Mr. President,

The international mechanism for pushing global development over the last fifteen years - the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - will come to an end in 2015.

As a consequence, over the last two years the international community has been seized with elaborating a new global framework to drive sustainable development beyond 2015.

This year, therefore, is expected to be one of the most pivotal for the global community in the pursuit of sustainable development.

The new sustainable development framework will be formulated from the outcomes of the following four global processes:

- The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), held last September in Samoa;
The Third International Conference on Financing for Development to be held from 13th to 16th July, in Addis Ababa;

The Post-2015 Development Agenda to be adopted at a Summit at United Nations Headquarters in New York in September; and

The 21st Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, late November to early December this year.

Together these four processes reflect the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

The objective of these inter-governmental processes is to agree on an ambitious and transformative development framework, which puts people at the centre of the development exercise and has poverty eradication as a key deliverable.

Jamaica has been actively engaged in all these activities to ensure that our voice contributes to the shaping of the new global agenda.

Mr. President,

Allow me to provide an update on the state of play of each of these processes as well as to inform of Jamaica’s involvement to-date.

SIDS
For small island states like Jamaica, a key building block of the sustainable development process is the recognition that our challenges demand special attention. This case, I believe, was adequately made at the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Apia, Samoa, from 1st to 4th September 2014.

The outcome of the SIDS Conference, called the SAMOA Pathway, reaffirmed the global understanding that SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in view of our unique and peculiar vulnerabilities. The Pathway also outlines the renewed political commitment of the international community to a global partnership and enhanced international cooperation for urgent and concrete actions to address the vulnerabilities of SIDS.

This has given impetus to SIDS to ensure that, in the continued negotiations for the new global sustainable development framework, our positions and interest are duly recognised and addressed. Already, some of our bilateral partners have taken steps to implement the commitments in the Samoa Pathway, through development support in climate change, renewable energy, and capacity building, among others.

The Senate will recall highlights of this Conference from my statement to the Senate in September 2014. My presentation was followed by a post-conference inter-ministerial de-briefing in November 2014, which
has provided the basis for the initiation of the implementation of the Conference decisions by the many different stakeholders who have a role to play at the national level.

**Financing for Development**

**Mr. President,**

The next plank in the shaping of the framework is the Financing for Development Conference to take place in July. The conference outcome, the Addis Ababa Accord, will lay the foundation for development financing over the next decade. The negotiating text for the conference has well over a hundred paragraphs and covers a broad spectrum of development resource mobilisation mechanisms at national, regional and international levels. Issues of particular interest to Jamaica include the treatment of middle income countries, climate financing, debt and debt sustainability, capacity building in science, technology, innovation, entrepreneurship and data support.

The Conference will examine the need to increase funding sources and mechanisms for development, including domestic resource mobilisation. It will also encourage developed countries to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) in order to reach the goal of 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI), a target achieved by only a few.
Prior to the start of actual negotiations on the Addis Ababa Accord, Jamaica participated in an Inter-governmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, represented by an official of the Ministry of Finance.

The recommendations of that body have been reflected in the current deliberations, and include individual, country-owned financing strategies, rooted in enabling national policy environments, and complemented by a reformed international enabling environment. They also recognised that all sources of financing - public and private, national and international - would need to be employed.

We have noted the emphasis on addressing the situation of low-income countries (LICs) in the draft text of the outcome document. We agree that their needs are deserving of special attention. We are of the view that solutions for development should fully incorporate all states. Their special and different circumstances must inform the process going forward. Cognisance is to be taken, therefore, of the challenges faced by middle income countries (MICs) like Jamaica.

In this regard, Jamaica has been seeking to strengthen language in the draft outcome document on measures to address the special situation of MICs. Representation to the negotiating sessions is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, in close consultation with
the Ministry of Finance and Planning and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ).

The Post-2015 Development Agenda

Mr President,

Permit me now to turn to the elaboration of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The United Nations Secretary General, in his report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, called for 2015 to be recognised as the time for global action. He rightly advised that, “during this single year, the international community has an unequivocal opportunity and responsibility to adopt sustainable development, to restructure the global financial system in line with our needs, and to respond finally and urgently to the challenge of human-induced climate change.”

