

## **Statement on Jamaica VNR 2022- NGO Major Group representative**

Dear Moderator,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the VNR report from Jamaica.

As Civil Society Organizations we are important partners in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are encouraged by our country's commitment to presenting the 2022 Voluntary National Report (VNR).

It is understood that civil society organizations can participate in, influence and contribute to the VNR-related processes – in order to support SDG16+ implementation and accountability. However, at this time, there is no current awareness of citizen-led engagement strategies or spotlight reports that may have contributed to the national review process for Jamaica.

Currently the extent to which CSOs are engaged and involved in SDG processes or consultations at the country level, is primarily a part of the multi-stakeholder National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee (NAOC).

The current approach and the operating mechanism of the NAOC as a way of communicating on matters pertaining to the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs offered some opportunities for engagement but we would like to hear how the Government of Jamaica intends to further strengthen civil society participation.

First question: Will the Government of Jamaica put in place a framework for ongoing engagement with stakeholders on sustainable development?

We are focused on ensuring the alignment of GOAL 17 on partnerships with the country's National Development Plan (NDP). Jamaica's VNR has identified data gaps which will require strategic partnerships and funding support, to identify how data is used to address Jamaica's sustainable development efforts.

Second question: Will Jamaica now aim to play a role in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Data?

The VNR report identified the private sector, civil society and the wider citizenry as generators of information useful in plugging existing data gaps. Strengthening the capacities of CSOs will significantly build our capacity as partners in the implementation and monitoring process.

Third question: What plans do you have to provide support for capacity development and access to resources to strengthen the functioning of civil society organizations?