that at its 2009 presentation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Jamaica suggested that Goal 6 — to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases— be expanded to include a target to halve by 2015 the incidence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). It further suggested that the indicator should be prevalence of NCDs by sex and age and that a special session be convened on NCDs.

International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action (PoA)

Jamaica was among 179 countries that adopted the PoA of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt, September 5–13, 1994 and the Key Actions for the Further Implementation of the PoA of the ICPD adopted by the Twenty-first Special Session of the General Assembly, New York, June 30 – July 2, 1999. Jamaica has since produced a 20-year report that covers the period 1994–2014, the original time span for the PoA and provides the foundation on which Jamaica's population and development

programme is articulated. The National Report reflected achievements and implementation challenges associated with each of the eight major themes addressed in the Global Survey:

- Population, Sustained Economic Growth and Sustainable Development
- Population Growth and Structure
 - Addressing the needs of adolescents and youth
 - Addressing ageing and the needs of older persons
 - Addressing the needs of persons with disabilities
- Urbanization and Internal Migration
- International Migration and Development
- Family, Well-being of Individuals and Societies
- Reproductive Rights and Reproductive Health, and Health, Morbidity and Mortality
- Gender Equality, Equity and Empowerment of Women
- Population, Development and Education.

Over the past 20 years, the country has made significant progress in implementing much of the action recommendations as contained in the PoA. Major achievements include:

- Revision of the National Population Policy (1995) and formulation of a PoA on Population and Development consistent with the ICPD POA (1995)
- Integration of population considerations into all national and sectoral development policies, plans and programmes including Vision 2030 Jamaica
- Design and implementation of a national programme, targeting adolescents' sexual and reproductive health issues, including adolescents with disabilities
- Development and institutionalization of a Health and Family Life Education Programme in the education system
- Achievement of population stabilization at zero growth (current growth rate between 0.2–0.3 per cent) with fertility levels approaching replacement at 2.1 children per woman, (fertility rate at 2.33 per woman on average currently) on target

- Life expectancy at birth on target for reaching 76 years for both sexes by 2030 from its current level of approximately 74.15 years
- Facilitated the development of national policies on youth, senior citizens and persons with disabilities
- Formulation of a draft comprehensive national policy on International Migration and Development and a draft Diaspora policy to be tabled in Parliament later this year
- Contributed to the formulation and implementation of a national poverty eradication policy and programme
- Introduction of the Programme for Advancement through Health and Education (PATH), a conditional cash transfer (CCT) programme aimed at delivering benefits to the most needy and vulnerable in the society
- Creation of a National Policy for Gender Equality and the 51% Coalition, which is committed to gender equality in leadership at the highest levels of decision-making in political and public organizations
- Launched the Reintegration of Teenage Mothers into the Formal School System in 2013. This policy provides the framework under which teenage mothers can re-enter the formal school system to continue their education
- Implementation of Alternative Secondary Transitional Education Programme (ASTEP) (2011) targeting adolescents ages 12-14 years by providing a safety net for children who, at the end of the primary level, did not possess the requisite literacy skills and competencies to successfully access secondary education.

Although Jamaica has made substantial progress in many critical areas in implementing the PoA, there are some areas in which the country has not made much progress. The following were some of the gaps identified which will inform priorities identified for the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

- Increasing focus on sustainable development as the framework for population policy and programme interventions
- Continuing focus on reduction in fertility among adolescents and youth as a strategy to break the inter-generational linkages to poverty, inequality and deprivation
- Addressing infant, child and maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS through a concerted and coordinated approach
- Ensuring the integration of population ageing in all development policies, plans and programmes
- Incorporating population growth and distribution in urbanization and climate change policies and planning
- Mainstreaming international migration into national development and the role of diaspora in national development
- Ensuring that human rights and gender issues are integrated into all policies, plans and programmes
- Addressing improvements in public awareness and knowledge of global trends on population and development including climate change, hazard mitigation and sustainable resource use
- Ensuring access to appropriate sexual and reproductive health services and information for youth and adolescents
- Reviewing existing land use patterns, zoning regulations, building codes and standards in the context of housing and urban development needs
- Recommending measures to avert and combat trafficking in persons
- Promoting healthy and active ageing through lifelong learning and universal access to education
- Addressing governance and security issues
- Utilizing funds properly in light of tight fiscal and high external debt constraints.

There were many lessons learnt throughout the implementation of the ICPD PoA. One important factor is the nature of the financial and technical resource environment. Some

international development partners (IDPs) reduced, shifted or stopped funding altogether in some of the critical development areas — notably population, family planning and more recently, HIV and AIDS. However, financial constraints are not limited to IDPs. As Jamaica graduates to upper middle income country status, some of the opportunities for financial support are no longer available. Government has to do more with less. As such, the government needs to focus on capacity building and institutional training by the restructuring of programmes.

There are opportunities to address inadequacies, to integrate programmes and approaches in the delivery of services in a more holistic way. All policies, plans and programmes should be streamlined to prevent duplication of efforts and ensure all outcomes are satisfactorily met for the achievement of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The presence of these challenges also provides opportunities for the redefinition of the role of the private sector in development planning and implementation.

SIDS

Overall, Jamaica has experienced some progress at both the national and regional levels including increased institutional capacity for carrying out policy reforms and in formulating appropriate strategies and action plans, for example, in the areas of climate change and renewable energy. This progress was achieved primarily through the efforts of the Government, with support from international development partners and intergovernmental regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, and international financial institutions.

For many Caribbean countries, including Jamaica, there is the view that implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (BPOA), and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS has been slow. In

general, many of these countries continue to face a number of constraints such as limited technical, financial and human resources, as well as the impact of exogenous factors, particularly the global financial crisis. In Jamaica's assessment of the SIDS process, it was noted that of the 14 priority areas of the BPOA, eight received the most attention: climate change and sea-level rise; natural and environmental disasters; management of wastes; coastal and marine resources; freshwater resources; land resources; biodiversity resources; and national institutions and administrative capacity. Five of the others were also important in the policy agenda and the implementation programmes of action – energy resources; tourism resources; transport and communication; science and technology; and human resources development. The area in which the implementation lag was greatest appears to have been contribution to the regional institutions and technical cooperation⁹.

Specific areas of gaps and constraints related to the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI include:

- Climate change and the need for concerted action to keep the average global temperature below 1.5°C
- Natural disasters and the need to promote a preventative approach
- Health and the burden and threat of Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs)
- ODA and the overall decline which has had a negative impact on the ability to respond to crises
- Graduation to high middle income country status
- Use of GDP as a measure of development
- Social integration policies particularly for young people, older persons and persons with disabilities
- Crime and violence
- Unemployment, particularly for women and youth
- Migration and how to deal with the challenges and opportunities.

⁹ "Jamaica: Achievements since Barbados, 1994, and new Challenges for Samoa, 2014- Synthesis Document for the SIDS National Preparatory Process". Government of Jamaica and UNDP. June 10, 2013.

The issues of SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in light of the unique and particular vulnerabilities faced. These countries, like Jamaica, are particularly challenged in achieving sustainable development in all areas in the absence of international cooperation. Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to the sustainable development of SIDS and support the priority areas outlined in the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway. Jamaica supports the position that partnerships are critical for SIDS to achieve their sustainable development goals, particularly in light of the threats that climate change pose.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR JAMAICA

KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR JAMAICA

The post-2015 development agenda will be adopted at the United Nations Heads of State and Government Summit in September 2015. Notwithstanding this timeline, key decisions on the elements that are to be included in the agenda are currently being negotiated. In this regard, Jamaica has taken initiatives to ensure the inclusion of national priority issues in the agenda. This is being achieved through the IMWG and national consultations for effective engagement throughout the process.

This process is iterative with various levels of deliberations on the goals and targets. The intergovernmental process, which began in September 2014, focused on crafting a narrative to inform how these goals and targets will be advanced within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The first step in this process is the identification of Jamaica's priorities including but not limited to those articulated by the OWG. The specific criteria outlined by the OWG require that priorities are:

- action-oriented
- concise and easy to communicate
- limited in number
- aspirational
- global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

Priority areas are being categorized according to thematic areas within specific sectors based on the following considerations:

- What areas, covered by the MDGs framework, reflect Jamaica's performance?
- Which goals has Jamaica made progress in or encountered challenges?
- Are there targets and indicators that must be retained in the current iteration or modified?

- What new/alternative targets and indicators could be addressed in connection with a thematic area/goal that is to be included in this new framework?
- What thematic areas are missing from the MDGs that must be reflected in this new global SDGs framework?
- Are there new and emerging priorities globally as well as for Jamaica and do they warrant consideration?

Once priority thematic areas are clearly identified, there are other considerations to ensure that they are effectively framed and advanced through the process:

- Measurement, data collection and statistics – the goals defined must be measurable. This requires that rigorous statistical capabilities and frameworks are in place at the various levels for accurate and effective measurement
- Universality – goals must be applicable to all countries and not just developing countries
- Cross-cutting issues vs stand-alone issues – a clear determination must be made on issues that warrant being addressed as stand-alone and those which should be dealt with as cross-cutting
- Means of implementation (financing, technology transfer and capacity building) – this may be a potentially controversial issue in the negotiations. The absence of means of implementation (MOI) for developing countries like Jamaica can pose difficulties for achieving the goals and targets to be outlined in this framework. Consideration has to be given to whether MOI will be a stand-alone goal (as was in the MDG framework) or integrated into all proposed SDGs
- Treatment of SIDS and MICs_– Linked to the issue of MOI is the peculiar challenge of Jamaica being both a SIDS and a member of the group of Middle-Income Countries (MICs). In relation to our status as a SIDS, a strong connection must be made between the SAMOA Pathway and the related processes that will culminate in the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.

As part of the key considerations in articulating national priorities, focus is also placed on the positions emanating from the following negotiating groups for which Jamaica is party:

- Group of 77 (G-77) and China
- Commonwealth
- CARICOM
- UNFCCC

NATIONAL CROSS- CUTTING ISSUES

NATIONAL CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Jamaica is proposing that the following be treated as cross-cutting issues as agreed by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group on the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Population dynamics; International Migration and Development; Gender; Equality; Environmental issues; Human Rights; Equity; and Culture.

Population Dynamics comprises trends and changes in population size, growth and distribution – ageing; settlement; migration; urbanization; and population density. Population dynamics influence consumption and availability of natural resources, and together with consumption levels and efficiencies determine environmental sustainability¹⁰. Therefore, “population factors cannot be simply taken to be exogenous but should be viewed as inextricably endogenous to the process of development itself”. The UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda has underscored that “none of the greatest challenges of our time can be resolved without attention to population dynamics”.

It is projected that on a global level, future population growth will occur mainly in developing countries, particularly among least developed countries. The relatively high birth rates and increasing proportions of young people in these countries will have implications for poverty eradication, economic growth and potentially outpace investments in health, education and basic social services. However, on the other hand, the dynamics in some developing countries and in all developed countries of declining fertility rates and increasing longevity results in population ageing characterized by large proportions of youth, working age and elderly populations. This presents several areas of focus for each of these sub-groups. The youth are the custodians of the future and will require significant investments for their potential to be maximized, in areas including health (sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights), quality education, decent job opportunities, technological innovation, decision-making etc. These focus areas are also relevant for the working age population. The elderly comprises the fastest growing segment of the global

¹⁰“Population Dynamics in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”. The Post-2015 Agenda Global Thematic Consultations, February 2014.

population and this has implications for the changing family structures and support systems. Consideration must be given to the implications for social security; health care systems; the rights and interests of older persons; and other developmental concerns for this group.

International migration, internal migration and urbanization are other demographic phenomena that have an impact on all sectors. More than half of the global population and also Jamaica's population reside in what are classified as urban areas and this is projected to increase in the future. If properly planned, urbanization has the potential to improve access to education, health, housing and other services (water, energy, food security and nutrition); and also expand opportunities for economic productivity. However, if left unchecked, it presents challenges for urban planning, environmental sustainability and good governance.

International migration has been flagged as a major priority issue globally and equally for Jamaica. Through effective integration of migration into national development strategies, the development potential of migration can be harnessed to benefit societies and migrants themselves through sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies. It is widely acknowledged that a relationship exists between migration and the economic, social and cultural conditions in developing countries such as Jamaica. Therefore, migrants are to be seen as potential agents of development who are well positioned to strengthen cooperation between countries of origin and destination and for their own development. This must be done within the context of protecting the rights of migrants. Jamaica has identified nine broad thematic areas in migration and development which are aligned to national priorities of Vision 2030 Jamaica and are integral to achieving goals outlined in the post-2015 development agenda:

- Governance and Policy Coherence
- Human Rights and Social Protection
- Diaspora and Development
- Labour Mobility and Development

- Remittance and Development
- Public Order, Safety and Security
- Return, Integration and Reintegration of Migrants
- Family, Migration and Development
- Data, Research and Information Systems.

Social Protection should not be the focus only for the poor but to reduce the risk and likelihood of poverty and vulnerability. Jamaica has adopted and endorsed a life-cycle approach (children, youth and adolescents, working age population and the elderly) to social protection which examines the specific social security needs across the lifespan of individuals including poverty reduction, welfare and social insurance.

Culture is recognized within the UN as a powerful driver for development with social, economic and environment impacts. The relevance of the culture sector to economic growth and poverty eradication cannot be understated. “Cultural heritage, cultural and creative industries, sustainable cultural tourism and cultural infrastructure can serve as strategic tools for revenue generation” particularly in developing countries like Jamaica given the rich cultural heritage and substantial labour force. Culture-led development has impacts on social inclusiveness, innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship among individuals and communities through the use of local resources, skills and knowledge. The impact of respecting and supporting cultural expression is evident in enhanced social capital and engendering trust in public institutions. Cultural factors also influence lifestyles, individual behaviour, consumption patterns, values related to environmental stewardship, and interaction with the natural environment. Local knowledge systems and environmental management practices provide valuable insight and tools for tackling ecological challenges, preventing biodiversity loss, reducing land degradation, and mitigating the effects of climate change.

It is proposed that **gender** be treated both as a cross-cutting issue as reflected in Vision 2030 Jamaica and also as a stand-alone issue in light of its global significance. As a cross-cutting issue, gender undergirds the fact that women and men face different issues and, therefore, have different needs in areas such as governance, the economy, health, education, among others. The achievement of gender equality, equity and women's empowerment is integral to realizing socially inclusive sustainable development and is an essential plank for Jamaica to become a developed country by 2030.

Jamaica is party to seven of the nine core international **human rights** conventions including:

- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child (and its Optional Protocols on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict)
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

Jamaica attaches significant importance to its human rights records. In this context, Jamaica has undertaken substantive work to ensure that the freedom and rights of its citizens are protected under the UN Charter, the Jamaican Constitution and the Charter of Rights and Freedom in 2011.

In July 2014, the Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the Commonwealth Secretariat conducted consultations with a view to the establishment of a National Human Rights

Institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles and in accordance with the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the Human Rights Council. Jamaica has systematically sought to address the recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review through training and sensitisation across a wide cross-section of Jamaica to include the legal fraternity, law enforcement, health care workers and teachers. Efforts have also been made to incorporate the human rights agenda in pursuit of the MDGs and Vision 2030 Jamaica.

Equality and Equity: Jamaica's vision for 2015 and beyond speaks to the creation of a secure future for our vulnerable population and seeks to ensure that each child has an equal opportunity to develop his or her full potential through access to the best care, affection and protection; our youth are empowered to contribute meaningfully in building and strengthening the communities to which they belong; our elderly and persons with disabilities are fully integrated within society, have access to appropriate care and support services and are treated as valuable human resources; and no one falls into, or remains in poverty for lack of adequate support. This vision can only be achieved through an equity-based approach to development which can provide opportunities for more targeted support and interventions for those who need it most, enabling the most vulnerable to access key services. Having access to basic essential services ensures that all members of society would have the same opportunity to survive, develop and reach their full potential, without discrimination, bias or favouritism.

Jamaica is working with a number of partners to sharpen focus on reaching the most vulnerable and reducing social inequities. The country is pursuing a more targeted approach than in the past, building on lessons learned from previous approaches and the latest knowledge and evidence on the effects of inequities.

Regional and international organizations such as ECLAC and UNICEF recognize that equity must be treated both as a cross-cutting issue as reflected in Vision 2030 Jamaica and also as

a stand-alone issue in light of its global significance. As a cross-cutting issue, equity undergirds the fact that women and men face different issues and, therefore, have different needs in areas such as governance, the economy, health, education, among others. The achievement of gender equality, equity and women's empowerment is integral to realizing socially inclusive sustainable development and is an essential plank for Jamaica to become a developed country by 2030.

Environmental issues: There exists a high level of interdependence between the environment, economic and social systems in SIDS such as Jamaica. This high level of interdependence means that progress in one area should not be attained at the expense of other areas. Protecting and managing Jamaica's natural resources is very much about enhancing quality of life. Environmental quality is inextricably linked to economic and social well-being, as a healthy environment – the ability to carry out its functions unencumbered – contributes to prosperity as all people. Rich and poor, urban and rural, and people in all regions rely on natural capital. Natural resources or natural capital provide essential services for economic and social development – as the functions of a healthy environment (e.g. flood control, climate control, soil productivity, forest health, pollination, waste assimilation and natural pest control) underpin economic development and sustain human health and maintain the conditions for life on earth.

In the past, environmental issues were once regarded as irrelevant to economic activity; however, today the rules for business, investors, and consumers are dramatically being rewritten. It is now recognized that environmental considerations are integral factors in economic decision-making. However, despite the greater understanding of the linkages between environment and development, real progress towards inclusion of environmental issues into all developmental spheres remain either slow or elusive in many countries as there still exists a continued failure to link environment and development in decision making. This results in development policies and strategies ignoring the need to take account of ecosystem services on which long term economic development goals depend.

Through the advancement of processes like strategic environmental assessments (SEAs), Jamaica will be more adequately able to assess the impacts of economic and social policies and plans on the natural environment and be able to adequately mitigate potential negative impacts. It is proposed that environmental issues be treated both as a cross-cutting issue as reflected in Vision 2030 Jamaica and also as a stand-alone issue in light of its global significance and local significance to advancing developmental prospects.

PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

PROPOSED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Outcome Document of the Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals¹¹ outlines a set of goals for consideration and appropriate action by the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly. “The Rio outcome gave the mandate that the SDGs should be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015. The 17 proposed Goals and Targets articulated have been assessed by the Inter-Ministerial Working Group and other critical stakeholders and the following are considerations on Jamaica’s national position in each area:

Proposed Goal 1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere

The Government of Jamaica (GOJ) is committed to addressing the issues of poverty and vulnerability and this is evident in Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan and also national policies, plans, and programmes. Jamaica experienced significant reduction in poverty from 28.4 per cent in 1990 to 9.9 per cent in 2007 thereby achieving the MDG target. However, the global economic crisis in 2008 initiated a reversal of the trend so that by 2012 the poverty prevalence had increased to 19.9 per cent. In light of this, a Poverty Reduction Coordination Unit was established in the PIOJ in 2013 to spearhead the development and monitoring of a revised Poverty Policy and a Strategic Poverty Programme. It is to be noted that poverty reduction is contextualized within the broader framework of social protection. Jamaica has a long history of social policy including social assistance and social security programmes (contributory and non-contributory). However, the sector has been characterized by limited coordination of initiatives that are driven by various mandates. The recently approved comprehensive Social Protection Strategy provides a framework for delivery of social protection interventions, inclusive of poverty reduction programmes, towards greater sustained outcomes for the poor and vulnerable.

¹¹Latest version Saturday, July 19 1:20 p.m.

Proposed Target 1.1 – By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than US\$1.25 a day.

Jamaica fully supports the global target. Extreme poverty and hunger will be measured by the food poverty line.

Proposed Target 1.2 – By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions.

Poverty in Jamaica is measured using a basket of food and non-food consumption variables. The preliminary data on the prevalence of poverty, estimated by the 2012 *Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions (JSLC) 2012*, was 19.9 per cent nationally. This proposed target provides a specific focus on not just overall poverty prevalence, but seeks to identify poverty prevalence by sex and age group, particularly children. The JSLC data allows for tracking poverty based on a number of characteristics including sex, region, and age-group, and as such specific national targets can be identified along these lines.

In keeping with Vision 2030 Jamaica and its accompanying Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan, the specific targets for Jamaica will include:

- Halve poverty prevalence rate (i.e. to under 10 per cent) by 2030
- A national target (or indicator) using distribution of consumption by deciles/quintiles to reflect differences between socio-economic groups. Compared with the Gini coefficient, changes in inequality measured by decile/quintile distribution are more apparent over time.
- Tracking and reporting on relevant social development indicators of consumption and income inequality. These could include asset ownership such as land. Government policies (including tax policies) could also be strengthened towards inclusive economic growth.

Proposed Target 1.3 – Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

This proposed target is more in keeping with the definition of social protection used by Jamaica that is focused on income security for all: *“Social Protection is the set of provisions that employ public and private initiatives, guided by state policies, to prevent, address, and reduce the risks of poverty and vulnerability brought about by lack of, losses or interruptions to income. Its objective is to ensure living standards above specified levels, through effective social, economic and labour market policies that support income security across the life span”*(*Jamaica Social Protection Strategy, May 2014*).

It is, however, not clear what is meant by “achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable” in the proposed target. The use of the word “substantial” in this context requires definition.

In July 2014, Jamaica launched its Social Protection Strategy (SPS) following Cabinet’s approval in March 2014. The SPS is a framework linked to the Vision 2030 Jamaica, and its Outcome of “Effective Social Protection”. The SPS seeks to create a systematic and integrated approach to the delivery of social protection interventions, while providing a conceptual framework and common foundation for a wide range of social protection services. The SPS embraces the Rights-Based, Social Risk Management and Transformative Social Protection Theories. Therefore, social protection is seen as a right and should address not only coping with risks but also preventing and mitigating them. Transformative social protection also seeks to address long-standing and structural risks. The SPS also uses a life-cycle approach to addressing social protection risks, and in so doing captures the various social protection related vulnerabilities for all.

Another key component of the Strategy is the Social Protection Floor (SPF). The SPF for Jamaica includes a mix of income security programmes and basic social services. These minimum provisions are to be guaranteed for all citizens, in particular, the poor and most vulnerable.

The proposed national post-2015 targets related to the social protection floor and its components are as follows:

- identify the elements of a social protection floor for Jamaica
- increased social assistance coverage (i.e. the proportion of those deemed to be in need are receiving a benefit) of the poor by 20.0 per cent
- increased employment rate among the poor by 10.0 per cent
- increased access by the poor to safe water
- increased access by the poor to sanitary means of waste disposal
- increased access by the poor to at least secondary education (i.e. from pre-primary to secondary)
- increased access by the poor to primary health care
- increased contributory social security coverage rates to 85.0 per cent of eligible population
- appropriate policy and legislative framework in place for social protection
- improved targeting of the poor for social protection programmes

The targets will be disaggregated by sex and location where applicable.

The following labour market based targets are also proposed by the IMWG as they are also important elements for social protection:

- improved protection of workers' income security
- increased employment rates, particularly for youth and women.

Proposed Target 1.4 – By 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance.

Rights-based instruments, such as the constitution, policies, and legislation, do guarantee rights to economic resources. However, the policies and programmes of the Government are increasingly seeking to extend access and control of economic resources, including land, to poor and vulnerable groups. There are, however, some challenges with how this target is worded:

- Similar to 1.3 above, the proposed target is in line with Jamaica’s definition of social protection. However, this target is measuring several variables, and it would have to be agreed that these are the most relevant for Jamaica.

The GOJ is in the process of developing a National Poverty Policy and Programme and it is anticipated that several of the areas outlined in this target will be addressed. A draft Concept Paper has been developed. In keeping with Vision 2030 Jamaica (Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan), the Growth Inducement Strategy, the SPS and other national policy documents, there is an emphasis on building the assets of the poor through empowerment and human capital development interventions. The Vision 2030 Jamaica Poverty Strategic Plan outlines, inter alia, the need to:

- formalize asset ownership among the poor
- promote asset creation among the poor
- introduce technological innovations to small farmers [and producer] at low cost
- promote human capital development and promote and support entrepreneurship

Other relevant national policies and programmes which seek to address this area (including those being developed) include:

- National Food and Nutrition Security Policy
- Draft Science and Technology Policy
- Draft Fisheries Policy (including a livelihood expansion strategy)
- National Land Policy
- Draft Agricultural Land Utilization Policy (ALUP)
- National Education Strategic Plan
- Land Administration Management Programme (LAMP)
- Draft National Housing Policy
- National Transportation Policy

These national policy-level documents and programmes also outline the government's thrust towards improved access to quality goods and services for citizens, including the poor; reduced unemployment; improved productivity and incomes; and improved access to credit and microfinance.

There is an increasing recognition within the government of the need to address gender-related issues in national development, solidified by the development of a National Policy for Gender Equality. The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities; Vision 2030 Jamaica Disability Sector Plan; the recently passed National Disability Act; and the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities, to which Jamaica is a signatory, also underscore the relevance of the provision of services and opportunities for persons with disabilities “on an equal basis with others”.

Some of these issues are also captured under other proposed goals and targets.

Proposed Target 1.5 – By 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.

The issue of addressing climate change and environmental challenges is outlined in the SPS to: *“Ensure that all residents have shelter, water, and physical access to goods and services that meet agreed standards of quality and security, in harmony with the natural*

environment.” The SPS also seeks to address emerging vulnerabilities and crises: “Protect residents from the worst effects of national or sub-national crises (originating from any source) that threaten their socio-economic well-being; engender proactive approaches to foreseeing emerging social security needs and facilitating appropriate response mechanisms.” (Jamaica Social Protection Strategy, May 2014). Risk reduction strategies are also being implemented to minimise the effects of natural hazards including appropriate standards for construction of houses for vulnerable persons post-disaster. Relevant policies addressing this issue include: the Draft National Housing Policy, the Draft National Squatter Management Policy, and the Climate Change Policy. There is, however, the need to identify and implement additional risk reduction strategies. While these issues are also being addressed under other proposed goals and targets, there needs to be awareness of their relevance to vulnerable groups, including the poor.

Proposed Target 1.a – Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular LCDs, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

The GOJ continues to build partnerships for the mobilization of financial and technical resources at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Several partnerships for economic and social development of the poor exist. These include partnerships with the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, European Union, and UN agencies. The current programme under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreement also emphasises the need for improved economic growth while protecting social spending. These partnerships are geared towards human capital development of the poor and vulnerable including poor households, children, and persons with disabilities. Under the current Small Island Developing States (SIDS) agreement, and in line with the SAMOA Pathway, Jamaica’s vulnerabilities, and the need to build resilience, there is a need to strengthen cooperation and enable strong, genuine and durable partnerships at all levels — including national, regional and international — to ensure sustainable outcomes. At the

national level, there is need to strengthen partnerships with communities, local government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, and the private sector. The existing link between academia and the government is to be strengthened not only at the policy and programme development levels but also at the implementation and product development levels. At the community level, the strengthening of community mechanisms to better respond to risks including disaster mitigation and expansion of livelihoods will be critical. There is also the need for innovative financing strategies that can raise capital from private and commercial sources. The establishment of a framework, including a systematic communication and information sharing structure, for partnerships will be essential for improved and sustained outcomes.

Proposed Target 1.b – Create sound policy frameworks, at national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investments in poverty eradication actions.

It is not clear how this target will be measured internationally (and nationally) and this has to be determined during negotiations.

The GOJ has in place a broad policy framework to address poverty reduction – Vision 2030 Jamaica, the Social Protection Strategy and the proposed national poverty policy and programme. The country has secured and continues to pursue partnerships¹² for funding and technical support in the areas of social protection and poverty. At the national level there are partnerships with NGOs and the private sector for the delivery of poverty-related interventions.

The institutional framework in place under the local governance system provides a mechanism for coordination and local participation in decision making. In this regard, the

¹²These partnerships include those with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the European Union, and agencies of the United Nations.

Local Economic Development Programme is a step taken in addressing poverty within this framework.

The National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE), 2011 and the Vision 2030 Jamaica Gender Sector Plan are foundation documents that outline the need for gender mainstreaming in national development policies and practices. The NPGE calls for, inter alia, gender mainstreaming, gender indicators; increased gender analysis; gender training; strategic partnerships and multi-stakeholder outreach; gender responsive costing and budgeting; gender-aware monitoring and evaluation. The Vision 2030 Jamaica Poverty Reduction Strategic Plan also addresses the need to “*mainstream poverty concerns in all public policies*” as well as “*mainstream gender concerns in poverty policy.*”

While several policy instruments and policy positions are in place, there is still need for improving the link between policy and implementation.

The following areas were identified as important for moving forward with successful implementation of Goal 1:

- Enabling environment for business development and sustainability.
- Sustainable macro-economic development to drive job creation as against over-saturation of beneficiaries with social interventions.
- Increased minimum wage to “liveable” wage. Liveable/living wage refers to a minimum wage that is sufficient to provide a satisfactory standard of living for workers and their families.
- Increased focus of utilizing donor resources for the purpose of the acquisition of livelihood assets to enable the poor to increase their incomes as against high overheads of projects with little benefits to the beneficiaries. An approach that could be considered is the use of a value-chain analysis.

- Greater engagement of the poor in informing policies and programmes that are geared towards them.
- Effective Monitoring and Evaluation including linking inputs to outcomes in programmes.
- Coordination of sectors in the area to allow for closer monitoring and accountability, continuity of interventions, and ultimate sustainability. There is also the need for improved sharing of information within government and across sectors. This approach is necessary for improved linkage between policies and programmes, and will require clear mandates for each stakeholder.
- Generally, increased access to information to stakeholders, including information on recent research and data, e.g. through libraries, social media etc.
- Continued focus on human capital development.
- Ensuring that the necessary policy and legislative framework is in place.

Proposed Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

In 2000, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) spoke to eradicating extreme poverty and hunger alone. However, integral to this process is the need for good nutrition and supporting this through sustainable agricultural practices. The formulation of this Goal to include these vital components ensures that persons are not only being merely provided with the requisite meals per day but are also given the right and proper nutrients. Vision 2030 Jamaica, under Goal 3 - Jamaica's economy is prosperous, aims to revitalize the agriculture sector through research and the best use of technology. The increase in food production by our farmers will contribute to food security for Jamaica which will grant individuals "access to sufficient and affordable food supply to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life." The ICPD PoA Jamaica National Report addresses the need to strengthen food security (and food safety) through a plethora of initiatives including: EU Banana Programme, Plot Gardening within infirmaries; Ministry of Agriculture Food Storage and Fumigation Programme; Pesticide Control and research; Sample testing by the Ministry of Health Biochemistry Laboratories; and the development and implementation of the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy (Draft). The draft Policy will ensure that Jamaicans receive appropriate quantities of food, especially vulnerable and low-income groups. The government also embarked on a three-year Food Safety Modernization project which stipulates that all food exported should be in keeping with standards and regulations set out in the revised United States Food Safety Modernization Act. This Act ensures that the food supply is safe for export by preventing contamination.

The inclusion of this Proposed Goal in the post-2015 development agenda will provide the platform for ensuring that government and all stakeholders will build upon commitments already made as well as pursuing and implementing focused and coherent action on sustainable development.

Proposed Target 2.1 – By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people , in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

Food and nutrition security is a cross-cutting issue, and remains a high priority for the GOJ. A key area of focus is to address the food and nutrition needs of the poor and vulnerable, including children and the elderly. This is in keeping with Vision 2030 Jamaica the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, and the Social Protection Strategy (SPS). The overall strategy statement on food and nutrition security in the SPS is to “ensure that a sufficient quantity of nutritious food is available through increased domestic production and sustainable importation, and that all individuals have access to resources to acquire adequate and affordable food at all times”. This mirrors what is embodied in the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy. While this Policy seeks to address the nutritional needs of all citizens, special focus is given to vulnerable groups (including poor households, children and the elderly).The Policy also points to the need for improved partnerships for the provision and utilization of local food, while reducing imported products. There remains the need for greater streamlining of resources and collaboration in the relevant sectors, and improved partnership with academia in the area of biodiversity and plant and animal research.

This is closely linked to proposed Target 1.1 under Goal 1 and Target 2.2 below.

Proposed Target 2.2 – By 2030 end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons

With regard to internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years old, Jamaica is now using the new WHO Child Growth Standard. This new growth chart is a representation of current health promotion recommendations such as breastfeeding norms and standard pediatric care in describing how children should grow. According to the MOH, Jamaica is experiencing a double burden of malnutrition. While there is a decline in under-nutrition (inadequate amount of nutrients) among children under five years old (MCSR 2013), there is an increase in the estimated prevalence of over-

weight and obesity. In monitoring stunting and wasting in the under-five age group, the Infant and Young Child Feeding Policy embraces parent education and promotion of good nutrition. This policy was approved by Cabinet in 2013 and was tabled in the Houses of Parliament in August 2014 for approval. It outlines the blueprint for sectors, agencies and health facilities to standardize the practice and improve health and nutrition status of the Jamaican children. Other efforts to reduce malnutrition include the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, a collaborative effort with UNICEF and PAHO/WHO which encourages maternity hospitals to become breast-feeding support centres, providing mothers and babies with a good start for breastfeeding.

Ten hospitals were certified as Baby-Friendly between 1996 and 2001, based on the Ten Steps to Successful Breast Feeding and re-accreditation programme undertaken. However, a pre-assessment in 2011, determined that many of these hospitals were unable to maintain the standards and criteria necessary for accreditation as baby-friendly institutions. This has implications for the quality of care to newborns and mothers.

The National Food and Nutrition Security Policy, the Draft School Feeding Policy, the Healthy Lifestyle Policy, the Strategic and Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non- Communicable Diseases in Jamaica 2013-2018, clearly demonstrate the direction of the GOJ and its commitment to improve cognitive development by providing a nutritious meal and nutritional education among children and their families. There is sustained progress to achieve the internationally agreed targets of ending malnutrition by 2025. Further support has been provided to Jamaica under the project “Strengthening of School Feeding Programmes in the framework of the Latin America and the Caribbean Without Hunger 2025 Initiative”. This Project is a triangular partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization, the Government of Brazil and Jamaica in expanding the School Feeding Programme in more schools and ensuring adequate nutrition at a national level. Other programmes geared towards food security among infants and young children include the Poor Relief and the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH). The Poor Relief programme provides cash and “in-kind” benefits that support nutrition, and through the school feeding programme, PATH beneficiaries have access to

school meals. There are existing challenges in routine iron supplementations to reduce anaemia, a common nutritional deficiency in children and adolescents. Ad hoc food supplementation, food demonstrations and onsite feeding are conducted in some clinics across the island and the fortification of flour has far reaching effects. However, there are no sustainable programmes for iron supplementation to address anaemia in Jamaican children and adolescents. Jamaica is lagging behind in the achievement of the MDG 1 and will need to continue further efforts to address these issues and gaps in the post-2015 period. Adequate resource allocation will be needed especially as it relates to the School Feeding Programme (SFP) so that the iron fortification of some of the offerings within the programme can be done.

Proposed Target 2.3 – By 2030 double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is strategically implementing the Agro-Parks programme to facilitate the expansion of the productive capacity of the agricultural sector. An Agro Park is an area of intensive, contiguous, parcel of land for agricultural production which seeks to integrate all facets of the agricultural value chain from pre-production to production, post harvesting and marketing. The following are features of Agro-Parks:

- The requisite infrastructure and facilities
- An environment that supports integrated, sustainable agricultural production, processing and logistics
- Processes are integrated along a value chain in a deliberate way
- Partnerships involving Government, farmers/investors & marketing organizations

The Agro-Park programme seeks to build out infrastructure to support investments in the production of selected crops directed towards import substitution and replacement as well as the provision of raw material for agro-processing and non-traditional exports. Additionally, the programme will facilitate the following:

- Promotion of Public Private Partnership investments
- Promote efficiency in resource allocation and utilization - thus reduction in costs
- Improve economies of scale – e.g. in the procurement of goods and services
- Improved market access
- Promote and encourage sustainability
- Create long -term and seasonal employment
- Create focal points for agricultural development

Several other strategies are being implemented to reduce the food import bill, by growing more of what is consumed locally. One of the strategies being employed to reduce our food import bill is the strategy of import substitution, where there is deliberate effort to increase production of certain crops. One such initiative is the Irish Potato Programme which seeks to promote import substitution of the Irish potato crop. Irish potato was chosen because of its potential to reverse the high import component of consumption. In addition, the programme will seek to introduce dryer varieties of Irish Potato that are suitable for the chips industry. There is collaboration with the Government of Colombia to support this initiative as well as to obtain varieties that are resistant to diseases such as late blight.

