



**Ministry of Labour
& Social Security**

"Providing Opportunities, Stability & Social Protection"



Programme

National Policy-Level Workshop
on stronger and greener productive capacities for just transitions in
Jamaica

S Hotel
1 St. Lucia Avenue
Kingston, Jamaica

11 February 2026

08:30-09:00 Registration

09:00-09:30 Opening Session

09:00-09:05 Opening remarks by *Mrs. Tamar Nelson, Chief Technical Director, Jamaica Productivity Centre*

09:05-09:10 Opening remarks by *Mr. Stuart Davies, Development Coordination Officer/Economist, UN Resident Coordinator Office*

09:10-09:15 Introductory remarks by UNCTAD,
Mr. Mussie Deleegn, Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

09:15-09:20 Remarks by *Hon. Donovan Williams, Minister of State, MP, Ministry of Labour and Social Security*

09:20-09:30 Keynote by *Hon. Pearnel P. Charles Jr., MP, Minister of Labour and Social Security*

09:30-10:00 Group Photo and Coffee & Tea Break

10:00-11:00 Session I: Jamaica’s National Development Plan “Vision 2030 Jamaica” and UNCTAD’s Strategy for SIDS: challenges and opportunities for sustainable and inclusive development.

This session will provide substantive foundation for key issues of deliberations at the workshop by assessing the current trends in socio-economic development of Jamaica, progress achieved and challenges encountered. In the session, views will be exchanged on Jamaica’s development vision and UNCTAD’s strategy for SIDS, with particular attention to enablers and facilitators of growth, structural transformation and economic diversification.

Moderator: *Mrs. Rochelle Whyte, Senior Technical Advisor to the Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica*

10:00-10:15 Vision 2030 Jamaica, objectives and main challenges to development
Mr. Travis Reid, Economic Development Specialist, Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat

10:15-10:30 Pattern and sources of productivity, economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction in Jamaica
Ms. Mikhail-Ann Urquhart, Senior Director, Research and Measurement Unit, Jamaica Productivity Centre

10:30-10:45 UNCTAD’s strategy for SIDS – UNCTAD
Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

10:45-11:00 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

11:00-12:00 Session II: Productive capacities and structural transformation: measuring and benchmarking performances by using UNCTAD’s Productive Capacities Index (PCI) for evidence-based policy formulation and implementation.

This session is intended to relate the concepts of productive capacities and structural economic transformation to Jamaica’s development endeavours, including policy implications for inclusive growth and sustainable development. The session will discuss UNCTAD’s Productive Capacities Index

(PCI), which is an innovative approach applied by UNCTAD to measure and benchmark the level of development of productive capacities, and the National Productive Capacities Gap Assessment as the prelude for building productive capacities. It will examine Jamaica's PCI and discuss the success stories of building productive capacities and accelerating structural economic transformation.

Moderator: *Mrs. Rochelle Whyte, Senior Technical Advisor to the Director General, Planning Institute of Jamaica*

11:00-11:20 Jamaica's performance in UNCTAD's Productive Capacities Index and policy implications
Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

11:20-11:40 Productive capacities in a comparative perspective – the success stories and the policy lessons for Jamaica
Mr. Andrzej Bolesta, Economic Affairs Officer, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

11:40-12:00 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

12:00-13:00 Lunch Break

13:00-14:10 **Session III: Infrastructure and connectivity in fostering productive capacities: the energy sector, water, sanitation and resilience**

PCI values for the components on energy, transport and ICT indicate existence of some gaps, which need to be addressed in order to enhance connectivity and ensure that infrastructure plays its facilitating role. This session will focus on the critical aspects of this infrastructure, in Jamaica, namely, access to and development of energy resources and electricity, to ICT infrastructure, transport network, and water and sanitation.

Moderator: *Mrs. Tamar Nelson, Chief Technical Director, Jamaica Productivity Centre*

13:00-13:30 Presentations

- *Mr. Lewis Lakeman, Assistant Vice President - Public Private Partnerships & Project Financing at National Water Commission*
- *Mr. Cecil Foster, Vice President, Jamaica Manufacturers and Exporters Association, and Founder and the Managing Director of the Company, FosRich Company Limited*
- *Dr. Andre Murray, Head of Financial Stability Department & Financial Inclusion Technical Secretariat, Bank of Jamaica*

13:30-13:40 UNCTAD intervention to share countries' experiences and success stories.

13:40-13:50 Insights on Financial and Climate Resilience from the SIDS Satellite PCI
Mr. Rachid Bouhia, Economic Affairs Officer, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

13:50-14:10 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

14:10-15:10 **Session IV: Key sectoral development challenges: How to ensure sustainable development of and value added in agriculture, mining, manufacturing and tourism?**

This session will examine Jamaica's comparative advantages and potential, together with main economic challenges to sustainable development and value addition, looking at the proposed pillars and drivers of growth: modern agriculture, industry with important role of manufacturing and mining of resources, as well as services such as tourism.

Moderator: *Mrs. Tamar Nelson, Chief Technical Director, Jamaica Productivity Centre*

14:10-14:40

- *Mr. Sheridon Wisdom, Director, Agricultural Services Section, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Mining*
- *Prof. Lloyd Waller -Professor of Digital Transformation Policy and Governance*
- *Ms. Daenia Ashpole, Manufacturing Consultant*

14:40-14:50 UNCTAD intervention to share countries' experiences and success stories.

14:50-15:10 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

15:10-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-16:15 Session V: Private sector development and human capital formation: education and job creation for the youth

Private sector development and human capital formation are critical for Jamaica's structural transformation, economic diversification and sustainable development. This session will focus on private sector development and human capital formation as critical in ensuring the robustness of structural economic transformation and as important factors in building productive capacities. It will discuss the gaps between the labour market's needs and the output of the educational system, as well as youth unemployment.

Moderator: *Mrs. Tamar Nelson, Chief Technical Director, Jamaica Productivity Centre*

15:30-15:45 Presentations

Ms. Lisa Soares, Founder/CEO Great People Solutions (G.P.S.) Limited

15:45-15:55 UNCTAD intervention to share countries' experiences and success stories.

15:55-16:15 Interactive discussions, questions, and answers (Q&A)

16:15-16:35 Concluding Session

16:15-16:25 The summary of the workshop

Mr. Mussie Delelegn, Head, Productive Capacities and Sustainable Development Branch, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

16:25-16:35 Concluding remarks – *Mrs. Tamar Nelson, Chief Technical Director, Jamaica Productivity Centre*