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**Committee on Subsidies and  
Countervailing Measures**

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## SUBSIDIES

### NEW AND FULL NOTIFICATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XVI: 1 OF THE GATT 1994 AND ARTICLE 25 OF THE AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES

### TRANSPARENCY NOTIFICATION CONCERNING THE EXTENSIONS PROVIDED FOR IN ARTICLE 27.4 OF THE AGREEMENT ON SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING MEASURES OF THE TRANSITION PERIOD FOR THE ELIMINATION OF EXPORT SUBSIDIES, GRANTED PURSUANT TO THE PROCEDURES IN THE GENERAL COUNCIL DECISION WT/L/691

#### JAMAICA

The following communication, dated 11 December 2015, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of Jamaica.

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The attached is the new and full notification of Jamaica under Article XVI:1 of GATT 1994 and Article 25 of the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures ("the Agreement"). We also submit this notification for purposes of transparency in the context of the extensions granted to Jamaica under Article 27.4 of the Agreement, pursuant to the procedures in WT/L/691.

#### 1 EXPORT INDUSTRY ENCOURAGEMENT ACT

1. Description of the programme

The Export Industry Encouragement Act was established as an incentive framework geared toward the encouragement of export industries.

2. Period covered by the notification

Programme description for the calendar year 2014.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

The objective is to encourage investment and growth in export manufacturing industries.

4. Status of the subsidy

By virtue of the Fiscal Incentives Act (FIA), 2013, the Export Industry Encouragement Act was repealed. Existing beneficiaries were provided with the options of either having the incentives grandfathered for the remaining period granted or begin operations under the FIA.

#### 2 JAMAICA EXPORT FREE ZONES ACT

1. Description of the programme

The Jamaica Export Free Zones Act provides an incentive and regulatory framework for the operation of Free Zones in Jamaica.

2. Period covered by the notification

Programme description for the calendar year 2014.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

The objective is to encourage investment, exports and foreign exchange earnings and to create employment opportunities.

4. Status of the subsidy

The Jamaica Export Free Zone Act is scheduled to be repealed on 31 December 2015. In order to meet Jamaica's obligations to remove legislations providing export subsidies, government will promulgate the Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Act. The SEZ Bill has been passed by both the Lower House and Upper House of Representatives on 1 and 11 December, respectively.

### **3 INDUSTRIAL INCENTIVES (FACTORY CONSTRUCTION) ACT**

1. Description of the programme

Provides an enabling framework for the provision of factory space in Jamaica.

2. Period covered by the notification

Programme description for the calendar year 2014.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

To facilitate and encourage the construction of factories in Jamaica.

4. Status of the subsidy

By virtue of the Fiscal Incentives Act (FIA), 2013, the Industrial Incentives (Factory Construction) Act was repealed. There was very little activity under the programme and therefore no incentives were recorded as grandfathered.

### **4 FOREIGN SALES CORPORATION ACT**

1. Description of the programme

A legislative framework for the operation of Foreign Sales Corporation (FSCs) in Jamaica.

2. Period covered by the notification

Programme description for the calendar year 2014.

3. Policy objective and/or purpose of the subsidy

To attract foreign investment into the country and to promote Jamaica as an attractive FSC location.

4. Status of the subsidy

By virtue of the Fiscal Incentives Act (FIA), 2013, the Foreign Sales Corporation Act was repealed. There was very little activity under the programme and therefore no incentives were recorded as grandfathered.

5. Information referred to in Paragraph 2(a) of the General Council Decision of 2007

At the close of fiscal year 2015/16 all pieces of legislation that had been granting export subsidies would have been repealed and Jamaica would have been operating under the Omnibus Incentives and Special Economic Zone regimes, both of which would be consistent with Jamaica's WTO obligations.

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