

# PM Calls for Revamping of Global Financial System

**PRIME MINISTER** the Most Hon. Andrew Holness has called for the creation of a revamped system of global, financial and monetary governance that focuses on the most vulnerable groups in society.

The Prime Minister co-convened the event along with the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Hon. Justin Trudeau; and UN Secretary-General, His Excellency António Guterres.

The virtual meeting was aimed at advancing concrete solutions to the development emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Holness said that the pandemic has demonstrated that “every country and every citizen is vulnerable, and to build economic and social resilience, we must rethink the traditional indices of vulnerability”.

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**“This pandemic is a wake-up call for the international community to reinvigorate a comprehensive system of global economic governance.”**

He was addressing the United Nations (UN) Virtual High-Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond on May 28.

## Gov't Preparing Guidelines for Shelters, Emergency Operations

SPECIAL GUIDELINES for shelters and emergency operations are being developed by the Government as it prepares for the upcoming hurricane season while concurrently managing the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

This was disclosed by Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness who said the guidelines are being finalised by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) and the Ministry of Health and Wellness and will be provided to all relevant entities.

“I am directing all entities to ensure their continued heightened readiness and preparedness actions, following the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Wellness and ODPEM,” he said during a virtual meeting of the National Disaster Risk Management Council on May 27.



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness (at podium) addresses a virtual meeting of the National Disaster Risk Management Council on May 27. Also pictured (at left) is Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, while at 2nd left is Minister of Health and Wellness, Dr. the Hon. Christopher Tufton.**

Mr. Holness, who is Chair of the Council, said he has mandated that the re-inspection of shelters be accelerated by Municipal Corporations and other response actors at the local level, given the implications



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness addressing the United Nation's Virtual High Level Event on Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond on May 28.**

inclusive development,” he added.

Mr. Holness says that without such strategic and decisive response, amidst declining economic growth and increasing uncertainty, the social

and economic fallout from the pandemic could persist.

“Access to emergency liquidity support for developing countries, which can least withstand shocks to their economies, is key,” he said.

“Shelter arrangements are of particular importance to the Government, given the COVID-19 measures of social distancing and the potential for the spread of the virus and the impact on the most vulnerable in society,” he noted.

“These would include ensuring that these shelters have isolation areas, so that if... you suspect or confirm that [a user of] the shelter has COVID-19 and they are not able to be taken to a health facility, then at least you would have the provision locally within the facility for isolation,” he said.

The Prime Minister said the Minister of Local Government and Community Development, Hon. Desmond McKenzie, has been leading the re-inspection process.

## JA Receives US\$1M from UN to Strengthen COVID-19 Response

JAMAICA HAS received US\$1 million from the United Nations (UN) to boost the country's response to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic in the areas of health and social services.

The support was provided under the UN's COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF), through which 47 countries across the globe have been earmarked for assistance in enhancing services to crucial and vulnerable populations.

It was launched by the UN Secretary-General to support low- and middle-income programme countries in overcoming the health and development crises caused by the pandemic. The Fund's assistance targets those most vulnerable to economic hardship and social disruption.

UN Resident Coordinator, Mariko Kagoshima, who handed over a cheque to Minister of Foreign Affairs

and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith, on May 27, outlined that US\$600,000 of the support to Jamaica will go towards enhancing social protection mechanisms for women and children as well as the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH).

She said the remaining US\$400,000 will go to the health sector “to support efforts to suppress the transmission of COVID-19, while continuing the provision of basic health services, such as maternal and newborn health, among others”.

Senator Johnson Smith, in her remarks during the brief handover ceremony held at the Ministry's New Kingston office in St. Andrew, said that Jamaica is pleased to accept the funds.

She noted that the UN's special response mechanism is an “excellent undertaking” in its response to “this unparalleled” health crisis.



**Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, Senator the Hon. Kamina Johnson Smith (left), and United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator, Mariko Kagoshima, display a US\$1 million cheque from the UN to support Jamaica's coronavirus COVID-19 response. The handover ceremony was held on May 27, at the Ministry's New Kingston offices in St. Andrew.**

## ICT Infrastructure to be Strengthened

MINISTER OF Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Fayval Williams, has reiterated the Government's commitment to upgrade and strengthen the country's information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure.

“As a Ministry, we are taking the bold steps to strengthen our ICT infrastructure to ensure that Jamaica enters the digital future with modern legislation and that all our citizens will have access to the Internet and information and communications technology,” she said.

Addressing the digital opening ceremony for the launch of the Caribbean Hackathon Competition, on May 28, Mrs. Williams said the Data Protection legislation was recently passed in the House of Representatives to broaden the rights of citizens in a significantly transformed technological landscape.

The Minister noted that the National Public Key Infrastructure Project, which will propel Jamaica towards becoming a truly digital society, will be rolled out soon.



**Minister of Science, Energy and Technology, Hon. Fayval Williams**

Mrs. Williams said the project will enable trusted electronic identities for people, services and things, and make it possible to implement strong authentication, data encryption and digital signatures, based on a certifying authority.

She added that implementation is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

“We are [also] increasing access to public services with mygovjm app that will improve citizens' access to their government, e-participation, e-decision-making and e-access,” she said.

## Floral Tribute for Edward Seaga



**Prime Minister the Most Hon. Andrew Holness lays a floral tribute at the grave of former Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Edward Seaga, during a ceremony held on May 28 at National Heroes Park in Kingston to mark the life and work of the late statesman. Mr. Seaga was the fifth Prime Minister of Jamaica and held the office for two successive terms from 1980 to 1989.**

## Gov't Reviews Vision 2030 National Development Plan

THE GOVERNMENT has commenced work to review and revise the requisite strategic actions for implementing the country's long-term National Development Plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica – in light of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Plan aims to position Jamaica to achieve developed country status, and in the process, make it the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business.

Speaking at a digital quarterly media briefing on May 27, Director General of



**Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Director General, Dr. Wayne Henry.**

the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Dr. Wayne Henry, said the revamping exercise includes revisiting the targets up to 2030 and the period/schedule for achieving the planned outcomes and national development goals.

“This process has commenced with Government-led strategic actions and plans from various sectors, including programme revisions and reviews, in an effort to adapt to the challenges, shocks and risks presented by the global pandemic,” he indicated.

Noting that the Government is not yet in a position to present revised long-term development targets, Dr. Henry said that from the PIOJ's preliminary review of the development targets, it is anticipated that based on projections for the Jamaican and wider global society and economy, “there will be slippages in several indicators”.

These, he noted, include real gross domestic product (GDP), annual growth rate and nominal GDP per capita, and the unemployment rate and poverty prevalence rates.