As it relates to access to land, the Agricultural Land Utilisation Policy has been developed in response to the national imperative to guide proper administration and management of land for sustainable use that will foster agricultural growth, encourage opportunities for investment and income generation, satisfy the demand for lands for agricultural production, re-generate livelihoods for farming communities, and promote overall economic development of the country. The Policy is now at the White Paper stage and will

be resubmitted as a joint policy between the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change.

Land Administration and Management Programme (LAMP) is a GOJ programme designed to help all landowners to obtain titles for their land and bring existing titles current. LAMP has been instrumental in providing land titles to individuals in pilot parishes. This programme has been further expanded for an additional ten years and will be extended to other selected parishes.

Proposed Target 2.4 – By 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality

The GOJ/Adaptation Fund Programme is currently being implemented with a focus on livelihood protection and improved food security. Its aim is to help local communities and institutions to adapt to changes in climate which are affecting the livelihoods of the population and the island's natural resources. The building resilience of the agriculture sector is a component of the programme with a focus to introduce climate smart farming methods and soil erosion control techniques in order to increase agricultural productivity and improve food security.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, through the Jamaica Rural Economy and Ecosystems adapting to Climate Change (JaREEACH) project, will be developing a climate change strategy and Action Plan for Jamaica's agricultural sector.

Climate monitoring products and services have been developed for the agricultural sector to provide information on drought and rainfall predictions. The products were developed

in collaboration with RADA and the Meteorological Office and include seasonal precipitation outlook, drought monitoring, seasonal drought forecast and the farmer's bulletin. Farmers are now empowered to better plan their agricultural activities, such as planting, pest control and reaping. This is being piloted in selected parishes.

In addition, the MOAF has drafted various policies as it relates to sustainable agricultural production including: the National Organic Policy and the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy. The National Organic Policy will cover organic food and farming systems. The policy will also address accreditation of certification bodies, development of national organic standards and legislation that will govern the production and trade of organic food. It will also address Government's role in marketing, research and development and the provision of extension services and removal of fiscal disincentives to the organic agricultural sector. Capacity building among farmers and extension officers will also be addressed. The National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy will ensure the optimal contribution of the fisheries sub-sector to Jamaica's economy, food security, poverty alleviation and livelihoods through the management and sustainable development of capture fisheries and aquaculture. The goals of the policy are to:

- ensure sustainable development, management and conservation of the fisheries
- promote greater efficiency and improved competitiveness of national fisheries enterprises
- promote economic and social development of fishers and fishing communities
- forge partnerships with stakeholders in the management of fisheries and ensure transparency and accountability in the governance of fisheries resources.

In addition, the MOAF has been mainstreaming climate change into its policies and programmes to address vulnerability to climate variability and change as well as to

promote integration into development planning and sectoral decision making. Other initiatives include the completion of an Agriculture Disaster Risk Management plan and promotion of Good Agricultural Practices into production processes.

Proposed Target 2.5 – By 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed

In the face of an increasing import bill and climate change there has been a growing need to address the challenges to ensure food security. Jamaica's agricultural crops and livestock must be conserved, efficiently managed and utilized in order to safeguard increasing sustainable crop production systems.

Jamaica has acceded to the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGRFA) since March 2006. The objectives of this treaty are:

- conservation of plant genetic resources
- sustainable use of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture
- fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of their use.

A multilateral system is utilized to facilitate the sharing of the 64 crops listed in the Treaty by contracting parties. Jamaica has a number of these crops that are considered vital to the world's food security. Meeting the objectives of the ITPGRFA will contribute to meeting this proposed target.

In addition, Jamaica has also passed into law the Protection of the Plant Genetic Resources Food and Agriculture Act in February 2013. This Act seeks to "Provide for the protection of Jamaica's plant genetic resources for food and agriculture". The primary objective of the Act is to facilitate Jamaica's compliance with its obligation under the ITPGRFA to:

- further the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic resources

- facilitate access to, and use of, plant genetic resources, and to promote the equitable sharing of benefits arising out of their use.

To ensure compliance for achievement of this target, a Management Authority needs to be established to provide for the interpretation of the Act. It should be noted that Jamaica is one of the signing members of the Global Plan of Action and, therefore, a commitment was made to ascertain the state of “animal inventory and characterize the local genetic resource” both genetically and phenotypically. The objectives are to:

- conserve and expand our local breeds
- characterize and maintain our native ecotypes
- introduce new genetic material to improve and diversify gene pool

The following are to ensure appropriate mechanisms for implementation:

- establishment of the management authority for Animal Genetic Resource (AnGr) Management Committee
- promotion and strengthening of public awareness on the importance of AnGr
- establish breeding strategies for the sustainable management of AnGr
- maintenance of nucleus flocks and herds
- promote development and commercialization of indigenous (creole) and exotic breeds for production
- support stable seed production and distribution systems and assist farmers to restore crop systems after disasters.
- capacity strengthening through reproductive technologies (Embryo Transfer, Artificial Insemination)
- maintain suitable environment for sustainable animal production (Silvo-pastoral systems).

The MOAF has recognized the importance of seeds and is committed to prepare a Seed Policy to guide the sector in maintaining genetic diversity. At present, it would be difficult

for Jamaica to guarantee a fair and equitable sharing of benefits since the genetic resources are stored internationally. For effective implementation, these resources should be stored locally and regionally.

Proposed Target 2.a – Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries

Jamaica is in support of efforts to garner investment in developing plant and livestock gene banks to enhance our agricultural productive capacity. Under the current constraints, there is the need for conservation and expansion of existing repositories of local plant and animal genetic material. Capacity building is needed at the national level in the area of plant and animal genetics for the sustainable development of local breeding programmes.

The MOAF is working to put in place relevant agricultural infrastructure through the development of Agro-Parks which will see increased investments in the sector. Infrastructure such as irrigation, packaging houses, cold storage transportation as well as post-harvest management is considered priority areas for development.

There is also ongoing bilateral arrangements and south-south cooperation relating to research and development to facilitate improvement in the sector, particularly in the improved varieties of plant and livestock.

Proposed Target 2.b – Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets including by the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

Proposed Target 2.c – Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives, and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

In response to Proposed Targets 2.b and 2.c, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF) recognize the volatility in world food prices, particularly on cereals and grains and the impact on the agricultural sector, e.g. corn, wheat and soya. The MOAF will analyze data on world commodity markets, with a view to making informed decisions.

Proposed Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

According to WHO, health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity. Well-being is associated with the economic, social, psychological, spiritual or medical state of an individual. The notion of health has evolved to promoting and maintaining good health and well-being, and not just preventing illness. It is integrally linked to the overlapping social structures and economic systems including the physical environment and health services that determine health equities. These social determinants of health are shaped by national priority and resource allocations.

The health of the population is an important asset for sustainable development. This position has been affirmed in the national development plan Vision 2030 Jamaica, Goal One in which “Jamaicans are empowered to achieve their fullest potential” which will result in a “Healthy and Stable Population”. The proposed goal for health, therefore, has to be universally relevant, not just preventing disease but determined by a multiplicity of factors in achieving the widely shared endeavour of improving well-being. The average life expectancy for Jamaicans is 74.1 years. The ageing structure of the Jamaican population is reflected in the following features: a decline in the 0-14 age group; and an increase in both the working age population (15-64 years) and dependent elderly age group (65+ years). These age structural shifts will have an impact on social and economic development, particularly as it relates to provision of and access to health services. With Jamaicans living longer and the epidemiological shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases, the population will have greater lifetime exposure to chronic non-communicable diseases which have increased the burden of disease on the health care system.

Nationally, public health service is delivered through primary, secondary and tertiary facilities along with private hospitals, clinics and private practitioner offices that offer a variety of medical services to Jamaicans. User fees were abolished in the public health system in 2008. According to the JSLC 2010, more than 50.0 per cent of Jamaicans visited public health facilities. The public health system, therefore, needs to be equipped to

deliver efficient quality health care services to meet the demands of the changing demography and epidemiology of the country.

Achievement of the proposed Goal on health requires universal access to affordable, efficient and quality health services and the identification of barriers to health care and identifies effective mechanisms to address same. Nationally, barriers to basic health care include: lack of protection for vulnerable groups; inadequate health financing especially in the areas of primary health care renewal and reduction of NCDs; lack of adequate human resources; reduced private sector donors under the new waiver system for private sector donation; delayed waiting time at the health facilities; shortages of supplies and stock-outs curtailing service delivery; and lack of adequate financial support to mitigate for health emergencies. These constraints in health care delivery largely impacted the achievements and non-achievements of the health-related MDGs 4 (decrease child mortality), 5 (improve maternal health) and 6 (combat the spread of HIV/AIDs). Jamaica has made progress toward the achievement of all the goals but will not achieve the two thirds reduction in the under-five mortality rate and the reduction by three quarters of the maternal mortality ratio. There have been other major advances in health care delivery resulting in increased efficiency and access. These include but are not limited to: primary health care renewal; abolition of user fees; management and procurement of pharmaceuticals in secondary and primary health care facilities; health promotion and prevention. In the post-2015 period however, emphasis needs to be placed on community participation, taking more responsibility for their health, prevention of cancer (such as HPV vaccines for cervical cancer) and improved services to cancer treatment, rehabilitation services and services for the disabled (interactive audio visual materials).

Health is also a beneficiary of sustainable development in other sectors through multi-sectoral and inter-sectoral collaborations regional and international partnerships, the private sector and non-governmental organizational support. Some sectors that impact health include: climate change, agriculture, education, housing and development among others. This integrated approach to sustainable development is sanctioned in the SIDS

action plan in addressing health issues relating to communicable and non-communicable diseases and is also aligned with the Vision 2030 Jamaica.

Proposed Target 3.1 – By 2030 reduce the maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

Proposed Target 3.2 – By 2030 end preventable newborn, infant and under-five deaths

Maternal and child health continues to pose a challenge in Jamaica. Assessments of the health-related MDGs 4 (reduce child mortality) and 5 (improve maternal health) have shown no substantial advances, thereby placing Jamaica far behind in achieving these targets. Under five mortality rates saw an overall reduction. Factors contributing to this status include: respiratory diseases, immunization and nutrition; validity of health surveillance and health information systems for accuracy and data reliability; low levels of health literacy among parents regarding the effects of lifestyle diseases on child survival; and the importance of sustained complete breast-feeding practices. Infant mortality rates have also declined from 29.5 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 19.1 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2010 (National Report: ICPD Beyond 2014), the main causes of death being complications of prematurity, birth asphyxia, congenital abnormalities and injuries. Lack of significant resources in high dependency care for newborn largely impacted the achievement of this target. There were similar issues affecting the achievement in reduction of maternal mortality ratio by 75.0 per cent. This was largely due to external issues such as indirect maternal deaths from complications of chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, sickle cell, cardiovascular conditions and HIV.

There has also been a lack of high dependency care to treat complications of these diseases that becomes life threatening to infant and mother. While improvements have been made to the civil registration and vital statistics system, there remain challenges with the accuracy and completeness of infant child and mortality data. Efforts such as the Reduction of Maternal and Child Mortality (PROMAC) funded by the European Union are further

actions to accelerate efforts toward achieving these health-related MDGs by 2015. Actions include: constructing infant and maternal high dependency units across the island and building capacity through increasing the cadre of specialized skilled workers to administer care for complications relating to child birth. The impact of these further actions may not show measurable outcome by 2015. Long-term monitoring and evaluation programmes need to be implemented, as the challenges of maternal and child health will go beyond 2015. The Ministry of Health (MOH) and its partners are committing to continuous efforts towards achieving the goals of reducing maternal and child mortality, especially in cases where the deaths would be otherwise preventable. This will involve bringing together critical services and interventions to create healthier environments to protect our children from premature death from diseases such as pneumonia, diarrhoea, the effects of non-communicable diseases and injuries. It is recommended that a clear definition of preventable deaths in Target 2.2 be made in order to outline the indicators that could be set to monitor and achieve a successful outcome.

Proposed Target 3.3 - By 2030 end the epidemics of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases

Discussions on this target surrounded the phrase “ending the epidemics”. As the targets are being developed there is not yet a clear outline concerning endemic levels of specific diseases. This is especially important to determining epidemic of HIV within countries. The Framework of HIV/AIDS response is guided by the National HIV Strategic Plan which is focused on: (i) prevention; (ii) treatment, care and support; (iii) enabling environment and empowerment and human rights; (iv) governance, monitoring and evaluation. Jamaica has led an effective National HIV/AIDS response which uses a multi-sectoral approach to reduce HIV incidence which has led to the achievement of some targets under Goal 6 of the MDGs (Combat HIV/AIDS Malaria and other diseases). According to the draft Jamaica National HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health Integrated Strategic Plan 2014-2019, an estimated 32 000 persons in Jamaica are living with HIV/AIDS. Over 9 000 adults and children were started on antiretroviral treatment. There was an increase in the number of pregnant

women receiving antiretroviral drugs from 47.0 per cent in 2004 to 88.0 per cent in 2012 (UNGASS, 2012), contributing to the decline in HIV deaths and mother-to-child transmission. This was achieved largely through support from national and international development partners. Issues remain largely in the areas of reducing vulnerability to HIV/AIDs, stigma and discrimination that have not been sufficiently addressed. The vehicles for the spread of HIV in Jamaica are primarily among heterosexuals, youth and specific target groups such as men who have sex with men (MSM) and commercial sex workers (CSW) and are influenced by cultural and behavioural issues and must be carefully monitored in reducing the epidemic.

The high debt to GDP ratio and the official World Bank classification of Jamaica as an upper middle income country has restricted the country's eligibility for funding for the HIV/AIDS programme. There are substantial changes to a more targeted approach to investments in the response to the HIV/AIDs epidemic. Advocacy for resources have been based on generalized populations, however, proposed strategic investments have shifted to specific target groups such as MSM, CSW and inmates among others. In an effort to leverage existing resources, a new strategic plan is being drafted for the combined services of the National Family Planning Board with aspects of the HIV programme (prevention, enabling environment and human rights and empowerment and governance) to facilitate a holistic inclusive approach to existing services. Jamaica is party to the UNAIDS initiative for setting new targets for HIV/AIDS testing to further reduce HIV infections, improve quality of life and reduce age related deaths in Latin America and the Caribbean. These include increasing to 90.0 per cent the proportion of people living with HIV who knows their status, 90.0 per cent of all people with diagnosed HIV infection will receive sustained antiretroviral therapy by 2020, 90.0 per cent of all people receiving antiretroviral therapy will have viral suppression. These are efforts in early diagnosis and treatment geared towards ending the epidemic of HIV/AIDS (www.unaids.org 2014).

In order for Jamaica to sustain the achievements made over the MDG period and to further achieve the proposed goal of "ending the HIV epidemic and sustaining the elimination of

mother-to-child transmission” it will require strengthened partnerships and collaboration from all stakeholders through financial and technical support.

Based on the local considerations, there is a proposed change to 3.3 to reflect sections:

- **3.3 (i) that would address ending the epidemic of HIV/AIDS**
- **3.3 (ii) to address reduction of water-borne and other communicable diseases (emerging and re-emerging diseases)**
- **3.3 (iii) by 2030 50.0 per cent tuberculosis reduction, 0 per cent incidence of the local transmission of malaria, halt the hyper-endemicity of dengue and neglected tropical diseases.**

The social determinants of health are often impacted by climate change. This is inclusive of clean air, safe drinking water, food and shelter, urbanization and unplanned residential areas. The MOH has strengthened its approach to addressing the management of vector borne diseases, outbreaks and disaster preparedness within communities through national plans of action and other capacity building exercises for the management of vector-borne diseases under the Pesticide and Control Act (1975). These are efforts to demonstrate continued commitment to control the impact of climate change in reducing the spread of communicable diseases. The PAHO/WHO Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change reiterated the importance of climate change as a projected threat to health and the challenges it posed in the achievement of the MDGs. In September 2011, the resolution was passed to build capacity among public health leaders to providers.

With the revitalization of primary health care and the resources needed in the prevention of public health emergencies, Jamaica supports this goal as several emerging and re-emerging diseases continue to pose threats to the stability of the health sector and risk to the population’s health. Among the emerging diseases were:

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) that impacted tourism heavily, reducing visitors to the island during the periods of outbreaks in Canada and USA

- H1N1, identified in over 40 countries, including Jamaica, and was declared a public health emergency by the WHO
- Chikungunya, identified in Africa, Asia, Europe, and recently increased prevalence/incidence in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Ebola virus that is prevalent in the African continent but has put the world on the alert in preventing possible spread of the disease.

Among the re-emerging diseases were separate incidences of Dengue, Malaria, and Tuberculosis. Considerable strides have been made with environmental-related interventions and success was achieved. In 2012, a submission was made to the PAHO/WHO and the country is certified as malaria free. Discussions surrounded the target of “0.0 per cent for malaria” in the national consultations. Considerations included issues of migration and that there may be imported cases of the disease which would be difficult to control. The target, therefore, should address “0.0 per cent local transmission of malaria” so that countries would be obligated to put prevention measures in place to eliminate local transmission. Although Jamaica has achieved malaria free status, our geographical location as a tropical country is a risk factor for the reemergence of the disease. Jamaica would, therefore, need to monitor and report on malaria incidence in monitoring for zero per cent transmission. Other countries may need to focus on malaria prevalence. There needs to be a clear position in Target 3.3, whether the focus will be on malaria prevalence or incidence.

Climate change affects the environmental determinants of health. These include clean air, safe drinking water, and sufficient food and secure shelter and direct damage increase costs to health care with conditions such as respiratory diseases, malnutrition, malaria, and diarrhea. Respiratory diseases are among the top five common causes of curative visits to primary health care facilities in Jamaica. Diarrheal diseases are among conditions monitored by the MOH Surveillance Unit. Water supply, sanitation facilities, food and climate change can influence the spread of communicable disease. Programmes have been developed such as community based management of TB; hand washing compliance; and disaster preparedness through the public health outreach are all geared towards reduction

of outbreaks and the spread of communicable diseases. There is need for a militant approach beyond 2015 to reduce the occurrence of emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Proposed Target 3.4 - By 2030 reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being.

Significant changes in the epidemiologic and demographic transitions nationally have impacted on the health burden. The shift from communicable to non-communicable diseases has resulted in NCDs being the leading cause of death world-wide and in Jamaica. The major causes of illness and deaths in Jamaica resulted from diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease (ESSJ 2013). According to the National Strategic and Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases in Jamaica 2013-2018, specific chronic diseases accounted for 60.0 per cent of deaths in men and 75.0 per cent of women. The economic burden of NCDs on individuals was J\$47.882 million annually, in 2006 and 2007. There has been a 9.7 per cent increase in diabetes and a 20.6 per cent increase in hypertension prevalence during the period 2000-2008. In keeping with the global trend, the prevention, treatment and control of these NCDs have increased the disease burden on the health sector. The National Strategic Plan on NCDs encourages healthy ageing from childhood, and the plan builds on existing programmes, with the objective of risk reduction and health promotion management of the disease, improving surveillance and policy development advocacy, governance and capacity building. The Jamaica Healthy Lifestyle Survey identified increase in behavioural risk factors such as multiple sex partners, smoking, and unprotected sexual intercourse; and prevalence of obesity among Jamaican adults (Wilks et al., 2005). This data have reinforced the burden of non-communicable diseases in spite of two major policy initiatives, the National Programme for the Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles and the creation of the National Health Fund which subsidizes healthcare provision for chronic diseases (Ferguson, 2012). Further collaborations among academia, policy-makers, regional and international health agencies, non-government organizations and civil society is recommended to advance the National Strategic Plan on

NCDs to improve the nation's health status and bring awareness to healthy lifestyle in schools, work places and homes.

Jamaica's prevalence for cervical cancer and breast cancer is an estimated 31.2 and 12.1 per 100 000 population, respectively (ESSJ 2013). The GOJ policy implementation for the reduction in prevalence involved a National Strategic and Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Cancers, developed through a national cancer working group. The strategy and plan is a component of the National Strategic Plan for Non-Communicable Diseases. A cancer registry was also started in June 2014 to capture complete data on the history, diagnosis and treatment of the disease. Violence and mental disorders were also listed as major health burdens to Jamaica. Mental health has been included in the target as priority area for Jamaica, particularly among adolescents. Based on deaths due to NCDs, the agreed position by OWG is to reduce this by one-third. Jamaica is recommending a reduction by 25.0 per cent to gain effective control and reduce the burden on the health care system.

Proposed Target 3.5 – Strengthen prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

Jamaica became party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2005. The Public Health (Tobacco Control) Regulation, July 2013 covers only some of the articles of the FCTC (smoke free spaces and graphic health warnings on cigarette packs). The country is in strong support of the goal for the strengthening of treatment and prevention of substance abuse and harmful use of alcohol. The work done by the National Council on Drug Abuse and other agencies has had some effect such as the implementation of substance abuse prevention programmes, primary treatment and public awareness initiatives. One important strategy in prevention and control of tobacco usage has been a commitment to enacting comprehensive tobacco control legislation in alignment with the FCTC, which covers important articles such as tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship (targeting youth). In the next 10 years, there is a projected 10.0 per cent decrease in alcohol and tobacco use as a sustainable baseline. With effective implementation of the strategies the outcome could be greater.

Proposed Target 3.6 – By 2020 halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

There were 49 009 cases of injuries seen in emergency rooms across the island during the period January to September 2013, three quarters of which were unintentional injuries, with highest occurrence in lacerations (22.0 per cent) and motor vehicle accidents (17.0 per cent). Injuries were most prevalent among the 10-19 years age group and was higher among males (61.0 per cent) than females (ESSJ 2013). Injuries impact the health economy, inclusive of human resources, but the victims also experience a year's loss in contributing to the economy. Road traffic accidents contribute to the increase in the number of persons living with disabilities and add to the dependent population. The target to half global deaths and injuries is strongly supported by Jamaica in the national plans, policies and programmes. This is reflected in the recent signing of the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety 2010-2020. Nationally, the prevention of road traffic accidents is guided by the revised Road Traffic Act (1932), The National Road Safety Policy 2004, National Transport Policy and the National Strategic Plan and Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). There is need for a multi-sectorial approach in addressing the impact of accidents, with the Ministries of National Security, Education, Health and Transport and Works. Reduction in deaths by accidents in air, land or sea will also rely heavily on infrastructural development of efficient and accessible emergency medical facilities with appropriate equipment and skilled human resources, data sharing between agencies to capture all cases and coordination with other ministries for the traffic management and movement of emergency vehicles prioritization. This is a priority area of the MOH as it affects the cost of emergency care and human resources.

Proposed Target 3.7 – By 2030 ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

The mission of the National Family Planning Board (NFPB) is to enable individuals to achieve good reproductive health through the provision of high quality, voluntary family planning and health and family life education service. There has been a decline in the

general fertility rate indicative of an overall reduction in the number of births. This is among women 15-49 years. On average, the total fertility rate is approximately 2.4 children per woman (Reproductive Health Survey 2008).

In order to effectively address universal access to SRH services, there is need for a comprehensive national Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy and Strategic Plan which would speak to existing and emerging issues including safe motherhood. Jamaica is party to several international agreements supporting family planning, the main one being the ICPD PoA (1994) which introduced the concept of sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and reproductive rights. The PoA highlights the importance of integrating SRH into primary health care. Limited resources and fragmented systems have led to the integration of the NFPB and the National HIV/AIDS Programme into a “Sexual Reproductive Health Agency” (SRHA). This new structure has sought to move towards improved contraceptive choice and safety, reduce STIs including HIV and promote a healthy sexuality involving adolescent health and reducing harmful practices. A draft National Strategic Plan has been developed to fulfill these objectives both at the primary and secondary levels of health care delivery.

At present, there remain unmet needs in SRH services in Jamaica. These challenges include: access to modern contraceptive methods; increasing dual method users to prevent pregnancy and protect against sexually transmitted infections; understanding and implementing strategies to address sexual and reproductive issues among the adolescent and youth populations; and social issues that affect contraceptive choices and usages. The NFPB-SHA reported an increase by 11.3 per cent in the number of total new dual method family planning acceptors. This is a response to activities geared toward this new approach to an effective mechanism to stem HIV/AIDS and or Sexually Transmitted Infections and prevention of unwanted pregnancies (ESSJ 2013).

Vision 2030 Jamaica articulates the intentions to ensure that adolescents and youth are fully empowered to realize their social, cultural and human rights. In fulfilling this mandate, there is a need to address the issues that impact the prevalence of teenage pregnancies. Barriers include access to services by minors who are sexually active. There is a lack of policy/legal coherence regarding the age of consent and the age of majority. It is anticipated that from the issues outlined, a framework will be formulated for immunity of health-care practitioners in providing care to sexually active adolescents. There are also other government partnerships designed to support sexual and reproductive health services. The NFPB-SHA, in collaboration with the UNFPA, continued to fund several programmes including an evaluation of the Contraceptive Logistics Management Information System (CLMIS) and development of the National Policy on the Reintegration of School-Aged Mothers into the formal School System. The policy was led collaboratively with the Women's Centre of Jamaica Foundation and the Ministry of Education and funded by the UNFPA. This goal is fully supported in light of its importance in targeting and addressing the issues surrounding contraception and the prevention and control of sexual transmitted infections in the post-2015 development agenda. The goal is also in keeping with CARICOM's approved five-year strategy that is also aimed at reducing the number of adolescent pregnancies by at least 20 per cent during the period 2014 – 2019.

Proposed Target 3.8 – Achieve Universal health coverage (UHC), including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health care services, and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

Jamaica supports the position of universal health coverage (UHC) as a platform to provide a safety net against financial hardships. Work has been advanced in some key areas to strengthen the social protection system and enhance inclusiveness of the vulnerable populations who access health care. These include but are not limited to the National Disabilities Bill; draft National Assistance Bill; the National Insurance Act (1965) and Jamaica's first comprehensive Social Protection Strategy, a framework for delivery of social protection. Social health is important for sustainable poverty reduction. Over the years,

there has been an increasing trend in seeking care among persons who reported being sick or injured since 2005 (JSLC various editions). This may have resulted from the abolition of user fees in 2008, however, the number of prescribed drugs over the period was less than the number of drugs dispensed by public pharmacies with the gap widening each year since 2005. High ill-related costs prevent people from seeking health services when in need. The main source of funding for the MOH continues to be solely from budgetary allocation. Between 2008 and 2012, there was little variation in the Total National Expenditure on Health in relation to GDP. With the abolition of user fees in 2008, there has been improved access and equity in health care, however, the public health sector continues to increase liabilities in the areas of pharmaceuticals and contracted services. There is need for a renewed approach to sustainable financing and reform of the health sector to improve effectiveness, efficiency and quality of service offered in rural and urban areas.

According to PAHO/WHO, UHC has a direct impact on population in ensuring financial risk protection and is a critical component of sustainable development and poverty reduction by reducing out of pocket spending. This thrust will require inter-ministerial, NGOs, CBOs partnership and linkages not only in relation to funding, but also to alignment of UHC as a poverty reduction and health promotion strategy. The MOH has specific focus on the development and implementation of Centres of Excellence across the island to ensure comprehensive access of quality, efficient health services by all citizens. This improved equity and access to health service strategy is a step towards effect of UHC as it embraces the concept of access to all and not just those who are able to pay. Efforts in achieving this target will have to be supported however through private-public partnerships and through collaborative efforts with international development partners.

The GOJ has implemented strategies to ensure that Jamaicans have access to safe effective medicines through pharmacy services in hospital and health centres. Vital Essential Necessary (VEN) list of approved drugs are continuously reviewed and active ingredients are added based on the demands and diseases conditions affecting the population. As the use of the services has increased there are inefficiencies in drug procurement and

distribution. Strategies to address these inefficiencies MOH has undertaken the transfer of pharmaceuticals services to the National Health Fund (NHF) to strengthen the system of procurement, access and cost effectiveness of medications. The implementation of Phase 1 of the Government of Jamaica Health Card will also improve the monitoring of public drugs and other resources consumed in the island's public facilities.

Proposed Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

This proposed goal directly gives focus to the area of education and training and was assessed within the Jamaican development context, taking into consideration, the goals and targets under Vision 2030 Jamaica, the MOE's Strategic Plan for development of the sector as well as local legislation and international obligations under signed protocols and agreements.

Goal One (1) of Vision 2030 Jamaica states that "Jamaicans are Empowered to Achieve their Fullest Potential" through the national outcome "World-Class Education and Training". Within the national development process, education and training are situated within the context of human capital development, and the planned outputs and outcomes of education and training are highly aligned to employment and the Decent Work Agenda.

Education and Training are the underlying components of human capital development and form the core of the content and mechanisms for cultural sensitization and imparting knowledge-based skills required to address environmental degradation and hazards, poverty, social and economic underdevelopment, security, safety and governance as well as the widely agreed cross-cutting issues such as gender, age-related vulnerability, and means of implementation. The development of and accessibility to relevant standards driven education and training, is a cross-cutting theme that is required for the achievement of all proposed development outcomes. The cross-cutting significance of education and training is demonstrated in its use as a key change agent in local, state-led projects and programmes aimed at social inclusion, reducing crime, building social cohesion and promoting improved access to justice services including the National Security's Citizens' Security and Justice Programme (CSJP), Unite for Change and the Community Renewal Programme (CRP).

Currently, there are a number of policy and programmatic initiatives aimed at developing the institutional and structural capacity of the education and training sector to meet Jamaica's national development needs. Critical support has been received from international development partners, local interests groups, and private sector organizations, particularly through their Foundations. The focus of these initiatives include facilitating access to needs-based lifelong learning services to adequately equip the population to: (i) meet the country's social transformational needs; (ii) meet the skill and technological demands of the labour force; (iii) and engage in evidence-based research and development, and entrepreneurial innovation. The capacity development efforts aimed at greater efficiency and effectiveness in policy and governance responses comprise an inter-linkage of legislation, regulatory and standards setting bodies, targeted projects and programmes, and on-going monitoring and evaluation of sector outputs and outcomes.

Proposed Target 4.1 – by 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Based on the policy focus of the Ministry of Education, the wording of the proposed target has been retained in its entirety. There was general agreement with the focus and wording of the proposed target, with the exception of the inclusion of the word "free". The discourse on the relevance of "free" in the Jamaican context centered on three main issues: (i) the alignment with the strategic priorities and targets set under Vision 2030 Jamaica; (ii) expanding on the policy stance suggested by the introduction of "free tuition" in secondary schools by providing "fully free" access to publicly funded secondary education; and (iii) the possibilities of accommodating the provision of "free" secondary education based on macro-economic and social realities. Two key considerations presented in the stakeholder consultation were:

- The GOJ has committed to cover the "tuition fees" of students attending secondary level educational institutions. Parents are asked by schools to support their children's education through the payment of auxiliary fees. These auxiliary fees are

not standard and are determined by schools based on assessment of administrative and other costs. Payment of auxiliary fees are also optional, in that the Ministry of Education stipulates that students must not be denied access to secondary education due to the inability to pay fees.

- Jamaica is classified as an upper middle-income country, despite high levels of debt, and a fragile economy that predisposes the country to correspondingly high levels of insecurity in achieving inclusive growth and possible slippage in regard to gains made regarding key social development indicators. Middle-income countries in the Small Island Developing States (SIDS), such as Jamaica, face unique challenges that must be examined in context. The classification of the country and the associated terms for international development assistance should be revisited to ensure that the country can access needed technical and financial support in developing the education and other sectors.

Proposed Target 4.2 – by 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

There was general agreement with the policy focus and wording of the proposed target. However, there was reservation on the retention of “early childhood development, care” and possible replacement by the term “early childhood development programmes”. The major considerations centered on the availability of data to measure “early childhood development, care”, and the realities of the early childhood sector that requires significant development focus and interventions. There are high levels of informality, particularly in the provision of early childhood care and development services to children 0-3 years, which undermines the quality of data available on the cohort. The Child Health Passport should prove an important source of data, even though significant elements of the “0-3 years” cohort will be missing due to informal arrangements.

It was argued that the development of the early childhood sector was highly important; and necessary to ensure that children are provided with the psycho-social and academic

foundations required for effective participation in the education system and social life, and the achievement of desired learning outcomes. Therefore, “early childhood development, care” was to be retained as representative of current policy focus and a clear signal of the development path to be taken.

There was no debate on the matter of making children “ready for primary education”. The strategic priorities and work programme of Jamaica’s Early Childhood Commission (ECC) include targeted interventions geared at ensuring that early childhood development and care, and pre-primary education, makes children ‘ready for primary education’. Two main interventions among the institutional, legislative and pragmatic actions are: the slated introduction of an Age Four Assessment in September 2014 with full roll out in 2015/2016; and training of Grades 1-3 teachers in the revised Primary Curriculum with early childhood appropriate teaching methods and techniques. The Age Four Assessment is to facilitate diagnosis and interventions to adequately prepare children, regardless of learning aptitudes, for Grade One. The training of teachers in methods that are suitable to the developmental stages of children up to grade three will ensure a more seamless transition from early childhood educational institutions to primary schools, while catering to the age specific learning and psycho-social needs that fall within the ambit of early childhood development and care.

Proposed Target 4.3 – by 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

It is proposed that the target be changed to read: ***by 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to quality lifelong learning, including technical, vocational and tertiary education.***

There was much debate on the comprehensiveness and utility of the target as stated. The output of the assessment of this target resulted in the insertion of “life-long learning” and a

consensus to replace the word “affordable” pending research into internationally agreed meanings and use of the term.

Within the strategic policy context of Jamaica’s education and training sector, life-long learning denotes an emphasis on in-service training, re-skilling and on-going certification, upgrading and re-certification, including under systems of licensure. This approach is believed to promote the creation of a knowledge-based society as envisioned in Vision 2030 Jamaica; and the innovation and market relevant skill base required for competitiveness and increased productivity. The capacity of the Jamaica Foundation for Lifelong Learning (JFLL) is being developed to facilitate achievement of its mandate to promote lifelong learning, and support of the roles of tertiary, vocational and technical institutions.

The issue of ‘affordability’ should be revisited as ‘affordability’ differs based on country context. It is, however, challenging to agree on a suitable replacement for the term though it was agreed that one was necessary. An examination of the internationally agreed meanings and use of the term “affordability” provided instructive lessons from UNESCO’s work in the area. UNESCO situates affordability within the context of the requirements of inclusive education. It establishes a linkage between “affordable” and “quality” and emphasizes the identification and implementation of cost effective means to ensure that the differential learning needs of students are effectively met and repetition rates (regarding school grade levels) in schools decrease¹³. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (United States) also noted the necessity of integrating quality in assessments and calculations of affordability. The Association noted that quality included adequate staff compensation to attract, retain, and effectively motivate the most qualified to deliver high standard education. It also noted how economic inequities within countries lead to poorer families having to spend significantly larger portions of their income on education, which renders the participation of their children unsustainable and undermines the support for quality educational outcomes that should come from the home.

¹³<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/strengthening-education-systems/inclusive-education/10-questions-on-inclusive-quality-education/>, accessed September 25, 2014.

Recommendations were made to address inequality within countries generally, and specifically explore targeted tuition and other assistance as well as sliding scales for tuition fees that respond to the realities of economic inequalities¹⁴.

It was generally agreed that there are concerns regarding the participation of males in tertiary education in Jamaica. However, concerns regarding gender equity do not relate to differentiated requirements for access by males and females but are focused on cultural norms including those related to the economic expectations of masculinity, the opportunities structure within the labour market, and the differences in available financial support for males and females.

