



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

41st SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION

ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT
NEW YORK - APRIL 7-11, 2008

Statement to be delivered by

Mr. Easton Williams
Jamaican Delegation Member

On

Tuesday, 8th April 2008

Agenda Item 4: General debate on the contribution of the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, in all its aspects, to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

Theme: Population Distribution, Urbanization, Internal Migration and Development

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica extends heartiest congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election. You can rely on our full support and cooperation in your efforts to guide the Commission to a successful outcome during its 41st Session.

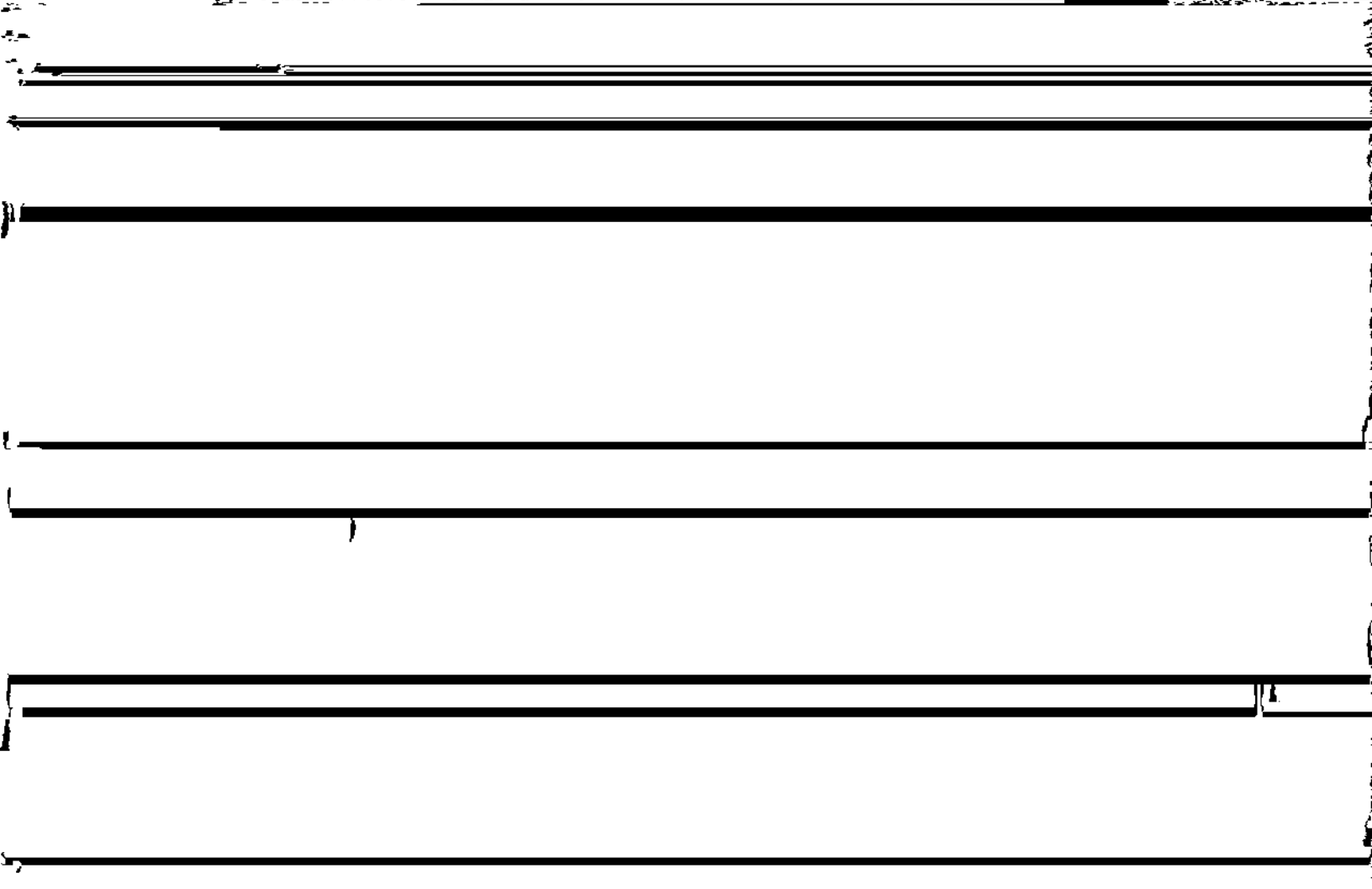
Mr. Chairman,

Over the past 20 years, much emphasis has been placed on issues relating to reproductive health, poverty, HIV/AIDS, ageing and more recently, international migration. It is therefore fitting that the issues relating to the theme for the 41st Session - urbanization, internal migration and development – is now being accorded the prominence they deserve. There remains much room however, for integration of these issues in policy formulation and planning. The lack of timely,

which has captivated this interest. This is the first time that the Government has diverted from its customary path of short-term five-year planning, to long-term horizons.

This shift has necessitated a renewed emphasis on sustainable development and the primacy of population distribution, urbanization and internal migration matters in the planning process. It should be noted that Jamaica has also embarked on the construction and use of a long-term general equilibrium model (better known as T21) being facilitated by the Millennium Development Institute for providing policy guidance as we move towards attaining developed country status. As you may be aware, population factors including population distribution are central in the T21 family of models.

Mr. Chairman,
The UNFPA State of the World Population Report 2007 focusing



In an effort to make a difference, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), which is under the auspices of Office of the Prime

particularly those in the English speaking Caribbean reflect Jamaica

proportions of persons in absolute poverty than those in rural areas. Absolute poverty in Jamaica is measured by a standard basket of goods and services for a family of five persons - two adults and three children. A national household sample survey has been conducted annually over the past twenty years to provide the relevant data on poverty and other variables on living conditions.

Mr. Chairman,

In concluding, we acknowledge that the task ahead is daunting and the resources required for urban planning and development are enormous. However, we are convinced that our enhanced understanding and continued assessment of the urbanization internal