



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY**

**MISS MELISSA JOHNSON  
FIRST SECRETARY  
PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA TO THE UN**

**DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE**

**OF THE**

**2013 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE  
ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (C34)**

**WEDNESDAY, 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2013**

*PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

***. Madame Chairperson,***

The Jamaican delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the distinguished Permanent Representative of Cuba on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

Jamaica extends its gratitude to Mr. Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, and Mrs. Ameerah Haq, Under Secretary-General for Field Support, for the comprehensive presentations they delivered on Tuesday/yesterday.

***Madame Chairperson,***

At the outset, my delegation wishes to commend the military and police personnel serving in the organization's 16 peacekeeping missions. We take this opportunity to pay them a solemn tribute. Their exemplary deeds have contributed to the maintenance of international peace and security and it is through their efforts that stability has been achieved in previously, war-ravaged societies. Jamaica joins the rest of the world in expressing gratitude for their contribution.

***Madame Chairperson,***

Jamaica holds firm to the belief that long term peace and stability can be assured only by assiduously addressing the root causes of conflict. At the most basic level, this necessitates the use of social and developmental policy instruments; the continuous development and implementation of early warning and early response systems, and the full actualization of agreed commitments on the part of developed countries to enable developing and least-developed countries to meet their socio-economic goals. It follows that the spirit of cooperation among bodies such as the Security Council, the UN Secretariat, Police and Troop-Contributing Countries is indispensable. Jamaica therefore regards the establishment of the regular process of briefing TCCs and PCCs in connection with technical assessment missions and mandate renewals as a positive policy decision.

***Madame Chairperson,***

As a Small Island Developing State (SID), Jamaica is immensely proud of the service of its police officers who are currently serving in Sudan (Darfur) and Haiti. Jamaica's participation in these and other Missions

bears testimony to our commitment to the ultimate goal of bringing peace and stability to troubled countries around the globe. Our Officers have joined others in promoting reconciliation, strengthening security sectors and the rule of law and supporting democratic elections. Importantly, they have demonstrated, that we can, despite our size and limited financial resources, play an important role, not only in the multilateral discourse on such matters, but in the operationalization of the resulting decisions.

**Madame Chairperson,**

There is an increasing nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, which underpins the view that both must be mutually reinforcing in the pursuit of lasting peace and security. As the Secretary General has stated, peacekeepers are peacebuilders and, as such, peacebuilding should not be confined to post-conflict settings but be viewed as a means of building resilient states and sustainable peace. It is within this context that Jamaica highlights the significant role to be played by regional organizations in the prevention of the escalation of tensions into wide scale conflict. We continue to urge the Secretariat , through its cooperation with regional institutions, to enhance capacity to address peace and security challenges by focusing on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), the rule of law, and by identifying and responding to tensions through mediation and negotiation.

**Madame Chairperson,**

My delegation has often stressed the need for the effective implementation of gender mainstreaming in PKO's as we believe that it is crucial to ensuring that women's concerns are adequately integrated into all policy aspects of peacekeeping missions. Women are often the ones most demonstrably affected by conflict but their voices have unfortunately remained in the background. In this spirit, Jamaica commends the UN Police Divisions and DPKO for the various gender initiatives set to come on-stream this year as well as the efforts underway to increase the number of female officers in peacekeeping missions. We acknowledge that such efforts have led to an increase of female officers from 6.6 per cent in January 2010 to almost 10 per cent in October 2012.

For my country, a notable number of female officers have also been deployed, all of whom have been vital members of their teams, becoming contingent commanders and teachers. They have been instrumental in conducting confidence building sessions with local women and have become invested in sensitizing local men, in "gender sensitive" missions about abuses against women, including: rape, domestic violence and genital mutilation.

These meaningful activities underpin Jamaica's view that women must be included as truly active participants in every stage of the peacekeeping and peace building processes. We support, in this regard, the strengthening of consultations with civil society within the communities hosting peacekeeping operations and we fully support processes aimed at ensuring sufficient senior level gender expertise within Missions.

***Madame Chairperson,***

Jamaica welcomed the Security Council's decision, adopted in resolution S/RES/2070 (2012), to renew MINUSTAH's mandate until 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013, with the intention of further renewal. We also welcomed the positive developments in the form of political milestones that have taken place in Haiti and which are indicative of genuine progress and long awaited stabilization. It is our hope that the decision to decrease operational police support in 2013/2014 and to concentrate on the development of the Haitian National Police will yield maximum and much needed positive results.

We urge the international community to continue its support to Haiti as it strives to build a stable foundation that will ensure its long-term stability, economic recovery and development.

*In Conclusion Madame Chairperson,* Jamaica reaffirms the primacy of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations as the only body entitled to review UN Peacekeeping Operations in all its aspects. Within this context, we acknowledge that the success of UN peacekeeping is the product of concerted efforts of all stakeholders and that its future success will depend on the forging of this type of partnership based experience.

Allow me to reiterate my delegation's unwavering commitment to sustained efforts geared toward achieving international peace and security. My delegation extends its full support to you and other members of the Bureau in spearheading the work of this Committee for the current session.

I thank you .