



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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**AGENDA ITEM: 101  
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

**FIRST COMMITTEE  
SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018  
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chair,

My delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by Guyana on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and to highlight a few points of particular importance to Jamaica.

Mr. Chair,

We share the concern of the international community about conventional weapons and the impact that they continue to have on civilian populations and societies as whole. We are struck by their devastating impact not only in situations of armed conflict but in societies like ours where armed violence has risen significantly. Against this background, we reiterate the importance of our discourse on such weapons being reflective of this dynamic.

Jamaica, like many other CARICOM countries, is not a manufacturer or net importer of conventional weapons. Nonetheless, we are exceedingly vulnerable to violent crimes and criminal activities associated with the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons due in part to our porous borders and geographical location.

Mr. Chair,

To respond to this challenge, Jamaica has been working to ensure that the requisite legislative, policy and operational measures are in place to prevent the diversion that leads to the illicit proliferation of small arms. A major feature of this undertaking is the comprehensive review of the Firearms Act (1967). As a result, a Bill is being prepared that would seek to include new provisions to make various stockpile management activities, such as the marking of small arms and light weapons, recordkeeping and the capturing of ballistic signatures, mandatory under the law.

The review will ensure a legislative basis for the establishment of a Firearms Registry, the creation of a National Inter-Agency Committee and the development of a National Control List, which will be harmonized with other strategic and dual-use goods. This will in turn provide an impetus to synchronize implementation efforts across international conventional arms instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which require similar expertise and national control mechanisms.

In addition, we now have a Standards Manual for Marking Firearms, which we shared as a paper for best practices during the Third Review Conference (RevCon3) on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. We also have a National Action Plan and have been reviewing the operations of our Institute of Forensic Science and Legal Medicine, as well as the Firearms Licensing Authority, with a greater focus on improving accountability and strengthening the procedures governing the civilian use of small arms. Specialized training for law enforcement and other stakeholders, as well as other capacity-building measures, have also been pursued with our partners at all levels. I am also pleased to highlight that we have been working with our private security firms to improve the regulatory framework governing the

private security industry. We will continue to rely on the kind assistance of all our partners as we seek to address these issues and enhance our capacities.

Mr. Chair,

We welcome the various reviews that have been undertaken over the past year, most notably for the Third Review Conference (RevCon3), as well as the Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), in which my delegation actively participated. Our appreciation goes to the French and Japanese Presidencies for steering the deliberations in these respective fora. We look forward to the implementation of the outcomes emanating from these processes.

We are equally pleased to hear of the continued support being provided by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) to the countries of the region. As a beneficiary of the technical and other assistance provided in this regard, we express the hope that the Centre will be appropriately resourced so that this support can be sustained. We continue to encourage the consideration of the special needs of Latin America and the Caribbean, with due regard to the dynamics that exist at the sub-regional level.

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica is pleased to note that work has been ongoing with respect to the development of indicators to assess the implementation of SDG16, in particular SDG16.4. We encourage a comprehensive approach that takes account of the interlinkages and the interrelated nature of the SDGs in order to promote the well-being of our citizens. The Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda, in particular its focus on disarmament that saves lives, will no doubt also be central to our collective endeavor. We trust that we can really begin to witness the kind of coordinated action by the UN that would overcome the fragmentation that the Secretary-General has himself highlighted. Data collection and information sharing, including of best practices, will remain essential.

I thank you.