

**Statement by Miss Tyesha Turner, Deputy Permanent Representative  
of Jamaica to the United Nations and other International  
Organisations at Geneva**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent  
Panel #4: The Second International Decade for People of African  
Descent: Expectations and Challenges - 18 April 2024**

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The Government of Jamaica strongly supports the proclamation of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent. As the curtain falls on the First International Decade, the current global social, economic, cultural and political realities are far removed from our ambition of the full realisation of the human rights of people of African Descent. Despite the efforts at the global, regional and national levels, full recognition, justice and development for people of African Descent remain out of reach.

The race has not been fully run, and so we must pass the baton to the Second Decade, with early attention given to assessing the impact of the First Decade, for an informed and focused approach to the efforts of the Second International Decade. Central to Jamaica's efforts in this regard is the pursuit of reparatory justice, including internal reparations geared at the re-enfranchisement, re-construction and reconciliation of our people.

The international community should maintain the momentum gained over these past 10 years. In this regard, **we recommend a high-level meeting of the UN or UNGA Special Session on the experience of the First Decade, including on reparations. We further recommend that adequate and predictable funding be dedicated to the full implementation of the activities of the Second International Decade.** Jamaica also reiterates its call for an action plan which is fully focused on economic empowerment and sustainable growth and development of our peoples.

**Moderator,** the success of a Second Decade requires effective partnerships, including in advocacy and funding. The Government of Jamaica remains committed to this initiative and supports the work of the Permanent Forum in this regard.