



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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**AT THE
OPENING SESSION OF
THE STATISTICAL COMMISSION
THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION**

***New York
27 FEBRUARY 2007***

Mr. Chairman, on behalf of Jamaica, I wish to extend congratulations to the United Nations Statistical Commission in the celebration of their 60th anniversary. This occasion is one truly to be proud of as the Commission has played such a significant role in the development of the national statistical systems of countries. The Commission has not only grown in the size of its membership but from strength to strength and its effort at setting and maintaining statistical standards has met with success.

Mr, Chairman, I also extend congratulations and deep appreciation for the support of the United Nations Statistical Division to Jamaica and the other Caribbean countries in advancing their national statistics. Modern technology has also now made this institution not seem so distant but a mere email away. I know that the staff of my institution, the Statistical Institute of Jamaica appreciate that their concerns and questions can be so readily answered within days if not hours, if not minutes.

Mr. Chairman, Jamaica has always been guided by and has set its standard based on guidelines promoted by the United Nations. We have also over the past sixty years witnessed a development of our national statistics. Notwithstanding the strides that we have made, we are facing challenges in meeting the changing demand of our users as witnessed in our effort in developing social indicators. We see the need for and are now striving for a National Statistical System embodied in an integrating and coordinating framework. The sustainability and continuity of our statistical system requires such a framework particularly for a small island state as our self with limited resources.

This commission has a history of 60 years and this is a good time to reflect and assess. What is the vision for the global statistical system in next 20, 30, 40 years? What are the milestones for development of the statistical systems of countries? It is just the statistics that we produced? What can we learn from our past experiences? Are there guidelines to follow for adopting a system of national statistics or a national statistical system that will ensure sustaining statistical capability? These issues are important as the Commission seeks to provide effective international support to build the statistical capacity of countries. Again my congratulations and finally it is my request to the Commission and the UN Statistical Division to continue its effort in building and sustaining statistical capability in all countries.

I thank you.