SALISES (UWI) staff join Jamaica’s National Delegation to the UN HLPF 2018

Prof. Aldrie Henry-Lee and Dr. Arlene Bailey participate as members of Jamaica’s National Delegation to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals 2018

Jamaica presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (UN HLPF) in New York, USA in July 2018. Prof. Aldrie Henry-Lee, University Director of the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES), and Dr. Arlene Bailey, Senior Research Fellow, SALISES and Associate Dean, Research, Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of the West Indies, Mona, participated as members of Jamaica’s National Delegation.

Jamaica’s team was led by Senator the Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, and comprised governmental representatives, representatives of Jamaica’s Permanent mission to the UN, academia, civil society and the private sector.

Jamaica’s Delegation to the UN HLPF 2018 - L – R: His Excellency Ambassador Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations; Dr. Arlene Bailey, Senior Research Fellow and Associate Dean, SALISES, UWI, Mona; Prof. Aldrie Henry-Lee, Professor and University Director for SALISES, UWI, Mona; Diedre Mills, Jamaica’s Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN; Senator the Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade; Leesha Delatie-Budair, Deputy Director, STATIN; Nicola Barker-Murphy, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the UN; Sam Davis, Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs, Jamaica Public Service; Toni-Shae Freckleton, Director, Population and Health Unit, Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ); and Dr Wayne Henry, Director General, PIOJ.
Prof. Henry-Lee and Dr. Bailey were Principal and Co-Principal Investigators for a GOJ/UNDP Study on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and represented a multi-disciplinary SALISES team at the HLPF 2018. The team included Prof. Anthony Clayton, Dr. Carroll Edwards, Dr. Georgiana Gordon-Strachan, Mrs. Yhanore Johnson-Coke, Ms. Kemesha Kelly, Mr. Richard Leach, Dr. Kurt McLaren, Dr. Patricia Northover, Mr. Orin Spence, Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard, Ms. Nicole Thwaites, Mr. Giovanni Williams and Dr. Michael Witter. SALISES contributed to the preparation of inputs for the Voluntary National Review through an assessment of the current status of the work towards achieving the SDGs in Jamaica, and the drafting of a Sustainable Development Goals Report, with a special focus on the key thematic areas for the 2018 HLPF – SDGs 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production), 15 (Life on Land) and 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The study also included a Statistical Annex and a report on the most vulnerable, with a focus on Leaving No One Behind, as well as a Communications and Advocacy Plan for the SDGs. Based on this work, “the contribution of academia (UWI) ... who participated significantly in the process” was acknowledged by the Delegation. SALISES is also represented on the National Agenda 2030 Oversight Committee by Dr. Terri-Ann Gilbert-Roberts.
As part of Jamaica’s Delegation, Prof. Henry-Lee and Dr. Bailey participated in several events and fora related to the HLPF. During the ministerial segment of the HLPF, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) organized a series of VNR Labs to facilitate reflection on the VNR process and to share experiences on the implementation and measurement of the SDGs, resource mobilization and financing, use of data and ensuring that no one is left behind. The Jamaica team participated in the series which included discussions with other countries on the VNR experience. Prof. Henry-Lee participated in the presentation made during the session which focused on ‘Continuing the Dialogue – Jamaica’, sharing perspectives arising from the preparation of the Leaving No One Behind report for Jamaica.

Prof. Henry-Lee and Dr. Bailey attended the Launch of the Inclusive Data Charter, organized by the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, with the support of key agencies within the UN system. The launch highlighted the importance and need for disaggregated data to support activities aimed at leaving no one behind.

At the presentation of the VNR, Prof. Henry-Lee was a member of the platform party as Team Jamaica shared its report. Prof. Henry-Lee and Dr. Bailey also participated in the side event co-hosted by Jamaica and the UNDP titled “The 2030 Agenda: From Whole-of-Government to Whole-of-Society”.

Prof. Aldrie Henry-Lee is seated left, as Senator the Hon. Pearnel Charles Jr. Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica presents Jamaica's Voluntary National Review at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at the United Nations Headquarters.

SALISES is pleased to have participated in Jamaica’s National Delegation to the UN HLPF 2018, and looks forward to continued collaboration in working towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.