Mr. President,

Jamaica commends Cuba for its commitment to human rights, especially in the face of unique political and economic challenges.

We recommend that Cuba:

1. Maintain current South-South co-operation programmes with other Caribbean countries, including sharing the Cuban model of Disaster Risk Reduction Management Centres;
2. Take measures to ensure that mother-to-child transmission of HIV and syphilis remains eradicated in Cuba;
3. Intensify its approach to curtailing teen pregnancies by making greater use of Cuba’s comprehensive expertise in health and youth development; and
4. Consider setting the same age limit for girls and boys in exceptional cases of marriage below the age of eighteen.

Cuba has made an immense impact on the development of our sub-Region. The country’s longstanding focus on quality education for all has had a multiplier effect: producing high-calibre professionals to serve their country, and who, in turn, share their remarkable talents with other countries in the Region and beyond - through emigration or as participants in official co-operation programmes. We wish our sister Caribbean nation and nearest neighbour, all the best in this current review.

I thank you.