



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

**THE RT. HONOURABLE P.J. PATTERSON  
PRIME MINISTER OF JAMAICA**

TO THE

**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL  
SUMMIT**

on

***“Ensuring an Effective Role of the Security Council  
in the Maintenance of International Peace and  
Security, particularly in Africa”***

*New York, September 7, 2000*

*(Please check against delivery)*

Mr. President,

The United Nations is today facing its most crucial test, that of fulfilling its essential role in a brand new world.

To fulfill its charge to maintain international peace and security, the Security Council must impact on the lives of people, changing their despair to hope and liberating them from conflict.

The global landscape is littered with gloom, instability and devastation occasioned by the increasing number of unresolved conflicts. But the Security Council has made significant strides in maintaining stability in some areas of conflict while defusing hostilities in others.

The impact of United Nations' missions has been felt on almost every continent of the world.

Yet the flagrant violations of international norms and of the rights of individuals continue unabated in many places. The alarming increase in the number of refugees and internally displaced persons, and the inadequately financed operations of the Organization in response to these threats, demand our serious attention.

Nowhere is this more of an imperative than in Africa.

There is now a greater burden on the Security Council to prove itself capable of protecting the most vulnerable. We have to stem the rising tide of refugees and internally displaced persons. In so doing, we will spend less on humanitarian assistance and more on development.

Breaches of international humanitarian and human rights laws must not go unchallenged. The resource needs of the United Nations must be adequate to demonstrate the necessary political will for taking action as and when required. Rightful concerns over sovereignty cannot allow us to turn a blind eye to the forces of evil, but the speed and yardstick for collective action cannot be determined solely by strategic geo-political considerations.

Measures taken by the Security Council to effect behavioural changes among those who perpetuate conflict situations must be enforced. Such measures must be targeted and achievable. When applied, they must be time-bound, clear and concise.

Conflict prevention is of paramount importance in the maintenance of international peace and security.

In July, the Security Council, under Jamaica's Presidency, reaffirmed that the United Nations system must manage a comprehensive and coordinated strategy to address the root causes of conflict. We recognized the capacity

given by the Charter to the Secretary-General for a range of action in conflict prevention. I commend him for his efforts in the face of uncertain mandates and limited resources.

Long term sustainable peace, within the context of conflict resolution requires that peace-building mandates create mechanisms which foster confidence building between the parties and create an environment conducive to social, economic and political development.

Regional institutions, such as the Organisation for African Unity (OAU), and sub-regional institutions, working in tandem with the Security Council, are essential to this united effort for lasting peace, and allow people to develop their full potential for participating in sustainable socio-economic advancement.

It may sound as heresy in these hallowed walls, but we cannot conceive of an effectively pursued peace and security mandate in the absence of reform of the Security Council itself. It must have the benefit of the credibility and legitimacy derived from its Charter-given authority, the transparency of its decision-making process and a truly representative membership.

The existence of veto power is anachronistic and undemocratic.

By failing to take note of changes in the relative standing of States in the past half century and the expansion of United Nations membership, the Security Council has allowed its representative character to be diminished and its democratic legitimacy to suffer. The Security Council must become more representative of the world as it is today.

It is high time to move forward with the reform process.

Let us build now on areas of agreement and work with determination towards early adoption of those measures which are essential to the effective performance of the Council's mandate in this new Millennium.

By so doing, we can ensure an even more effective role for the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security.

New York  
September 6, 2000