



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

STATEMENT BY

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**GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT &
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS**

**FIRST COMMITTEE
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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chair,

I begin by congratulating you and your Bureau on your election to preside over the work of the First Committee for the 74th session. You are assured of Jamaica's full support. Our thanks also go to the Chair and Bureau of the 73rd session for their tireless efforts to steadily guide the work of the Committee.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM and by Suriname on behalf of CARICOM.

Mr. Chair,

We face unprecedented threats to international peace and security that risk diminishing the multilateral disarmament landscape. One of the most visible manifestations of these growing threats is in the area of arms control. The uncertainty surrounding the future of the new START Treaty remains a source of anxiety, as without it there will be no legally-binding limits on the world's two largest nuclear arsenals for the first time since 1972. The termination of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, which was an important factor in ending the Cold War, is also cause for concern. We echo the Secretary-General's charge for preserving these important treaties. To do otherwise, sets the stage for the beginning of a new and more dangerous type of global military competition.

The situation is made more tenuous by the fact that global military expenditure is on the increase, as reported by SIPRI. Worldwide military spending totaled 1.8 trillion dollars in 2018. This represented the highest level since 1988, the first year for which regular global data is available. SIPRI also notes that "world spending is now 76 percent higher than the post-Cold War low in 1998".

As an international community, we must insist that every effort be made to ease tensions and avoid a race to the bottom. This extends to the unraveling of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, as well as civil warfare in other parts of the world. What we must work towards is the attainment of pragmatic results, including rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula, to ensure that real progress towards sustainable and lasting peace can be realised.

Mr. Chair,

We continue to be concerned that the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) remains elusive, but hold out hope for the eventual entry into force of this vital treaty.

I wish to place on record our satisfaction with the steady progress towards the signing and ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Jamaica continues to undertake its internal legal and administrative processes to pave the way for us to join others who have ratified the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

A source of concern for my delegation is the issues that plague the effective functioning of the disarmament machinery. The inability of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) to formally convene its 2nd session earlier this year is worrisome. This risks creating a new trend and complicating the already difficult efforts being made by the Commission towards reaching consensus on the substantive issues on its agenda. It is our hope that the Commission will be able to continue its work in earnest in 2020 and that similar problems will not arise in the future.

We share the frustration of other delegations that the Conference on Disarmament has not been able to make the kind of progress required. We hope that

we can move beyond the subsidiary bodies established last year towards a more fulsome programme of work that will allow the Conference to fully assume its responsibility as “*the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community*.”

Mr. Chair,

Also of importance in 2020 will be the NPT Review Conference. My delegation expects that the consensus that eluded the 2015 Review Conference will not carry over to the 2020 Review Conference and that we will be able to adopt robust recommendations that uphold the principles that have governed nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation over the past 50 years. We look forward to the Conference paving the way towards a world without the threat of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

The illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons must be arrested. Jamaica remains concerned about the illicit diversion of such weapons and the impact they continue to have on ordinary civilians. We will speak in greater detail on this issue under the relevant agenda item, but underscore the urgent need for cooperation at all levels to combat this scourge.

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica supports international efforts to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. Like other Member States, we continue to strengthen national measures in this regard, to ensure that such weapons, their means of delivery, and materials and technologies related to their manufacture do not fall into the hands of criminals. We continue to work within the framework of UN Security Council resolution

1540 and with bilateral as well as regional partners to ensure that we fully adhere to the tenets of the resolution.

In this respect, Jamaica values the work being undertaken under the CARICOM regional 1540 programme, which supports efforts to prevent the trade and use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and related materials. Furthermore, we appreciate the engagement of the Security Council's 1540 Committee in supporting initiatives to implement strategic trade legislation and regulations and to build our capacity to counter WMD proliferation.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation welcomes ongoing work aimed at addressing developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. We are pleased that in addition to the deliberations within the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on advancing responsible behaviour in cyberspace, in the context of international security, there is also an opportunity for the wider membership to contribute to the discussions. This is enabled through the open-ended working group mandated by GA resolution 73/27, which has already begun its consultations and in which CARICOM has been engaging. Equally important are efforts aimed at preventing the weaponization of outer space and promoting the long-term sustainability of outer space activities. In this regard, the implementation of transparency and confidence-building measures will remain critical.

I thank you.