The issue of giving equitable treatment to technical and vocational training, and tertiary education is reflective of both international and national trends in the development of education and training. This was one of the primary considerations in the decision to remove “including university” as a special group of tertiary educational institutions to be highlighted. In 2009, when implementation of the Vision 2030 Jamaica process officially commenced, education and training were addressed under two separate sector plans – ‘Training’ and ‘Education’. National strategic policy focus has seen the increasing and formalized integration of education and training in the construct and delivery of learning programmes and the award of certification. The formulation and implementation of the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Integration Plan is endemic of a shift in strategic policy focus to improving the preparedness of individuals throughout their lives for the ever-changing dynamics of a highly technologically driven global market. This includes the creation of workforce colleges, training of teachers in educational institutions to deliver skills training, increased focus on apprenticeship and internships, and improving the linkages between the labour market and education and training institutions.

The focus on quality technical, vocational and tertiary education has become increasingly institutionalized. The Jamaica Tertiary Education Commission (JTEC) established in 2012 is focused on regulation, governance and quality assurance for the tertiary education

¹⁴Quality, Compensation and Affordability – a Policy Statement of the National Association for the Education of Young Children; <http://www.naeyc.org/files/naeyc/file/positions/PSQCA98.PDF>, accessed September 25, 2014.

sector, while the University Council of Jamaica (UCJ) focuses on accreditation, and programme-based standard setting. The Human Employment and Resource Training (HEART) Trust/NTA, established in 1982, is responsible for establishing the framework for skills training and certification in Jamaica.

Proposed Target 4.4 – by 2030, increase by X per cent the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills including technical and vocation skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

There were discussions regarding the availability of data to establish baseline measures and assess progress in achieving the target. The HEART Trust/NTA indicated that it could provide data on technical and vocational skills. The proposed target highlights ‘decent jobs and entrepreneurship’ as elements of employment. The inclusion of ‘decent jobs and entrepreneurship’ demonstrates the alignment of sustainable employment with the promotion of inclusive growth which is emphasized in Vision 2030 Jamaica, the Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) 2012–2015 and specifically the policy and programmatic approach of the HEART Trust/NTA. The inclusion is also representative of the cross-cutting significance of education to the work of Jamaica’s Ministry of Labour and Social Security (MLSS) which is responsible for interaction with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and consideration of issues relating to the Decent Work Agenda, and the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce (MIIC); and the strategic policy focus of Jamaica’s Growth Agenda, represented by such interventions as the implementation of the Financial Information Real-time Matchmaking (FIRM) initiative, which aims to improve access to business financing and information.

There was general agreement that the issue of decent jobs was especially of concern regarding the youth.

Proposed Target 4.5 – By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations

Some stakeholders were of the view to replace eliminate with “reduce by X per cent” given inadequacies in the capacity of the education and training sector to fully meet the proposed target. However, other stakeholders argued to retain the term “eliminate”. The rationale for retaining “eliminate” was built on the premise that with the exception of tertiary education, the sex ratio of students in schools was reasonably satisfactory with programmes in place and/or being enhanced to promote gender equity. It was also noted that there was legislation regarding equal access to education and these were informed and reinforced by international protocols and agreements to which the country is signatory. The comprehensive Social Protection Strategy (2014) gives focus to ensuring that all persons throughout the various life stages have access to basic social services and enjoy at least what is considered a minimum acceptable standard of living.

GoJ has been strengthening the institutional, governance and legislative framework to protect and address the needs of persons with disabilities as represented in the National Policy for Persons with Disabilities (2000) and the Disabilities Act tabled in Parliament in 2014. This target is representative of that policy focus.

Proposed Target 4.6 – By 2030, ensure that all youth and at least X per cent of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

There was general consensus for support of the proposed target. It was noted, however, that Jamaica should indicate a country-specific percentage of men and women to achieve literacy and numeracy. In identifying a suitable target, consideration must be given to mastery of literacy and numeracy; and it was noted that a large percentage of the population possess only functional literacy skills.

The JFLL gives focus to equipping participants with numeracy and literacy skills up to the end of Primary School (Grade 6) level, which extends beyond basic numeracy and literacy; and is indicative of national strategic focus.

Proposed Target 4.7 – By 2030, ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development

There was general consensus to retain the proposed target pending an examination of the meaning of the term ‘key’. It was agreed that some research should be conducted in the area, and the findings from review of UNESCO presented. According to UNESCO culture is defined as “...that complex whole which includes knowledge, beliefs, arts, morals, laws, customs, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by (a human) as a member of society”. UNESCO recognizes the features of cultural diversity that constitute the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity that was adopted by its governing body, the General Conference in 2001. In accordance with the Declaration, the main features of cultural diversity are¹⁵:

- Culture is diverse across time and space, and is represented in different society cultures and changes in those cultures over time
- Cultural diversity is to progress towards cultural pluralism which is akin to democratic nation building and governance as well as the willingness of cultures to peacefully and harmoniously co-exist and partake in meaningful cultural exchange. Policies that promote pluralism should also give focus to inclusion and social cohesion
- Cultural is a key factor of development that allows for the expansion of and equity in access to opportunities by all. This development encompasses the

¹⁵<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/cultural-diversity/>; accessed by September 25, 2014.

holism of human existence which includes the economic, social, intellectual and spiritual

- Cultural diversity includes respect for human rights and particularly those that are guaranteed under international law. The respect for human rights extends to all groups, including minorities.

There were concerns regarding means to address cultural related challenges within the Jamaican context, particularly as there are groups and communities that are marginalized and disconnected from mainstream values and norms.

Measurement of the areas under sustainable development and the availability of quality data were also highlighted as areas of concern. The issue of the integration of cultural content in the school curricula, including the reintroduction of civics, was also highlighted as an area of priority.

Proposed Target 4.a – Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

There was discussion regarding the replacement of “Build and upgrade education facilities” and “Ensure that adequate facilities are provided” as this was thought to generally cover the gamut of possible physical infrastructure and environmental capacity building requirements. It was also noted that special attention should be given to physical access by those with physical disabilities.

Proposed Target 4.b – By 2020 expand by X per cent globally the number of scholarships for developing countries in particular LDCs, SIDS and African countries to enroll in higher education, including vocational training, ICT, technical, engineering and scientific programmes in developed countries and other developing countries

It is recommended that in the proposed target “*Middle Incomes countries in the SIDS*” be included to read *By 2020 expand by X per cent globally the number of scholarships for developing countries in particular LDCs, Middle Incomes countries in the SIDS, SIDS and African countries to enroll in higher education, including vocational training, ICT, technical, engineering and scientific programmes in developed countries and other developing countries.*

Proposed Target 4.c – By 2030 increase by X per cent the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially LDCs and SIDS

The proposed target gives focus to the supply of qualified teachers, and international cooperation in the provision of teacher training in developing countries. International Technical Assistance is often encouraged within agreed Terms of Reference. There was concern, however, regarding the measurement of “qualified teachers”.

Proposed Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) calls for a specific commitment to achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment in the post-2015 development framework, as well as robust mainstreaming of gender considerations across all parts of the framework. For this to be achieved, the new framework must be transformative, by addressing the structural impediments to gender equality and the achievement of women's rights. The need for such a framework is grounded in the commitment by UN Member States to gender equality and advancing women's rights. These commitments are enshrined in global treaties, most notably the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); in policy commitments such as the Programme of Action on Population and Development (ICPD), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and, more recently, the outcome of the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

Central to this framework is the recognition that the achievement of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment is relevant in every part of the world. The global priority given to gender equality and women's empowerment led to the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the mainstreaming of gender considerations into other goals through relevant targets and indicators. The central importance of gender equality and women's empowerment in the MDGs has since been reaffirmed in several UN General Assembly resolutions and, more recently, through the Rio+20 outcome document which states that gender equality and women's empowerment are important for sustainable development. It also reaffirms the commitment to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy, society and political decision-making.

Gender equality and women's empowerment was also articulated at the 3rd International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). There is a commitment to promote

and enhance gender equality and women's equal participation, including in policies and programmes in the public and private sector in SIDS. There is recognition that gender equality and women's empowerment, and the full realization of human rights for women and girls, have a transformative and multiplier effect on sustainable development and is a driver of economic growth in SIDS.

The post-2015 development agenda builds on these commitments and expands on the priority given to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the MDGs. Within this development ethos, gender equality and women's empowerment are important for sustainable development, thus member states reaffirmed their commitments to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy, society and political decision-making. Member States also recognized the leadership role of women and resolved to ensure women's full and effective participation in sustainable development policies, programmes and decision-making at all levels. The Open Working Group document indicates that gender equality and women's empowerment is a priority area, and makes explicit reference to women's empowerment and gender equality in other thematic areas for action and follow-up, making this focus area a cross cutting issue as well. The proposed goal was accepted, with the rationale being rooted in the various policy frameworks and international agreements to which Jamaica is signatory.

The Gender Sector Plan of the Vision 2030 Jamaica provides the overarching framework for Jamaica's achievement of gender equality. The primary goal is to see a society free from all forms of discrimination in all spheres; where all males and females at all stages of the life cycle can enjoy full human rights and develop their full potential as productive citizens. The Sector Plan speaks to the outcomes that support and ensure that socio-economic, political, legal and institutional environments and arrangements facilitate and promote gender equity and equality, thereby transforming the prevailing gender ideologies that hinder the equal development and empowerment of males and females. Similarly, the Vision 2030 seeks to deepen democracy and good governance by increasing the participation of women in decision-making at all levels and in all sectors.

The GOJ has also developed appropriate policy frameworks to ensure that gender inequalities and inequities are mitigated. The National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE) which was passed by Parliament in 2011 was developed to address the long term structural socio-economic inequalities that have worked against men and women at all levels of society. The guiding principle of the Policy is that Jamaica is an egalitarian society which values equality and dignity of each citizen by affording and facilitating their human rights.

The objectives are to:

- reduce all forms of gender discrimination and promote greater gender equality and social justice
- strengthen institutional mechanisms and develop the skills and tools required to mainstream gender in cultural, social, economic, and political institutions, structures, and systems
- promote sustainable behaviour change and improve organizational effectiveness and the capacity of public sector entities to develop, implement and monitor gender responsive policies, plans, programmes and projects.

The implementation of the NPGE has been instrumental in outlining Jamaica's commitment towards gender equality, and effectively encapsulates the different outcomes expected in order to achieve gender equality. Most importantly, however, the Policy seeks to encourage the Jamaican community to recognize that development is a multi-dimensional process, and must involve the reduction of gender inequalities as an integral element of achieving equitable growth.

Proposed Target 5.1 – End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Proposed Target 5.2 – Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

Targets 5.1 and 5.2 are in keeping with the national position with discussion focused on highlighting vulnerable groups of women and girls. Exploitation was clarified to include offences similar to human trafficking, for example, carnal abuse, rape and circumstances of

debt bondage. The Jamaican Government is signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (1981) (CEDAW) and has been committed to ensure that:

- there is no discrimination, whether directly or indirectly against women in the law
- that women are protected from discrimination by private individuals whether in the home or the society
- that the rights of women are secured and protected through appropriate policies and programmes and that, on an ongoing basis, the longstanding and deeply rooted prejudices and stereotypes against women are systematically addressed.

In the combined sixth and seventh report to the Committee in 2012, the Government of Jamaica indicated its national position and commitment to eliminating all aspects of violence against women through partnerships with the UN system to complete and have implemented a National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender Based Violence, (NSAP-GBV) which will outline a comprehensive strategic approach to tackling the issue of gender-based violence. The strategic priority areas of the NSAP-GBV include prevention; protection; prosecution and investigation; punishment and redress and protocol for data collection. Jamaica is further committed to ensuring the implementation and effective enforcement of existing laws, and the priority passage and implementation of pending laws. Jamaica is also committed to the establishment of an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism to regularly assess the impact and effectiveness of law enforcement and programmes aimed at preventing and providing redress to victims of violence. Efforts have also been advanced through the involvement of UN agencies; particularly the UN Women and UNFPA to hold extensive public education, training and sensitization of a wide cross-section of stakeholders by way of workshops, print and electronic media. Awareness-raising sessions have been conducted to include training and sensitization of several stakeholders, in particular, the judiciary, law enforcement officers and prosecutors, as well as teachers, health-care and social workers and the media, by the Bureau of Women's Affairs (BWA) and other partners as a part of the public education campaign.

In 1994 and 2005, respectively, Jamaica adopted and acceded to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women – **Convention of Belem do Para**. This particular Convention also addresses the issue of violence against women, and identifies methods to deal with this problem. The Convention takes into account the definition of violence against women and speaks to the identification of fundamental rights and freedoms to which women are entitled, including the right to life, liberty and equal protection before the law, and the right to enter public service of a country and to participate in public affairs.

Trafficking in persons has been and remains a priority area for Jamaica. The enactment of the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act 2007, which was amended in 2013 to allow for an increased penalty from 10 to 20 years; the Proceeds of Crime Act, 2007; the Cybercrime Act, 2010; the Child Pornography (Prevention) Act, 2010; the Offences against the Person Act, 2010; the Evidence (Special Measures) Act, 2012, the Sexual Offences Act, 2011 and the Draft Sexual Harassment legislation. The recent establishment by Cabinet of an inter-ministerial committee to oversee measures to reduce trafficking in persons is also indicative of the Government's commitment to eliminating all forms of harmful practices against Jamaicans. However, there remain concerns about the reportedly high incidence of transnational and internal trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls and the apparent low rate of prosecutions and convictions of perpetrators and the fact that increased levels of poverty heighten the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Proposed Target 5.3 – Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

While Jamaica agrees in principle with the target to eliminate all harmful practices, including female genital mutilation and forced marriages, it was recognized and accepted that female genital mutilation is not applicable to Jamaica at this time. Notwithstanding

this, support will be given within the context of other CARICOM nations that experience these issues and, therefore, this issue should remain a target.

There is need for legislative revisions especially to laws that appear to be contradictory in scope and practice. Reference was made to the Marriage Act, which provides for a child under the age of 18 years being allowed to marry with the consent of parents or guardians, however the Sexual Offences Act makes it an offence to engage in sexual relations with children under the age of 16 years. The CEDAW Committee noted the need for the GOJ to amend the legal provisions and administrative forms that discriminate against women and girls in relation to family life and it is being recommended that this and similar laws are reconciled to ensure the adequate protection of our children, especially girls, to harmful practices that may result from early marriages. Impending legislative reviews will seek to harmonise the current age discrepancies that exist in relation to these two pieces of legislation. One recommendation is that the age of consent be raised to 18 years.

Proposed Target 5.4 – Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

The proposed target is all-inclusive and notes that the value of unpaid work is first recognized at the national level, thereby ensuring that both sexes will equitably participate in same.

Critical to the issue of the provision of public services is to ensure that both sexes have adequate access to public goods and services that will enhance their quality of life. The GOJ is committed to ensuring that there exists a transport system which supports women and vulnerable groups through adaptable services, where possible, for example providing extension of bus routes into target areas, night public transport services, adequately lit public transportation vehicles and terminals, etc. The National Transport Policy (2007) is currently in the initial stages of review and issues of gender will be integrated into the review process.

Additionally, NPGE indicates the commitment of the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing to conduct research on access to public and private transportation and the extent to which men or women rely more on publicly funded transportation options. The Ministry is also committed to implementing mechanisms to monitor and evaluate gender-based violence on public transportation and in public spaces.

The issue of women in rural areas and women as subsistence farmers is to be highlighted in the indicators that will be established through this target. It was noted that agriculture is an engine of growth and poverty reduction in countries where it is the main occupation of the poor and that women make essential contributions to the agricultural and rural economies in all developing countries. Women in rural areas often manage complex households and pursue multiple livelihood strategies. Their activities typically include: producing agricultural crops; tending animals; processing and preparing food; working for wages in agricultural or other rural enterprises; collecting fuel and water; engaging in trade and marketing; caring for family members; and maintaining their homes. Many of these activities are not defined as “economically active employment” in national accounts but they are essential to the well-being of rural households. The justification for this target rests on the fact that the gender debate in agriculture should speak to the fact that women, who represent a crucial resource in agriculture and the rural economy through their roles as farmers, labourers and entrepreneurs, face constraints in access to productive resources. Efforts made by the government and the international community to achieve their goals for agricultural development, economic growth and food security will be strengthened and accelerated if they build on the contributions that women make and take steps to alleviate these constraints.

Non-governmental institutions such as the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) have been instrumental in empowering and motivating women in rural areas to improve their quality of life and the social and economic situations that exist in their communities. The development of the organisation has been guided by the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture, as well as other organisations that deal with the economic and social development of women. Substantial support has been provided by the

government which has assisted in the provision of technical assistance in terms of advocating for the rights of women. The organisation currently has a membership of approximately 250 women in rural areas, most of whom are involved in agro-processing, direct farming and exports. The JNRWP also constitutes 13 community-based organisations, seven of which are organised and fully registered as either co-operative or benevolent societies. The government also assisted the JNRWP in acquiring new office space, at this new location, enabling the JNRWP to hold training sessions and teach women how to improve the standard of their products and how to market themselves.

The government, through the Bureau of Women's Affairs, has provided technical assistance to the Household Workers Union to look specifically at increasing advocacy towards ratifying ILO Convention No 189 concerning the decent work agenda.

Proposed Target 5.5 – Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

The OWG maintained that women should have full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life. There is an imbalance of female leadership within the public sphere, which is also critical to economic and social development of a country. Notwithstanding this, the target is in keeping with the nation's thrust to increase women's participation in public life. The Government is still committed to ensuring that steps are taken to achieve substantive equality between women and men. Discussions have begun within the context of Parliament to explore the issue of adopting quotas and special temporary measures that will strengthen women's leadership and presence on Boards, Commissions and in Parliament. This is in accordance with article 4 paragraph 1 of the CEDAW Convention and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25. The discussions are also looking at ways to encourage political parties to nominate higher numbers of women as candidates and

create an enabling environment for the political participation of women by educating potential young women leaders and strengthening women's wings in political parties.

Jamaica adopted the Beijing Platform for Action at the 4th World Conference on Women in 1995. The Beijing Declaration and its Platform for Action indicate that women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society (including participation in the decision-making process and access to power), are fundamental for the achievement of equality, development and peace; and that equal rights, opportunities and access to resources, equal sharing of responsibilities in the home by men and women, and a harmonious partnership between them are critical to the well-being of the family as well as to the consolidation of democracy.

Proposed Target 5.6 – Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

Jamaica supports this target and can agree to this position as signatories to both Programmes of Action. Notwithstanding this, Jamaica's support is subject to the laws of the land and should not be in contravention of national laws. This target is addressed explicitly in Proposed Goal 3, Target 3.7.

Proposed Target 5.a – Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws

Proposed Target 5.b – Enhance the use of enabling technologies, in particular ICT, to promote women's empowerment

Proposed Target 5c – Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

It was suggested that the proposed target 5c under Means of Implementation include "throughout the lifecycle" at the end, to indicate the commitment to ensure that policies,

programmes and legislations support equality and the empowerment of all categories of women and girls. This will address the absence of the elderly and women with disabilities in the conversation.

Cross cutting issues for Goal 5 are considered and indicated in all 17 Goals presented by the Open Working Group. Each of these goals speaks to specific targets that address gender.

Goal 1 – End Poverty in all its forms everywhere

Proposed Target 1.2- By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men and women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definition.

Proposed Target 1.4- By 2030, ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance

Goal 2 – End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

Proposed Target 2.2 - By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons

Proposed Target 2.3- By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Proposed Target 3.4 - By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and wellbeing

Proposed Target 3.7 - By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

Goal 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all

Vision 2030 Jamaica recognizes that there is a general understanding that gender intersects with academic achievement, attendance and enrolment at all levels of the education system and that historically, the education system in general perpetuates gender ideologies. The role of schooling in transmitting prevailing gender ideologies and stereotypes which undergirds the positioning of males and females into traditional subject areas, occupational choices and career paths - (sexual division of labour and the public/private dichotomy) are issues that should be examined with a gender perspective.

Proposed Target - 4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

Proposed Target - 4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

Proposed Target - 4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

Proposed Target - 4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations

Proposed Target - 4.7 By 2030, ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Proposed Target - 6.2 By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Proposed Target - 8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

Proposed Target - 8.8 By 2030, protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment

Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
All targets

Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Proposed Target - 11.2 By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

Proposed Target - 11.7 By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

Other Issues identified

There was a notable absence of issues affecting the elderly and women with disabilities which are not addressed in the targets. Gender inequalities shape older women's experiences and in both developing and developed worlds, elderly women continue to endure unequal and inadequate access to wealth, property and resources. These inequalities are often buttressed by legal and political institutions. Older women also suffer from the effects of poor nutrition, inadequate health care and support systems and environmental hazards.

Data Collection and Analysis- Jamaica supports the promotion and availability of sex disaggregated data to improve gender policies, plans, programmes and projects. To

strengthen the means of implementation on data, accountability and monitoring, data should be collected and disaggregated by sex, age, geography, socio-economic status and ethnicity. It is also important that this data is accessible and properly managed.

Engagement of men

Engaging men in efforts to address gender equality is a major strategy to achieve progress in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment. Engaging men in the conversation is seen as one of the most critical means through which inequalities can be tackled, where male issues are the more serious and far-reaching problems, they should receive commensurate attention. This approach will provide room for effective collaboration on male-centered programmes and supports the view that while women's empowerment is critical and has to be addressed, it is important that issues affecting our males and the interaction between both sexes are examined. The NPGE policy framework indicates that women and men need to give equal opportunities to work together in partnership to achieve gender equality. This translates into gains not only for women but also for men and society as a whole. Eliminating barriers to equal participation at all levels of society for women and men will translate into sustainable human and national development.

Proposed Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Jamaica has abundant freshwater resources – present production from both ground and surface water resources totals about 920 million cubic metres per year – 22.5 per cent of the current reliable safe yield. This leaves a balance of about 3 165 million cubic metres per year (over 77.0 per cent of the total) available for development. Approximately 75.0 per cent of the total volume of water currently produced is used for agricultural purposes, with 17.0 per cent being used for domestic consumption.

Currently, 92.0 per cent of Jamaicans have access to improved sources of drinking water and 99.5 per cent have access to improved sanitation facilities. Approximately 25.0 per cent of Jamaica’s population is served by sewage systems operated by the National Water Commission (NWC). The remaining 75.0 per cent of Jamaica’s sewage waste are disposed of through soak away systems, septic tanks, tile fields, pit latrines etc. Notwithstanding the improvement in these services, there still remain issues with respect to the reliability and convenience of these services, particularly in rural areas. Additionally, there are spatial issues, as areas where water resources are located are not the same areas where demand for water is greatest.

The Government recognizes that Jamaica’s freshwater resources are threatened by land-based sources of pollution and irregular rainfall patterns which contribute to eutrophication in rivers as algae growth overwhelms rivers especially in periods of drought. Periods of drought also reduce the amount of water available for recharging underground aquifers. Notwithstanding, less than 10.0 per cent of the island’s water resources are contaminated.

The GOJ is in the process of promulgating its long-term National Water Sector Policy which is expected to advance an integrated approach to managing water resources and ensure that all Jamaicans have access to reliable and safe drinking water and safe sanitation facilities by 2020. Also, the Government has in place a number of regulations, policies and plans that govern the freshwater sector. These initiatives address the provision of water

and wastewater services as well as the monitoring and promotion of good water quality. Chief among these are: The Water Resources Act (1995) which provides for the establishment of the Water Resources Authority whose responsibility is to regulate, control and conserve water resources; the National Water Commission (NWC) Act (1980) which gives the NWC responsibility for public water supply systems and public sewerage and sewage treatment systems; as well as legislation and policies that focus on effluent and sewage including the NRCA Permit and License Regulations 1996, the Wastewater and Sludge Regulations and the draft Jamaica National Sanitation Policy (2005). Also, a range of approaches are being used to better manage the country's freshwater resources. Some of these include: implementing programmes and projects which promote more sustainable agricultural practices; improving sewage treatment facilities; and promoting improved water conservation practices among the population.

The goal proposed by the OWG is consistent with Vision 2030 Jamaica and the strategic focus of the GOJ, particularly as it relates to the management of, and access of safe water and sanitation services for Jamaicans. Under Vision 2030 Jamaica, Goals # 9 "Strong Economic Infrastructure" and #13 "Sustainable Management and Use of Natural and Environmental Resources", provide support for the achievement of all targets set out by the OWG.

Under Vision 2030 Jamaica, water, sanitation and hygiene are all linked to support human health, protect ecosystems and reduce poverty. There also is a focus on ensuring stronger coordination between the planning and development of water supply, sanitation services and human settlements.

The importance of water and sanitation to national development cannot be overstated as the availability of and access to freshwater are basic aspects of human existence. It is a limited resource with no substitute and it affects food supply, health, habitats, hygiene, transportation, climate, energy supplies, and industry. It is widely accepted that poor water management can lead to disease, malnutrition, reduced economic growth, social instability, and war. Therefore, the conservation and proper use of freshwater are fundamental in

order to assure the continuance of life on our planet. This goal for water and sanitation under the Post-2015 Development Agenda is premised on a vision shared by key stakeholders in the water sector (both in the public and private), in that the country must realize by 2030 “Integrated and sustainable water resources management and development; adequate and safe water supply and sanitation to support social and economic development”.

Proposed Target 6.1 – By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Achieving universal equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all is a priority of the GOJ. The National Water Sector Policy reiterates this commitment and states that although 91.5 per cent of Jamaicans have access to improved sources of drinking water, there is need to improve these services, particularly in rural areas. Currently, only 70.0 per cent of the population have piped water supply while another 5.0 per cent have access from public standpipes and about 16.0 per cent of the population uses rainwater catchment tanks. The GOJ is committed to ensuring that all Jamaicans have access to reliable and safe drinking water by 2020. To this end, the Government will take steps to improve the regulatory framework for the water sector to advance this effort. Other strategies being undertaken include the formulation of a rural water supply development strategy as well as the development of guidelines for rainwater harvesting. Additionally, in those parts of the country where piped water is the least cost method of providing water supply, the Government intends to ensure that by 2020, water would be available 24 hours per day in urban areas and 18 hours per day in rural areas and that potable water will meet water quality standards as set by the ministry with responsibility for public health. This will be achieved through the implementation of expansion plans for piped water.

Proposed Target 6.2 – By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Coverage of sewerage services has increased significantly in recent years, but it is less extensive than the coverage of water services. The Government recognizes that significant investments and operational improvements are needed in this area. Notwithstanding, almost all Jamaicans or 99.5 per cent of the population have access to improved sanitation facilities, although the Government has recognized that these facilities (e.g. septic tanks), while safe for the user, does not adequately protect other people’s health and the environment.

Data from the Population and Housing Census 2011 indicate that about 71.0 per cent of households had access to water closets; pit latrines were being used by 23.0 per cent of households; and approximately 2.1 per cent of all households reported having no toilet facilities.

Percentage Distribution of Households by Availability and Type of Toilet Facilities: 2011	
Type of Toilet Facilities	2011
Total	881,078
Water Closet	70.88
Pit	22.75
Other	0.10
No Facilities	2.09
Not Reported	6.25
Availability of Toilet Facilities	
Total	824,912**
Shared	17.90
Water Closet	11.77
Pit	6.13
Not Shared	82.10
Water Closet	63.93
Pit	18.17
*No allowance made for a category ‘other’ in 2001.	
**Based on households reporting water closet and pit only.	
Source: Population and Housing Census 2011, STATIN 2012	

The draft Water Sector Policy includes provision for wastewater management and sets out strategies to ensure that the health and safety of all Jamaicans are protected and that there will be access to safe sanitation facilities by all by 2020. Strategies to be developed and implemented will ensure that effluent from sanitation facilities, including on-site facilities and piped sewage systems as well as industrial and other types of effluent do not pollute the environment or endanger public health. Areas will be identified in which sewage systems are to be expanded and new systems constructed.

The Government also intends to implement mechanisms to utilize appropriate methods and technologies on water supply and sanitation systems and approaches for rural and poor communities and review and update these standards regularly.

Proposed Target 6.3 – By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increasing recycling and safe reuse by x per cent globally

For Jamaica, effective wastewater management is considered to include safe sanitation services and safe management of effluent from sewage treatment plant, industrial discharges and other sources. Currently, industrial and agricultural effluent is sometimes released untreated into the environment, contaminating water resources. Also, discharges from some sewage treatment plants sometimes do not meet environmental standards. The Government by 2020 is committed to ensuring that all sewage treatment plants and other discharges comply with the National Effluent Discharge Standards. This would be partly achieved by the upgrading of some existing sewage treatment plants.

The intention also is to establish policies that encourage irrigators and industrial users to use treated wastewater as well as to set appropriate standards for wastewater re-use, thereby enhancing national water conservation efforts.

Proposed Target 6.4 – By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity

The GOJ recognizes the importance of putting in place water conservation measures to complement the development and strengthening of present water management practices. It is duly recognized that water conservation can positively impact the economy, the environment, and the society as a whole, and can result in:

- reduced water demand – generally faster, cheaper, and easier than supply-side programmes
- water and wastewater treatment savings – reduces cost and defers plant expansion and new source development costs
- less environmental impact – due to less surface and subsurface withdrawals
- sustained water quality – reduces groundwater contaminant intrusion and curtails demand for new supplies that are of lower quality.

Water conservation efforts will be implemented across all sectors with special emphasis on the agricultural, tourism and fisheries sectors and will take into account the implementation of strategies such as:

- implementing measures to ensure multi-purpose use of water resources
- utilizing extension services and appropriate technology to improve water efficiency in the agricultural and domestic water sub-sectors
- establishing appropriate guidelines and systems for key agencies to report on water management (capacity, standards, regulation conservation and monitoring)
- continuing and increasing green practices in the tourism sector
- identifying water pollution sources and vulnerability and taking necessary mitigative actions
- review existing wastewater technologies and infrastructure and recommend strategies for improvement and reuse
- applying best management practices to minimize impacts from activities such as logging, cultivation and mining.

The government recognizes the importance of water conservation and views it as an integral part of the management of freshwater resources.

Proposed Target 6.5 – By 2030 implement integrated water resources management

The government's approach to developing the water sector is based on integrated water resources management which is considered fundamental to managing the country's water resources. The government proposes to adopt approaches that would include institutional coordination and stakeholder participation to be facilitated by water resources management committees. Consequently, planning and management of the country's water resources will allow for individuals, businesses, civil society and government to participate in decision-making processes that affect the water sector.

Other key strategies to advance integrated water resources management are expected to include:

- review mandates of agencies involved in water resources management with a view to creating an institutional framework that will allow more effective coordination for efficient and effective water resources management
- establish a process for inclusion, consultation and training with stakeholders to develop IWRM plans and policies
- improve timely access to, and sharing of available data and research on water resources management and the dissemination and implementation of good practice guidelines for all water-related projects
- establish mechanisms and guidelines for sex disaggregated data collection and maintenance of a database on water and waste water management (capacity, standards, regulations and monitoring) to guide planning and investment in the sector.

Proposed Target 6.6 – By 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

The GOJ intends to implement by 2020, or commence implementation of several activities related to watershed and wetland management in a bid to secure water for future use. Some of these activities will include:

- re-classify the country's Watershed Management Units to identify which ones have improved or degraded due to interventions and land use management
- implementation of the Watershed Area Management Mechanism, which involves an integrated approach and collaboration with all entities involved with the management of watersheds
- working with the Forestry Department to vamp up reforestation efforts
- training of rivers to maximize discharge and to enhance slope stabilization
- reduction of forest invasive species
- exploring and implementation management measures such as Conservation Easements
- farmer training activities to promote drought resistant plants and plants to enhance slope stabilization and soil retention
- aquifer re-charge
- wetland restoration and rehabilitation activities (such as replanting of mangrove and other coastal plants)
- reduction of wetland intrusions
- implementation of wetland mitigation banking initiatives

Proposed Target 6.a – By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

Jamaica recognizes the need for support in the areas of water harvesting; water efficiency; wastewater treatment; recycling; and reuse technologies. Over the years, the country has participated in a range of international development projects focusing on these areas.

There are several wastewater reuse initiatives in Jamaica. In the tourism sector, for example, some hotels have used wastewater treatment effluent for golf course irrigation, while the major industrial water users, the bauxite/alumina companies, engage in extensive recycling of their processed waters. The analysis of beach waters in Jamaica indicates that the water quality is better near the hotels with wastewater reuse projects than in beach areas where reuse is not practised.

Emphasis also is being placed on water harvesting and under Vision 2030 Jamaica, the Government intends to increase public awareness of the advantages of rainwater harvesting and introduce measures to implement this modality. Some programmes being implemented include:

- analyzing rainfall data and identifying areas where rainwater harvesting is feasible
- reviewing and amendment of the rainwater harvesting guidelines
- dissemination of relevant information through public education programmes
- encouraging households to install cisterns/tanks for rainwater harvesting, to be achieved through the application of financial incentives.

Proposed Target 6.b – Support and strengthen the participation of local communities for improving water and sanitation management

Through the integrated water resources management approach, the GOJ will support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. This is an underlying principle of the National Water Sector Policy. Through the establishment of water resources management committees, local communities will be especially targeted to play a central role in decision making on water resources management, including establishing water resources management plans for watersheds and updating watershed management plans on a regular basis.

Proposed Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Energy management has been identified as a critical issue for SIDS in achieving sustainability. Jamaica, like many other SIDS, suffers from a heavy reliance on imported fossil fuels and lack of diversity in energy supplies. The country, through its approved National Energy Policy (NEP) 2009-2030 and draft sub-policies on renewable energy, energy conservation and efficiency, carbon trading and energy from waste, has established a framework to create an energy sector which is modern, efficient, diversified, and environmentally sustainable. Key to this vision is the attainment of long-term energy security with access to reliable, affordable supplies; diversification of the energy supply; realization of full energy resource potential through the development of indigenous resources; and the promotion of conservation and efficiency in energy production and use. The draft sub-policies are scheduled for review by the end of the Financial Year 2014/2015 following which they will be sent to Cabinet for approval.

Jamaica's energy management framework and particularly the NEP will support the implementation of Vision 2030 Jamaica, particularly National Outcome #10 – Energy Security and Efficiency and is, therefore, consistent with, and part of the overarching vision for achieving developed country status by 2030. The vision of the energy sector as articulated in the NEP is to create:

“A modern, efficient, diversified and environmentally sustainable energy sector providing affordable and accessible energy supplies with long-term energy security and supported by informed public behaviour on energy issues and an appropriate policy, regulatory and institutional framework”.

In addition to the national imperatives, Jamaica also operates within the framework of the CARICOM Energy Policy (CEP), adopted by member states in March 2013. The policy seeks to achieve fundamental transformation of the energy sectors of member states to achieve secure, affordable and sustainable supplies. The regional policy also promotes accelerated deployment of renewable and clean sources and intra-community trade in energy. Towards the implementation of the CEP, the quantitative regional targets will be articulated within

the context of a Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS), which continues to be refined. Nevertheless, some targets have been approved as it relates to the development of renewable power capacity and power sector emissions.

Jamaica has also signed onto the SIDS DOCK sustainable energy initiative, which is established as a trans-regional international organization, comprising member countries of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS). It is a partnership mechanism to assist SIDS in the transformation of their national energy sectors, to facilitate sustainable economic development and help generate financial resources to address adaptation to climate change.

Within the framework of The Declaration of Montego Bay on Regional Energy Security and Integration and Montego Bay Plan of Action (October 2013), member countries within the Latin American and Caribbean region, reaffirmed their commitment to promote a unified approach to matters relating to regional energy security and integration. Some of the obligations under this plan of action include:

- creation of an enabling policy environment towards a modern, affordable and efficient energy sector
- development of regional initiatives, technical cooperation and capacity building to support national, sub-regional and regional strategies to achieve energy security
- regional and international cooperation on matters such as technology transfer, financing, opportunities for investment
- ensuring that sustainable energy for all remains a priority for both developing and developed countries.

The objectives and strategies of these national and regional energy management frameworks are in line with a sustainable energy approach, and are in keeping with the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) and Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) for the sustainable development of SIDS, as well as the UN Sustainable Energy For All (SE4All) initiative.

