



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

MISS ANDREA L. M. WILSON
COUNSELLOR

ON

AGENDA ITEM 28 (A) ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND
(B) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FOURTH WORLD
CONFERENCE ON WOMEN AND OF THE TWENTY-THIRD SPECIAL
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE
OF THE 67TH SESSION OF THE U.N.G.A.

NEW YORK

TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2012

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TUESDAY, 19 OCTOBER 2012

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honor to address this Committee on Trade and Development on behalf of the delegation of Jamaica. My delegation agrees with the statements made by Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China (plus) on behalf of the Community of Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAC) and Guyana on behalf of CARICOM. I intend to make an intervention on issues which Jamaica considers to be of particular importance and to briefly outline the Government of Jamaica's main efforts in promoting the advancement of women.

I wish to extend my gratitude to the Secretariat for providing the relevant reports which will guide our discussion on the issues presented.

Mr. Chairman,

Seventeen (17) years have passed since the adoption of Beijing Platform for Action, while there has been some tangible progress in global efforts aimed at promoting women's access to education, health care, employment and other opportunities. However, much more needs to be done. The world development report 2012 on gender equality has identified several areas in which greater attention is required, including: to improve women's access to economic opportunities and earnings, for women, and to close the productivity gap between men and women.

It is noted that the global financial crisis, the food crisis, the adverse effects of climate change and the scourge of war and civil strife in some regions of the world have undermined the efforts made by States in implementing their national policies on advancing the rights of women, and remains an imminent threat to the advancement of women. This is particularly so in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in particular, those which have been classified as upper middle income countries and who are experiencing a significant shift in funding towards the attainment of Millennium Development Goal 3. The consequences of such a classification have exacerbated the plight of women residing in the countries concerned; the majority whom are from a poor working class background. In addition, the shift in some countries of their priorities

families. In light of this, I urge the International Community to guard against eroding the gains made in the high standards for girls, all-power women, and girls, by addressing the iniquitous methods of identification of States.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica remains concerned about the high level of exploitation of, and violence against women, especially with regard to the trafficking of women and young girls, sex workers, traffickers as commodities to be traded on the underground market. It is in this regard, that Jamaica, as a country, has developed the most vulnerable society, has developed a

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica continues to make significant progress in the area of gender equality. In this our country, women have exceeded expectations and have achieved places in the highest echelons of society, including the first female Prime Minister. The fact that women represent 52% of those employed in the public sector and are the majority of those employed as professional, senior officials and technicians is indicative of the Government of Jamaica's commitment to its international obligations in ensuring that women's equality and equality provided for.

Mr. Chairman,

Several leadership positions within the public sector are held by women, prime examples of which are the positions of the Auditor General, Director of Public Prosecutions. Our zeal in advancing the rights of women across all sectors of the society, in education, girls at the primary, secondary and tertiary level graduate approximately at the same level as boys and at the tertiary level women graduate at higher rates than men. In health, the Government of Jamaica has tasked itself to reduce maternal mortality to achieve a rate of 36 per 100,000 live births, an approximation of 91% of pregnant women in Jamaica

received by women are delivered by skilled professionals. In social security, the Government of Jamaica has implemented various measures to ensure that the most vulnerable women within the society are socially secure. The most notable measure is that of the PATH programme established in 2002. The PATH programme provides cash grants to the most vulnerable families in order to pay for health and education for children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. In commerce, the establishment of the *Women Business Owners Jamaica Limited* (WBOJL) has provided women business owners with the requisite training in business principles, market research, mentorship and networking in developing businesses and towards strengthening entrepreneurship skills.

In closing Mr. Chairman

Let me assure you that although our country is limited in its financial resources and riddled with many social challenges, Jamaica remains resolute in the pursuit of eradicating poverty in all sectors of the society. It is this opportunity that we seek to leverage the strength and fortitude of our women, who despite the many challenges, have remained resilient and has made an invaluable contribution to the development of our country.

receive quality antenatal care at least once during pregnancy and approximately 75% of births are delivered by skilled professionals. In social security, the Government has implemented various measures to ensure that the most vulnerable women within the society are socially secure. The most notable measure is that of the PATH programme established in 2002. The PATH programme provides cash grants to the most vulnerable families in support of health and education for children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. In contrast, the establishment of the Women Business Owner Jamaica Trust (WBOJ) in 2003, has provided women business owners with the requisite training in business principles and practices; research, mentorship and networking in developing business enterprises and towards strengthening entrepreneurship skills.

In closing Mr. Chairman,

Let me assure you, that although a country limited in its financial resources and plagued with many social challenges, Jamaica remains resolute in the goal of eliminating gender disparity in all sectors of the society. I take this opportunity also to acknowledge the strength and fortitude of our women, who despite the many challenges, have remained resilient and has made an invaluable contribution to the development of our country.