



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY**

**MRS. JANICE MILLER  
COUNSELLOR**

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

**TO THE**

**2003 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE  
DISARMAMENT COMMISSION**

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Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica joins with previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as Chairman of this session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. We are confident that under your able guidance, the deliberations of this Commission will arrive at a successful outcome. I would also like to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election.

Allow me, to express the appreciation of my Government to those delegations which were so kind as to acknowledge the role played by Jamaica, represented by Mrs. Diane Quarless, as Chair of the previous session of the Commission. Jamaica remains committed to the aims and objectives of this Commission and expresses the hope that this year's session will continue to build on consensus, develop guidelines and make concrete recommendations regarding the ways and means to achieve nuclear disarmament and practical confidence-building measures in the field of conventional weapons.

Jamaica also associates itself with the statement made earlier by Indonesia on behalf of the Non Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament and non-proliferation are integral to the maintenance of international peace and security, and confidence-building measures are critical to the strengthening of a multilateral framework for the advancement of the disarmament agenda. The role of the United Nations in securing a stable and peaceful environment through the removal of threats to the peace is thus of intrinsic importance to the pursuit of both confidence-building and disarmament.

The contribution of the Disarmament Commission towards the achievement of these objectives through substantive discussions and practical recommendations

is therefore of continued relevance and great value. The General Assembly has repeatedly affirmed that the Disarmament Commission remains the "specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations which allows for detailed examination on specific disarmament issues". The opportunity afforded by this body of universal membership to dialogue and exchange of views is integral to the process of confidence-building and disarmament.

Jamaica underscores the worth of this Commission as a multilateral forum which establishes, promotes and elaborates global disarmament norms. The importance of the setting of global disarmament norms is relevant in the current international environment where the disarmament agenda continues to be challenged, despite limited progress in certain areas. Jamaica continues to believe that the achievement of a stable and peaceful international environment demands the continued commitment of the international community to general and complete disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

We have noted that there has been recent progress on certain key disarmament issues including the conclusion of agreements on reductions of strategic nuclear weapons as well as an increased adherence by states, including nuclear weapon states, to the IAEA Safeguards and the Additional Protocol. While welcoming these developments, Jamaica is of the view however, that these efforts should be bolstered by increased adherence and universalisation of the relevant international legal instruments, including the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT). We continue to express the view, Mr. Chairman that all countries have responsibilities and obligations under the NPT and in the implementation of the 13 practical steps agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference.

The development of practical confidence building measures in the field of conventional arms is critical, particularly in light of the increased threat of war and conflict. The role of these weapons in creating the conditions for, and

exacerbating conflicts is undisputed and has a signal effect on international peace and security. The relative ease of access and portability of these weapons have posed security dilemmas for many states and has had to be juxtaposed against the relative right of states to defend themselves. Unfortunately, such considerations have come at the expense of human life and have led to untold suffering.

This situation underscores the role of confidence-building measures as an important component in strengthening international peace and security and in the prevention of war. The increased security which is obtained through transparency, openness and accountability in military matters therefore does much to enhance international stability.

Jamaica supports the efforts to arrive at practical disarmament measures through the establishment of internationally agreed guidelines to govern the manufacture, development, sale and acquisition of conventional weapons. In our view, the importance of confidence-building measures in this area cannot be over emphasized. It is for us in the Commission to find our way to common ground on the scope and applicability of these measures, so that the debate on the range of issues which remain a challenge in the field of practical disarmament can be taken to the next level. Jamaica looks forward to the deliberations of the Commission on this important issue.

Jamaica welcomes the convening of the first biennial meeting of States on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the 2001 United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects to be held in July 2003, as an important step in the area of practical disarmament and confidence building.

In conclusion, allow me on behalf of my delegation to take this opportunity, to express our appreciation to the outgoing Under-Secretary General for

Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Jayantha Dhanapala for his leadership and unwavering commitment to the achievement of progress in the field of disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and for his efforts, in particular, in promoting greater participation from developing countries in the critical area of disarmament , which is the foundation for the advancement of international peace and security in this organization. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

Thank you.

*Permanent Mission of Jamaica  
to the United Nations  
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