Energy is a critical pillar in the development of the Jamaican economy. This is articulated in Vision 2030 Jamaica, specifically Goal 3 – Jamaica's Economy is Prosperous. This Proposed Goal is therefore linked to Proposed Goal 8 which seeks to promote sustainable economic growth and Proposed Goal 12, which speaks to sustainable consumption and production patterns. Of concern to Jamaica is the relatively high cost of energy for businesses, in particular, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

Proposed Target 7.1 – By 2030, ensure universal access to sustainable modern energy services for all

It is recommended that the target be adjusted to read “**By 2030, ensure universal access to sustainable modern energy services for all with solutions that aim to secure affordable energy for the poorest**”. This was proposed so as to place special focus on affordable energy for the poor and other vulnerable groups. The group also recommended that modern energy services be defined. Whilst there is a general understanding of sustainable modern energy services, stakeholders at the national level recommend that a working definition be provided; this will further influence the development of indicators. Based on policies that now exist, the Ministry with responsibility for energy suggests that modern energy is defined as “household access to electricity and clean cooking facilities (e.g. fuels and stoves that do not cause air pollution in houses)”¹⁶ or “desired and useful products, processes or services that result from the use of energy, such as illumination for home or business use; heat for cooking; power for transport, water pumping, and grinding; and cooling for refrigeration”¹⁷.

¹⁶ Based on the International Energy Agency definition

¹⁷ Adapted from “Regional Strategy on Scaling-up Access to Modern Energy Services in the East African Community” report.

Proposed Target 7.2 – Double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030

Under the NEP 2009-2030, a draft National Renewable Energy Policy 2010-2030 was developed to promote an increased share of renewable energy “that contributes to Jamaica’s energy security and a sustainable future”. Renewable energy is also a key target area for diversifying energy sources and energy security under Vision 2030 Jamaica. In principle, therefore, the main national policy instruments endorse growing the share of renewable energy in the global mix as articulated in the target. However, the national consultations noted the global nature of this target; the uncertainty relating to the implications for countries such as Jamaica with respect to monitoring and reporting on this target; and the absence of a working definition for a “global energy mix”. Renewable energy solutions are win-win for SIDS, as articulated in SIDS DOCK, the SAMOA Pathway, among others and must be pursued as a priority. Regarding the definition of “global energy mix”, it is unclear if this refers to primary energy (which includes fuel for transportation) or to the more restrictive definition, of electricity generation.

Recommendations are that the relevant indicators should be carefully crafted bearing in mind the circumstances in SIDS and their national policies. In addition, the baseline year needs to be clearly stated. Also, special attention must be given to the vulnerability of LDCs and SIDS as net importers of fossil fuels.

Proposed Target 7.3 – Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030

Jamaica has drafted a National Energy Conservation and Efficiency Policy under the NEP. It is also one of the tenets of Vision 2030 Jamaica. The NEP recognizes the need to develop sector specific energy efficiency targets for transport, bauxite, manufacturing industries and households. However, these targets have not yet been developed. The NEP does, however, set a target to reduce energy intensity as measured in BTU/US\$1 Unit of output, which may be used as proxy measure for energy efficiency.

Proposed target 7.3 seeks to achieve energy efficiency and is, therefore, generally consistent with national priorities. However, it is global in nature; further, “rate of improvement in energy efficiency” does not clearly indicate what will be measured. The recommendation is for the development of appropriate indicators which take the special case of SIDS into account.

Proposed Target 7.4 – By 2030, increase by x per cent globally the share of clean energy technologies, including sustainable biomass and advanced cookstoves

Generally, there is need for clarity on the definition and scope of clean energy technologies although there is a basic understanding of its intent. It was agreed that there is no fundamental objection to this target, but further deliberations are contingent on clarifications being provided. There was also uncertainty on what is meant by global percentage share, which could be a function of the rate of adoption of particular types of technologies, as well as the number of different types of technologies being adopted.

Proposed Target 7.5 – By 2030, phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption, with solutions that aim to secure affordable energy for the poorest

A revision to the proposed target is being recommended to read: **“By 2030, implement policies/instruments to phase out subsidies that encourage inefficiency and wasteful consumption; and promote clean energy technologies”**. The revision highlights the need for policies or other instruments to be developed that not only reduce wasteful consumption, but which also encourages energy efficiency. Additionally, the target, as written, suggests that the phase-out of subsidies is directly linked to the provision of secure affordable energy for the poor. These are two separate issues and should be treated as such. The provision of energy for the poorest is included in the national consultations proposed target 7.1 which addresses universal modern access to energy by all.

Proposed Target 7.6 – by 2030 expand and upgrade as appropriate infrastructure for supply, transmission and distribution of modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas, including with a view to doubling primary energy supply per capita for LDCs

National stakeholders endorsed this target as it is in line with the NEP. However, there was a recommendation to adjust as follows: **By 2030 expand and upgrade as appropriate infrastructure for supply, transmission and distribution of modern and renewable energy services in rural and urban areas, including with a view to *meeting country targets for primary energy supply per capita for LDCs and SIDS***. In keeping with the SAMOA Pathway, SIDS DOCK, and other agreements, Jamaica’s position is that SIDS should receive special attention with regard to expanding and upgrading energy infrastructure. It was also felt that the use of “meeting country targets” instead of “doubling” allows flexibility for both groups of countries; it does not change the intent of the original target with respect to LDCs as they are at liberty to use national or regional targets in meeting their energy supply as appropriate.

Proposed Goal 8: Promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

For decades, Jamaica has been experiencing low productivity, low growth, high unemployment, precarious fiscal finances and challenges associated with labour market inefficiencies. To deal with these challenges, the GOJ adopted a more targeted approach to the achievement of economic growth and development through the national planning framework of Vision 2030 Jamaica.

These priorities are grounded in the GOJ's Growth Inducement Strategy which has the following guiding principles:

- unleash entrepreneurial dynamism by unlocking latent wealth tied up in idle assets
- utilize infrastructure investments as a catalyst for job creation through strengthening resiliency of the built and natural environment
- build an innovative and competitive modern economy of large and small firms by strengthening business networks and removing supply-side constraints
- modernize and improve the efficiency of government
- social inclusion through community renewal, expanded self-agency and equity
- proactive partnership between government and private sector.

Reform Agenda

The holistic approach to economic development is bolstered by renewed efforts by the GOJ in 2013 to reform Jamaica's economic system, with support from the IMF through an extended arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF). The reform programme tackles the challenges of low growth and high debt, and has performed well despite the complexity and difficulty of the reform agenda. Key elements of the GOJ's socio-economic policy are outlined in a Memorandum of Economic and Financial Policies (MEFP) which accompany the EFF. The MEFP policy programme focuses on: fiscal consolidation to

support a reduction of debt to sustainable levels; public sector transformation and modernization to improve public sector efficiency and effectiveness; structural reforms aimed at supporting macroeconomic stability and facilitating sustained economic growth through improved business competitiveness; and targeted social protection. The MEFP programme is assessed against quantitative criteria, structural benchmarks, and indicative targets.

The implementation of the broad strategic priorities of the GOJ which include job creation; improved security and safety; human capital development; social inclusion; fiscal prudence; and the pursuit of a credible economic programme will facilitate access to full and productive employment and decent work for all men and women.

Full and productive employment and decent work for all

Jamaica has placed priority on achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all in keeping with the International Labour Organization's (ILO) Decent Work Agenda and the Global Jobs Pact which the GOJ fully endorses especially in light of high unemployment which increased from 9.9 per cent in 2007 to 15.2 per cent in 2013¹⁸. The priorities and targets outlined are also grounded in Vision 2030 Jamaica and the accompanying MTF and Labour Market and Productivity Sector Plan; the National Youth Policy; the Commonwealth Youth Programme and the Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment; the draft National Policy and Plan of Action for International Migration and Development; and the Growth Inducement Strategy.

Climate Change

Jamaica has already begun to observe the effects of climate change and variability on economic sectors. It is estimated that an average 2.0 per cent of GDP has been lost annually

¹⁸ Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica, 2008 and 2013

between 2001 and 2012 as a result of storm events, primarily due to damage and losses sustained to infrastructure and economic sectors. The livelihood – and by extension the labour force – of many sectors suffered. The onset of continued climate change effects will not only adversely affect economic sectors, but the decent jobs which they support. The government has taken steps to address climate change and the associated impacts at the national and international levels. With respect to the former, effects are underway to infuse climate change considerations in all policies, plans and programmes (see Proposed Goal 13).

Proposed Target 8.1 – Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances, and in particular at least 7per cent per annum GDP growth in the least-developed countries

Note: Specific targets currently outlined in Jamaica’s arrangement under the Extended Fund Facility with the International Monetary Fund would trump this proposed target.

The achievement of sustained economic growth in Jamaica is guided by the Growth Inducement Strategy for Jamaica in the short and medium-term, the main components of which are highlighted below:

<i>Main Components of the Government of Jamaica’s Growth Strategy</i>		
<i>Component</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Specific Reforms</i>
<i>1. Fiscal Consolidation</i>	<i>Provides Macroeconomic Stability</i>	<i>Deficit Reduction; Debt Management; Tax Reform; Fiscal Accountability; Public Sector Transformation; Pension Reform; Financial Sector Stability; Inflation Control</i>
<i>2. Business Environment Competitiveness Reforms</i>	<i>Addresses Constraints in the Business Environment</i>	<i>Business Registration Process; Development Application Review Process; Collateral Reform; Insolvency Legislation; MSME Financing, Energy Sector Reform</i>
<i>3. Strategic Investment Projects</i>	<i>Provide Catalytic Capital Investments and Employment; Improve Business Environment</i>	<i>Global Logistics Hub Initiative; Agro-Parks; ICT Parks; Road Infrastructure Projects; Integrated Resort Development; Energy Diversification Projects; Urban Renewal Projects</i>
<i>4. Human Capital Development, Social Protection, Security and Resilience</i>	<i>Build Labour Productivity; Provide Social Protection; Addresses Crime and Violence Constraints; Enhance Economic Resilience at Individual</i>	<i>Social Protection; Education and Skills Training; Primary Health Care; Youth Employment; Labour Market Reform; Citizens Security;</i>

	<i>and Community levels; Enhances Environmental Resilience and reduces the impact of disasters and of climate change</i>	<i>Community Renewal; Hazard Risk Reduction; Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation</i>
<i>Source: Planning Institute of Jamaica</i>		

However, it should be noted that the implementation of the main components of the Growth Strategy can only be realized through proactive partnerships between government and the private sector. This collaboration is critical to build and sustain an enabling environment for creative and enterprising actors (individuals and firms) to seize emerging opportunities for value-creation that link local competitive advantages to rapidly changing conditions of global competition.

Proposed target 8.2 – Achieve higher levels of productivity of economies through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labour-intensive sectors

The mission of the Ministry of Education is “to provide strategic leadership and policy direction for quality education for all Jamaicans to maximize their potential, contribute to national development and compete effectively in the global economy.” The Ministry of Education also seeks to strengthen mechanisms to align training with demands of the labour market. To this end, a number of labour market studies and activities have been done to inform programme development at the Human Employment and Resource Training Trust, National Training Agency (HEART Trust/NTA). Initiatives are also being led by the Ministry towards infusing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) throughout the education system which should lead to greater innovation. STEM is currently being integrated into the curriculum to apply the connections between technology, engineering and other fields of study. The Ministry also aims to deliver education content through action-based activities that involve the utilisation of technology. The Caribbean Maritime Institute (CMI), in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce; Ministry of Education; HEART Trust/NTA; and the Port Authority of Jamaica, is also in the process of diversifying the training it offers by introducing new programmes in emerging areas such as logistics.

The GOJ is currently pursuing several initiatives to increase the pool of certified workers in the labour force through the HEART/NTA. These include:

- increasing certification options
- increased focus on integrating Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and Technical Vocational Educational and Training in schools
- increasing employment creation initiatives through the development of SMES
- building strategic partnerships to aid economic development.

It is expected that a larger proportion of the labour force will be engaged in high-level productive activities that will also address the disparities in income levels and improve economic growth and levels of unemployment through productivity and innovation.

The Growth Strategy outlines the planned economic activities to be pursued and the training requirements that would be needed as a result. These activities include the implementation of strategic mega projects, such as the establishment of Jamaica as a logistics hub; various energy sector related activities and measures to improve the business environment; and create high value added activities which will lead to a positive economic shift. Collaboration between the public and private sectors will be required to effectively address any identified issues or challenges which may hamper the pace of implementation and effectiveness of these strategic projects. To achieve this, clear lines of responsibility and accountability have to be identified, particularly where linkages exist between mega projects and the wider economy. In this regard, the Growth Agenda Subcommittee of the Economic Development Committee of Cabinet was established in April 2014 and has been charged with the responsibility of resolving road blocks to the effective implementation of strategic projects.

Proposed Target 8.3 – Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) including through access to financial services

Jamaica's Micro, Small & Medium Sized Enterprise (MSME) & Entrepreneurship Policy recognizes this group/sector as important drivers of economic growth and development in Jamaica. The Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce sees MSMEs as a catalyst for economic growth and job creation and consequently developed a MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy which was approved in 2013. The policy identifies the major challenges faced by MSMEs in Jamaica and outlines areas that are of focus in the policy which includes reducing informality, promoting entrepreneurship, promoting innovation and productivity, access to finance and environmental protection. Despite their economic significance, MSMEs face many challenges that hinder their growth and development which highlights the need to place entrepreneurship and MSME development at the forefront of the country's economic policy agenda. The MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy is the intervention framework that offers coordinated, coherent and targeted support to the sector in an effort to expand its contribution. Jamaica wishes to highlight that access to financing is more critical than access to "financial services" particularly for MSMEs.

Access to financing has been a long-standing issue which has affected the development and expansion of the MSME sector. To address this issue, the Development Bank of Jamaica is actively expanding financing to the MSME sector. For FY2013/14, the DBJ approved 9,773 loans to the MSME sector, valued at J\$2.3 billion. The target for FY2014/15 is J\$3 billion. This effort will be further strengthened by the Financial Information and Real-time Matchmaking (FIRM) Expo which was launched on August 14, 2014. This initiative is intended to increase the awareness of opportunities for financing and strengthens the capacity of SMEs to access financing, and will establish a financial matchmaking model for financiers and entrepreneurs.

The preparation of a programme of reforms to streamline the development applications process has been led during 2014 by the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Local Government and Community Development, including consultations with public and private sector stakeholders. Broad agreement has been reached on a range of reforms including:

- differentiated applications processing system, with an integrated approach to process applications for larger developments and applications falling within sensitive areas
- full implementation of the Application Management and Data Automation system (AMANDA) system¹⁹
- promulgation of the National Building Act and Regulations to include provisions for the licensing of development professionals involved in the applications process
- electronic filing of applications and documents and parallel processing through an expanded AMANDA system
- completion of the National Spatial Plan and up-to-date development orders and plans for the entire island; completion of a national fees policy
- provision of additional human and financial resources to strengthen the capacity of agencies and authorities involved in the development applications process.

Full implementation of the reforms should accelerate the approval of construction permits.

Goal 3 of Vision 2030 Jamaica – **Jamaica’s economy is prosperous** – is relevant to achieving *sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*. This particular national goal is attached to six specific national outcomes ranging from a stable macroeconomy to internationally competitive industry structures to an enabling business environment.

¹⁹The Application Management and Data Automation (AMANDA) system will allow the government to track approval of construction permits across all parish councils in Jamaica and is being implemented with support from the World Bank. Implementation of the system has started in nine parishes, as well as in four agencies (National Works Agency, Mines and Geology Division, Agricultural Land Management Division, and the Environmental Health Unit, Kingston). The system is expected to be implemented in all parish councils by December 2014.

Vision 2030 Jamaica Goal #3 and Aligned National Outcomes

Goal 3: Jamaica's Economy is Prosperous	A Stable Macroeconomy
	An Enabling Business Environment
	Strong Economic Infrastructure
	Energy Security and Efficiency
	A Technology-Enabled Society
	Internationally Competitive Industry Structures

The MTF 2012-2015 focuses on inclusive growth and sustainable development and borrows strategically from and is influenced by Vision 2030, the Growth Inducement Strategy and the Medium Term Economic Programme for the period 2012-2016. The priorities for the MTF 2012-2015 represent the areas which are of national and sectoral importance for prioritized resource allocation and include but is not limited to economic stability, competitiveness and employment; and development and protection of human capital. These priorities are labour force training; labour market reform; targeted employment programmes; persons with disabilities; and international migration and development with special focus on:

- promoting work experience programmes at the secondary and post-secondary levels
- developing and promoting flexible labour market arrangements, policies and legislation
- strengthening and improving access to the Labour Market Information System (LMIS)
- undertaking a comprehensive labour market reform
- developing and implementing a national programme of productivity management
- widen the modes of employment generation
- promoting and developing entrepreneurship, especially among youth

- providing training and capacity development for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)
- expanding credit facilities for MSMEs.

A major constraint to the development of key industries in Jamaica such as manufacture, mining and logistics is the high cost of energy. Several projects and initiatives to achieve fuel-source diversification, facilitate energy efficiency and energy conservation, liberalize the electricity market and reduce the cost of energy are underway. These include generation capacity expansion; the renewable energy generation projects; net billing; power wheeling; and the energy security and efficiency enhancement project; as well as fuel diversification in the mining and agriculture industries.

Proposed Target 8.4 – Improve progressively through 2030 global resource efficiency in consumption and production, and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production with developed countries taking the lead

The GOJ is committed to pursuing economic growth and development in a sustained way in keeping with Vision 2030 Jamaica. This is specifically addressed in Goals 3 & 4 which seeks to ensure that Jamaica's economy is prosperous and Jamaica has a Healthy Natural Environment through the strengthening of the country's environmental resilience and climate change response. Under Goal 3, the link between sustainable consumption and production is highlighted and special emphasis is placed on ensuring that the country's productive enterprises move beyond simply minimizing their negative impacts on the natural environment, but begin to base new jobs and industries on the sustainable use of natural resources as well as the country's unique environmental assets.

Jamaica has endorsed the 10-year Framework of Programmes in keeping with its main objectives and the alignment with Vision 2030 Jamaica.

Currently, the government is leading a range of initiatives to advance more sustainable consumption and production patterns while at the same time enhancing resource efficiency. Notable examples include:

- Creating avenues to support bigger investments in cleaner technologies by industry as well as encouraging industries to develop and implement environmental management and sustainability programmes and where economically feasible move towards ISO 14000 certification. The government has developed guidelines for greening organizations that are being used to advance this.
- Consideration of life cycle costs in consumption is facilitated by the use of the GOJ Environmental Guide to Green Procurement, developed since 2000 and which is used by the government itself to guide its own procurement practices as well as to promote more environmentally responsible procurement practices within the public sector.

Further issues on SCP are highlighted under Proposed Goal 12.

Proposed Target 8.5 – By 2030 achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

This target has been assessed to be unattainable (i.e. the achievement of full and productive employment and decent work for all). It is recommended that raising the level of education and labour productivity of the workforce should be highlighted as the priority focus. Irrespective of this, the GOJ supports the target as stated but there is need for a clear policy direction on employment and an Employment Policy would be useful and is, therefore, needed. This has been identified as a key strategy for the 2012/2015 MTF period alongside the development of a national agenda for comprehensive labour market reform within the construct of the decent work agenda. Both strategies would benefit from technical and financial assistance from key development partners.

The most distinctive feature of the Decent Work Agenda is the focus on quality, in addition to the extent to which jobs are created. The Agenda is based on four core objectives:

- achieving universal respect for fundamental principles and rights at work
- creating greater opportunities for men and women to secure decent employment and income
- extending social protection
- promoting social dialogue and tripartism.

It is the GOJ's intention to continue to make *full and productive employment and decent work for all* an objective of national policies and development strategies. Key sector strategies of Vision 2030 Jamaica under Goal 3, National Outcome 8, include the introduction of programmes aimed at increasing the number of youth and women in employment; the promotion of equity in the labour market; and the development and promotion of flexible labour market policies and legislations. Not only has Jamaica fully adopted the principle of a decent work agenda, but has also ratified several ILO conventions on various related topics including:

- Convention 182: Worst Forms of Child Labour
- Convention 122: Employment Policy Convention, 1964
- Convention 111: Discrimination (Employment and Occupational), 1958
- Convention 105: Abolition to Forced Labour
- Convention 100: Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951

In addition to the ratified conventions, the Government has carried out work in relation to the eventual ratification of the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) and the Maritime Labour Convention, 2006. Critical to the ratification of these conventions, is the application of a framework to facilitate this, and this involves the need for revision of legislation to support ratification.

The International Labour Agencies & Information desk within the Ministry of Labour & Social Security “carries out the mandate of the ILO in executing Jamaica’s duties and responsibilities that are in keeping with Labour Treaties and Agreements to which Jamaica is signatory”²⁰. This section of the Ministry, however, requires capacity building in terms of

²⁰ Ministry of Labour & Social Security, Annual Report 2013/2014

training and human resources, since part of its mandate involves ensuring the implementation of the decent work agenda and as a result needs to be strengthened.

The GOJ has received and continues to receive technical assistance from the ILO in ensuring the principles of decent work become the standard locally. It is expected that the relationship/partnership with the ILO will continue through to 2030 and beyond.

A part of achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, involves the strengthening of Active Labour Market Policies such as the Labour Market Information System and its core component, the Electronic Labour Exchange, to improve the level of labour market activation among the unemployed. This is also a key strategy under the MTF 2012/2015. Currently, support is being given by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) but there is need for greater support and it is envisioned that IDB support will continue and new partnerships created by way of technical and financial assistance.

In December 1975, Jamaica passed the Employment (Equal Pay for Men and Women) Act which became effective January 1, 1976. The Act directs employers to pay equal pay for equal work by prohibiting any discrimination between male and female employees employed in the same establishment in Jamaica.

The GOJ has reaffirmed its commitment to persons with disabilities with the passing of the Disabilities Act legislation in Parliament in July 2014. The Act seeks to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment by persons with disabilities, of privileges, interest, benefits and treatment, on equal basis with others, and to establish the Jamaica Council of Persons with Disabilities (JCPD). The Act also establishes a Disabilities Rights Tribunal to address complaints which may be referred for judgement. In furtherance of Proposed Goal 8 and its targets as assigned by the OWG, the Act seeks to prohibit discrimination against applicants and employees on account of disability and sets out the duty of the employer to make adjustments to prevent any disadvantage to an employee with a disability in the place of work. For effective implementation of the target, the JCPD will require sufficient and trained human resources and a larger office space from which to operate. A public

education campaign will also be required to ensure greater awareness among Jamaicans along with the development of a Code of Practice and Regulations.

Proposed Target 8.6 – By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training

It is proposed that the target be altered by inserting the word “decent”. The proposed target would then read **“By 2020 substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in decent employment, education or training”**.

The vision for the Jamaican youth as articulated in the National Youth Policy sees “Jamaican youth realising their full potential, through access to opportunities, to develop, participate and contribute as responsible citizens, to a peaceful, prosperous and caring society”. The policy reflects the government’s pledge to place on the agenda, those issues, programmes and projects relating to youth and its commitment to youth mainstreaming considering the number of unattached youth which is estimated to be approximately 150,000 currently and the high level of unemployment among the youth population which was 37.7 per cent in 2013. The policy goals are to:

- foster a culture of positive youth development and participation in decision making around activities that affect the lives of youth
- increase the capacity of service providers to provide accessible, relevant and high quality services for young people and their families
- guide the development of a multi-sectoral approach to youth development in Jamaica.

The core principles which buttress the policy include respect for cultural, religious and political views; equity and accessibility; gender inclusion; good governance; active participation; youth empowerment; partnerships; honesty; and justice. These core principles are expanded upon in the six main focal areas of the policy, namely:

1. Living Environments
2. Education and Training

3. Employment and Entrepreneurship
4. Health
5. Participation and Empowerment
6. Care and Protection

Many of the initiatives undertaken in the youth sector are also influenced by various international bodies and their objectives, such as the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP); the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), CARICOM Commission on Youth Development and its Action Plan; and the United Nations World Programme of Action for Youth being the main points of influence.

The Ministry of Youth & Culture via its policy and programmatic output in the operations of the National Centre for Youth Development (NCYD) and the National Youth Service (NYS) as well as other strategic partnerships with public and private stakeholders continue to ensure that the objective of reducing the unattached reality is kept alive. This is in keeping with the MTF 2012-2015 priority action of improving access to training programmes for unattached and at-risk youth.

The Ministry via the NCYD continues to improve on the programme offering in Youth Information Centres islandwide. There is also the ongoing Monitoring & Evaluation implementation framework geared at improving measurement, impact assessment and data driven action, this under the IDB funded Youth Development Programme. There are also existing partnerships with the Department of Corrections, funded by UNICEF, ensuring programmatic input in juvenile correctional spaces. One such example would be the “I SAY I” Programme, that is, Innovative Sports & Arts Youth Improvement Programme. There also is ongoing policy and technical support in programme design and application.

At the same time, the NYS continues to introduce programmes befitting the demand across the youth scope and the national agenda. Programme output would include Entrepreneurship 101, Enrichment Programme and the ongoing community trods with ‘Express Yuhself’, allowing for first point contact with the target trustees.

Amidst all of this, Youth Policy revision process continues. This revision as witnessed by the Ministry's structural improvements and strategic programming over the last two to three years has unearthed relevant methodologies, action point data and statistics.

Proposed Target 8.7 – Take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms including recruitment and use of child soldiers

The Jamaican government fully endorses the proposed target 8.7, as it is in line with the Decent Work Agenda and the ratification of ILO Convention 182. Further to this, the draft of a National Policy on Child Labour was finalized and will be consulted. A Plan of Action has also been completed. Also, a Child Labour Handbook for professionals was created as a guide to addressing child labour issues. Jamaica was also recognized by the ILO in 2013 for best practice in combating child labour through targeted actions such as sports mentorship. To effectively implement this target, the Ministry of Labour & Social Security through their Child Labour Unit will require significant capacity building in terms of additional staffing and training. The implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health legislation is also required to empower officers of the Ministry to visit workplaces to investigate incidences of child labour. There is also need for current and reliable data and research to better inform the Ministry and for the development of appropriate interventions such as the establishment of a physical care centre, for which funding would be required. Also, there needs to be greater public awareness of the issue and as such a public education campaign would be beneficial to the implementation of this target.

Proposed Target 8.8 – Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment

The Ministry of Labour and Social Security has outlined its stated mission as “the promotion of a stable industrial relations climate through social dialogue, while ensuring the application of the decent work agenda, facilitating increased access to employment, and

the effective management of social protection programmes especially for vulnerable groups such as the poor, the elderly and persons with disabilities”.²¹ As part of protecting the rights of workers, the Ministry ensures that the minimum standards set out in the various labour laws are enforced. Labour rights are protected through legislation which covers inter alia notice pay, maternity leave, holiday with pay, national minimum wage and a labour relations code. There are plans to amend several labour laws, in particular, the Holidays with Pay Act; the Minimum Wage Act; the Foreign Nationals and Citizenship Employment Act, and the Labour Relations and Industrial Disputes Act.

- to promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, the Occupational Safety and Health Bill is currently being drafted. The Bill will seek to: protect workers and other persons against harm to their safety, health and welfare through the elimination or minimization of risks arising from work
- provide for fair and effective workplace representation, consultation, co-operation and issue resolution in relation to occupational safety and health
- encourage unions and employer organizations to take a constructive role in promoting improvements in occupational safety and practices, and assisting persons conducting businesses or undertakings and workers to achieve a healthier and safe working environment
- promote the provision of advice, information, education and training in relation to work occupational safety and health
- secure compliance with this Act through effective and appropriate compliance and enforcement measures
- ensure appropriate scrutiny and review of actions taken by persons exercising powers and performing functions under this Act
- provide a framework for continuous improvement and progressively higher standards of occupational safety and health

²¹ Annual Report, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, 2009/2010

- maintain and strengthen the national harmonization of laws relating to occupational safety and health and to facilitate a consistent national approach to occupational safety and health in Jamaica.

Note: The Bill does not apply to non-commercial work performed by the owner/occupier of a dwelling/ house.

There is need, however, to revise and amend legislation to facilitate the implementation of the Occupational Safety and Health Bill. There are constraints to this due to a deficit in staffing in other MDAs to further this effort. Additionally, there is need for strengthening of the Occupational Safety and Health Department within the Ministry of Labour & Social Security through expanded staffing to some 17 certified and licensed inspectors along with an additional 30 persons who would be certified by the Ministry. Officers will also require training in specialized areas such as safety in agricultural based workplaces as well as upgraded physical infrastructure, including equipment such as digital testing instruments for air quality, sound and light, to ensure effective islandwide monitoring of some 30 000 workplaces. Further to this, there is need for greater prioritisation of the Occupational Safety and Health Bill by the Chief Parliamentary Counsel (CPC) as this remains a challenge for the Ministry in their effort to move the legislation ahead for implementation.

Stakeholders stated that currently Jamaica does not have a Sexual Harassment Policy. Legislation should, therefore, be implemented to facilitate the implementation of the target. The National Policy for Gender Equality provides policy support for the implementation of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Policy. However, government has taken a decision that they are no longer going the Policy route, but will move straight to enacting the Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill. Consultations have been completed, in fact, they have passed the Green Paper stage and the Bill is presently before the Parliamentary Committee for review and comments, so it is just about at the White Paper stage. This decision was taken because at this stage a Bill/Act will be much more appropriate and will hold much more teeth than just a Policy.

As outlined in the Draft National Policy and Plan of Action for International Migration and Development, the primary objective is to “contribute to the national socio-economic development by integrating international migration processes and considerations into development planning”. Labour mobility and development has been identified as one of nine priorities in this policy. To this end, the policy is intended to support opportunities in the global labour market for both permanent and circular labour migration which has both positive and negative implications on the Jamaican labour force/working age population. The attendant goal within the policy is for the positioning of the Jamaican labour market to maximize its full development potential in the context of the domestic and global labour market by 2030. In addition, the policy is extended to ensure that basic human rights and social protection will be guaranteed to all migrants and that this will be incorporated into local labour laws with gender equality and equity as a guiding principle. This target is also supported by efforts to ensure decent work for all.

Proposed Target 8.9 – By 2030 devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products

The GOJ acknowledges the need to facilitate and promote the development of sustainable tourism which takes into account community participation, local culture and local products. Promoting community-based tourism is a priority area for Jamaica. A Community Based Tourism policy (draft) is being developed by Jamaica and is intended to facilitate community groups to establish entrepreneurial initiatives; diversify the tourism product; and improve the standard of living within these communities. The draft policy is at the Green Paper stage.

Proposed Target 8.10 – Strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and to expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all

Several reforms are currently being undertaken by the GOJ to strengthen the domestic financial sector by taking steps to mitigate the risks inherent in Jamaica’s highly interconnected financial system. To allow for more effective supervision of the financial

sector, the government has tabled a Banking Services Bill that will harmonize the prudential standards across deposit takers, facilitate consolidated supervision of financial conglomerates, strengthen the corrective, sanctioning and resolution regime and ensure that the Bank of Jamaica has operational independence for supervision. Passage of the law is envisaged during 2014²².

While these reforms are being undertaken to strengthen the financial sector as a whole, efforts should be made at the micro level to facilitate access to banking services for all persons. The effective implementation of the Mobile Money initiative, which is intended to harness ICT to facilitate greater access to financial services by the underserved such as the MSME is one such initiative which would greatly assist in broadening access of financial services in the domestic economy. The Development Bank of Jamaica (DBJ) launched a pilot project known as Mobile Money for Microfinance (M3) in February 2013 having received no objection from the BOJ in December 2012 to proceed. The project will allow the DBJ to work through the challenges of deploying Mobile Money services for the microfinance user in order to meet its economic development and financial objectives.

Proposed Target 8.a – Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, particularly LDCs including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for LDCs

It is proposed that reference to SIDS be included in this target. In the outcome document of the 3rd International Conference on SIDS, Heads of States recognised that these states require support in accessing global markets to reduce their vulnerabilities (“small size, limited negotiating capacity, and remoteness from markets”). In keeping with this agreement, Jamaica recommends this target be adjusted to ensure that SIDS are considered.

Jamaica developed its **National Aid for Trade Strategy: Partnerships towards Sustained Economic Growth and Development** through Trade in 2011. The Strategy was designed to articulate the country’s consensus priorities for negotiating access to and efficient use of

²²IMF Country Report No. 14/169, June 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2014/cr14169.pdf>

aid and investment to bolster its international trade. The priority areas identified in the Strategy include: transportation, trade facilitation, customs, private sector development and capacity building for trade development. The National Aid for Trade Strategy is based on the premise that available technical and financial resources should be sought and deployed in a manner which will expand foreign trade.

Proposed Target 8.b – By 2020 develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the ILO Global Jobs Pact

The GOJ supports the need to develop a global strategy for youth employment and implement the ILO Global Jobs Pact with the development of the Growth Inducement Strategy. In light of the current economic state, the Growth Inducement Strategy (GIS) seeks to bring about growth in the Jamaican economy in the short to medium term. The strategy aims to achieve sustainable economic growth with social equity. The GIS recognizes that the failures of the economy can be directly attributed to a number of factors which affect employment levels.

Consequently, the GIS is closely aligned to the national development plan, Vision 2030 and MTF. This will endeavour to ensure that there is growth in the long-term and full and productive employment and that there is consistency with the overall national goals and outcomes of the plan.

The employment of youth and the implementation of the ILO Global Jobs Pact is further addressed by the Decent Work Agenda and the National Youth Policy as elaborated on in the sections on OWG proposed target 8.5 and 8.6, respectively.

While Goal 8 specifically focuses on sustained economic growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all, there are areas of focus which cross cut or converge with proposed targets of the goal. These include youth, gender and social protection. There is need for recognition of youth in the post-2015 agenda to ensure that their development

needs are visible in the new global development framework. Effective implementation of some proposed targets are hinged on equipping young people for the smooth and timely transition from school to the world of work. Therefore, efforts should be made to *increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship.*

Youth Mainstreaming is important to many UN organizations such as UNESCO and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and it is of significance to Jamaica, in that, a National Strategy for Mainstreaming Youth Development was developed by the Ministry of Youth and Culture in 2010.

Gender is another cross-cutting issue that impacts full and productive employment and decent work for all without discrimination to women. This is so, especially in light of the high rate of unemployment among women in the Jamaican labour force (20 per cent in 2013)²³ compared to their male counterparts (11%). Also, the ratification of Convention 189 is of importance to the GOJ through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and the Bureau of Women's Affairs, as the convention requires Jamaica to take specific measures to ensure the protection of and promotion of decent work for domestic workers and, where applicable, decent living conditions that respect the privacy of domestic workers.

The provision of social protection is a key component of the Decent Work Agenda but it is also a crucial aspect of reducing and eliminating poverty through the establishment of a social protection floor. Jamaica has started the process towards developing a social protections floor with the Social Protection Strategy highlighted above. Social protection efforts are, therefore, treated separately but with connections to other proposed goals and targets.

²³ Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica 2013

Many of the proposed targets in this section will require direct oversight and implementation by the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and its respective agencies. However, the Ministry does not possess the capacity to deliver certain services. This is due to the need for a revision of the existing structure of the Ministry to facilitate additional programmes and projects which have been added to the daily operations of the Ministry. The issues identified are many but typically centre around the lack of capacity (human and otherwise) and consequently, there is need for examination and correction of this issue to ensure achievement of the targets outlined above as well as the targets of Vision 2030 Jamaica–National Development Plan. It was recommended that part of the structural revision should include the establishment of a dedicated Policy Unit within the Ministry to ensure that the policy direction of the Ministry is pursued effectively and coherently.

Proposed Goal 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

The proper development of a nation's infrastructure has far-reaching implications on various sectors within a country including: agriculture; industry; education; health; water; communication; tourism; transport; housing; and the economic sector. In this regard, Goal 3 of the Vision 2030 Jamaica refers to achievement of a prosperous economy. This is elaborated further in several outcomes, including Outcome 9, which points to the nation developing a strong economic infrastructure by the year 2030. This is due to the fact that investment in infrastructure usually has a positive effect on a nation's economic growth.

Similarly, Outcomes 11 and 12 of Vision 2030 Jamaica speak to the need for a technologically-enabled society (particularly through science, technology and innovations) and internationally competitive industry structures, respectively. Outcome 8 also supports a well-functioning labour market and improved opportunities for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). These are national objectives which are aligned with multiple targets set forth under this proposed goal.

