Dear Director General,

The Government of Jamaica is pleased to endorse the Youth Employment Network initiative. We commend the foresight and commitment of the International Labour Organisation to work with its partner organisations to address universal problems. The use of inter-agency partnerships is consistent with our own approach to addressing social problems, particularly those of the youth who make up a significant part of our population. The initiative is timely as we are seriously concerned with the lack of employment opportunities for our young people. We support the objectives of working with young people to help them to empower themselves and to place them on the path to development as productive adults.

We applaud the launch and implementation of the Jamaica Youth Employment Network and the recognition of Jamaica as the first Caribbean Lead Country. We are pleased with the efforts of our local partners the Jamaica Employers Federation to involve the key stakeholders and coordinate the activities that have culminated in this honour.

I congratulate you again, Director General and assure you of the government and people of Jamaica’s commitment to this process.

Yours sincerely

P.J. Patterson
Prime Minister

Mr. Juan Somavia
Director General
International Labour Office