

ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE GLOBAL JAMAICA DIASPORA COUNCIL

The principal role and function of the Global Jamaica Diaspora Council is to create pathways for increased engagement with and involvement of the Jamaican Diaspora. Additionally, it also functions as a platform, among others to be established, to implement the strategies outlined in the National Diaspora Policy which has now been approved by Cabinet to be presented to Parliament as a White Paper. Indeed, the Council provides a more expansive role for the Diaspora.

This includes opportunities for their involvement at the policy level across several sectors as well as in respect of matters affecting the well-being of the Diaspora in the countries where they reside. This will obviously require a more comprehensive interaction with MDAs guided by the Secretariat which serves the Council. The Secretariat comprises members of the Diaspora Affairs Department of the MFA, members of which sit on working groups of the GJDC.

The Working groups were established with an alignment to the five pillars of development identified in the SDGs, Peace with group lead Mr. Wayne Golding, Prosperity group lead Dr. Allan Cunningham, Planet with group lead Elizabeth Mullings Smith, People group lead Dr. Karen Dunkley and Partnership group lead Dr. Kevin Brown. It is through these working Groups that some of the outcomes of the work programme were achieved.