The specific targets outlined under Goal 9 are also aligned with key components of the *Growth Inducement Strategy for Jamaica in the Short and Medium Term*. The approach presents a strategic framework and a structured programme of action designed to achieve a quick turnaround in the economy and build a platform and momentum for medium-term growth. Among the components directly related to this proposed goal are the utilization of the full potential of the business-network model to promote synergies within and among targeted clusters of economic activity; protecting and strengthening the built environment; and building international competitiveness by frontally addressing costs of production.

The National Transport Policy (2007) guides the overall development of the transport sector and provides the framework for the development of energy-efficient and

environmentally-sound transport infrastructure and services in support of sustainable economic and social growth. Other policies and government initiatives to which this goal is aligned include: the National Energy Policy 2009-2030; National Building Code; and the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy (2011).

Proposed Target 9.1 - Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all

This target is aligned with Outcome 9 of Vision 2030 Jamaica, which highlights the importance of infrastructure-based economic development. This type of development focuses on the investment in long-term assets such as land, air and water-based transportation, telecommunications and water infrastructure in order to bolster productivity and socio-economic development. Improving the quality of such infrastructure also contributes to the achievement of social and environmental goals by improving access to public services such as water and sanitation. This national outcome also encompasses the opportunity for Jamaica to establish itself as a major logistics hub in the Caribbean based on its strategic geographic location and projected increase in trade flows from the expansion of the Panama Canal.

The government's commitment to this goal is clearly articulated in various components of the National Transport Policy. Among them are:

- increasing the access to transport and transport services in rural areas
- the development of a hazard mitigation strategy to limit the adverse impact of natural, environmental or technological disasters on the country's road transport network
- improving road transport infrastructure to meet the needs of key economic sectors facilitate the expansion of shipping and berthing infrastructure, transshipment ports and docking facilities for containers, bulk cargo, passengers and fishing vessels

- the formulation of a disaster response strategy to maintain the continuing functioning of the road system following any natural disasters or catastrophic events.

One of the key components of the Growth Inducement Strategy speaks to the exploitation of the full potential of the business-network model to promote synergies within and among targeted clusters of economic activity; reduce transaction costs and realize economies of scale; and build and strengthen value-chain linkages, backward and forward, among firms.

Current government-led initiatives focusing on infrastructure development include:

- The completion of major highway construction projects, including expansion of the island-wide highway system such as the Mount Rosser Section of the Spanish Town to Ocho Rios leg of Highway 2000, the Palisadoes Corridor Airport Road, and the Washington Boulevard Improvement Project
- The expansion of the public bus system
- The privatization of the Norman Manley International Airport and completion of the first phase of capital development at the Sangster International Airport; divestment of Air Jamaica; and the upgrading of the Boscobel Aerodrome to an international airport
- The development of maritime transport including the completion of Phase 5-1A of the Kingston Container Terminal; construction of a new cruise pier and facilities at Falmouth; expansion of Jamaica's Ship Registry network worldwide; commencement of development of a Port Community System and Trade Facilitation System; and completion of a study for positioning Jamaica as a Shipping Centre
- The development of urban and rural water supply and sanitation projects; and the development of plans for the expansion of the Soapberry Sewage Treatment Plant.

The target is also aligned with components of the National Land Policy, the Minerals Policy (Draft) and the Housing Policy (Draft).

Key issues for consideration under this target include: the need for sequential land use planning to ensure that important mineral resources are not sterilized; the integration of land use planning, agriculture and food security; the integration of land use planning and transportation planning to address issues of connectivity, non-motorized transportation, and accessibility; mass transportation and accessibility for persons with disabilities (as outlined in the National Disabilities Act); revitalization of the railway and its implications for the transportation of goods such as agricultural produce; the use of coastal transportation for the movement of heavy cargo; and the maintenance of farm roads.

Proposed Target 9.2 - Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and by 2030 raise significantly industry's share of employment and GDP in line with national circumstances, and double its share in LDCs

Goal 3, Outcome 12 of Vision 2030 Jamaica posits that the development of internationally competitive industry structures will provide the conditions necessary for increased productivity throughout the Jamaican economy.

Proposed Target 9.3 –Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, particularly in developing countries, to financial services including affordable credit and their integration into value chains and markets

Key strategies outlined under National Outcome No. 8 of Vision 2030 Jamaica are targeted at promoting an enabling business environment by ensuring an efficient bureaucracy, adequate access to capital, supportive trade relations, investment promotion and trade facilitation, a well-functioning labour market and improved opportunities for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). Specific activities geared towards improving access to financial services include the approval of the Credit Reporting Act for the establishment of Credit Bureaus; the establishment of the junior stock exchange and the

fixed-income securities depository for local securities; and the commencement of plans to introduce the Secured Transactions (Collateral) Framework to allow for use of movable assets as collateral in the provision of loans.

Where improving opportunities for MSME's are concerned current GOJ initiatives include the establishment of an islandwide network of Jamaica Business Information Centres (JAMBICs) by the Jamaica Business Development Corporation in an effort to strengthen the access of MSMEs to technical, business, marketing and financial services; the provision of funding to MSMEs through wholesale lending agencies; and the completion of a draft MSME and Entrepreneurship Policy.

The improvement of the business environment has also been targeted as a key component of the Growth Inducement Strategy to improve the competitiveness and rate of growth of the Jamaican economy in the medium term. It speaks specifically to spearheading the drive for economic growth through programmes to unlock creativity and entrepreneurship in targeted communities throughout the island as a foundation for organic and sustained development; in combination with other local and regional initiatives by government and private sector working in partnership. The strategy also proposes the strengthening of programmes of on-lending to MSMEs to provide a holistic and integrated programme of social inclusion.

Proposed Target 9.4 - By 2030 upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities

This target is endorsed based on its alignment primarily with key strategies outlined in Jamaica's National Energy Policy 2009-2030 and the National Building Code. Goal 7 of the Energy Policy is geared towards enhancing Jamaica's industry structures through eco-

efficiency in order to advance international competitiveness, and move towards building a green economy. Under this goal, strategies and key actions towards 2030 include:

- the provision of incentives for the use of innovative/clean technologies in mining and manufacturing to improve energy efficiencies
- facilitating greater energy efficiency and lower energy costs in all sectors; developing the capacity of local companies to improve their processes and energy efficiencies
- promoting the development and implementation of environmental management systems in the manufacturing sector (ISO 14001)
- developing “green jobs” based on renewable energy resources.

In addition, one of the five priority areas outlined under the STI Roadmap is the provision of SMEs with a competitive edge by channelling funds through the Development Bank of Jamaica to provide loans at lower-than-market-rates for energy efficiency retrofits.

A key component of the Growth Inducement Strategy also supports strengthening international competitiveness by frontally addressing costs of production: accelerating the National Energy Policy Action Plan as an urgent priority and a potential game-changer; and promoting technical innovation (e.g. greenhouse agriculture, hydroponics, tissue culture) through research and development. The National Energy Conservation and Efficiency Policy also supports this target.

Proposed Target 9.5 -Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, particularly developing countries, including by 2030 encouraging innovation and increasing the number of R&D workers per one million people by x per cent and public and private R&D spending

The integration of science and technology into all areas of development is fundamental to the creation of a knowledge-based society. Research & Development (R&D) is necessary for stimulating innovation, productivity, international competitiveness and economic growth. For the Financial Year 2013/2014, Government's budgetary allocation to the main Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and R&D Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) totalled \$3 544.6 million, which represents a 4.9 per cent increase relative to the previous year. However, as a proportion of the national budget, STI allocations declined by half, to 0.35 per cent. This compares unfavourably with world leaders such as the United States of America (USA), Europe and China which has a Gross Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) to GDP of 2.7 per cent, 1.9 per cent, and 1.7 per cent, respectively. In 2003 the number of trained S&T persons employed locally in S&T (per million population) was estimated at 678. As data to assess the indicator of the total number of persons engaged in R&D per million population is not readily available, in 2013, a sample of (17) government and academic institutions was surveyed to get an indication of the number of professionals engaged full time in R&D. Data from the respondents showed a total of 107 persons engaged in STI research, with a relatively even gender distribution. Improvement in this indicator is hinged on the availability of effective funding mechanisms. Another key challenge that will impact the achievement of this target is the issue of high skilled migration or brain drain. The country continues to lose a significant proportion of persons trained in science and technology to migration for work or education purposes.

The national strategies outlined under Outcome 11 of Vision 2030 Jamaica to address these issues are to integrate science and technology in all areas of development and establish a dynamic and responsive national innovation system. Innovations are reflected in the country's efforts to grow pest and drought resistant crops; develop renewable energy from solar, wind and water; and improve the ICT infrastructure.

Investment in R&D is critical to addressing one key issue affecting the sustainability of the exportation of ackees, currently worth over US\$ 10.0 million. Key to the sustainability and survival of the export of this lucrative produce is the determination of a scientifically based Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) for Hypoglycin A in processed ackee. Hypoglycin A (HG-A) is a toxic amino acid present in significant quantities in unripe ackee aril. HG-A in properly selected and processed ackee is normally present at very low levels and should not pose a health risk. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, in an effort to assist the re-entry of Ackee into the US Market without entailing a significant health risk, set their limit at 100 parts per million (ppm) which is ten times lower than the levels known to cause illness (levels in unripe fruit are in the region of 1,000 ppm). The local ackee processors are of the opinion that the limit is too low and trying to keep the HG-A levels in conformance significantly increases their raw material costs. The FDA is willing to consider higher values if the objective scientific evidence can be submitted which meets the requirements of the Redbook. A project has been proposed to provide feeding-study data to justify a change in the current limits for HG-A, and develop the capability for doing toxicity feeding studies in Jamaica which would meet the requirements of the US Food & Drug Agency Redbook.

These studies are normally done in first world countries at exorbitant costs which are sometimes well above the resources of small countries and exporters. The development of this capability would be a landmark scientific achievement for the country and would auger well for other products which now face MRL restrictions because of some perceived risk which has not been verified scientifically.

A number of public sector agencies are also providing online services, thus improving the efficiency and reach of their services. These include the Inland Revenue Department, the Registrar General's Department, Jamaica Customs and the National Housing Trust. ICTs have also been used to improve efficiencies and reduce unnecessary delays in the development approval process.

The target is also aligned with key strategic areas of the Science and Technology for Socio-Economic Development – A Policy for Jamaica (2005) which seeks to deepen and expand

information and communication technology competence; building a competitive manufacturing sector; and investing in advanced S&T education. The Growth Inducement Strategy also promotes technical innovation (e.g. greenhouse agriculture, hydroponics, tissue culture) through research and development.

Proposed Target 9.a -Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS

Over the last decade, Jamaica has been experiencing on average J\$14 billion in losses. The most significant losses have been recorded in the areas of critical infrastructure. In fact roads, drains and bridges represent a major component of the damage. According to the IDB Country Specific Risk Evaluation Catastrophe Risk Profile of Jamaica, completed in 2009, an estimated US\$19.0 billion of Jamaica's infrastructure assets (including buildings, road systems network, telecommunication, and power plants, dams etc.) are exposed to earthquake and wind hazards, of which US \$15.2 billion are in urban areas. This highlights the vulnerability of the built environment. Among the means of reducing the risk and associated vulnerability is to introduce appropriate policies and pursue environmental best practices.

Climate model projections show increasing temperatures for the Caribbean region that could result in changes in the frequency and/or intensity of extreme weather and climate variability and in rising sea-levels. These changes will adversely affect Jamaica's critical sectors including human settlements and infrastructure (roads, bridges, electricity transmission systems, seaports, airports, power generation systems, pipelines, dams).

Among the recommended sectoral actions in the Climate Change Policy and Action Plan Green Paper (2013) are:

- the development of a Special Initiative by the Ministry of Finance and Planning to prepare a financial strategy, which reduces the country's fiscal

vulnerability to the occurrence of events related to climate change. This will involve the evaluation of different measures such as disaster risk financing and micro-insurance.

- incorporating climate change mitigation considerations into the transportation policy and the design and construction of transport infrastructure.
- facilitating the relocation of persons living in disaster-prone areas and facilitating climate resilient housing and infrastructure in these areas where appropriate.
- reviewing, implementing and enforcing safety standards, construction codes and planning legislation (e.g. the National Building Code, the Disaster Management Act).

One of the important components articulated in the Growth Inducement Strategy is the importance of protecting and strengthening the built environment. Severe and costly damage is perennially inflicted on Jamaica by hazards arising from both natural and man-made causes. The strategy proposes that the government can simultaneously reduce hazard impact-related costs and create jobs, by redirecting resources within existing fiscal constraints, through public works; infrastructure maintenance and improvement; and housing construction. This target is also aligned with Outcome 9 of Goal 3 of the Vision 2030 Jamaica and the Construction Industry Policy (2007).

Proposed Target 9.b - Support domestic technology development, research and innovation in developing countries including by ensuring a conducive policy environment for inter alia industrial diversification and value addition to commodities

The target is aligned with key policy objectives of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy (2011) particularly those seeking to establish a framework to support ICT research and innovation geared towards national priorities, and the creation of a robust, responsive and appropriately regulated environment in which technologies

compete and innovation is stimulated. Supporting strategies to be pursued include: encouraging new investments and supporting innovation to stimulate the introduction of new technologies and services; facilitating the funding of facilities for ICT research, innovation and development; encouraging collaboration among local, regional and international experts and research institutions and systematically developing education and skills capacity to support advanced research and innovation in ICT.

Other policy initiatives include the development and finalization of the STI Roadmap which is titled “Jamaica Science, Technology and Innovation Sector Strategic Roadmap’ which is aimed at providing a pathway for improving the STI infrastructure and rationalizing public sector R&D agencies. The priority areas outlined in the roadmap include: adding value to goods and services; improving efficiency, particularly in the use of fuel, food and minerals; enhancing health and wellness; and optimizing creativity – in areas such as music, product design, software development and packaging.

The Scientific Research Council, through its research and developmental activities, has done a significant amount of work in the creation of value-added products from local agricultural crops. A number of new food products have been developed from local raw materials for commercialization and subsequent divestment to the private sector. While the production of these value-added products has stimulated demand for agricultural crops, created farming opportunities, and increased market size for agro-products, there is still the need to extend the creation of value-added commodities to other sectors and industries. One such industry is mining. The Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce has recently encouraged investors to consider value added business opportunities in Jamaica’s substantial proven reserves of 150 billion tonnes of limestone and other high quality non-metallic minerals.

It must be emphasized that the fostering of public-private partnerships and joint ventures in innovation and the protection of intellectual property rights are key issues that must be taken into consideration in pursuing this target.

Proposed Target 9.c - Significantly increase access to ICT and strive to provide universal and affordable access to internet in LDCs by 2020

It is being proposed that this target be reworded to include developing countries as there is a significant challenge within developing countries like Jamaica where internet service might be available but not necessarily accessible. The proposed wording for the target is as follows:

Significantly increase access to ICT and strive to provide universal and affordable access to internet in developing countries by 2020

The ICT Policy (2011) rests primarily on the principles that ICT is a developmental tool that should be widely accessible and utilized by the general population; and that innovation will be promoted for the benefit of consumers, producers and service providers. In providing a comprehensive framework for the ICT Sector, the Government of Jamaica (GOJ) aims to facilitate investment, strengthen all productive sectors and create a knowledge-based society. Jamaica has made significant strides in improving and expanding its ICT infrastructure, with a teledensity of 126.9/100 population. The growth in ICT has also facilitated e-learning in schools and the provision of diverse electronic services in the financial sector. Despite these achievements, however, the availability and access to high capacity networks for internet access remains a major challenge. This has adversely impacted ICT based education, access to information, deployment of electronic services (e-services) and entrepreneurial opportunities beyond urban and other densely populated geographical regions. This target is particularly aligned with the strategic focus of the ICT Policy to enhance ICT infrastructure to include high capacity networks noting that access to same would stimulate and facilitate entrepreneurship and improve the provision of public and private e-services, as well as allow for interconnection to international networks.

One of the key strategies of Outcome 9 of Vision 2030 Jamaica is to expand the broadband network islandwide to facilitate the provision of universal and affordable internet access. The government has demonstrated its commitment to this goal through the creation of the Universal Access Fund (UAF) which has financed key initiatives such as the establishment

of Community Access Points (CAPs) to provide internet access islandwide and the completion of the e-Learning High School Project establishing 200 computer labs with an average of 25 workstations per lab and internet access in high schools across the island, thereby facilitating and encouraging higher levels of e-learning in high schools.

Proposed Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Despite progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), poverty and inequality, in their multiple dimensions across all regions persist and there remain challenges. Slow and uneven global economic growth, insecurity in supplies of food, water and energy, lack of quality education and decent work for all, and instances of conflict, fragility and vulnerability to economic shocks, natural disasters, and health pandemics are also pressing concerns in many areas of the world. While countries strive to advance towards greater equality and poverty eradication within their borders, the results of these efforts are largely dependent on the extent to which the international environment and international agenda support these efforts.

To achieve sustainable development, therefore, the international community must address equality between countries (both developing and developed) while respecting the principles of sovereignty and common but differentiated responsibilities. The model to be pursued must be underpinned by the principle of equality, enshrined in compacts that require dialogue and negotiation among stakeholders.

The future development agenda must take into account the multidimensional nature of poverty and ensure that improvements are irreversible. Building resilience to risk and vulnerability and securing financial stability mechanisms are vital for ensuring the irreversibility of the advances towards development. The global agreement should target an economic structure capable of attaining threshold levels of environmental sustainability and social well-being for the majority of the population. Its scope should go beyond the satisfaction of basic needs to encompass reduction of the deep-seated inequalities and asymmetries within and between societies.

The international community would benefit from an agenda for development which focuses on equality including: macroeconomic policies for inclusive development; closing social gaps; broadening capacity building efforts; promoting technological advancement;

and addressing labour market gaps. Priority should be placed on achieving global policy coherence in the areas of sustainable development, fair trade, technology transfer, education and decent work, international financial reform and new financing mechanisms, advocacy of South-South cooperation and the strengthening of mechanisms for encouraging the participation of all members of society.

Proposed Target 10.1 – By 2030 progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40.0 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

The target was noted to be unrealistic for the timeframe presented. This target needs to mention relevant pro-poor economic and social policies. Pro-poor social policies include the national minimum wage policy. Even though this target does not specifically address issues of gender, it was indicated that there are major convergences between economics and gender. Women represent a disproportionate percentage of the world's poor and the burden of poverty is usually borne by women, especially in developing countries. This issue is not only a consequence of lack of income, but is also the result of the deprivation of capabilities and gender biases present in both societies and governments.

Proposed Target 10.2 – By 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

Proposed Target 10.3 – Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including through eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard

Both targets (10.2 and 10.3) are a priority for the Jamaican Government as evidenced by an Act to Amend the Constitution of Jamaica to provide for a Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms. The Charter provides for the right to life, liberty and security of person; the right to freedom of thought, conscience and belief and the right to freedom of expression. The Charter also provides for the right to freedom from discrimination on the grounds of

being male or female, race, place of origin, colour, religion, social class and political opinions inter alia. The National Policy for Gender Equality also presents a rights-based approach to achieving gender equality and promotes the equal enjoyment of all citizens to all socially valued goods, opportunities, resources and rewards afforded by one's citizenship. Vision 2030 Jamaica and its associated Gender Sector Plan also seek to promote the development of gender-sensitive policies and programmes. This position is evident in various policy and programme documents of the government.

There has also been a recent amendment to specific legislation which all speaks to the government's commitment to ensuring equality for citizens. Amendments were made to the Domestic Violence Act which now provides redress and protection to women affected by domestic violence. The Property Rights of Spouses Act 2004 introduced statutory rules to provide for the equitable division of assets between spouses upon marriage or common-law relationship breakdown. The Sexual Offences Act was passed by Parliament in 2009 which covered amendments to the Incest Punishment Act and the Offences against the Person Act, which establishes the offences of marital rape, and make provisions for the prosecution of rape and other sexual offences, and removes the age limitations on incest.

The National Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2000 and Disability Act, approved by Parliament in July 2014 is geared towards eliminating discrimination against persons with disabilities, and further securing their rights to goods and services on an equal basis with others. The rights of the child are also protected under the Child Care and Protection Act, 2004 and the National Policy on Children in keeping with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. A National Youth Policy and a National Policy for Senior Citizens are also in place to signal the position of the government in protecting the rights of these groups. Through the life-cycle approach taken in the Social Protection Strategy (SPS) — as in other policy-level documents of the Government — the social protection risks of each age-group are also captured. The theoretical framework of the SPS is guided by the rights-

based approach, the transformative social protection and the social risk management constructs.

Proposed Target 10.4 – Adopt policies especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality

As noted at Target 1.3, the GOJ has in place a Social Protection Strategy (SPS) to guide the development and implementation of social protection programmes and interventions. In addition to the SPS, the Government’s economic and development policies also recognise the importance of social development — including social protection — to equitable and sustained economic development.

The GOJ’s Growth Agenda aims to re-orient economic policy towards a sharpened focus on enhancing growth as the necessary basis for realizing sustained improvement in the well-being of all citizens. To achieve this, a targeted Growth Strategy was developed, and includes among its components:

- (i) Fiscal Consolidation - the government’s medium-term fiscal strategy aims to eliminate the fiscal deficit and reduce the public debt to GDP ratio through prudent expenditure management practices along with the creation of a simple, equitable and fair tax system. This will generate adequate revenue to facilitate the efficient provision of public goods and services to all individuals
- (ii) Human Capital Development, Social Protection, Security and Resilience - to protect the most vulnerable, actions are being undertaken to improve social protection programmes and enhance training and certification of labour market participants.

Proposed Target 10.5 - Improve regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen implementation of such regulations

Jamaica supports Target 10.5 which is in line with advocacy for the reform of the international financial architecture/international economic governance system in order to ensure that developing countries are not made more vulnerable due to actions emanating from developed countries. This is seen in the effects on developing countries like Jamaica,

of the persistent economic and financial crisis, in a context where the country had no part in the cause of the crisis.

Proposed Target 10.6 – Ensure enhanced representation and voice of developing countries in decision making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions

The proposed target 10.6 is a priority for Jamaica which continues to advocate for the elaboration of a development agenda that embraces the wide range of needs and specific circumstances of developing countries, particularly MICs. This approach will allow countries to evaluate their development needs, assess and prioritise the challenges and outline a programme in line with their own national growth and development agenda. None of this will be possible without enhanced representation and the voice of developing countries in decision making in global international economic and financial institutions. Developing countries must have the opportunity to be proactive in the discourse in the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and not just be reactive.

Developing countries' efforts to tackle current challenges need to be underpinned by enhanced levels of support from the international community. This is why Jamaica supports the view that the UN should play a crucial role in the discussions on the global crisis to ensure a greater scope for the participation and engagement of developing countries not represented in the G20.

Proposed Target 10.7 – Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

Target 10.7 is in line with Jamaica's priorities as reflected in the draft National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development (IMD), which has been submitted for approval by Cabinet to be tabled in Parliament as a Green Paper. A National Working Group on International Migration and Development is also in place with the task of working towards the mainstreaming of migration into national development planning.

International migration and development is a priority issue for Jamaica and has been clearly articulated in the draft National Policy on IMD. The policy aims to facilitate the realization of the full development potential of international migration through maximizing the benefits and mitigating the negative impacts of international migration. In order to achieve this objective, the policy addresses the need for a more systematic approach for integrating international migration into development policies, plans and programmes of the government while outlining strategies and actions for achieving same within a legislative and institutional modality. The primary objective of the Policy and Plan of Action is that international migration can be mobilized to benefit the country of origin, the country of destination and the migrants themselves.

The priority areas to be addressed in the policy are:

- Governance and Policy Coherence
- Human Rights and Social Protection
- Diaspora and Development
- Labour Mobility and Development
- Remittance and Development
- Return, Integration and Re-Integration
- Public Order, Safety, Security
- Family Migration and Development
- Data, Research and Information Systems.

Each priority area outlined will be integrated into the policies, programmes and strategies of the relevant ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs).

The gender and migration nexus is quite critical and should be considered in this target. There are various issues that must be explored and included in the indicators for this target which speak to gender and migration. Critical to the discussions are the implications of urban to rural migration and the displacement of farmlands which form part of the livelihoods of women in rural areas, issues of unplanned development and the impact of

climate change must also be explored within the context of internal migratory practices, the impact on the lives of rural communities and other public health issues.

The draft Policy covers some issues and speaks clearly to the following areas with a view to addressing same within the context of available resources:

- The feminization of migration –The absence of the mother from the household lead to many direct and indirect negative effects in terms of the quality of parenting, and the consequences for the children left behind
- Migration and multi-generational households especially how it affects children, the elderly, men and women
- The availability of sex disaggregated data on migration and the impact of these gaps on development planning
- The feminization of poverty - assessments are made with respect to the incidence of female headed households and its impact on development.
- Gender and remittances - gender differences in sending patterns and use of remittances and how migrant women as breadwinners have changed gender roles in households and communities
- Gender and Labour Migration - Skilled women and men are increasingly depending on migration to improve their lives and their families.

Proposed Target 10.a – Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with WTO agreements

As a developing country member in the WTO, Jamaica supports Target 10.a. It should be noted, however, that some of these Special and Differential Treatment (S&DT) provisions are not effective and there have been attempts by developing countries in the WTO within the context of the Doha negotiations to make more precise, effective and operational some of the S&DT provisions in the WTO agreements.

Proposed Target 10.b – Encourage ODA and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to states where the need is greatest, in particular LDCs, African countries, SIDS, and LLDCs, in accordance with their national plans and programmes

Target 10.b as a means of implementation is in keeping with Jamaica's interests as reflected in and elaborated on, under Target 17.2. Account must be taken, however, of the principles of aid effectiveness, i.e. aid predictability; using national systems; abolishing management conditionalities; capacity building; reducing transaction costs; the regional dimension of aid effectiveness; and development effectiveness.

Proposed Target 10.c – By 2030, reduce to less than 3.0 per cent the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5.0 per cent

Remittances are a significant source of income for most Jamaican households. In 2010, the total amount of money remitted contributed 14.0 per cent of GDP²⁴. Despite the global economic recession, in 2013, the total remittance inflows amounted to US\$2 065.0 million compared with US\$2 042.5 million in 2012²⁵.

The draft National Policy and Plan of Action on International Migration and Development has the following goal for Jamaica: **“An adequate and fair system for the transmission, regulation, measurement and management of remittances to enhance development.”** This goal seeks to ensure that the formal cash remittances are sustained while trying to capture the non-cash counterparts. Proposed actions that the government will undertake include improvement and expansion of monitoring systems; legislative review and amendments; and capacity building mechanisms for migrants.

Proposed target 10.d- by 2030 address the systemic forms of discrimination, through laws and policies

This area has been addressed throughout every target under proposed goal 10.

²⁴ IOM, *Migration in Jamaica: A Country Profile*, 2010 (Geneva:IOM,2012)

²⁵ PIOJ, *Economic and Social Survey of Jamaica, 2013*(Kingston: PIOJ, 2013).

Proposed Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

The proposed goal has tremendous significance to several cross-cutting issues pertaining to land use planning and overall national development. It seeks to address challenges in a sustainable manner involving safety, resilience, transportation, accessibility and improved walkable connectivity within and among towns and cities. Goal 4 of Vision 2030 Jamaica, particularly Outcome 15, emphasizes the importance of achieving planned urban and rural development which is to be undertaken in a sustainable manner. This is also addressed in the Urban Planning and Regional Development Sector Plan 2009-2030. There are numerous planning instruments which are also directly relevant to the proposed goal. The National Settlement Strategy was designed to regulate land uses in Jamaica, in order to promote more orderly socio-economic and physical development. The strategy proposed that specific areas should be targeted for investment, through a hierarchy of settlements.

This would result in the development of efficient and sustainable cities, towns and rural areas, creating greater opportunities, quality of life and residential and commercial areas. Development is also guided by Development Plans and Orders for parishes as well as specific areas within a parish. The National Spatial Plan is also slated to be developed to address the current spatial structure of the island's physical and environmental resources, and should include recommendations and strategies for overall national development.

Other national policies/instruments which are aligned with the achievement of this goal include: the National Housing Policy and Implementation Plan; the National Land Policy; the conceptualized National Squatter Management Policy and Implementation Plan; The National Hillside Development Policy; the Hazard Mitigation Policy; the Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan; the National Building Code; and the National Environment Policy which is currently being developed.

Jamaica also recognizes and pursues the tenets of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which promotes the fundamental rights of humans, including that of having access to safe human settlements. The country is also signatory to the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 which is a ten-year plan aimed at making countries safer and more resilient to natural hazards.

Proposed Target 11.1- By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums

It is recommended that the target be modified to read – **“By 2030, increase access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums”**. As stated by the UN Habitat, an individual’s right to shelter is considered one of the most fundamental of all human rights. This is supported locally by the National Housing Policy which is currently being reviewed. The Policy articulates the need for various types of housing, including social housing, indigent/special needs housing, and also places emphasis on the need for greater access to housing in rural areas. As outlined in the Policy, rural communities often face a unique combination of housing problems. The abandonment of rural areas in favour of development in urban areas, has largely contributed to rural to urban migration, with the consequent effects of brain drain and unattractiveness of the rural areas. The Policy also addresses the need for more effective management of squatting, which is further articulated by the National Squatter Management Unit in the conceptualized Squatter Management Policy and Implementation Plan, as well as the Housing Sector Plan 2009-2030. Further, the State has developed a policy which speaks to the procedure for divestment of government-owned lands for residential, agricultural and other purposes.

Issues regarding rapid urbanization, urban blight as well as inner-city degeneration are also factors of critical concern, which must be addressed through urban renewal programmes such as that being undertaken by the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation. A range of financial schemes for low-income earners should also be explored to tackle the chronic issues and increase access to proper housing for individuals.

Proposed Target 11.2 - By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

It is recommended that the target should be amended as follows: **“By 2030, provide improved access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, expand public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons”**.

This target is aligned with Outcome 9 of Goal 3 of Vision 2030 Jamaica, which speaks to the continued development of the country’s transport sector. The public transport system is deemed to be of great significance, since nearly 75.0 per cent of households do not own a motor vehicle, many of whom are women, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and other vulnerable groups. Outcome 3 of the Plan also outlines the need for effective social protection which includes the provision of mechanisms and various strategies to enable all citizens to access social services, particularly those who are vulnerable. Further, the Transport Sector Plan 2009-2030, posits that the efficient management and development of the sector will provide tremendous economic and social gains through indirect and direct employment as well as induced development which ultimately leads to wealth creation and growth. The target is also in alignment with the National Transport Policy (2007); and the National Road Safety Policy (2004). In addition, the Ministry of Transport, Works and Housing has also drafted a Rights-of-Way Policy which will govern access of roadways for all groups, including the installation of cables, pipes, sewerage lines, drains, etc, beneath road infrastructure.

Notably, this target also highlights the need for the consideration and implementation of infrastructure which would aid in the safety of pedestrians, as well as the mobility of non-motorized road users such as persons confined to wheel-chairs, the visually impaired, elderly persons with canes, and persons with other physical challenges.

Proposed Target 11.3 - By 2030 enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

This target is in alignment with Goal 4 of Vision 2030 Jamaica which aims at achieving a healthy, natural environment over the next few years. Relevant to the achievement of this goal is Outcome 15, which highlights the critical importance of sustainable urban and rural development. It proposes a spatial arrangement of land use that considers the natural resources in the environment while facilitating socio-economic development. The Plan, together with the Urban Planning and Regional Development Sector Plan, 2009-2030, indicate that poor spatial planning has contributed to various challenges in both urban and rural areas, and further elaborate on a range of strategies to promote sustainable urbanization and rural development. The Vision 2030 Jamaica Three Year Progress Report (2009-2012) indicated that progress was made by the State in the preparation of a National Spatial Plan which is intended to guide the optimal use and management of the country's land resources; as well as putting systems and processes in place to develop affordable housing in a timely manner.

A comprehensive approach is also vital in resolving issues of waste management in the development of human settlements, so as to promote sustainable urbanization as well as sustainability among settlements in rural areas. Particular needs of various vulnerable groups in both urban and peri-urban areas must also be considered, including the homeless, mentally and/physically challenged, and the elderly so as to promote an integrated approach towards land use planning activities.

Proposed Target 11.4- Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

Outcome 4 of Goal 1 of the Vision 2030 Jamaica highlights the need for the preservation and promotion of Jamaica's cultural heritage through a number of sector strategies. This includes strengthening the process to identify, monitor, maintain and promote national heritage sites. The Three Year Progress Report (2009-2012) of the National Plan indicated that headway was made in a number of areas during the 2009-2011 period. This included progress toward the upgrading of National Museum infrastructure; submission of the Blue and John Crow Mountains to UNESCO as a proposed World Heritage Site; the completion of regulations to the Geographical Indications Act; and the development of advanced sports programmes including the establishment of the UWI Sports Centre of Excellence. Outcome 13 of Goal 4 of Vision 2030 Jamaica also outlines the importance of sustainably managing and protecting environmental and natural resources, which are essential to enhancing the quality of life of all Jamaicans. The Protected Areas System Master Plan further articulates the objective of the government to preserve the natural heritage which exists within various protected areas in a national and systematic way.

Notably, the Ministry of Youth and Culture is currently developing a Cultural/ Creative Industry Policy which will address, among other things, the need to develop national heritage sites and promote greater access to these sites for local and national economic benefits. It is also of great relevance to prioritize the strengthening of the capacity and coordination within and among local institutions which are mandated to preserve Jamaica's natural and cultural heritage, such as the Jamaica National Heritage Trust and the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission.

Proposed Target 11.5 - By 2030 significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and decrease by y per cent the economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with the focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

By virtue of its topography, geology and location, Jamaica is prone to several natural hazards. These hazards can be placed in two categories: hydro-meteorological (hurricanes, floods, drought, etc.) and geological (earthquakes, landslides and tsunamis). Over the years, natural hazards have had significant impact on natural resources, economic activities, infrastructure, livelihood by impacting public finance, increasing expenditure, reducing domestic revenue and in turn resulting in increased domestic and external debt. As such, Outcome 14 of Goal 4 of the Vision 2030 Jamaica was developed to address hazard risk reduction and adaptation to climate change. In 2010, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) in collaboration with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and the Meteorological Services established the Vision 2030 Jamaica Thematic Working Group on Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change. In 2012, the Government established the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, and a Climate Change Advisory Committee to help guide and advance the sector and bring greater emphasis on the importance of climate change and the potential impacts on Jamaica. Climate change has remained a top priority over the period with emphasis being placed on adaptation strategies and measures to increase sectoral resilience to current and future threats.

Climate change activities have also been centred on the finalization of the Second National Communication to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as the development of the National Hazard Mitigation Policy, which outlines strategies for reducing susceptibility of individuals to natural disasters, particularly people living in vulnerable situations. The PIOJ is also the National Implementing Entity responsible for several projects aimed at disaster risk management, including the recently ended Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project, as well as the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) and the Adaptation Fund Project which are currently underway.

Notwithstanding the above mentioned, other water-related disasters may include maritime incidences such as the pollution of our coastal areas by the dumping of ballast water at sea, as well as oil spills, and other hazardous waste which may have direct and indirect implications on the local economy as well as on a national basis.

Proposed Target 11.6 - By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management

There is great need to emphasize the nexus which exists between the environment and sustainable urbanization. Outcomes 13 and 15 of Goal 4 of the Vision 2030 Jamaica speak to the need for the sustainable management of natural resources, which is inextricably linked to the attainment of sustainable land use. The Solid Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan further elaborates on the need for comprehensive waste management (including industrial, municipal and domestic waste) particularly in urbanized areas. These areas are often challenged by outdated sewerage systems in towns and cities, which require expansion and upgrading due to an increased population caused by continuous rural-urban migration. At present, the National Water Commission is undertaking the upgrade of the Soapberry waste treatment infrastructure (including a Flow-west system). The recycling of waste water is also proposed to be used for various irrigation purposes. The Scientific Research Council is also involved in activities that will encourage the implementation of environmentally friendly waste management systems into new and existing developments.

