Chair, Excellencies,

On behalf of the civil societies in Jamaica, we thank the Jamaican Government for reaffirming its commitment to the 2030 Agenda in its Voluntary National Review. We commend the inclusive consultation process and progress made in reducing poverty, strengthening adaptive social protection, expanding disaster risk financing and integrating climate resilience into national development planning.

Building on the VNR findings, we respectfully offer the following recommendations:
The VNR identifies land tenure insecurity as a major constraint to sustainable agricultural productivity. Accelerating secure land rights for small farmers, women and youth, alongside implementation of the National Seed Policy and Action Plan and the Youth in Agriculture Policy, would strengthen food security, increase domestic production and expand youth participation in agribusiness.

Addressing the mentioned challenges in solid waste management requires strengthening the governance, financing and operational capacity of the National Solid Waste Management Authority, alongside improved waste collection services, targeted public education and stronger enforcement to reduce improper disposal.

While unemployment has declined, labour market mismatches can be addressed by expanding technical employment opportunities and better aligning skills training with emerging industries.

We encourage continued efforts to strengthen disability-inclusive and age-friendly social protection while expanding affordable housing opportunities for reproductive citizens aged 36-45 as they fall out of targeted schemes such as the NHT Young Adult Policy.
Finally, Hurricane Melissa highlighted the need for strengthened NGO and civil society partnerships for coordinated, community-led disaster preparedness and response.