



Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation extends heartiest congratulations to you on your election to the Chair of

~~the 15th Session of the Commission. We also extend sincere congratulations to the other~~

members of the Bureau on their election. Please convey our appreciation to the Secretariat for the excellent documentation provided for the Session. We are assured that under your able and steadfast chairmanship we will achieve all the objectives that we have set out for this Session.

Mr. Chairman,

On a demographic level, Jamaica's population is far advanced in its transition to low birth and death rates. The total fertility rate is around 2.4 children per woman and the

~~total mortality rate is around 16 per 1,000 population. High birth and death rates~~

- A Trafficking in Persons Act
- A Child Care and Protection Act

The Government has also drafted, and is in the process of finalising, a National Plan of Action on Children and Violence and tabled a Bill in Parliament for the re-admission to educational institutions for Adolescents who have been pregnant. We have also undertaken major institutional reforms, including the establishment of a National Centre

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica is among the countries in the Caribbean and elsewhere which historically have

health care system. Major efforts are still necessary if we are to achieve the MDG goal of

universal access to essential health services for all people and growth by 2015

For example, at the university level, women comprise about 70 to 80 percent of all graduates. Women have been making significant in-roads in occupations that were once dominated by men. Women now dominate the professional, technical and administrative

among female adolescents and youth is twice that of their male counterparts. From a