Further, the National Environment and Planning Agency has developed an Ambient Air Quality Policy, as well as an Air Quality Management Programme which will address, among other things, the standards to be achieved regarding ambient air quality in towns and cities islandwide. The National Road Traffic Bill as well as the Carbon Emissions Sub-Policy further address the emission of greenhouse gases and their impact on air quality, as outlined in the National Energy Policy 2009-2030.

Proposed Target 11.7 - By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

It is recommended that the target be amended as follows: **“By 2030, provide improved access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, particularly for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities”**.

Outcome 15 of Goal 4 of the Vision 2030 Jamaica acknowledges the purpose of proper spatial planning of land uses. Comprehensive planning and management of land space will effectively promote orderly and holistic development that includes safe, accessible green and public spaces for all citizens to enjoy for recreational, cultural and other purposes.

The Urban Development Corporation is currently undertaking plans to revitalize green spaces such as the National Heroes Park and other green spaces. It is also vital for local development plans to incorporate the need for increased greenery along walkways in and around cities, as well as revitalizing rest spaces between public transport access points, for the benefit of all, especially the vulnerable in society.

Proposed Target 11a.-Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

This target is in alignment with Outcome 15 of Goal 4 of Vision 2030 Jamaica as well as the Urban Sector Plan 2009-2030, which articulate the need for creating sustainable urban centres including urban renewal and upgrading initiatives. Planning instruments such as the National Spatial Plan, which is slated for development, will also address the creation of vibrant and diversified rural areas, so as to stimulate socio-economic development in areas which tend to lag behind in economic growth.

The National Transport Plan also speaks to improving inter-connectivity of hub locations, by strengthening public transport infrastructure and routes. Notably, various transport centres are currently being developed in parish capitals islandwide, which is being spearheaded by the relevant authorities within local government. Seating facilities at bus-

stops and bus terminals should also be addressed, particularly for the physically challenged and other vulnerable groups in society.

Proposed Target 11.b - By 2020, increase by x per cent the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, develop and implement in line with the forthcoming Hyogo Framework holistic disaster risk management at all levels

It is recommended that a section of the target be amended by changing “resilience to disasters” to “resilience to hazards”.

This target is in alignment with Outcome 14 of Goal 4 of Vision 2030 Jamaica as well as the National Hazard Mitigation Policy and the Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan.

Proposed Target 11.c – Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, for sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

It is recommended that the target be amended as follows: “Support developing countries, particularly least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in accordance with individual national circumstances, for sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials”.

This target is in alignment with the National Housing Policy as well as the National Building regulations, and also Outcome 14 of Goal 4 of Vision 2030 Jamaica.

Proposed Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The notion of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) first came into prominence in Agenda 21, specifically Principle 8 which indicates that “To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, states should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies”. Sustainable production and consumption involves business, government, communities and households pursuing:

- The efficient production and use of natural resources
- The minimization of wastes
- The optimisation of products and services
- Improvements in resource efficiency
- Increased use of renewable energy resources
- A life cycle approach
- Product innovation

Today, the notion of sustainable consumption and production is oftentimes embodied in the notion of pursuing a pathway to advancing the green economy. The notion of the green economy as defined by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is “an economy that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities” (UNEP, 2011) – embodying much of the main tenets of sustainable consumption and production. All the seven sectors of the green economy – (i) green transport; (ii) green buildings; (iii) sustainable agriculture and forests; (iv) waste management; (v) cleaner technologies [in manufacturing and industry]; (vi) water services; and (vii) renewable energy – all contribute to, and are examples of SCP.

For Jamaica, the relevance of the concept of the green economy as well as SCP is embodied in Vision 2030 Jamaica. Under Vision 2030 Jamaica, the green economy is closely related to that articulated by UNEP and further states that “the rules for Government, business, investors and consumers will have to be rewritten to ensure that environmental considerations become integral factors in socio-economic decision-making”, thereby

moving the country into the realm of the green economy. Additionally, for enterprises, it proposes that the country's productive enterprises move beyond simply minimizing their negative impacts on the natural environment, and begin to base new jobs and industries on the sustainable use of natural resources as well as the country's unique environmental assets (for example, further developing renewable energy sources, promoting higher levels of organic agriculture and exploring the genetic potential of the country's endemic species). Currently, the Government is leading a range of initiatives to advance more sustainable consumption and production patterns while at the same time advancing the green economy. Notable examples include:

- The soon to be promulgated National Building Code and National Building Act (2011) which embodies the 2003 International Code Council (ICC) Codes and their 2009 Jamaican Application Documents. This new Code will establish best practices to improve the efficiency of built works and will address issues such as energy efficiency, materials selection, water use efficiency and waste disposal.
- The GoJ/IDB Energy Efficiency and Conservation Project which is focussed on the greening of government buildings by retrofitting building envelopes, tinting of windows, upgrading air handling and pumping systems, and installing new efficient lighting. The programme is projected to save US\$ 7.0 million per year in energy expenditure and has an estimated payback period of a maximum of four (4) years.
- The University of the West Indies led project to develop a new model for future buildings that uses resources in a radical and more efficient manner. The Net-Zero Building Project is currently in the design phase and will create a prototype building that is both disaster resistant and produces as much energy as it consumes.
- An increased focus on increasing the percentage of renewables in the country's energy mix – moving from 5.6 per cent in 2008 to 10.0 per cent in 2011.
- The National Transport Policy (2007) takes into account issues and actions related to the importation and use of energy-efficient motor vehicles, provision of a safe, secure and efficient public transportation system, improvements in traffic management and the flow of traffic in urban centres and a multi-modal transport strategy which will facilitate the efficient movement of cargo and passengers.

- Research and development of alternate fuels for the transportation sector (e.g. liquid fuels from organic matter and compressed natural gas (CNG). Additionally, recent developments include the launch of the Ultra-Low Sulphur Diesel.
- Creating avenues to support bigger investments in cleaner technologies by industry.

Also, at the Rio+20 Conference, the Government of Jamaica through its Prime Minister, openly expressed its support for the implementation of initiatives to advance the green economy. It is recognized that Jamaica can increase global competitiveness of its economy by developing and implementing strategies that would contribute to more sustainable consumption and production patterns whilst at the same time moving towards a green economy. Important in this will be the development of a low-carbon energy system, installing clean technology in productive enterprises, including manufacture and mining and quarrying, and producing goods and services that meet international environmental standards, increasing resilience to hazards and the impacts of climate change by incorporating principles of environmental sustainability and climate change adaptation in the design of infrastructure, urban settlements and ecosystem management to name a few. The nature of SCP means that it covers many different sectors. As such, it also is aligned to other Proposed Goals and their respective targets.

Proposed Target 12.1 – Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP), all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries

Jamaica has endorsed the 10YFP in keeping with its main objectives and the alignment with Vision 2030 Jamaica.

Proposed Target 12.2 – By 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

Jamaica endorses this target as stated, but notes that it is captured (more quantitatively) in targets under Proposed Goals 14 and 15. For example, Goal 14, target 14.5 - by 2020,

conserve at least 10.0 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information; Goal 15, target 15.2 - by 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x per cent globally.

Proposed Target 12.3 – By 2030 halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses

This target is complementary to that of Proposed Goal 2 which addresses sustainable agriculture, specifically target 2.4 - by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality. It is also linked to Goal 11, target 11.6 - by 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality, municipal and other waste management. Importantly also is its link to the Food and Nutrition Security Policy which seeks to improve production systems to reduce post-harvest losses, etc.

Currently, data relating to this target are partially captured in Jamaica. Specifically within the agriculture sector, there is a gap. To strengthen the means of implementation in this area, there is need for capacity to be built to equip the staff with the skills needed for producing this type of data. There is also need for the requisite tools to be provided.

Proposed Target 12.4 – By 2020 achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle in accordance with agreed international frameworks and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment

Jamaica is a signatory to the Minamata Convention on Mercury though it is yet to be ratified. The convention seeks to protect human health and natural resources from the negative impact of mercury. There is work underway to update relevant policies and legislation to be able to accede to it. The country has acceded to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), a regional, legally binding agreement geared towards protection and developing the marine and coastal resources of the wider Caribbean. The Convention has three protocols related to oil spills, Specially Protected Areas & Wildlife (SPA), and Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS). However, Jamaica has not ratified the LBS or the SPA Protocols, but measures are being put in place to facilitate this.

The Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) is an international policy framework to promote the safe management of chemicals throughout their life cycle. Jamaica has benefited from the regime, including through the Regional Project on the Globally Harmonized System of the Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), funded by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund. A Capacity Building Needs Assessment was conducted for Jamaica, which will assist in the further implementation of measures to manage chemicals locally. A national project, funded by the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund is currently being implemented and looks at “Strengthening the National Capacity under the framework of the Integrated Programme for the sound management of chemicals in support of the implementation of the SAICM.” The outputs from this national project will include updating of the National Chemicals Management Profile, promulgation of chemicals legislation, developing a National Chemical Emergency Risk Management Plan, execution of a pilot programme for the management for e-wastes,

preparation of inventories of selected priority chemical (mercury and asbestos) and training in hazardous waste management for key public sector personnel.

Proposed Target 12.5 – By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse

The GOJ supports this target. Vision 2030 Jamaica supports new modalities of action with regard to waste management. Integrated waste management and eco-efficiency are emphasized, with a view to reducing resource intensity and ecological impact from the production of goods and services, whilst satisfying human needs and improving the quality of life. These principles are in sync with the principles of Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) which advocate for *“the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of further generations”* (Oslo symposium, 1994; Agenda 21).²⁶ These are key issues for sustainable development. Jamaica has developed and is implementing an Integrated Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan. The strategies that are promoted include an integrated waste management approach and green procurement. The principles of life cycle management (generation to consumption and disposal) are being explored for infusion into future waste management policies.

Proposed Target 12.6 – Encourage companies, especially large and trans-national companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle

Jamaica currently has guidelines in place to encourage companies to adopt sustainable practices by developing and implementing environmental programmes as well as becoming ISO 14000 certified. The private sector continues to demonstrate increased appreciation of the link between business performance, conservation and the need to

²⁶<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=204>

protect the natural resources of the country. Currently, 14 hotels are Green Globe certified, there is an increasing number of companies participating in ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 certification schemes; over 20 Jamaican organizations have achieved ISO 14001 certification, while 28 hold ISO 9001 certification.

Proposed Target 12.7 – Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable in accordance with national policies and priorities

The GOJ's Environmental Guide to Green Procurement has been developed since 2000 and continues to be used to promote more environmentally responsible procurement practices within the public sector. This includes considering the life-cycle costs and performance of goods to be purchased. This target is, therefore, in alignment with GOJ policy.

Proposed Target 12.8 – By 2030 ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature

The GOJ supports this target.

Proposed Target 12.a – Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacities to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production

The GOJ supports this target.

Proposed Target 12.b – Develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products

In pursuit of sustainable tourism, the GOJ has developed a Master Plan for Sustainable Tourism and uses this as the guiding framework for the industry. The Plan gives specific guidelines and makes recommendations on how infrastructural development in the industry should be pursued. It also recommends ways in which the tourism product can be improved while balancing environmental sustainability.

Additionally, within the tourism sector, Green Globe and Blue Flag are two environmental certification programmes which are internationally known and accepted. Green Globe Certification indicates that a hotel has met standards related to sustainability policy, energy consumption, potable water consumption, solid waste production, social commitment, resource conservation and cleaning chemicals used. Blue Flag certification indicates that beaches and marinas have met criteria dealing with water quality, environmental education and information, environmental management, and safety and other services. A number of international environmental standards also have been applied to the tourism industry, for example, the International Organization for Standardisation (ISO) international voluntary ISO 14001 standard for environmental management systems. These are all designed to improve the entity's environmental performance and to reduce costs, while contributing to the improvement of the natural resources upon which they depend.

Currently, there are 15 hotels with Green Globe Certification and 8 beaches and one marina which are blue flag certified.

Proposed Target 12.c – Rationalize inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimizing the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities

This target is similar to that of Goal 7, target 5 where Jamaica proposes a revised target - "By 2030, implement policies/instruments to phase out subsidies that encourage inefficiency and wasteful consumption; and promote clean energy technologies". However, the focus is primarily on reducing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies without also promoting a corresponding increase in renewables and clean energy technologies. The latter is more in-line with the goals of the National Energy Policy 2009-2030 and Vision 2030 Jamaica. Our position is that this target be restructured to include our national focus (ie, speak to both

phasing out fossil fuel subsidies as well as promoting an increase in renewables and clean energy technologies).

Proposed Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts²⁷

Jamaica has been party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) since 1995. It is the primary international instrument which seeks to address the issues of climate change, both adaptation and mitigation. The Kyoto Protocol was later developed to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and Jamaica became a Party to the KP in 1999. The KP came to an end in 2012 and negotiations are currently underway to identify a new instrument. The Copenhagen Accord was agreed to in 2009 at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UNFCCC, and “recogniz[es] the scientific view that the increase in global temperature should be below 2 degrees Celsius.” It also calls for a review of the accord by 2015, including a consideration of strengthening the long-term goal “in relation to temperature rises of 1.5 degrees Celsius.” The Green Climate Fund was also established under this agreement. At the 19th COP, the Warsaw International Mechanism on Loss and Damage was established. This is intended to assist developing countries in addressing extreme events and slow onset events associated with climate change.

In all instances, Jamaica has been very involved in negotiations at the international level. The country’s positions are negotiated in the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS) which is then brought to bear in negotiations within the Group of 77 (G77) and China etc. Our position is for climate change to remain a global priority; for temperatures to not exceed 1.5°C relative to pre-industrial levels; for more stringent cuts in greenhouse gas emissions; and for developed countries to make meaningful commitments to funding adaptation in developing countries. As it relates to the Warsaw Mechanism, Jamaica strongly believes that:

- loss and damage must be a separate element to be reflected under the new agreement

²⁷Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response for climate change.

- there must be recognition of the responsibilities when there is not enough mitigation and where adaptation is not adequate resulting in permanent loss and damage
- there must be separate means of implementation for addressing impacts of climate change where adaptation actions are inadequate and leads to loss and damage
- the loss and damage mechanism should be anchored in the 2015 Climate Change Agreement.

The government has stated that climate change is a national priority, thereby creating a ministry with responsibility for mainstreaming climate change. The ministry will spearhead the further development and implementation of the Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan (currently at the Green Paper stage). The policy will guide the mainstreaming of climate change across all sectors and within government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs). It also includes climate awareness and education, including at the local (community) level. Coordination between government action at the central and local government levels is to be achieved through two means: the development of networks of focal points to share information and coordinate action; and through the screening of policy and planning systems for climate resilience (for example, in physical planning systems which are implemented by local planning authorities). The policy's vision is that "Jamaica achieves its goals of growth and prosperity for its people while meeting the challenges of climate change as a country with enhanced resilience and capacity to adapt to the impacts and to mitigate the causes in a coordinated, effective and sustainable manner". The specific objectives, therefore, are to:

- mainstream climate change considerations into sectoral and financial planning and build the capacity of sectors to develop and implement their own climate change adaptation and mitigation plans
- support the institutions responsible for research and data collection at the national level on climate change impacts to Jamaica to improve decision-making and prioritisation of sectoral action planning

- improve communication of climate change impacts so that decision makers and the general public will be better informed.

Vision 2030 Jamaica recognises that climate change is a development issue that requires special focus. It is addressed under Goal 4, Outcome 14 – Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change. Two strategies articulated are:

- National Strategy 14-3: Develop measures to adapt to climate change
- National Strategy 14-4: Contribute to the effort to reduce the global rate of climate change.

Climate change activities in the MTF 2012-2015 include establishing institutional frameworks (eg, Climate Change Division) and implementing selected projects. Note, however, that climate change is considered an overarching theme for Vision 2030 Jamaica, and will be infused in the implementation of all Goals and Outcomes.

Proposed Target 13.1 – Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

This target was endorsed and is aligned to our national plans and policies related to climate change, natural resources management and disaster risk management. Inherent in climate change adaptation is disaster risk management, which is aligned to the Hyogo Framework 2005-2015. Efforts are underway to develop a post-2015 framework on disaster risk reduction and it is recommended that there be complementarity in these processes. There is a general caution that the elaboration of indicators must take into account national circumstances and be crafted in a manner that does not disadvantage SIDS or developing countries. This is in light of the slow onset of climate change events in some instances which can exceed the adaptive capacity of SIDS. Among the expected climate-related hazards to be considered are drought, hurricanes, etc. Loss and damage must also be considered a means through which adaptive capacity is built. Jamaica has recognised that building resilience and adaptive capacity includes the built and natural environments as well as social systems and economic development.

Proposed Target 13.2 – Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning

Jamaica considers this a necessary target. However, it is recommended that the target be reworded thus: “**Integrate climate change *considerations* into national policies, strategies, and **planning**”.**

The use of the word “considerations” instead of “measures” is being proposed so as to give a broader context, taking into account tangible as well as intangible activities. It is also proposed that the global community begin this activity by 2020 – this recommendation is based on negotiations under the UNFCCC wherein the new climate change instrument (successor to the Kyoto Protocol) is expected to become effective by 2020. Jamaica is already integrating climate change considerations through Vision 2030 Jamaica; the establishment of the ministry with climate change responsibility; and the development and implementation of the Climate Change Policy Framework and Action Plan. The establishment of the Climate Change Division under the Ministry of Water Land Environment and Climate Change is charged with the coordination of climate change mainstreaming (as outlined in the target) in collaboration with respective sector specialists and stakeholders. Some initiatives are underway to ensure that climate change is integrated in key sector policies, plans, etc over the short to medium term.

The importance of climate change and its impact on health was reinforced in 2011 by PAHO as they adopted a Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change, encouraging all countries to develop strategies including national campaigns to increase awareness of the health risk of climate change. Climate change affects the environmental determinants of health. These include clean air, safe drinking water, and sufficient food and secure shelter and direct damage increase costs to health care with conditions such as respiratory diseases, malnutrition, malaria, and diarrhoea. Respiratory diseases are among the top five common causes of curative visits to primary health care facilities in Jamaica. Diarrhoeal diseases are among conditions monitored by the MOH surveillance unit. Water supply, sanitation facilities, food and climate change, drought, rainfall and the impact on vector populations such as mosquitoes directly impact diseases such as malaria, chikungunya, and dengue in influencing the spread of communicable disease. Jamaica has implemented

programmes such as community based management of TB; hand washing compliance; and disaster preparedness through the public health outreach are all geared towards reduction of outbreaks and the spread of communicable diseases. In supporting this goal, a more militant approach needs to be taken beyond 2015, to include climate change measures into national policies across sectors in an effort to reduce the occurrence of emerging and re-emerging diseases.

Climate change affects the environmental determinants of health. These include clean air, safe drinking water, and sufficient food and secure shelter. Direct damage increases costs to health care, with resulting conditions such as respiratory diseases, malnutrition, malaria, and diarrhea. Respiratory diseases are among the top five common causes of curative visits to primary health care facilities in Jamaica. Diarrhoeal diseases are among conditions monitored by the MOH surveillance unit. Water supply, sanitation facilities, food and climate change can influence the spread of communicable diseases. Programmes have been developed such as community based management of TB; hand washing compliance; and disaster preparedness through the public health outreach; are all geared towards reduction of outbreaks and the spread of communicable diseases. There is need for a militant approach beyond 2015 to reduce the occurrence of emerging and re-emerging diseases. Jamaica is party to the PAHO/WHO 2011 Strategy and Plan of Action on climate change. This signals the country's acknowledgement that climate change is a current and projected threat to health and the challenges it presented in the achievement of the MDGs.

Proposed Target 13.3 – Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning

This target is acceptable and appropriate as education, awareness and capacity building will underpin the development of all climate change activities. However, early warning systems are included in the building of institutional capacity and are not as a stand-alone activity. Jamaica proposes a revised target as: **“Improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation and impact reduction including**

early warning”. There have been a few climate change awareness raising activities in Jamaica, and plans are afoot to build on the accomplishments of these and to also find more innovative ways of communicating climate change.

Proposed Target 13.a – Implement the commitment undertaken by developed country Parties to the UNFCCC to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

As outlined above, Jamaica participates in international climate change negotiations under the UNFCCC. This target is generally in line with our negotiated position except that it speaks only to mitigation action and not adaptation as well. Also, the means of implementation agreed for the SDGs should fall in line with the UNFCCC processes and not prescribe what should occur. As such, the national consultation recommended an amendment as follows: **Implement the commitment undertaken by developed country Parties to the UNFCCC to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of (meaningful) *adaptation and* mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization *in line with UNFCCC negotiated positions***. A concern was raised about what is meant by “meaningful” action and how this will be measured as this is not clear.

Proposed Target 13.b – Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities

Based on national positions, it is recommended that the target be adjusted to **“Promote, establish and strengthen mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, and local and marginalized**

communities". The change was deemed necessary to move beyond promoting but to include establish or strengthen capacities as appropriate; the use of "and" before local was needed for grammatical correctness. We note that special considerations were made for LDCs in the revised targets (13b). It is recommended that special considerations for SIDS also be made in this target. The SAMOA Pathway recognises that the achievements of SDGs have been hampered due to the impacts of climate change which has exacerbated existing issues in SIDS. Further, it calls for, among other things, UN entities and other inter-governmental organisation to "Elaborate appropriate indices for assessing the progress made in the sustainable development of SIDS which better reflect the vulnerability of SIDS and guide them to adopt more informed policies and strategies for building and sustaining long-term resilience, and strengthen national disaggregated data and information systems as well as analytical capabilities for decision-making, tracking progress and development of vulnerability-resilience country profiles". Jamaica's position, therefore, is that SIDS be included in target 13b with elaboration of respective indicators.

Jamaica has negotiated under the UNFCCC for emissions reductions targets to be developed and implemented internationally through agreements on the post-KP instrument. It is proposed that a target be included as follows: "Reduce greenhouse emissions in line with country agreed targets and timelines under the UNFCCC/post-Kyoto Protocol".

The reports from the IPCC are being considered in the 2013-2015 Review process and the results must feed into the 2015 Climate Change Agreement. Mitigation actions should be aimed at ensuring that the increase in long-term global temperatures should be held below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

The targets are mostly consistent with the SAMOA Pathway. In this agreement, the international community (will) agree to support SIDS efforts to: build resilience and improve adaptive capacity through appropriate measures; and raise awareness and communicate climate change risks. While not explicitly stated, Jamaica notes that improving baseline data and downscaling projections as well as addressing the remaining

gaps in capacity for accessing and managing climate finance are important to resilience building and could be captured in the indicators to be developed.

Proposed Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Environmental sustainability has emerged as a critical policy focus across the world. While a great deal of attention has recently been focused on climate change, other issues including water quality and availability, air pollution, deforestation and land use changes, biodiversity, and the sustainability of agriculture and fisheries have also gained prominence on the global public agenda. This is no different as Vision 2030 Jamaica calls for the sustainable management and use of the country's environmental and natural resources as a critical means of enhancing the quality of life of all Jamaicans.

Goal 14 is consistent with Vision 2030 Jamaica and the strategic focus of the GOJ particularly as it relates to Goal 4 of Vision 2030 "Jamaica has a healthy natural environment" and more specifically, National Outcome 13 – "Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources". National Outcome #13 provides support for the achievement of all targets under Goal 14.

The importance of environmental sustainability is also highlighted in the Government's decision in 2011 to establish the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change to help guide and advance environmental sustainability and to create and implement strategies to better infuse environmental issues into national development. Emphasis is also being placed on implementing strategies to balance environmental concerns with the promotion of economic growth as well as considering mitigation and protection within a broader approach that recognizes that all citizens in their daily lives depend on a range of services that ecosystems provide and that these services are fundamental for attaining agreed development goals.

With respect to the coastal and marine environment, Jamaica's varied and irregular coastline is 1 022 km long and is characterized by a variety of ecosystems which include harbours, bays, beaches, rocky shores, estuaries, mangrove swamps, cays, and coral reefs. These ecosystems are of substantial benefit to the country as at least 90.0 per cent of the

island's GDP is generated in coastal areas. Also, about 60.0 per cent of the population resides within 2km of the coast. An archipelago, Jamaica has stewardship over a marine space 24 times its land area of 10 981 km², with an exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of approximately 235 000 km².

Jamaica's coastal and marine areas are at risk of degradation because of pressures including over-fishing, unplanned coastal development, pollution, tourism, species invasion, and climate change. The coastal waters receive pollution from a number of sources, including wastewater treatment facilities, industrial facilities, power plants, construction works (urban expansion, harbour works), habitat modification (dredging, filling and clearing of mangroves), urban run-off, agricultural run-off, construction run-off, landfills and hazardous waste sites. Poorly or untreated sewage is by far the most serious source of pollution affecting many areas on the coast, including Kingston Harbour.

Jamaica's coral reefs are some of the most diverse in the Atlantic and also among the best studied in the world, with data available since the 1950s. The island has 1 240 km² of coral reef area, with about 64 hard coral species, 43 soft coral species and 8 black coral species.

Tourism, fisheries, and shoreline protection are just three of the many culturally and economically important services provided by reef ecosystems in Jamaica. Reef-related fisheries, for example, continue to provide valuable jobs and revenue for the country. Pressures on Jamaica's coral reef ecosystems come from human-based activities as well as natural disturbances and include: over-fishing, land-based pollution, dumping of garbage in the marine environment as well as human waste from ships and the discharge of wastewater from tankers, yachts and cruise ships as well as oil spills, hurricanes/storms, diseases of marine organisms and climate change.

In the past three decades, there has been significant loss of the island's coral reefs. Since 2007, the coral reef system appears stable, with no drastic change in annual average coral cover. Hard coral coverage in 2010 was 13.3 per cent compared with 13.2 per cent in 2009 and 13.7 per cent in 2008.

The beaches in Jamaica are considered to be one of the most dynamic coastal environments. About 30.0 per cent – 49.0 per cent of the coastline of Jamaica is characterized as sandy beach. Jamaican beaches are one of the most dynamic and fast changing parts of the island's landscape. In addition to sea level rise and the impact of storms, anthropogenic activities such as coastal development and direct human uses, mainly associated with recreation, are putting the country's beaches under increasing pressure.

Wetlands, commonly called morass, represent less than 2.0 per cent of Jamaica's total surface area, and occur for the most part in the coastal zone. Wetlands perform invaluable ecological functions in their natural state. These areas are among the most biologically productive ecosystems, and play a significant role in ensuring coastal stability. Coastal wetlands protect the shoreline from erosion by acting as a buffer against wave action as in the case of coastal mangroves. They also reduce the effect of floods on coastal areas by acting as a sponge and slowing down floodwaters, as in the case of coastal marshlands. In the absence of wetlands, the full force of floodwaters would cause erosion of river banks, and affect coral reefs.

Three of Jamaica's wetlands have been designated Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention: the Black River Lower Morass; the Palisadoes–Port Royal Wetlands; and Portland Bight Wetlands and Cays.

Much of the problems affecting corals are the same ones which threaten other coastal resources such as seagrass and mangroves. Over the past 10-20 years, marine pollution has become of great importance especially in the Caribbean. Coastal and marine water quality is of great importance to tourism-dependent countries such as Jamaica. Deterioration in coastal water quality has not only made beaches unsuitable for swimming, but has also damaged ecological systems such as coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass communities.

The Jamaican fishing industry is made up largely of artisanal fishermen operating from small boats powered by either outboard motors or oars. However, in the early 1980s, large companies and investors began processing and exporting conch and lobster caught on

offshore banks, especially on the Pedro and Morant Banks. Jamaica's coastal waters are severely over-fished, with large species and most predators absent or very scarce. Monitoring has highlighted that the fish stock is comprised primarily of juveniles and low densities of commercially important species. Some issues affecting the fishing industry include: poor fishing practices and poaching; invasive species and the degradation of supporting habitats such as coral reefs.

The importance of the marine and coastal environment has over the years prompted the Government of Jamaica to develop and implement various laws, policies, plans and programmes to effectively manage the country's coastal and marine resources. These initiatives focus primarily on maintaining coastal habitat, proper land-use planning, protecting coral reefs, and managing fisheries and beaches.

Jamaica also has signed a number of international agreements that address various aspects of coastal and marine management. Some of these include: (i) Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) – which focuses on conservation of wetlands worldwide; (ii) Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which promotes conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and the sharing of benefits arising from use of genetic resources; (iii) Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) which is aimed at ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival; and Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) – a Caribbean regime which aims to reduce priority pollutants and promote co-operation in monitoring, research, and exchange of scientific and technical information on land-based pollution.

While these international environmental agreements and conventions provide an important framework for action at the national level, they do not have direct legal authority within the signatory countries and must be locally implemented through national legislation. Legislation relating to marine and coastal resources include: The Beach Control

Act (1956); The Wild Life Protection Act (1945); The Fishing Industry Act (1976) and regulations, including the 2000 regulations for conch among others.

Additionally, a range of policies, plans and programmes are being implemented. These include among others: designation of protected areas; the adoption of an action plan for corals and reefs; development of a National Fisheries Policy – the first of its kind among Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states, and is designed to overhaul existing fisheries laws, moving from a system based on maximizing short-term fisheries production, to a system based on economic development through sustainable fisheries management.

Other approaches being undertaken to protect the marine and coastal environment are: management of invasive species; design and implementation of sea defence systems (sea walls, offshore breakwater, revetments, etc.) and river training; rehabilitation of fishing beaches; and improving sewage treatment.

The approach being undertaken in the management of the coastal and marine environment is consistent with Vision 2030 Jamaica in which three national strategies contained therein are designed to support initiatives to improve the sustainability of the marine and coastal ecosystem of the country. These three national strategies are: integrate environmental issues in economic and social decision-making policies and processes; develop and implement mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and ecosystems management; and develop efficient and effective governance structures for environmental management.

Proposed Target 14.1 – By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

To address many of the concerns related to coastal and marine areas, the Government of Jamaica continues to implement a range of strategies and take steps towards the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources. Some strategies and actions that will be implemented over the period include:

- development of management plans for the ocean and coastal zone
- developing an inventory of marine and coastal resources and conditions to provide baseline information for coastal zone management and development decisions
- increasing the amount of marine protected areas; advancing the national Programme of Action (NPA) to address Land-Based Activities and Sources (LBS/LBA) of marine and coastal degradation
- promulgation of a national beach policy to guide the management of the beach, foreshore, floor of the sea exists
- promulgation of the Jamaica Coral Reef Action Plan and Coral Reef Policy as well as the Policy for the Conservation of Seagrasses
- promulgation of a coherent policy framework for wetland management as well as a mangrove and coastal wetlands protection policy. The National Transport Policy (2007) also has provisions supporting marine environmental protection.

Proposed Target 14.3 – Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

The IWMG has indicated that a timeframe should be included here.

Proposed Target 14.4 – By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting, and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

Data show that Jamaica’s fish stock is comprised primarily of juveniles and low densities of commercially important species, leaving the main target species as small parrotfish and surgeonfish. In recognition of the importance of the fisheries sector to the economy and to livelihoods, the Government of Jamaica will continue to implement the National Fisheries Policy in consultation with stakeholder groups. The Policy, the first of its kind among Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states, seeks to overhaul existing fisheries laws, moving from a system based on maximizing short-term fisheries production, to a

system based on economic development through sustainable fisheries management. Accompanying the policy is the Fisheries Industries Bill which when passed is expected to greatly improve fisheries management across the country.

Jamaica also has established a National Fisheries Advisory Board to oversee the management of this important industry.

The Programme “Improving Jamaica’s Agricultural Productivity (IJAP)” programme is currently supporting sustainable fisheries through the Sustainable Marine Fisheries Management component. This component includes: the creation of artificial reef structures and lobster breeding sites to aid in lobster regeneration and reef rehabilitation; rehabilitation of beaches that were damaged by tropical cyclones; and training of fisherfolk organizations and the government entity responsible for the sector in fisheries management practices.

The government also is implementing a strategy to rehabilitate about 187 fishing beaches, from which approximately 40 000 fisherfolk and other stakeholders operate and earn their living.

Proposed Target 14.5 – By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information

Through its Protected Areas System Master Plan, the government has strengthened its position on the importance of protected areas. This document is the primary national policy document for strengthening management and extending protected area coverage. With respect to coastal and marine areas, currently 15.0 per cent of Jamaica’s archipelagic waters are protected. Currently, Jamaica has 12 special fishery conservation areas.

As a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Jamaica is committed to developing an ecologically-representative network of protected areas designed to conserve at least 10.0 per cent of the nation’s remaining naturally-occurring terrestrial, aquatic and marine flora and fauna.

Proposed Target 14.6 – By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU fishing, and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the WTO fisheries subsidies negotiation

Provisions related to the sustainable management of the fisheries sector is contained in the National Fisheries Policy. The policy includes three main components - the sustainable production from capture fisheries and aquaculture, to supply domestic consumption; the increased returns from export of high value seafood and processed fish products; and safeguarding the sustainability of domestic fisheries by appropriate regulation of fishing and aquaculture activities.

Proposed Target 14.7 – By 2030, the economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

Proposed Target 14.a – Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacities and transfer marine technology taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular SIDS and LDCs

Proposed Target 14.b – Provide access of small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

Proposed Target 14.c – Ensure the full implementation of international law, as reflected in UNCLOS for states parties to it, including, where applicable, existing regional and international regimes for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by their parties

These targets are supported by the IMWG.

Proposed Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Environmental quality is inextricably linked to economic and social well-being, as a healthy environment – able to carry out its functions unencumbered - contributes to prosperity as *all people – rich and poor, urban and rural, and in all regions – rely on natural capital*. Natural resources or natural capital provide essential services for economic and social development – as the functions of a healthy environment (e.g. flood control, climate control, soil productivity, forest health, pollination, waste assimilation and natural pest control) underpin economic development and sustain human health and maintain the conditions for life on earth.

Goal 15 is consistent with Vision 2030 Jamaica and its strategic focus particularly as it relates to Goal 4 of Vision 2030 “Jamaica has a healthy natural environment”, and more specifically, National Outcome 13 – Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources”. National Outcome 13 provides support for the achievement of all targets under Goal 15 as set out by the OWG.

Although Jamaica has made substantial improvements in environmental management, many challenges still remain and need to be addressed. Data show that there exist some worrying trends as it relates to watershed degradation and the net loss of forest cover. This section will provide information related to the state of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity as well as the Government of Jamaica’s position and the actions being undertaken currently to address environmental concerns.

Jamaica has a remarkable diversity of species and ecosystems, and is an important contributor to biodiversity of the Caribbean Basin, which is ranked fifth out of “the eight hottest hotspots” on the Conservation International list of Biodiversity Hotspots. Jamaica has the highest number of endemic birds and plants of any Caribbean island and is ranked number five in terms of its endemic flora and fauna among islands worldwide. Intact ecosystems (i.e. ecosystems which are in a natural or near-natural state) play an important role in providing cost-effective resilience to the impacts of climate change, including

buffering human settlements and activities from the impacts of extreme climate events and sea level rise.

Threats to Jamaica's biodiversity include the following:

- Habitat loss
- Over-exploitation
- The impact of alien invasive species
- Weak law enforcement
- Inadequate awareness of the value of natural resources
- Urban population growth
- Poor spatial planning and land use
- Climate change

The GOJ has developed a number of policies, plans and programmes to protect the country's biological resources. These include: a permit and licensing system to regulate developments and activities that affect the natural environment; protected area management plans; and species management plans. Jamaica also is signatory to the major international environmental agreements that govern various aspects of biodiversity.

Protected areas are created in order to conserve species and ecosystems. The country has recently developed a Protected Areas System Master Plan. It is expected to provide a structured framework within which protected areas will be managed.

Protected areas are considered to be the cornerstone of biodiversity conservation and they help to secure the well-being of all Jamaicans. These areas can maintain key habitats, provide refuge, allow for species migration and movement, and ensure the maintenance of natural ecological processes.

As a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Jamaica is committed to developing an ecologically-representative network of protected areas designed to conserve at least 10.0 per cent of the nation's remaining naturally-occurring terrestrial, aquatic and

marine flora and fauna. Other approaches being implemented to advance protected areas management include: the development of co-management agreements; expansion of Jamaica's Protected Areas System and debt-for-nature swaps.