The Agenda will comprise a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), a political declaration outlining the international commitment to sustainable development beyond 2015 and a review, monitoring and accountability framework.
The 17 proposed sustainable development goals (SDGs) will address new and emerging developmental challenges and involve global consultations and partnerships on key thematic areas. These include:

- Eradication of extreme poverty;
- Building accountable institutions that ensure good governance and peaceful societies;
- Forging new global partnerships based on cooperation, equity and human rights; and
- Means of implementation, to include increased Official Development Assistance, financing, trade, appropriate technology transfer, institutional coordination and capacity building.

This ambitious Agenda is expected to be substantially financed from the sources agreed at the Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa.

Mr President,

Under the chairmanship of the PIOJ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, an Inter-ministerial Working Group on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was established in April 2014, to facilitate consultations on the Sustainable Development Goals. These
consultations with various stakeholders from all sectors of the society served to inform Jamaica’s national priorities as they relate to the Sustainable Development Goals.

We continued this inter-ministerial approach earlier this month, when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, along with the PIOJ, convened another meeting with relevant Government stakeholders, including the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, the Attorney General’s Chambers, among others, to assess Jamaica’s performance under the MDGs, review the status of the current global processes for sustainable development and consider the prospects for their implementation.

This inter-governmental process represents the approach which must be taken to ensure that all elements of Jamaica’s development are adequately considered and all stakeholders are afforded the opportunity to contribute to national development, in an integrated, collaborative and complementary manner.

Mr President,
As the time for adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda draws near, I would like to inform that to-date, five negotiating sessions have been held in New York. A sixth will be held next week to begin the negotiations, in earnest, on the text of the Agenda.

I must add that the sessions leading up to this one have served as a platform to examine the global context, consider the way forward and formalise the link between the Financing for Development Conference and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Jamaica has been consistently represented at the meetings by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, both from our Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and from Headquarters.

**Climate Change**

**Mr President,**

Our final platform is the 21\textsuperscript{st} Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Paris next December. The expectation is the adoption of an ambitious, universal and legally-binding agreement, which seeks to keep the global temperature rise below the perilous two (2) degrees Centigrade threshold.
There is very little doubt that climate change is a clear and present danger. The Minister responsible for Climate Change, Honourable Robert Pickersgill, has described it as “an existential threat” to our island countries.

There is also little doubt that there is a link between poverty and climate change. With the best will in the world, the emerging global framework on sustainable development cannot be successfully implemented unless the issue of the deleterious effects of climate change are adequately addressed. Of this I am certain! That is why the inter-ministerial approach is so important. The need for an appreciation of the synergies between the ministerial portfolios is paramount.

It is also important to note that, for Jamaica and the rest of the Caribbean, the goal of some of merely limiting temperature rise to below two (2) degrees Centigrade is inadequate. We are fully supportive of the call issued by the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (of which Jamaica is a member) to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees in the new agreement.

Our position, which is supported by CARICOM and the Alliance, is that the new agreement should address the specific needs and special circumstances of SIDS. This is clearly addressed in the Samoa Pathway.
In this regard, the provision of adequate finance is fundamental. We emphasise that there should be equity in the treatment of mitigation and adaptation efforts and that the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility (CBDR) ought to be upheld given our special circumstances.

Jamaica is committed to working with others to ensure that the results from Paris are adequate to address our needs and circumstances. We will continue to give voice to our unequivocal position in all international fora, as we are conscious of the devastating effects that climate change can bring to our society.

**Mr. President,**

We are mindful that it is by no means possible for us to achieve our goals by our own efforts alone and so we have been careful to collaborate with other members of the international community, and specifically with interest groups such as CARICOM, AOSIS, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the Group of 77 and China.

We share special circumstances with many of them, such as the vulnerabilities of being small island states and our middle income
status. We will continue our participation in all the deliberations described above.

Jamaica will remain involved because our development prospects will be greatly enhanced by our presence and active participation therein.

I look forward to further updating the Senate on the results of the global processes going forward.

Thank you.