16th session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

(23 April to 3 May 2013)

Consideration of the National Report of the Government of Cuba

Statement by the delegation of Jamaica

Thank you Mr. President,

My delegation extends its warmest greetings to the Cuban delegation, led by His Excellency Mr. Bruno Rodriguez, [Minister of Foreign Affairs] and thanks the delegation for its continued engagement in this forum.

The delegation of Jamaica is pleased with the consultative manner in which the national report was prepared and commends the Government for the achievements highlighted therein, recognizing, in particular, the adoption of the Economic and Social Outline and the efforts being undertaken to update and support the economic model with an effective legal and institutional framework.**(paragraph 3)**

We note that the Government of Cuba, will continue to address the challenges identified in connection with youth and gender equality and empowerment of women **(paragraphs 24 and 44, respectively).**

We also strongly encourage the maintenance of good practices in the prevention and mitigation of natural disasters, in particular, which is a model for countries in the Caribbean. **(paragraph 121).**

**Thank you.**