



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

ON

**DISARMAMENT AND *INTERNATIONAL PEACE*
*AND SECURITY***

**65TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf the Jamaican delegation, allow me to express my congratulations to chair the work of the First Committee during this Session. Let me assure you of my delegation's full cooperation to you and the other Members of the Bureau.

I also wish to use this opportunity to commend your predecessor, Ambassador José Luis Cancela of Uruguay who ably chaired the work of this Committee with a high level of professionalism during the 64th Session.

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, Haiti on behalf of the Member States of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM; and Chile on behalf of the Rio Group.

I wish to add the following brief remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Human survival remains precariously balanced on the brink of destruction given the continued existence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. These weapons continue to occupy a place of prominence in the defense strategies of possessor states, despite the fact that history has shown us that rather than creating a situation of safety and security, their continued existence breeds a climate of fear, mistrust, and insecurity. From Jamaica's standpoint there is no alternative but the total and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destructions.

We welcome the momentum toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons which began last year, and has continued apace since the beginning of the year.

April 2010 saw the signature of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation, which will result in significant, verifiable reduction of the world's largest nuclear weapons arsenals. We commend both parties for taking this bold step to make deep cuts in their nuclear weapons arsenals and urge its ratification and implementation as soon as possible.

In May 2010, the States Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty reached agreement, by consensus, on a set of conclusions and recommendations, including an action plan for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We believe this positive outcome to the 2010 NPT Review Conference signals to the wider international community our commitment to meet the objectives of the total elimination of nuclear weapons, to which all NPT States Parties are obligated to implement, in accordance with Article VI of the Treaty.

We also view the convening of the High-Level Meeting on the Revitalisation of the work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral

Disarmament Negotiations, as an important element in rejuvenating this too-long dormant body. The continued neglect of the core mandate of the Conference on Disarmament as the only multilateral forum for negotiating disarmament treaties is no longer an option. Member States from all regions have made this abundantly clear. The continued inertia of the CD only serves the interest of those who would seek to wreak havoc on the rest of humanity through the detonation of a nuclear device or other weapon of mass destruction. We urge the membership of the CD to demonstrate a spirit of compromise and requisite flexibility necessary in order to move the process forward. We look forward to 2011 and beyond being productive for the CD.

Jamaica has taken note of the recently announced intention to request the inclusion in the agenda of the 65th Session an additional item entitled: Follow-up to the High-Level Meeting on the Revitalisation of the work of the Conference on Disarmament and Taking Forward Multilateral Disarmament Negotiations. We believe that this approach could be beneficial to the work of the CD and look forward to the positive decision of the General Committee on this matter.

The positive action in the area of nuclear disarmament is juxtaposed against the fact that the CTBT has not yet entered into force; the threat of nuclear terrorism remains a part of our daily existence; there are unresolved concerns over the nuclear ambitions of some NPT states parties; a number of States remain outside the NPT regime, and as I have just indicated, the CD remains in a state of dysfunction. Our oft-spoken commitments to a safe and secure world must now be supported by concrete action to realize the goal of a nuclear-weapon free world.

Mr. Chairman

On 1st August 2010, the Convention on Cluster Munitions entered into force. We support the aims of the Convention to end the indiscriminate effects of these weapons, particularly on civilian populations. The entry into force of this Convention is a tangible demonstration of the international community's willingness to act in the best interest of the peoples of the world and advance the international disarmament agenda. While Jamaica has not yet ratified this Convention, we hope to take our place as a State Party as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman

As a State Party to the NPT, we continue to maintain our support for all three pillars, disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We call on all states engaged in the development of nuclear energy to fully comply with the IAEA verification, monitoring and safeguard provisions. Compliance with the relevant IAEA provisions is an absolute necessity to uphold the integrity of the NPT, as well as prevent nuclear accidents which could have deleterious impacts on the environment and human health.

In the same breath Mr. Chairman, I reiterate previously stated concerns about the continued shipment of nuclear and other hazardous waste through the waters of the Caribbean Sea. The Caribbean Sea is the foundation of the economic viability and sustainability of the Caribbean region, as such, an accident or terrorist attack against any of these vessels will pose severe harm to the lives and livelihood of the Caribbean people. This continued threat to our existence is totally unacceptable and we continue to advocate that a more viable alternative must be found.

Mr. Chairman,

Achieving a settlement of the Middle East question resulting in Palestine and Israel existing side by side as neighbours, with contiguous borders, is an essential ingredient to achieving international peace and security. We commend the efforts of the US administration that resulted in the resumption of negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis earlier this year. We urge both sides to ensure that this renewed hope does not turn into despair.

Pending a final resolution to the conflict, we believe that an importance confidence building measure would be the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East. We express our full support for the convening of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone, and call on all states in the region to work assiduously toward reaching agreement on its establishment.

Mr. Chairman

For Jamaica and its CARICOM partners the scourge of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons continues to pose a serious challenge to the region's long term growth and development prospects. The illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and ammunition, and other forms of transnational organised crime, represent not just a national security threat, but threaten to reverse the socio-economic advances that CARICOM countries have worked hard to achieve in recent years. The immense socio-economic development challenges posed by transnational organized crime and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons must also be squarely addressed by the international community given the obstacles which these present to our achievement of the MDG's.

Jamaica is committed to playing its part to stem the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, however, as a small-island developing country, with limited resources and porous borders, we are limited in the actions that we can implement. Stemming the flow of illicit small arms and light weapons will only be achieved through partnerships, and cohesive action and a genuine commitment at the bilateral and multilateral levels. We thank our bilateral partners for the assistance provided, which has undoubtedly contributed to the decrease in violent crime, including gun-related crime across Jamaica since the start of the year.

Jamaica continues to underscore the primacy of the 2001 Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as the key multilateral mechanism in the fight against the illicit trafficking in small arms and ammunition. We were pleased to be a part of the fruitful discussions and successful outcome of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States Parties to the POA, which was held in June of this year. We remain committed to its full implementation.

Critical to future efforts to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is the establishment of a legally binding instrument for the marking and tracing and light weapons and that ammunition should be incorporated into the Programme of Action as a matter for serious consideration.

Jamaica welcomes the commencement of discussions on substantive issues that will pave the way toward the eventual conclusion and adoption of an arms trade treaty. Jamaica is committed to realizing a strong and effective ATT that includes small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.

Mr. Chairman

We have a long and complex agenda before us during the current session. Our task is arduous but failure is not an option. We have a moral obligation to provide future generations with a safe and secure international environment. We are committed to playing our part in achieving these goals.

I thank you.