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Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the
Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment
Programme and Eighth Meeting of the
Contracting Parties to the Convention for the
Protection and Development of the Marine
Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 September to 2 October 2004

**REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA ON THE HOST AGREEMENT
WITH UNEP**

Government of Jamaica

Report to the 11th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environmental Programme, and the 8th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

27th September to 2nd October 2004, Montego Bay, Jamaica

The hosting of the UNEP RCU

The Headquarters of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) was established in Kingston in 1985 under the terms of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Headquarters Agreement was concluded in November 1983 and under the terms of this Agreement, the Government of Jamaica committed to provide rent-free accommodation to UNEP.

In 1983 the Government of Jamaica and UNEP exchanged letters (constituting a Supplementary Agreement) that confirmed the GOJ's commitment.

In addition to providing rent-free accommodation, over the years, substantive commitments were made by the GOJ to the UNEP to facilitate the establishment of the Unit. This included salaries for 2 staff for the period 1986-1998; the payment also of maintenance for the office space; and other commitments, which varied between supplementary agreements.

The Headquarters Agreement remains in effect, and there has been continuing dialogue between the Government of Jamaica and UNEP in an effort to resolve the outstanding issues and the brokering of a new supplementary agreement.

Since 1999, the Government has been pursuing the decision to establish a United Nations House in Jamaica. The decision arose from the mandate by the United Nations Secretary General to improve efficiency and coherence in the delivery of development assistance provided by the UN system. The Secretary-General also

mandated closer coordination among all UN entities and encouraged the housing of UN agencies under one roof to further enhance their collaboration.

In response to this mandate, the Government of Jamaica has offered the premises located at Block 11, 14-20 Port Royal Street, to the UN agencies, as the proposed location for the UN House in Jamaica.

The Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and the United Nations Environment Programme are already located at the Block 11 Building and will form part of the UN House.

The remaining agencies which are to be located at the Block 11 Building are the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund, World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Present Situation

The matter of a new Supplementary Agreement is now under active consideration and is receiving the personal attention of both the Honourable Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Land and Environment.

The region has had substantive benefits since the establishment of the unit in Kingston. These include the development of a regional network of marine and coastal information, data through the internet, and the development of geographic databases on such subjects as marine protected areas.

On the side of the GOJ, a team has been put in place and mandated to negotiate with UNEP with a view to concluding a new Supplementary Agreement.

The Government of Jamaica wishes to take this opportunity to express gratitude to UNEP/RCU for the support given to Jamaica and the rest of the region over the past 20 years. In this context, the Government wishes to reiterate its commitment as host to the UNEP/RCU, to the establishment of a UN House and to the successful conclusion of the Supplementary Agreement.