Jamaica's tropical climate and topography create conditions for moist forests to thrive. More than two-thirds of Jamaica's land mass is above 300 metres high therefore forest cover plays an important role in preventing soil erosion and landslide from rainfall. These forests also help to conserve surface and groundwater resources particularly in watershed areas. Figures show the annual rate of deforestation in Jamaica to be 0.1 per cent and that 10 of the 26 watershed management units are either degraded or severely degraded.

The sustainable use of forest resources through appropriate forest management strategies is essential for the protection of watersheds, the conservation of biodiversity, and the maintenance and increase of the economic benefits that forests provide. Notwithstanding, Jamaica's forests continue to experience significant demand to provide several services to meet national economic and social needs. Pressures on the country's forests and watersheds include: deforestation, soil erosion, poor farming practices, population impacts, mining for limestone and bauxite, large and small-scale cultivation on mountain slopes and lack of public awareness concerning conservation.

Jamaica has various policies, plans and programmes in place to maintain and protect the country's forests and watersheds and Jamaica is signatory to the major international environmental agreements that address forest and watershed issues. Other approaches to protecting forests and watersheds include: tax incentives and inclusion of private lands in conservation efforts; development of the private forestry sector; community-based resource management; implementation of watershed management projects and programmes; sustainable farming practices; reforestation; and prevention of soil erosion and pursuing soil stabilization.

Vision 2030 Jamaica calls for the sustainable management and use of the country's environmental and natural resources as an essential means of enhancing the quality of life of all Jamaicans in present and future generations. Notwithstanding, the number of plans,

programmes and projects being implemented in the areas of biodiversity management, forestry management, parks and protected areas, which will reduce the pressure on ecosystems from various human-induced activities, the government recognizes that there is additional work to be undertaken, including taking a more proactive approach to ecosystem-based approaches to management of these critical resources as well as strengthening governance structures for environmental management.

Proposed Target 15.1 – By 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

Jamaica is currently pursuing and implementing a range of strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of its terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystem and their services. Some of these include: improving sustainable management of protected areas – including developing sustainable financing plans for protected areas (2 per year) through an approach involving community participation; identifying appropriate management and business plans useful to the management of protected areas; conducting natural resource valuation (NRV) on critical areas of biodiversity; identifying and implementing alternative livelihoods strategies through an approach involving community participation; implementing the WAMM (Watershed Areas Management Mechanism) in 18 watershed management units; and designing and implementing financing mechanisms for watershed management. Jamaica also is signatory to international environmental agreements and generally takes steps for putting these into force in local legislation.

Proposed Target 15.2 – By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x per cent globally

The halting of deforestation was seen as an ambitious target. Of the 1 099 000 hectares of forest land use/cover in Jamaica, 13.1 per cent is protected, primarily as forest reserves. The annual rate of deforestation in Jamaica is 0.1 per cent.

The Forest Management Plan is the overarching tool guiding the Government of Jamaica's efforts to conserve Jamaica's forests for biodiversity, watershed protection and sustainable exploitation. The Plan includes targets for reforestation. Also, the Protected Areas System Master Plan serves as the primary national policy document for defining the coverage and strengthening of management of protected areas. Priorities for protecting and designating Forest Reserves are aligned with this Plan.

Proposed Target 15.3 – By 2020, combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world

Desertification is not considered to be an issue for Jamaica. Notwithstanding, the government continues to be concerned about land degradation which is caused by: deforestation; soil erosion by wind or water; weather/climate conditions; pollution; drought conditions; unsustainable agricultural practices; bauxite mining and limestone quarrying; and the expansion of urban development. To this end, the Government has taken steps to introduce sustainable land management as an integral component of efforts to reduce land degradation. For Jamaica, adoption of sustainable land management practices is expected to result in: enhanced agricultural productivity; improved rural development strategies; protection of watersheds; conservation of biodiversity; reduced risks of natural disasters; and reduced urban migration.

Proposed Target 15.4 – By 2030 ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits which are essential for sustainable development

Proposed Target 15.5 – Take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitat, halt the loss of biodiversity, and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

The IMWG has recommended that the target be changed from 2020 to 2030. Jamaica has a remarkable diversity of species and ecosystems. Deforestation, wetland destruction, removal of seagrass and coral reef degradation has resulted in both the reduction and loss

of biodiversity. In addition, population growth, combined with agricultural, industrial and commercial expansion, has resulted in intense competition for land, leading to encroachment and fragmentation of natural habitats. Land degradation, fragmentation of habitats, and alien invasive species are key challenges to biodiversity. The Government recognizes the importance of the country's biodiversity to socio-economic development and has developed a number of policies, plans and programmes to protect the country's biological resources. These include a permit and licensing system to regulate developments and activities that affect the natural environment, protected area management plans and species management plans. Furthermore, Jamaica is signatory to the major international environmental agreements that govern various aspects of biodiversity. At the same time, appreciation among the general public of the value of biodiversity is increasing, leading to increased action at the community level and heightened demand for action from the country's leaders.

Proposed Target 15.6 – Ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, and promote appropriate access to genetic resources

Jamaica is signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity and has prepared a roadmap to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources.

Proposed Target 15.7 – Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

Jamaica is implementing a range of policies and actions to address and end poaching and trafficking in protected species. The National Fisheries Policy, the Wildlife Trade Policy (draft), and the training toolkit being used by Customs Officers and enforcement agencies as well as continuous training is contributing to reducing poaching and trafficking of protected species. Jamaica also is signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) which is aimed at ensuring that

international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Proposed Target 15.8 – By 2020 introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems, and control or eradicate the priority species

It is not possible to eradicate invasive species but the key is to engage in proper management of the environment. The invasive species list for Jamaica includes 40 plants and 46 animals some of which threaten the viability of endangered indigenous plant and animal populations as well as ecosystems. Jamaica currently has in place a draft Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan which focuses on increasing national capacity to address potential risks posed by invasive alien species and to prevent the introduction of new invasive species that can impact the country's biodiversity of global significance.

Proposed Target 15.9 – By 2020, integrate ecosystems and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts

Over the last three years, the GOJ has developed increased capacity for natural resource valuation and is developing a set of Natural Resource Valuation Tools, to incorporate these into policies and procedures governing the preparation and use of Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). Economic valuations of at least three protected areas are being undertaken.

Proposed Target 15.a – Mobilize and significantly increase from all sources financial resources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

The importance of including SIDS and LDCs in the target was underscored. Jamaica is currently exploring the use of trust funds for protected areas. This protected area (PA) trust fund is expected to: act as the financial mechanism; provide an effective means to stabilize financing; make Jamaica's PA system a more attractive destination for donor and

corporate funding; facilitate fundraising and financial planning; and be accessible to various entities e.g. non-governmental organizations involved in PA management. Other avenues that are being explored include taxes and subsidies, tourism/travellers' fees, debt for adaptation swaps and environmental offsets.

Proposed Target 15.b – Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management, and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance sustainable forest management, including for conservation and reforestation

See target 15.a

Proposed Target 15.c – Enhance global support to efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities

See target 15.7

Proposed Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective and inclusive institutions at all levels

Jamaica’s position as it relates to this goal is guided by the goal and national outcomes articulated in Vision 2030 Jamaica, specifically Goal 2 which focuses on the issues of security, justice and governance.

Breakdown of Goal 2 and the supporting National Outcomes

Goal	National Outcome	Issues
Goal 2: The Jamaican society is safe, cohesive and just	Security and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community safety - modernisation of law enforcement - border control - capacity of law enforcement agencies - rehabilitation of offenders
	Effective Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - participatory governance - justice reform - respect for human rights - constitutional reform - equity - accountability and transparency

The revised National Security Policy also impacts Jamaica’s position on this goal. The Policy seeks to protect the people of Jamaica and ensure their peace, safety and freedom.

The Policy has ranked the threats facing the nation into four tiers:

- *Tier 1:* High-impact, high-probability threats; the clear and present dangers. These are the top priority.
- *Tier 2:* High-impact, low-probability threats. These require constant monitoring, building early warning systems and strengthening resilience.
- *Tier 3:* High-probability, low-impact threats. These typically require reforms such as improving governance and building stronger institutions.
- *Tier 4:* Low-probability, low impact threats. They require monitoring, in case there is a need to upgrade them.

It identifies five key recommendations that are necessary for the successful implementation. These are: remove the profit from crime; reform the justice system; police

by consent; dismantle gangs; and focus on at-risk individuals and communities. The position of the government is also partly shaped by a number of international conventions and treaties it has ratified. The country has ratified these agreements because it is in support of the tenets of the conventions and the necessary steps are being taken to ensure adherence. These conventions include:

- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- International Convention on Civil and Political Rights
- Convention of the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- CRC Optional Protocol Armed Conflict
- CRC Optional Protocol Sale of Children

Proposed Target 16.1 – Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

In order to prevent any misunderstanding of the target it is being proposed that the word ‘violence’ be inserted before the word ‘related and that the word ‘rates’ be deleted. There is also a concern with the use of the word ‘significantly’. It is recommended that clarification be made on what exactly this means and whether countries are expected to define what ‘significantly’ means to them. A more quantifiable target would be more objective. The following is being recommended – ***Reduce all forms of violence and violence related deaths everywhere by x per cent.***

Jamaica has one of the highest murder rates in the world and Vision 2030 Jamaica has identified a reduction in the murder rate to 10.0 per 100 000 population by 2030 as a key target. The murder rate at the end of 2013 was 44.0 per 100 000 population. Though slightly higher than the rate of 40.0 per 100 000 population for 2012, it is much lower than the 53.0 per 100 000 population recorded in 2010.

Jamaica’s approach to dealing with crime and violence involves a mix of crime management by the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the implementation of community level social

intervention projects. The implementation of these projects is in keeping with Strategy 5.1 of the Vision 2030 Plan which is to “*Strengthen the capacity of communities to participate in creating a safe and secure society.*” There is also the National Crime Prevention and Community Safety Strategy. This Strategy is intended to serve as a framework for securing support and approval and to instigate detailed planning in the area of crime prevention and community safety by the Government of Jamaica. To this end, a number of social interventions are currently being implemented with a view to reducing the incidence of crime and violence. These programmes include: the Citizens’ Security and Justice Programme; Unite for Change; the Community Renewal Programme; and the European Union funded Poverty Reduction Programme. Programme implementation is mainly in volatile and vulnerable communities. Some of the programmes also focus on male youth as the main victims and perpetrators of violence. The government currently works with a number of non-governmental organizations and civil society groups to implement these violence reduction programmes. The Peace Management Initiative (PMI) is one such body established in 2002. The PMI is a non-governmental organization that receives an annual subvention from the government. The PMI is an alternative approach to the use of force and aims to reduce violence in communities across Jamaica.

Additionally, a high number of violence-related injuries (VRIs), are treated annually at public hospitals. This has placed a financial and physical strain on the health sector, hence the need for a concerted effort to reduce VRIs. The 2011 World Development Report prepared by the World Bank noted that, “Jamaica’s economy could grow its annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 5.4 percentage points, if the country reduces its crime level”. It also noted that US\$385.0 million or J\$33.0 billion was spent annually on indirect medical and other costs related to crime and violence, while the direct medical costs of all interpersonal violence is US\$29.5 million.

Proposed Target 16.2 – End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children

The protection of our children is of critical importance to Jamaica. This is evidenced by the enactment of the Child Care and Protection Act in 2004 and its subsequent amendment in 2009 to address issues affecting the care and protection of children. The enactment of this legislation represents a comprehensive response to the issue of child rights and child protection in Jamaica. It also facilitated the establishment of the Office of the Children’s Advocate (OCA) and the Office of the Children’s Registry (OCR). The OCA is a Commission of Parliament, mandated to enforce and protect the rights and best interests of children. The main role of the OCR is to receive reports of children who have been, are being or are likely to be abandoned, neglected, physically or sexually ill-treated, or are otherwise in need of care and protection. Additionally, the Ananda Alert system was established in 2008 as Jamaica's Child Recovery Strategy and is aimed at mobilizing multiple stakeholders to work with law enforcement to assist in the speedy and safe recovery of missing children. This approach programme supports implementation of Strategy 3.5 of Vision 2030 Jamaica to “*Promote family responsibility and community participation for the protection of vulnerable groups.*”

A number of plans and policies have been prepared in support of the protection of children and include: National Plan of Action for Child Justice (NPACJ); the draft National Child Diversion Policy; the draft National Plan of Action on Children and Violence (NPACV); and the National Plan of Action on Child Labour (NPACL). The goal of the NPACJ is to develop and sustain a justice system in which the best interest of the child is paramount in the administration of the programmes to secure their protection and in the maintenance of the rule of law. The draft National Child Diversion Policy is an element of the NPACJ. The Policy seeks to establish a formal framework for dealing with children in conflict with the law throughout the criminal justice process ensuring that detention or institutionalization is a measure of last resort in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The draft NPACV aims to create and maintain a protective environment, supportive of children and responsive to violence against them. The NPACL seeks to get current and reliable data

on the prevalence of child labour in Jamaica; establish public awareness and sensitisation programmes; improve the knowledge of relevant personnel to identify children who are exposed to child labour; and work with trade unions and employer groups to build awareness of the issue. There is also the draft National Framework of Action for Children which seeks to:

- Define a common framework for holistic Child Development in Jamaica
- Define the required framework for national programming, including materials development, the role of supporting organizations and service delivery, with particular attention to children at risk for or made vulnerable by poverty, illness, abuse, child labour and other disadvantages
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of partners in the development of our children
- Provide a platform for advocacy around Child Development.

Jamaica is committed to fighting human trafficking as is evidenced by the ratification on September 29, 2003 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (“the Palermo Protocol”). The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act was enacted in 2007 and amended in 2013 to include provisions for:

- Increased penalties (from 10 to 20 years) for trafficking in persons (TIP) offences especially where other aggravating circumstances exist such as: if drugs are involved; the victim is a minor; and the victim suffered permanent physical and/or mental harm
- Broadened definition for TIP to include for example debt bondage
- Empower trial judge to order that restitution be paid to victims without having the matter taken to Civil Court
- Congruence of the procedure for forfeiture is the TIP Act with the requirements of the Proceeds of Crime Act 2009.

The government has established a National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons and developed a National Plan of Action. The National Plan of Action for combatting Trafficking in Persons in Jamaica details the approach to be taken when dealing with human trafficking organised under the themes: prevention, protection and prosecution. The prevention component focuses on public education to reduce the number of victims and to enable persons to identify and report instances of trafficking. The protection component is concerned with the services provided to victims while the prosecution component focuses on ensuring that perpetrators are penalized and that the legislation is amended as is required.

Proposed Target 16.3 – Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all

Jamaica is in agreement with this target as it is in keeping with strategy 6.2 of Vision 2030 Jamaica – “*Reform the justice system.*” By 2030, Jamaica aims to have a score equal to or greater than 1.75 on the Rule of Law index. The score for 2012 was -0.41. The Jamaican Justice System Reform Project (JJSR) was established by the Government of Jamaica to undertake a comprehensive review into the state of the justice system and to develop strategies and mechanisms to facilitate its modernization so that it is better able to meet the current and future needs of Jamaicans. The Justice Sector Reform Policy document presents the framework for the improvements in the justice sector. These include:

- Fair and Timely Case Resolution
- Improved Access to Justice
- A strong Judiciary and Workforce
- Strengthened linkages between justice sector institutions
- Establishing a sound court infrastructure
- Implementing a social component to the delivery of justice
- Strengthened public trust and confidence.

Clearing the backlog of cases in the courts is a major component of this project as this issue has impacted the timely completion of cases. At the end of 2013, some 302 142 cases of the

561 818 cases set for trial in the Resident Magistrates' Court were still pending. The initiatives being implemented to address this issue include: operating a Night Court to facilitate more cases being heard; promotion of mediation as a form of alternate dispute resolution in civil matters; and the establishment of the Court Management Services (CMS) agency. The aim of the CMS is to provide efficient and effective administrative services to the courts of Jamaica using the most innovative methods, thus contributing to an improved justice system. The reforms in the justice sector is being implemented under the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development funded Justice Undertakings for Social Transformation (JUST) programme. The project aims to provide improved service delivery and management capacity of justice sector institutions; improve the capacity of ministries, departments and agencies to coordinate and streamline the process of developing legislation; and improve the capacity of citizens and civil organizations to participate in justice reform and promote public order.

The promotion of human rights is also an element of Jamaica's reform programme and, therefore, technical assistance is being given to the Ministry of Justice by the Commonwealth Secretariat to assist in the establishment of a National Human Rights Institute.

Proposed Target 16.4 – By 2030 significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime

Jamaica is in support of this target, however, there is a concern with the use of the word 'significantly'. It is recommended that a more quantifiable measure should be used. Work has already started in this area and is being guided by Strategy 5.3 of Vision 2030 Jamaica which speaks to "*Improve the security of the border and territorial waters*" and the National Security Sector Plan has as one of its strategies, "*Disrupt transnational and organized crime, gangs and criminal structures.*" This includes the enactment of the Proceeds of Crime Act, 2009 (amendment) that provides for the investigation, identification and recovery of the proceeds of crime and for connected matters. In March 2014, the Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organisations) Bill, popularly called the 'anti-gang' legislation,

was passed in the Senate. The law makes provision for the disruption and suppression of criminal organizations and outlines offences, in order to restore a sense of security in the Jamaican society and strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies to deal with crime effectively. The enactment of the Law Reform (Fraudulent Transactions) (Special Provisions) Act 2013 facilitates the prosecution of persons involved in the illegal lottery scam. The Act also makes provision for powers of search and seizure and restitution, and for guilty persons to be fined and sentenced to a term of imprisonment for up to 25 years. Additionally, the Major Organized Crime and Anti-corruption (MOCA) Task Force was established in the Jamaica Constabulary Force to focus on the identification, investigation and prosecution of major organized criminals, kingpins, their facilitators, and corrupt public officials. It also coordinates the intelligence and investigative output of a number of agencies and facilitates capacity building of officers to investigate and prosecute financial crimes and forfeit related assets. The Anti-Lottery Scam Task Force is a part of MOCA.

The issue of financial crimes is addressed under Goal 3 of Vision 2030 Jamaica which is focussed on the economy. The need to strengthen the institutional framework and capacity to effectively regulate financial institutions and combat financial crimes has been identified as a priority strategy. The Financial Investigation Division (FID), an arm of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, plays a critical role in this process. The FID focuses on deterring the use of Jamaica's economy for money laundering and other financial crimes, thereby contributing to a stable financial sector and an investor friendly environment. Under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), 2009 amendment, the division has increased investigative powers and is charged with the responsibility of seizing assets and removing the profit out of crime. There is also a public education component that seeks to increase public awareness of financial crimes and the impact and importance of their elimination from the society.

Consideration should be given to including the flow of illicit drugs in this target as there have been instances where the flow in drugs and guns become inextricably linked. In the case of Jamaica, the security forces have been targeting the 'drugs for guns' trade. The

Transnational Crimes and Narcotics Division (TCND) was established in 2009 and is a merger of the Narcotics Division and the investigative arm of Operation Kingfish. The TCND is involved in:

- investigating transnational crimes and targeting top tier criminals and their networks
- inhibiting the trafficking of drugs, firearms and persons
- intercepting transshipment of commodities and persons
- providing oversight and managing the secure disposal of all narcotics seizures islandwide.

Proposed Target 16.5 – Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms

While Jamaica is in support of this target the use of the word ‘substantially’ is of concern because of its lack of measurability. It is, therefore, being proposed that this target be reviewed with a view to removing any form of ambiguity. The attainment of a score equal to or greater than 1.96 on the Control of Corruption Index is an outcome indicator for Vision 2030 Jamaica. The country’s score for 2012 was -0.36. To this end, the country is embarking on a number of initiatives to deal with this issue. The three main agencies currently addressing issues of corruption are: the Office of the Contractor General (OCG), the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption (CPC) and the Office of the Integrity Commission. The Contractor General is an independent, anti-corruption Commission of Parliament established under the Contractor General Act in 1986. The main objective of the OCG is to ensure that the public sector procurement process delivers value to the tax-payer, is merit based, is free from corruption, impropriety and irregularity and is transparent, impartial, competitive, fair, efficient and effective. Its primary functions are the monitoring and investigation of the award of Government contracts, licences and permits. The Commission for the Prevention of Corruption is charged with the receiving, storing and investigating of statutory declarations pursuant to the Corruption Prevention Act 2000. The functions of the Commission are:

- to receive and keep on record statutory declarations furnished by public servants pursuant to the Act
- to examine such statutory declarations and to request from a public servant any information relevant to a statutory declaration made by him, which in its opinion would assist in its examination
- to make such independent enquiries and investigations relating to a statutory declaration as it thinks necessary
- to receive and investigate any complaint regarding an act of corruption
- to conduct an investigation into an act of corruption on its own initiative, if it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for such investigation.

The Office of the Integrity Commission examines the annual statutory declarations of politicians to ensure that they adhere to the Corruption Prevention Act. Work is currently underway to merge these three agencies to form a Single Anti-corruption Agency.

Additionally, the Independent Commission of Investigations was established in August 2010 and replaced the Police Public Complaints Authority. The agency is mandated to undertake investigations concerning actions by members of the security forces and other agents of the State that result in death or injury to persons or the abuse of the rights of persons; and for connected matters. There are also other units in the police force, namely, the Anti-Corruption Branch and MOCA, which have been mandated to investigate cases of corruption.

The issue of corruption is not solely the responsibility of the government and the National Integrity Action (NIA) has been a major partner in the fight against corruption. The NIA is a registered not-for-profit company with the objective of combatting corruption in Jamaica on a non-partisan basis. The NIA is focused on:

- building public awareness and citizen involvement to enhance integrity, report acts of corruption and demand the urgent passage of important anti-corruption

legislation; in particular, related to campaign finance disclosure and an effective Special Prosecution system related to corruption offenses

- undertaking programmes to assist in building capacity in anti-corruption institutions
- conducting research on the cost of corruption, in particular its negative impact on the quality of life of citizens
- strengthening relations among various stakeholder groups.

Proposed Target 16.6 – Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

Due to the fact that some countries may already have systems in place, Jamaica is recommending the inclusion of the word ‘strengthen’ in this target. Proposed target: *Develop and strengthen effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.* Strategy 6.5 of Vision 2030 Jamaica is “Strengthen public institutions to deliver efficient and effective public goods and services” and the outcome indicator is a score equal to or greater than 1.78 on the Government Effectiveness Index. Jamaica’s Government Effectiveness score for 2012 was 0.20.

The government has been embarking on a public sector modernization programme in an effort to improve its efficiency. The government agencies mandated to manage the issue of corruption and the NIA are also playing a critical role in the process of ensuring accountability and transparency in government operations. Other initiatives in support of this target include:

- Operations of the Public Accounts Committee and Public Administration and Appropriations Committee of the Parliament
- Establishment of Local Public Accounts Committees in local government authorities/Parish Councils
- Establishment of Safety and Security Committees in Parish Councils, to monitor and coordinate safety and security programmes at local levels
- Membership of citizens on Parish Council committees

- Development of a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for use in government ministries, departments and agencies
- Establishment of a Governance Thematic Working Group to oversee the implementation of the Governance Sector Plan of Vision 2030 Jamaica.

Proposed Target 16.7 – Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

Vision 2030 Jamaica’s Strategy 6.1 seeks to “Strengthen the process of citizen participation in governance” and the attainment of a Voice and Accountability Index score equal to or greater than 1.37 (the score for 2012 is 0.43). This target supports Jamaica’s Local Government Reform Programme aimed at fundamentally transforming the Local Government System in Jamaica. The Programme seeks to build capacity within local authorities in four main areas:

- governance, especially in relation to democracy and transparency
- finance and funding
- structure and function
- legal framework.

The Social Development Commission (SDC), as one of the main local governance agencies, seeks to facilitate the empowerment of citizens in communities, enabling their participation in an integrated, equitable, sustainable national development process. As part of its mandate, the SDC facilitates the formation of and strengthens community based groups. There is a governance structure for community groups consisting of Community Developments Committees, Development Area Committees and Parish Development Committees. Representatives from these groups sit on committees at both the local and national level, and ensure that the interest of the residents is articulated in the developmental planning process.

In 2013, the Partnership for Jamaica was established with a commitment to the fostering of social dialogue around issues critical to the development of the nation. The priority focus

areas are: (i) fiscal consolidation: (ii) adherence to rule of law: (iii) ease of doing business: (iv) employment creation: and (v) energy diversification and conservation. It is a multi-stakeholder group with members from the government, private sector, trade unions and civil society. There is also the National Partnership Council, chaired by the Prime Minister, which comprises representatives of the political directorate, private sector, trade unions, civil society, academia, and special interests. It is a forum for discussing national issues and fostering collaboration and consensus. Additionally, the child protection agencies (CDA, OCA and OCR) have all instituted advisory and ambassadorial programmes aimed at increasing the extent to which children are afforded the opportunity to participate in the governance process of the country.

Proposed Target 16.8 – Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

Jamaica is in agreement with this target which will give developing countries a voice in global development, facilitate a greater understanding of the challenges faced by these countries, and enable a coordinated approach to advancing the development of these countries. At the same time, participation should not only be at the governmental level but extended to all sectors of the society. The mandate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade is to strengthen links between Jamaica and the rest of the world. The Ministry interacts with international communities, the public sector, corporate Jamaica and civil society to create positive alliances. This is achieved by providing representation overseas; ensuring effective participation in regional and multilateral fora; promoting friendship and cooperation with other countries; promoting international peace and security; providing representation overseas through resident diplomatic missions and consular posts; monitoring and responding appropriately to external political and economic developments which impact national development goals; and ensuring compliance with Jamaica's obligations under bilateral, regional and international agreements identifying and negotiating foreign trade, investment and tourism.

Proposed Target 16.9 – By 2030 provide legal identity for all including birth registration

Registration and identification are the foundation for good governance of any State. The right to an identity and universal birth registration are priorities as outlined in Vision 2030 Jamaica and the Medium Term Socio-Economic Framework. Jamaica is one of several countries that has committed to the achievement of universal, free and timely birth registration. Implicit in this commitment is the right to an identity. The right to a name, a nationality, an identity and a legal existence is critical for social integration and for people to be able to exercise their social, economic, civil and cultural rights. Universal registration provides coverage for all children in a country's territory, regardless of ethnic origin, gender, economic position, geographic origin or migration status, or their parents' nationality.

Jamaica has taken steps to ensure that birth registration is universal through its implementation of the Modernization Programme of Jamaica's Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System. In 2007, the Registrar General's Department (RGD) implemented the Bedside Registration initiative to improve the coverage, quality and timeliness of birth registration nationally. This initiative covers all public and private hospitals as well as birthing centres, which accounts for approximately 98.0 per cent of all live births.

Additionally, the RGD has initiated preparations for the implementation of Online electronic Registration (e-Registration) islandwide. The first phase of the project will commence with Birth e-Registration in all major hospitals and birthing institutions. Online death and marriage registrations will be a part of phases 2 and 3 of this immense undertaking. External funding will play an important role in the realisation of this initiative.

After implementation of the Online Birth Registration system has been completed and assessment of the programme indicates satisfactory/successful execution, then feasibility of Online Death and Online Marriage Registration will be comprehensively explored. Analysis of the current procedures, any legislative, procedural or operational changes required will also be detailed and documented. Stakeholder consultations are also planned

and recommendations for implementation from these will be noted. Once the required ground work has occurred then implementation plan and schedule will be done. The projected year for execution is 2016/17.

Jamaica is in the process of finalizing the implementation of a National Identification System (NIDS) which seeks to ensure that every Jamaican citizen and persons ordinarily resident has an identity that is verified and assured. The NIDS, once implemented, will among other things: (i) improve the governance and management of national, social, economic and security programmes; (ii) strengthen immigration and border control arrangements; and (iii) establish an effective and convenient system of identification verification and authentication, thereby significantly reducing the possibility of persons having multiple or fraudulent identities. Coordination of the relevant arms of government including the RGD, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Tax Administration; the Electoral Office of Jamaica; Ministry of Health; Ministry Of Education; Ministry of National Security; and Ministry of Justice will foster greater and more efficient inter-institutional coordination and greater commitment to a rights-based approach.

In treatment of this target, consideration must be given to having two separate indicators relating to registration and identification. According to Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of a Child, every child has a right to a name and should be registered immediately after birth. In order for this to be effectively implemented, the GOJ through RGD, should ensure relevant procedures are put in place for registration of all children, including those who are abandoned and deemed wards of the state; encourage mothers to utilize birth registration facilities; and sensitize fathers of the importance of having their name on the child's birth certificate. The effective and timely implementation of the NIDS will ensure that all Jamaicans, from birth or when he or she reaches the legal age (to be determined), receive a unique identification number which enables the individual to conduct business with GOJ and other private entities.

Proposed Target 16.10 – Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

Two totally different issues are being put forward in this target and the recommendation is that it be separated into two distinct targets:

- ensure public access to information
- protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.

Jamaica already has the necessary legislation to ensure access to information; Access to Information Act, 2002. The Act gives everyone the legal right to view or receive copies of official documents held by government bodies. Individuals may also request that their personal information be changed if it is incomplete, misleading or out of date. The Access to Information Unit has been established under the Office of the Prime Minister to spearhead and guide the implementation and administration of the Act. There is also a Data Sharing Protocol which aims to provide all government departments and other public sector bodies' information and practical help when they start new projects which may involve the sharing of personal data. Therefore, this is not considered a major issue.

As it relates to the protection of fundamental freedoms, Jamaica is in support of this target as long as they are in keeping with those presented in our Constitution and/or based on international agreements ratified by the country. The enactment of the Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (Constitutional Amendment) Act in 2011 further highlights the country's support for the protection and promotion of human rights. The Act provides for additional rights that were not previously contained in the country's constitution. These include the right to:

- equitable and humane treatment by public authorities
- not be discriminated against on the grounds of religion, social class or being male or female
- vote in free and fair elections
- be granted a passport and to leave the island
- acquire public primary education by every child

- enjoy a healthy and productive environment free from the threat of injury or damage from environmental abuse and degradation of our ecological heritage.

Proposed Target 16.a – Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime

Proposed Target 16.b – Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

Jamaica is in support of these key issues relating to the means of implementation. Strategy 5.2 of Vision 2030 Jamaica is “Reform and modernize the law enforcement system” and Strategy 5.4 – “Strengthen the anti-crime capability of law enforcement agencies.” Work is underway to build the capacity of the security forces and judiciary. There was a strategic review of the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the Jamaica Defense Force and implementation of the recommendations are currently underway. As it relates to the judiciary, work is focused on: increasing staff allotment; training for members of the judiciary, especially in the area of legislative drafting; installing a case management system to facilitate greater management of case files and scheduling of court matters; and improving the physical condition of courthouses.

The issue of rehabilitation of offenders has not been addressed as a target in this goal. Recidivism rates are fairly high in a number of countries worldwide. In Jamaica, the annual recidivism rate is between 20.0 per cent and 30.0 per cent²⁸. In 2013, of the 1 425 persons admitted to correctional facilities, 550 were recidivists. Therefore, greater attention needs to be paid to this area to ensure that offenders are properly rehabilitated and reintegrated into society upon completion of their sentences.

The ability to achieve the targets that have been identified under this goal will depend greatly on the other goals. Without economic growth and development, poverty will not be eradicated and persons will continue to view crime as a viable outlet. However, economic

²⁸Data from the Department of Correctional Services.

growth will not be achieved without a healthy and educated population and conversely high levels of crime and violence will result in high health care costs due to violence-related injuries. A reduction in the incidence of violence against women and girls will also be dependent on the ability to empower females and achieve gender equality. Finally, the physical conditions under which persons live can either facilitate or deter criminal activity. Therefore, the ability to create inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities is crucial. Good governance is also a major component for the successful implementation of the targets. This is because, without accountable, transparent and effective systems and mechanisms for leadership, the development agenda will not be achieved.

Proposed Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

“Means of implementation” can be broadly defined as the broad set of modalities or instruments to achieve success. It describes “the interdependent mix of financial resources, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, inclusive and equitable globalization and trade, regional integration, as well as the creation of a national enabling environment required to implement the new sustainable development agenda, particularly in developing countries”²⁹. There is widespread agreement that the worst performance of all Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was registered on MDG 8, the Global Partnership for Development. While each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, the persistent development challenges countries such as Jamaica continue to face require an enhanced global partnership for development, adequate provision and mobilization of all means of implementation and continued international support to achieve internationally-agreed goals.

The implementation of the post-2015 development agenda will require States and other relevant actors, acting individually and collectively, to adopt policies and mobilize resources to advance equitable, human rights-based, sustainable development. In this regard, a renewed and strengthened global partnership for mobilizing the means of implementation needs to:

- address the social, economic and environmental dimensions in an integrated manner
- build on existing commitments and governance structures, ensuring that new initiatives reinforce previous successes
- reinforce coherence in the implementation of a universal Post-2015 Development Agenda, leveraging resources across diverse funding mechanisms

²⁹ The Technical Support Team (TST) is co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme

- strengthen governance and accountability frameworks, providing for multi-stakeholder engagement, including for financing, technology innovation and diffusion, and capacity building for people and institutions.

Jamaica is represented on the Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. This Group is responsible for proposing options for a sustainable development financing strategy and will play a critical role in determining the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The OWG has identified the following as thematic areas requiring focus in order to ensure that developing countries are assisted in making progress in addressing their vulnerabilities and supporting their sustainable development efforts.

Proposed Target 17.1- strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection

Target 17.1 is in line with the GOJ thrust towards a comprehensive economic programme aimed at progressively raising the rate of real GDP and per capita income growth. The strategy of accelerating growth centres on attracting significant new investment in areas such as agriculture, tourism, shipping, logistics and business process outsourcing (BPO). This growth agenda is driven by fiscal and monetary policy reforms aimed at creating a stable, predictable and resilient macroeconomic environment; structural reforms aimed at significantly strengthening Jamaica's external competitiveness and productivity; catalytic and strategic private and public investments; and social stability. Fiscal consolidation is a clear and critical ingredient to ensure macroeconomic stability. It is supported by efforts to ensure ongoing financial system safety and stability, including reforms to strengthen the financial system oversight framework and improve access to credit.

Measures include loan schemes for business development as well as World Bank funding initiatives which are now coming on stream. A major challenge identified with some of

these initiatives, however, is the relatively high interest rates. These various funding schemes will require greater publicity.

It was noted that there are ongoing measures to facilitate the easier transfer of resources to government, such as the development of electronic means of tax collection and the “one stop shop” concept of revenue centers. The GOJ’s thrust in the direction of an omnibus Tax Reform initiative which is designed to increase revenue is also supportive of this target. Given Jamaica’s position under the IMF Extended Fund Facility (EFF) there would however, be constraints on the mobilization of resources via external means. There is, however, a need for input from Customs regarding measures being undertaken such as the use of an Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) at the port of entry i.e. reducing bottlenecks, and achieving efficiency gains.

Proposed Target 17.2- developed countries to implement fully their Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitments, including to provide 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) in ODA to developing countries of which 0.15-0.20 per cent to least-developed countries

Target 17.2 is in keeping with the national position. The target of 0.7 per cent ODA/GNI was first agreed in 1970 and has been repeatedly re-endorsed at the highest level at international aid and development conferences such as Monterrey 2002, Gleneagles 2005 and Doha 2008.

The UN Secretary-General has pointed out that in 2012 net aid disbursements from developed to developing countries was \$126 billion representing a 4.0 per cent fall in real terms compared with 2011. This, it should be pointed out, has been accompanied by a decline in some instances in bilateral official development assistance. This is particularly acute in the case of heavily indebted middle income countries (MICs) such as Jamaica, which are denied access to concessionary financing. It is clear that access by countries like Jamaica to financing must be improved. There is need for concerted attention to the means of implementation if development is ever to be attainable for developing countries. There is

need also for a multilateral trading system which allows developing countries to participate effectively, thus improving their chances for development.

In view of the limited success achieved under the Global Partnership for Development (MDG 8), it is clear that much work will need to be done to ensure that the post-2015 development agenda will not follow a similar path in terms of implementation. Whilst it is recognized that there are no means to compel developed countries to fulfill their ODA obligations, it remains necessary to continue calling attention to the ODA targets and in their implementation.

