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AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

UNITED NATIONS
THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PALAIS DES NATIONS – 1211, GENEVA 10, SWITZERLAND

17 June 2026

Madam,

I have the honour to refer to the fourth cycle review of Jamaica by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group at its 50th session in November 2025. As the final outcome report on the review of Jamaica was recently adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 61st session, I have taken note of the efforts of Jamaica to implement specific recommendations since the previous review.

A matrix of thematically clustered recommendations, starting with those supported by Jamaica, is available at OHCHR's website (https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/jm-index) and should be considered as part of this letter. The matrix indicates the recommending State and links each recommendation to relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In annex, I have also attached my Office's observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the UPR. In line with previous practice, I will be sending similar observations to all Member States once their fourth cycle UPR outcome is adopted by the Human Rights Council, with a view to follow-up action in close cooperation with national entities and other stakeholders.

I take this opportunity to draw your attention to the support available through the Voluntary Fund for UPR Implementation, which may be activated at the request and with the consent of a concerned State, along with tools such as the "UPR practical guidance" and the "UN good practices" repository on how the UPR process supports sustainable development, available at https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/upr-main, with a view to facilitating efforts to implement UPR recommendations in line with the SDGs.

Please accept, Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Volker Türk

Her Excellency
Ms. Kamina Johnson Smith, JP
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica

Observations in light of the outcome of the fourth cycle of the Universal Periodic Review

Considering the information provided by the delegation of Jamaica during the UPR, positive note is taken of the country's achievements in reducing poverty rates, the reported drop in crime rates, and historically low unemployment rates. The alignment of the National Development Plan, Vision 2030 Jamaica, with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, guided by human rights-based principles and stakeholder participation, is welcomed.

Other positive developments include the establishment of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, which provides dedicated institutional focus on human rights issues, as well as the adoption of the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence and the Gender and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan 2022–2025, the renewal of which would be important. Measures aimed at protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and older persons, as well as efforts to combat trafficking in children, are also welcomed. In addition, the delegation's announcement of plans to amend the Sexual Offences Act (2009) to broaden the definition of marital rape is encouraging.

While due note is taken of challenges arising from Hurricane Melissa and the constraints faced by Jamaica as a climate vulnerable small island developing State, the country is urged to consider the human rights concerns and recommendations raised during the review. In this regard, Jamaica is encouraged to reconsider its position with a view to ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and other core treaties. Furthermore, the review highlighted the need for the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation to prohibit all forms of discrimination.

Recalling Jamaica's acceptance of recommendations, during the last two UPR cycles, to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles, the country is encouraged to expedite the process, including through the provision of technical assistance by OHCHR.

Jamaica is also encouraged to develop an implementation plan in follow-up to the UPR outcome, in close consultation and cooperation with all stakeholders, in particular the parliament, the judiciary, local and regional governments, and civil society organizations. The matrix of thematically clustered recommendations may be of use in the development of such an implementation plan. Jamaica is encouraged to explicitly link each UPR recommendation to corresponding recommendations from other international and regional human rights mechanisms and to the relevant SDG and its targets. This will, in turn, facilitate the creation of synergies between UPR

implementation and SDG-related actions and reporting within the context of the Voluntary National Review (VNR).

Jamaica is further encouraged to establish a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, with the aim of ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to reporting to international human rights mechanisms, and to implementing the recommendations, in line with the guidance provided by OHCHR following regional consultations and the High Commissioner's report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/50/64).

Further, an important measure that could positively contribute to follow-up action is voluntary mid-term UPR reporting. All Member States are encouraged to submit a voluntary mid-term UPR report about two years after the adoption of the UPR outcome. In this regard, Jamaica may wish to consider submitting a mid-term report on follow-up to the fourth cycle UPR recommendations by 2028, detailing both implementation efforts as well as challenges to implementation, including the possible need for technical or capacity-building assistance.

OHCHR
June 2026