

Statement by the His Excellency Mr. Wayne McCook, Permanent
Representative of **JAMAICA** to the UN and its Specialized Agencies, Geneva

for the

Consideration of the National Report of the Government of New Zealand

on

27 January 2014

Mr. President,

The delegation of Jamaica warmly welcomes the Honourable Minister of Justice Judith Collins and the delegation of New Zealand and thanks them for the submission and the focussed responses to the recommendations received during the first UPR cycle.

My delegation is pleased to note the importance accorded to broad public engagement, participation and partnership in the preparation of the national report as well as in several initiatives designed to protect human rights in the country such as the "Speak Out" initiative in the Tasman region on racial discrimination (paragraph 26) and the "Drivers of Crime" initiative. (paragraph 41).

We are also pleased to note the strides made by the Government in relation to the six (6) priorities identified including:

- i) establishment of a Post Settlement Commitments Unit (paragraph 40) to ensure the durability of settlements negotiated with Maori;
- ii) agreed Plan of Action and Funded Family Care Scheme to improve the lives of persons with disabilities (paragraph 56);
- iii) introduction of the Vulnerable Children Bill to improve protection for children against abuse or neglect (paragraph 84);
- iv) mobilization of communities in family violence prevention work through the Campaign for Action on Family Violence (paragraph 75).
- v) finalization of the report of the Constitutional Advisory Panel; and
- vi) identification of human rights and gender implications in the development of policies and re-building efforts for the Canterbury Earthquakes (paragraphs 29, 30, 47)

The delegation of Jamaica would recommend that the Government continue to pursue an integrated approach to cases of compounded vulnerability caused by multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

Eighteenth Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review
(27 January to 7 February 2014)

Mr. President,

My delegation joins in thanking the Government of New Zealand for its annual non-earmarked financial contributions which assist the OHCHR to promote and protect “human rights for everyone everywhere”.

We wish for Minister Collins and her delegation a successful review.

Thank you.