A major concern for Jamaica, when addressing the issue of ODA, is the process by which countries are classified. Countries such as Jamaica, for example, which is designated as an upper middle income country (MIC), face a tremendous challenge as this status significantly limits the country's ability to access concessionary financing and debt alleviation programmes. The practice of viewing high per capita income as evidence of development obscures the lack of progress in many other critical areas necessary for sustainable development. It is important, therefore, that a review is undertaken of the criteria used to determine the economic well-being of a country beyond GDP, and other economic indicators such as vulnerability and resilience indices are given similar weighting. Moreover, this is within the context of already diminishing revenue and increasing domestic demand on governments for the delivery of goods and services to citizens. In addition, many of these countries enter the capital market with a 'heightened risk' profile, which significantly reduces the pool of available and affordable resources.

Jamaica is also cognizant that even as there is discussion regarding the meeting of ODA targets, there is also a need to strengthen aid effectiveness in order to support the efforts of partner countries to improve governance and development outcomes. Similarly, the integration of 'new/emerging' donors and their adherence to the core principles on aid effectiveness as stipulated by the Paris Declaration (PD) and the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA) must be borne in mind.

Vision 2030 Jamaica targets achieving developed country status by 2030 through a number of national and sectoral plans. These plans (short, medium or long-term) have significant trade components. This is supported by our National Aid for Trade Strategy, which was officially launched on October 27, 2011. The assistance of our Development Partners is, however, required for the successful completion of the Strategy. Aid for Trade (Aft) has a critical role to play in the realization of the plans contained in these documents. It, therefore, becomes crucial that aid be in alignment with national plans and policies. The alignment further assists with overall coherence in the implementation of aid.

Measures such as debt relief and debt forgiveness are also viewed as viable strategies towards helping developing countries to achieve economic development.

Proposed Target 17.3- mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources

Target 17.3 is in keeping with Jamaica's position that there is an urgent need to identify additional external sources of financing for developing countries. In this respect, Jamaica attaches particular importance to, and calls for the capitalization of the regional development banks including the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), in order to improve the capacity of these institutions to assist developing countries in the region.

Jamaica continues to advocate for the elaboration of a development agenda that embraces the wide range of needs and specific circumstances of MICs, as well as allow countries to evaluate their development needs, assess and prioritise the challenges and outline a programme in line with their own national growth and development agenda.

These countries' efforts to tackle current challenges need to be underpinned by enhanced levels of support from the international community. Jamaica, therefore, supports the view that the UN should play a crucial role in the discussions on the global crisis to ensure a

greater scope for the participation and engagement of developing countries not represented in the G20.

Notwithstanding the above, it is recognised that the private sector, is playing an increasingly important role in development cooperation. The emergence of private sector actors is creating new cooperation possibilities. The combination of subsidy loans, public/private partnerships, as well as innovative financial instruments, must be encouraged. However, the role of the private sector in development financing becomes a challenge when there is need to ensure that development efforts are consistent. There is therefore, need to clarify the role that the private sector could and should play and link it to the achievement of national development goals.

Under sustained health financing, the government has lobbied support for mobilization of financial resources from international development partners in the aspects of HIV/AIDS treatment care and support, and universal health coverage.

Proposed Target 17.4- assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) to reduce debt distress

Target 17.4 is in keeping with the national position. Jamaica supports the view that the international community, especially the International Financial Institutions (IFIs), should rethink its position on middle income countries and the question of debt sustainability in these countries. Additionally, Jamaica believes that an approach which entails the provision of debt relief and the disbursement of grants and loans on concessionary terms, which are not currently available to the MICs, should be given priority attention. Building the resilience of affected countries should also be given greater focus by IFIs.

As a follow-up to the points raised under Target 17.2 on ODA allocation, it is to be noted that some progress has been made in opening the dialogue with major IFIs on the necessity for a review of the determinant for aid allocation, since using GDP per capita as the sole indicator of aid allocation places many vulnerable MICs at a major disadvantage. More work, however, remains to be done as there is still no consensus among international organizations for introducing programmes designed to alleviate some of the challenges borne by these countries.

Proposed Target 17.5- adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for LDCs

Target 17.5 was supported in principle; however, it was felt that it should not be limited to LDCs. It was recommended that the following should be inserted at the end of the Target "**and supporting these mechanisms where they exist in developing countries**". This was with a view that whilst investment promotion regimes may exist in many developing countries, they are often times not adequately resourced to fully carry out their mandate.

Proposed Target 17.6- enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation, and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, particularly at UN level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism when agreed

A sustained focus on science, technology and innovation (STI) has been identified as fundamental to Jamaica's economic development, and for the overall improvement of quality of life for its citizenry. Advancements in this sector through, *inter alia*, knowledge creation, design and commercialization of new products and services, and improved efficiency are expected to have a positive impact on poverty eradication; education; health; nutrition; and trade in the medium to long-term. These principles are enshrined in *Vision 2030 Jamaica* and specifically in *Goal 3: Jamaica's Economy is Prosperous - National Outcome 11: A Technology Enabled Society*, which promotes technology-driven economic growth. This outcome is expected to be achieved through the integration of science and technology

into all areas of development, and the creation of a dynamic and responsive national innovation system. A National Science, Technology and Innovation Sector Policy (Draft) and a Science Technology and Innovation Sector Strategic Roadmap have been drafted to guide the development of the sector and set the context for sustainable growth through the establishment of a cohesive governance framework; capacity building; and development of appropriate STI infrastructure.

At the global level, the transformational value of STI to the socio-economic status of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) has been articulated in the BPOA for SIDS, the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS, and the SAMOA Pathway Outcome Document (draft). These documents recognize that access to appropriate, reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies is critical to SIDS achieving their sustainable development objectives. They further acknowledge the need for enhanced cooperation (North-South, South-South, and Triangular) as effective means of mobilizing human and financial resources, expertise, technology and knowledge.

This target was endorsed by stakeholders as it is in keeping with the commitments under the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) outcome document, *The Future We Want*—which highlights the importance of technology for sustainable development and requests *“relevant United Nations agencies to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies by, inter alia, assessing technology needs of developing countries, options to address them and capacity building”*. Others include: the Barbados Plan of Action for SIDS; the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS; the SAMOA Pathway Outcome Document; and Vision 2030 Jamaica national outcome of a technology-enabled society.

Stakeholders cautioned that the elaboration of indicators must take into account the particular needs of SIDS as well as the national circumstances, which may require establishment of STI supporting institutions, infrastructure and capacity building as pre-requisites for the adoption and transfer of technology. These mechanisms must support partnerships at the national, community and individual levels; enable knowledge and technology transfer at the grass-roots level; and facilitate inclusive policy development. Cultural considerations must be part of the deliberations with respect to the design of institutional structures and options for technology transfer. It was also noted that communication technology must be more effectively utilized to facilitate knowledge and information transfer.

In addition, the point was made that South-South and triangular modalities were still largely reliant on the North for funding and therefore countries in the South needed to be positioned to be able to better provide for or finance their own south-south cooperation interventions. South-South cooperation through exchange of services, through for example scholarships, exchange programmes and expert attachments are among the strategies which can benefit Jamaica and other SIDS and should be enhanced in the post-2015 development process.

Proposed Target 17.7- promote development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

It was noted that the indicators for this target must consider requirements for the strengthening of country Intellectual Property (IP) systems, including access to information, and enhancing public awareness of rights and protection. This is essential for safeguarding the rights of users and patent holders, including patents owned by developing countries. Improving national IP systems is also expected to create an environment which fosters innovation and entrepreneurship.

Proposed Target 17.8- fully operationalize the Technology Bank and STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) capacity building mechanism for LDCs by 2017, and enhance the use of enabling technologies in particular ICT

There was agreement among stakeholders that this target should remain. Recognizing that access to appropriate, reliable, affordable, modern and environmentally sound technologies is critical to SIDS achieving their sustainable development objectives; it was recommended that the target be amended to incorporate special considerations for SIDS, especially in light of their challenges with respect to financing the implementation of the BPOA, MSI and the SAMOA Pathway. The revised target thus reads, “...***fully operationalize the Technology Bank and STI (Science, Technology and Innovation) capacity building mechanism for LDCs by 2017, establish a mechanism to facilitate SIDS access to and development of appropriate technologies, and enhance the use of enabling technologies in particular ICT.***”

“Strengthening the processes of implementation” refers to mobilising communities, institutional coordination, financing, technology, and capacity-building, which all countries need to be able to honour their international and national commitments. There is widespread agreement that MDG 8, the Global Partnership for Development registered the least progress as there was evidence of gaps between the targets and policy delivery in this area. The MDG Gap Task Force identified that over the years, there was “a conflict between national priorities to deliver on commitments of Goal 8 and national policy obligations sometimes denied from economic and social difficulties”. This poses a serious challenge to the renewed global partnership to deliver the post-2015 development agenda³⁰. ***Proposal to insert the assessment of the weaknesses identified in the implementation of MDG #8, to further contextualise this section.*** While each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, the persistent development challenges countries such as Jamaica continue to face require an enhanced global partnership for development,

³⁰MDG 8-*The State of the Global Partnership for Development*.MDG Gap Task Force Report 2014, UN 2014.

adequate provision and mobilization of all means of implementation and continued international support to achieve internationally-agreed goals.

Based on recommendations from WHO in its Health Matrix and Framework Standards, Jamaica has progressed towards the implementation of the National Health Information Systems Strengthening and e-Health Strategic Plan for 2014-2018. The main thrust of this data efficient plan is to strengthen the national and organizational capacity for health information and ensure the required framework exists to enable effective appropriate access and use of information technology in improving health information. Efforts toward developing a compendium of Health indicators will also serve as a benchmark for data sources. This is aligned with the strategies in the SIDS action plan for comprehensive data sources to improve efficiencies within member states.

Proposed Target 17.9- Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation

There was agreement among stakeholders that Proposed Target 17.9 is consistent with Jamaica's position as it relates to effective and targeted capacity building to support national development objectives including sustainable development goals. However, it was agreed that the target should be more specific to include a particular percentage or reference to a targeted approach to capacity building. The new target would then read *"Enhance, **by xx per cent**, international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation **by 20xx**"*

Changes within the global environment have led to global shifts in wealth and poverty; development aid being used to address a large variety of developmental challenges; and declining budgetary aid allocations in donor countries. These changes have been occurring amidst debates on the quantity and quality of the development cooperation being undertaken, as well as the effectiveness of some international aid agencies. Jamaica,

therefore, supports the commitments by the international donor community to improving aid effectiveness through more efficient coordination mechanisms, particularly within the United Nations framework and encourages an international development cooperation framework that reaches a wider segment of the population, and is equitable and sustainable over the long-term.

Human capital development is a supporting component of Jamaica's growth strategy. Jamaica's position on capacity building, therefore, reflects the view that a renewed global partnership must focus on capacity building through national, regional and international efforts. Vision 2030 Jamaica outlines priority actions for capacity building and identifies specific targets which span several sectors including education, security, communication and information technology and commerce.

Jamaica's experience with South-South cooperation, which generally takes the form of exchange of experts and scholarships, has revealed that capacity gaps exist within collaborating countries which creates challenges to programmes and projects. Notwithstanding, effective implementation and success of capacity building can be ensured at the global, regional and national level through:

- more flexible and responsive funding
- implementation of local sustainability plans
- public education for GOJ and sustainable development programmes
- addressing of capacity gaps in collaborating countries.

In this regard, the tripartite approach to South-South cooperation, which involves International Development Partners as facilitators to the process, should be encouraged.

Proposed Target 17.10- promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO including through the conclusion of negotiations within its Doha Development Agenda

There is general support for this proposed target which reflects the objectives of the World Trade Organization (WTO), of which Jamaica is a member. Jamaica supports a universal multilateral trading system (MTS) under the WTO as broad-based, representative membership is important in an organization such as this to ensure that the MTS responds to the concerns of different categories of countries, for example, LDCs, developing countries, recently acceded members, etc. The conclusion of the Doha Round negotiations should build on the existing open, non-discriminatory MTS by concluding agreements in the different areas covered under the Round that serve to enhance the rules-based, non-discriminatory nature of the MTS.

Jamaica has undertaken legally binding commitments in the WTO in both goods and services. In doing so, we have undertaken not to breach these commitments. Additionally, there have also been efforts to amend and/or introduce various pieces of legislation and put in place the requisite institutional framework in order to implement the WTO Agreements. One good example of this is the introduction of legislation and the establishment of the Anti-dumping and Subsidies Commission allowing this body to undertake dumping and subsidies investigations. Jamaica has also undertaken the reform of our trade and legal regimes; continued to develop expertise in foreign trade policy; and continued our institution building.

Proposed Target 17.11- increase significantly the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the LDC share of global exports by 2020

Jamaica supports Target 17.11 as this would assist in narrowing the country's overall trade deficit as imports currently continue to outstrip exports. Jamaica would also support this target as we have undertaken programmes aimed at strengthening and expanding domestic productive capacity and diversifying trade and export markets.

This is further elaborated in Vision 2030 Jamaica and the MTF aimed at increasing exports and export performance as part of the thrust to mainstream trade into national development plans and policies bearing in mind the importance of trade to the Jamaican economy.

Under the WTO there is also the Aid for Trade Strategy (Aft) which is aimed at increasing the level of participation of developing countries and LDCs in the multilateral trading system through building their trade and export capacity. Jamaica has in place its National Aid for Trade Strategy entitled 'Partnership Towards Sustained Economic Growth and Development' which identifies those areas, namely network infrastructure, competitiveness, export diversification and trade development, for external support and intervention. The full and effective implementation of the National Aid for Trade Strategy is dependent on donor support and access to grant funding. However, Jamaica's experience with the implementation of the Strategy has been that: (i) identifying and securing funding has been challenging; and (ii) because of our high debt to GDP ratio Jamaica has limited fiscal space to absorb further debt even at concessionary rates and the pool of grant funding is receding for middle income countries, such as Jamaica. CARICOM has a similar Aid for Trade Strategy which was launched in 2013 and it is likely to face the same challenges as Jamaica in terms of financing.

Proposed Target 17.12- realize timely implementation of duty-free, quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries consistent with WTO decisions, including through ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from LDCs are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

In respect of Target 17.12, Jamaica is normally supportive of initiatives in the WTO aimed at enhancing the participation of LDCs in the multilateral trading system. It is normally the developed countries and developing countries in a position to do so which are requested to provide duty-free and quota-free (DF/QF) access to the exports of LDCs. Countries such as Jamaica are not normally requested to provide DFQF to LDCs.

Proposed Target 17.13 – Enhance global macroeconomic stability including through policy coordination and policy coherence

Proposed Target 17.14 – Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development

Local Strategy

- The recommendation is that 17.13 and 17.14 be merged based on the congruence of the ultimate goal which is to facilitate sustainable development. The suggestion is for it to read: **enhance global, regional and national macroeconomic stability including through policy and programme coordination and policy coherence for sustainable development.**
- Concerted action will be needed to strengthen and broaden the national consultative process across governmental agencies and with civil society organisations. As part of this consultative process there should be formalised interaction and increased dialogue with the ministry responsible for finance and the Ministries that deal with social issues, prior to the finalisation of the national budget and signing of any international arrangements which will impact national development efforts.
- Ensure coherence and coordination of national policies and processes, including processes developed and implemented for macro-economic stabilisation.

International

- Increased lobbying efforts should be undertaken to ensure a stronger voice and presence of MICs in the programmes and policies of IFIs particularly at the decision-making level, by building stronger alliances with developed country partners which can exert influence on the management of these institutions.

Proposed Target 17.15- respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Local strategy

To enable effective implementation of policies and programmes for poverty eradication and sustainable development there is a need for a more joined-up approach to providing government services. The launch of the comprehensive Social Protection Strategy is a clear commitment of the government to coordinate and streamline its social protection. Further strengthening is required to ensure policy coherence for effective sustainable development.

Greater coordination is required among development partners operating within the country. This will require greater scrutiny by relevant governmental MDAs to ensure that programmes and projects being implemented by these organisations are in line with the national development priorities of the country. In addition, mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure that these organisations operate in a manner, which enables the country to gain the greatest benefit from their presence.

It is particularly important to have local government authorities included in the efforts to coordinate policies and programmes slated for implementation within their jurisdiction.

International strategy

At the international level, there should be some qualitative indicator which would allow for measurement, as accounting for respect of a country's policy space and leadership takes into account their sovereignty and the will of the citizens to pursue a particular path of development. Development aid and other forms of international assistance should not be used as a means of undue influence on the direction of the society.

Proposed Target 17.16 - enhance the global partnerships for sustainable development complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships. In particular, enhance those partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries.

Local strategy

Enhancing global partnerships for sustainable development is critical for Jamaica. The need for greater emphasis on joined up government, as well as the development of a local framework to monitor and evaluate the effect of partnership agreements on the sustainable development of the country is a necessary step to achieve these internationally agreed development goals.

International strategy

Greater effort should be made to mobilise the global community to honour existing arrangements to facilitate the sustainable development of developing countries, as well as to develop new partnership arrangements with non-traditional donor countries and regional and international bodies.

Proposed Target 17.17- Encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Local strategy

Consistent with Vision 2030 Jamaica, people are central to development of the Agenda. Therefore, empowerment of local government authorities is key to its achievement. In that regard, the following areas are highlighted for improvement:

- Greater coordination of the work of national authorities
- Building capacity and empowering local government authorities to carry out effectively their mandate

- Strengthen relations between local government authorities and local communities
- Develop an effective management, monitoring and evaluation mechanism, an early warning system, to ensure that partnership arrangements are working in accordance with provisions of the agreement, and that due regard is being paid to national development strategy
- Strengthen the regulatory and policy frameworks to facilitate more effective partnership agreements
- Provide an enabling environment for the involvement of rural communities in the development process.

International strategy

Greater coordination at the global level is important to ensure that international partnership agreements are honoured and that national priorities are respected in the implementation of programmes.

The following actions have been identified as critical to strengthening the implementation framework for the new development agenda:

- New and additional predictable financial resources
- A concrete framework for enhancing the implementation of sustainable development
- Provision of environmentally sound and appropriate technologies
- Financing for development through multilateral, bilateral and triangular cooperation
- Commitment to the Rio+20 processes and the Post-2015 Development Agenda
- Commitment to and support for High-level Political Forum (HLPF)
- Increased support for implementation and reporting on multilateral environmental agreements

- Balanced integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development
- Climate Technology Centre and Network
- Science Technology and Innovation (STI) for sustainable development
- Statistics and data gathering
- Scaled up support for resilience-building and provision of financing for early warning systems
- Community empowerment particularly for vulnerable groups
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Sustainable agriculture and rural development to promote food and nutrition security
- Poverty eradication, promoting a people-centred approach
- Health – NCDs and CDs

Achievement of the SDGs, however elaborated, will require the establishment of a global body and a national coordinating entity. It is proposed that this national coordinating body would be responsible for establishing a local mechanism for disseminating information on the SDGs; monitor and evaluate local and national implementation; as well as provide timely and necessary feedback on the country's performance, at all levels.

At the international level, states should advocate for a global mechanism, to provide international assessment on the actions of member countries of the UN with respect to implementation of policy and programmes to achieve the SDGs. It must be underscored, however, the vagueness with which this goal is written will serve to frustrate all efforts to achieve the desired results and may have a similar fate as Goal 8 of the MDGs.

Proposed Target 17.18- “ By 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts”

Proposed Target 17.19- “ by 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP, and support statistical capacity building in developing countries.

Jamaica supports both Proposed Goals 17.18 and 17.19. There was, however, some discussion in respect of the relevance of the word ‘race’ in the target as it was felt by some that ‘ethnicity’ covered our issues in Jamaica as it relates to data management.

Jamaica supports these targets given the following:

- current weaknesses in collecting, tracking, monitoring, evaluating and usage of data
- need for one integrated framework for data so that data can be collected and used across Departments, Ministries and Agencies
- capacity building needs within STATIN
- data analysis capacity building, general training
- internet access and lack of access to data in Jamaica

I. Proposed examples of mechanisms to facilitate capacity include:

- client management systems
- complete road mapping and data collecting services
- more Geoinformatics
- broadband for tax authorities to be refined
- implementation of the National Health Information System (NHIS)

The MTF 2012-2015 is the current expression of the medium-term development priorities for Jamaica under Vision 2030 Jamaica and details the most important actions to be implemented under the priority national outcomes and priority areas of focus.

II. Targets in the Vision 2030 Jamaica related to data monitoring and accountability are to:

- Undertake modernisation of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics System
- Complete implementation of Central Treasury Management System (CTMS)
- Improve and rationalise tax administration and payment process

III. The partnership agreements that are related to the achievement of these targets are:

- CARICOM- Streamlining database for cultural practitioners
- Jamaica Crime Observatory funded by CSJP
- National Health Information System (NHIS) funded by PAHO

It was noted that there are no international arrangements for labour and that this needs to be addressed. Jamaica currently relies heavily on technical assistance from the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

IV. The following will be required at the global, regional and national level to ensure effective implementation and success of the goals and targets in data monitoring and accountability:

- National Identification System (NIDS) - (finalising the implementation of the NIDS which seeks to ensure that every Jamaica citizen and resident's identity is verified and assured. The NIDS once implemented will: (i) improve efficiency in administering and monitoring social protection benefits from the state; protect democracy; and improve crime management and identity theft. Coordination of the relevant arms of government including the RGD, Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Tax Administration; the Electoral Office of Jamaica; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Education; Ministry of National Security; and Ministry of Justice will foster greater inter-institutional coordination and greater commitment to a rights-based approach

- Tax Registration Number (TRN) at birth
- Data quality control mechanisms to improve data collection to improve accuracy including:
 - **Institutional Linkages and Policies** –create coherent and coordinated government policies that promote and facilitate effective and efficient communication and information sharing across existing stakeholder agencies directly involved in registration and vital statistics data management.
 - **Data Collection and Management** – lack of coordination among the agencies that currently collect vital information on death in Jamaica. Intra-agency processing backlogs have created difficulties in tying reported deaths to birth records and a chronic problem of underreporting death.
 - **Human Resources and Training** – modernization of the civil registration and vital statistics system requires the physical and human resources to adequately carry forward its mission. This component aims to strengthen the CR&VS staff with the skills and competencies necessary to carry forward the work of the stakeholder agencies.

Data, Monitoring and Accountability and Capacity Building conclusions

The High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda called for a “data revolution” and the creation of a global partnership on data focussing the attention of the international community on the development of national, regional and international statistics, which is recognised as one of the cornerstones of development. The Group discussion underscored the need for a renewed and strengthened global partnership for mobilising resources to ensure the continuity of the process of information gathering, access to statistical information and open dissemination of results. Statistics obtained in this manner, together with accountability, will facilitate evidence-based decision-making.

The discussion also revealed that any plans to strengthen national statistical capacities and synergies need the commitment of the international statistical community and cooperation agencies to generate agreements that facilitate implementation and ensure effectiveness of their actions. These should be consistent with national statistical development strategies which consider the national and regional outlooks for their design and implementation in response to common challenges.

Generally, the GOJ must facilitate the following:

- strengthen the country's core data collection, analysis, and use/build institutions that can produce accurate, unbiased data
- strengthen national, regional and global capacities to develop new indicators
- secure financial and technical support to strengthen civil registries and in general national statistics systems
- prioritise the core attributes of data building blocks: Accuracy, timeliness, relevance, availability and create visibility for progress in this regard.

The observations by the Group suggest that the GOJ must raise its stock of human capital through investment in health, education, science and technology policies. Infrastructure Development for training and performers in the cultural field was also identified as important to ensure the sustainable development of Jamaica.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Post-2015 Development Agenda requires robust data systems to inform evidence-based decision-making and planning supported by effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E). This section presents a general overview of the approaches to M&E within the framework of development planning in Jamaica, with specific focus on the relevance of the approaches to this global framework and the interrelated strengths and gaps in national planning and data systems. It includes examination of the local adaptations of international models for Results-Based Management and Managing for Development Results (MfDR) to guide systems for planning and M&E.

Since its independence in 1962, Jamaica has made important strides towards sovereign state development within structured planning frameworks. Over the last decade, international, regional and local paradigms and approaches to development have included greater focus on development planning, and the role of M&E as critical tools in ensuring that evidence-based decision-making is a core element of development planning frameworks. In 2009, Jamaica embarked upon the implementation of its first long-term development plan, *Vision 2030 Jamaica – National Development Plan* that utilises a Results-based Management Framework (RBM) to guide the process of achieving developed country status by 2030. The vision statement “Jamaica, the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business” encapsulates the holistic focus of the plan that aims to utilize evidence-based planning, and monitoring and evaluation of progress to address micro, meso and macro level development concerns. This is intended to strengthen state and local governance, and improve participatory democratic processes – that will effectively integrate development efforts at the community, regional and national levels – to achieve sustainable inclusive development. The link between evidence-based planning and

assessment of progress is strengthened by the utilization of a periodically updated indicator framework and three-year strategic policy and action plans entitled the MTF.

Jamaica is an active participant in the unprecedented process of global consultations and country participation to develop internationally relevant development goals for a post-2015 development agenda, which will establish targets ending 2030. The international process of development planning is highly aligned with the RBM framework of Vision 2030 Jamaica that comprises indicators and targets for the years 2012, 2015 and 2030 that were established based on extensive stakeholder consultations. There is also close alignment between the outcome areas resulting from the various deliberations on the post-2015 development agenda and the outcomes under Vision 2030 Jamaica. Vision 2030 Jamaica was utilized as the framework for agenda and priority setting for the local consultations on the post-2015 development agenda. This facilitated an easier integration of the agreed outcomes and targets of the post-2015 development agenda in: (1) the national development planning framework; and (2) systems for monitoring and evaluation of the achievement of development outcomes. The discussions on the post-2015 development agenda is also timely as Jamaica is currently moving towards commencing preparatory work on the MTF 2015-2018 and so the outcomes of this process can be more readily incorporated in national development planning.

International and regional collaborations in improving monitoring and evaluation systems as part of Results-based Management (RBM) and/or Managing for Development Results (MfDR) have also been utilizing similar participatory and partner-based approaches as that adopted to formulate the post-2015 development agenda. These efforts are largely intended to promote the institutionalization of evidence-based management cultures and international standards for data quality and management. The papers and deliberations of various working groups and regional groupings on the post-2015 development agenda have given focus to the need for development of capacity in the area of “data, monitoring

and accountability” systems as an important element of the “Means of Implementation”. An issue of high priority within the discourse is increased access to quality data disaggregated, particularly for variables that represent cross-cutting areas of focus such as gender, age, disability and other country specific relevant variables. “Data, Monitoring and Accountability” is a sub-heading under Goal 17 – “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for Sustainable Development” of the proposed goals from the OWG. Two targets have also been proposed.

Proposed Target 17.18 – by 2020, enhance capacity building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

Proposed Target 17.19 – by 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement GDP, and support statistical capacity building in developing countries

The importance of “Data, Monitoring and Accountability” to the achievement of the post-2015 development goals is demonstrated by the UN Secretary-General’s appointment of an ***Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development***, to present recommendations on measures to “close data gaps and to strengthen national statistical capacities”³¹. This followed the 2013 call for a data revolution by the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Goals. There has been international support for this call; and a Road Map for a data revolution to support the post-2015 development process is to be completed under “The Informing a Data Revolution (IDR) Project”, supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF)³².

³¹Source: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsId=48594#.VASmBqNeLAK>

³²Source: <http://www.paris21.org/advocacy/informing-a-data-revolution>

**Examination of Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Frameworks -
Results-based Management (RBM) & Managing for Development Results (MfDR)**

Results-based Management (RBM) gives focus to the achievement of development results, which includes national outcomes and impacts. It represents a shift from operationalizing development programme success by the completion of activities and achievement of planned outputs, which may not lead to the achievement of the intended national development results. The RBM framework of Vision 2030 Jamaica includes 84 national strategies, 15 national outcomes and relevant indicators, and four (4) national goals. RBM is evident in the hierarchical alignment of the national strategies, outcomes and goals - (1) subsets of national strategies collectively indicate the achievement of national outcomes; (2) and the achievement of sub-sets of national outcomes indicate the achievement of national goals.



Vision 2030 Jamaica’s national indicator framework is supported by sectoral indicator frameworks; and efforts are currently underway to develop comprehensive indicator frameworks that clearly establish linkages between national outcome indicators and sectoral performance indicators (outputs, process and outcomes). PAHO/WHO is working

with the Health Thematic Working Group (under Vision 2030 Jamaica) led by the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) to provide technical assistance for the creation of a comprehensive indicator framework for health, which will support the National Health Information System (NHIS), and M&E for the health sector and Vision 2030 Jamaica. This comprehensive health indicator framework will measure performance of the health system as well as monitor the health status of the population. Other Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) are also engaged in capacity building to strengthen and support their systems for data quality; management; and monitoring and evaluation.

Results-based Management (RBM) has enhanced the approach to development planning in Jamaica. It has also promoted increased recognition of the importance of data, statistics, information and knowledge in effective evidence-based decision-making; and has positioned M&E as a necessary element of development planning and management. The use of RBM within Jamaica's development planning framework demonstrates alignment with the global approach to the monitoring and evaluation of progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the approach to M&E applied in discussions on the post-2015 agenda. RBM is also a critical element of the development planning and M&E framework utilized by the UN system; and is one of the five core mutually reinforcing UN Country Programming Principles that must be applied in preparing a United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

RBM is an important element of the global focus on Managing for Development Results (MfDR) or Managing for Results (MfR). Globally, work relating to MfDR has centered on three main areas: "(1) Strengthening country capacity to manage for results; (2) Improving the relevance and effectiveness of aid; (3) and Fostering a Global Partnership"³³. These three areas have been identified as areas of focus under Goal 17.

³³Source: <http://www.mfdr.org/1About.html>

Within the Jamaican development context, recognition of the critical importance of MfDR, to improve state governance and the achievement of national development goals, has increasingly grown. Efforts to build Jamaica's capacity to Manage for Development Results have been represented in a number of initiatives, including:

- the **Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES)** examines the development results - outcomes and impacts - of government policies, projects and programmes to inform evidence based-decision making and improve government performance³⁴. It comprises “an improved system for the setting of performance goals; selecting useful performance indicators and targets; reporting on results; and implementing the core components of the Managing for Results Programme”³⁵.
- the **Performance Management Appraisal System (PMAS)**, which is a system for “performance management and evaluation” in the public sector. The PMAS is part of efforts to modernize the public sector and improve service delivery through standard setting, effective staff appraisal systems, and frameworks for human resource development³⁶.
- the **Public Investment Management System (PIMS)**, which will contribute to enhanced fiscal governance as part of a “comprehensive public financial management reform agenda”. The PIMS “*is the common framework for the preparation, appraisal, approval and management of all public investments in*”

³⁴Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) Framework Document, 2010; Page 4

³⁵Source: Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) Framework Document; Performance Management and Evaluation Unit, Cabinet Support and Policy Division, Cabinet Office, 2010, pgs. 2-3

³⁶http://www.cabinet.gov.jm/current_initiatives/performance_management_appraisal_system_pmas

Jamaica, irrespective of the source of funding or procurement and implementation modalities” (FAA Act, Section 48B)³⁷.

- the **Whole-of-Government Business Plan** is part of efforts to improve state management and governance through improved coordination in the public sector by aligning the three year strategic plans/work programmes of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ‘national goals, government’s strategic priorities, and performance indicators’. The Whole-of Government Business Plan is to reflect the strategic policy priorities of the Government which are aligned to the Medium Term Socio-Economic Policy Framework (MTF) and the wider Vision 2030 Jamaica process.
- the **JAMStats Database** houses “strategically important” data on important social and economic indicators and provides data to inform national frameworks and commitments³⁸. Time series data related to the national indicator framework of Vision 2030 Jamaica are housed in the JAMSTATS Database.
- efforts to formulate a **National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) and establishment of a National Statistics System (NSS)** will lead to effective national coordination and governance of statistical arrangements to improve data quality (including access, relevance, timeliness and scope) and facilitate institutionalization of a culture of MfDR.

These initiatives represent a focus on using quality data and statistics to inform evidence-based decision making: (1) to effectively align, manage and govern long term development

³⁷Source: Ministry of Finance and Planning, Kingston, Jamaica - Sensitisation Session on the Public Investment Management System (PIMS)

³⁸Source: <http://www.jamstats.gov.jm/Overview/tabid/61/Default.aspx>

planning; (2) to align the allocation of state financial, monetary, and human resources with government-wide policy, operational and programme/project priorities; (3) to monitor the effectiveness and efficiency of all government programmes and use of resources in achieving intended development results; (4) and for strategic planning and effective state management in the short and medium to long-term.

However, Jamaica has identified weaknesses in national data and statistical systems that undermine efforts regarding MfDR. While the National Statistics Office (NSO), Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN), produces high quality official statistics in accordance with international standards, including its system of National Accounts, its effectiveness is also stymied by these weaknesses in the overall framework for data quality and management. Some of the main challenges are: lack of a clearly defined governance framework for national statistics; lack of a coordinated national statistical system and supporting legislation; variations in data quality; lack of standardization and harmonization of key statistical concepts and processes; inadequate accessibility to statistics and data; and an inadequate evidence-based or knowledge culture. These challenges negatively impact on the quality of data housed in the JAMSTATS Database that is utilized to assess progress in achieving the MDGs and Vision 2030 Jamaica. The JAMSTATS database utilizes the DevInfo database system managed by UNICEF. DevInfo is used for monitoring human development and was endorsed by the United Nations (UN) in 2004 as a tool for monitoring progress in achieving the MDGs. The JAMSTATS Database will play a lead role in monitoring progress in achieving the post-2015 development goals and, therefore, the quality of data it houses is of critical importance.

The international-led localized focus on statistical system coordination, including the significance of 'Big Data' and 'Open Data', is also integrated with systems for more effective governance and data management, such as the proposed National Identification System (NIDS) and the work of the Vital Statistics Commission to modernize civil registration

systems and vital statistics. The NIDS Project has strengthened policy focus on a number of key areas required for more efficient and effective state management and governance, including: (1) a strong civil registration system and vital statistics; (2) interoperability of government data management systems for effective data sharing and exchange; and (3) capacity building in data storage, warehousing, management and security for effective and secure data access and mining.

Examples – Alignment of Local and Global Systems for Monitoring and Evaluation

High level alignment of local and global systems for the monitoring, evaluation and reporting on development results is quite evident; and the examples below illustrate this:

- The efforts to establish a National Statistics System (NSS) are integrated in regional efforts at statistical capacity building (CARICOM, ECLAC) and aligned with the Statistical Capacity Building Indicators (SCBIs, 2002) of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21). PARIS21 was founded in 1999 through a partnership between the United Nations (UN), European Commission (EC), Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. The SCBIs are aligned with the IMF's Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF) and the UN Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (1994-2013) and Revised Preamble (2013). The work of PARIS 21 has important interrelations with the process of formulating Jamaica's position regarding the post-2015 development agenda, particularly in relation to the SIDS agenda. This is evident in PARIS 21's collaboration with the Government of Samoa to host a "Forum on Advancing Statistical Development in SIDS in the Post-2015 Era", which was held on September 1, 2014 as a 'side-event' at the 3rd International Conference on SIDS. The Forum examined statistical development in small island states in the Pacific, Caribbean and Indian Ocean to inform strategies for strengthened partnerships regarding statistical development and capacity building of national statistics systems in the SIDS.

- The PMES is a core element of an “Integrated Managing for Results (MfR) Programme”³⁹ that forms part of the Jamaican government’s efforts to strength RBM in state management processes. The MfR programme which has been supported through the Inter-American Bank’s PRODEV II Programme has four components: “Enhancing the Accountability Framework; improving the linkages between Planning and Budgeting; Modernizing Government’s Financial Management Systems; and Improving Institutional Performance Management and Evaluation”⁴⁰.

The GOJ has achieved significant milestones and is still working to build its capacity for RBM and MfDR as part of the monitoring and evaluation of progress in achieving local, regional and international development goals.

³⁹Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) Framework Document, 2010; Page 1

⁴⁰Performance Monitoring and Evaluation System (PMES) Framework Document, 2010; Page 1

