



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

***Her Excellency Ms. M. Patricia Durrant  
Permanent Representative of Jamaica  
to the United Nations***

***before the Security Council***

***on***

***The Situation in Burundi***

**NEW YORK**

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2000**

**PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

- Jamaica fully supports the appointment of former President Mandela as facilitator of the Arusha Peace Process. Mr. Mandela's track record as an international statesman, mediator and freedom fighter speaks for itself.
- We applaud the efforts and achievements of the late former President, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, who made a remarkable contribution to the Arusha Process.
- Jamaica supports the Arusha Peace Process and hopes that the upcoming talks will reinvigorate actions towards peace in Burundi and the region as a whole.
- Jamaica commends the efforts of the Government of Burundi to initiate a process of internal dialogue and encourages all parties to the conflict to continue discussions.
- Jamaica is deeply concerned about the ongoing violence and insecurity in the Burundi. We recognize that to, a large extent, the crisis in Burundi is deeply intertwined with the conflict situation in the Great Lakes Region. At the same time, we cannot ignore the fact that regional events also impact on, and exacerbate the complex situation in Burundi. This must compel us to act decisively and quickly in resolving the crisis.
- We cannot fail to acknowledge the precarious humanitarian situation which has prevailed in the country. Only last week we were reminded by Mrs. Ogata, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, of the plight of refugees and internally displaced persons in the Great Lakes Region, largely fuelled by the conflicts in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We empathize with, and commend the Governments of the region, particularly Tanzania, which has had to bear the economic toll of hosting refugees.
- We are deeply concerned about the recent murder of humanitarian workers and urge that the perpetrators be brought to justice.

- We wish to pay tribute to the Secretary General for his role in the resolution of the conflict in Burundi and, in particular, the efforts of his Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region.
- Jamaica supports the need for a mechanism of dialogue between the Security Council and the parties involved in the Arusha Process.
- All inclusive party talks are essential to the success of the Arusha Process. We urge all parties to fully support the peace initiative.
- Jamaica firmly believes that the socio-economic root causes of conflict must be addressed. Given the inextricable linkages between peace and development, mediation efforts should not only centre on a political solution but on improving the economic, and humanitarian conditions in Burundi.
- Jamaica supports the call for the international community to provide economic assistance to Burundi once a viable political settlement has been achieved.