



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

before the United Nations General Assembly

on

**"Measures to Eliminate International
Terrorism: Report of the Secretary-
General"**

New York, October 3, 2001

(Final text)

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Mr. President,

The course of human history was altered on 11th September when the world was shocked into disbelief at the despicable acts of terrorism perpetrated in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania. This was an attack not only against the United States, but against all of humanity. Jamaica condemns all acts of terrorism. We condemn those who carry out such acts and those who provide terrorists with support of any kind. My country, like many others in this Chamber, suffered the loss of lives of our citizens and we all grieve together. All acts of terrorism are criminal and are contrary to societal norms. No just cause can be served by acts of terrorism.

Since 11th September, the international community has focused on the many challenges we face in dealing with this scourge on the society of nations. So far, our actions have been resolute and unequivocal; but we have only just begun. We have taken the first steps, albeit important ones. The true test will be the level of effectiveness achieved in implementing the decisions already taken, and those to come.

On Friday last, the Security Council adopted resolution 1373 (2001) reaffirming the will of the international community to rid the world of terrorism and, in so doing, establishing a legal framework for action by Member States. This decisive action by the Security Council followed that taken on 12th September by the Security Council as well as the General Assembly whereby we declared our intentions to work together to put an end to the scourge of international terrorism, which threatens international peace and security. Terrorism threatens us all, and as recent events have demonstrated, no member of the international community is far removed from its effects. It also confirmed our belief that international terrorism can only be defeated if we work together, in a collective effort, to eliminate the sources of support for terrorists.

Indeed it is imperative for all nations and all peoples of the world to join in a concerted and unrelenting course of action, or series of actions, to defeat terrorism. We must reconfirm our commitment to ensure that those who carry out or support terrorist acts are once and for all brought to account. There must be no refuge or safe haven for terrorists and those who support, aid or abet them.

We must be guided by the principle established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2625 (XXV) of October 1970, which bears repeating *"that every State has the duty to refrain from organising, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in another State or acquiescing in organised activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts"*. This is an affirmation of

good neighbourliness and comity among nations. These are our basic obligations if we are to ensure that the rule of law and justice prevails throughout the global community.

Jamaica has stated in the past, and reiterates today that the most effective response to these heinous acts continues to be full cooperation at the international level. It is in this context that we fully support the development of a comprehensive and effective legal framework to combat terrorism, including the work being undertaken by the Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism, to draft a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Such a universally accepted legal framework will provide for the level of cooperation and coordination recognized as essential for effective action by Member States to combat terrorism. We urge the Committee to move quickly to decide on the major outstanding issues, so that action on the Convention can be taken by the General Assembly at this Session.

There are already several international conventions, which provide a basis for concerted action against terrorism. These legal instruments, taken together, provide a foundation for addressing terrorism through appropriate cooperation and information exchange. Jamaica is undertaking a review of these conventions with a view to signing, ratifying and fully implementing those not yet in effect in our country. We urge all Member States to do likewise.

In the meantime, there are a number of important steps we can take to combat terrorism and supporters of terrorism. Globalisation and the revolution in communications technology, which now define much of our lives, have presented us with new challenges in the fight against terrorism. In this context, Jamaica last week, along with a number of countries from the Caribbean Community, signed the Convention on Transnational Organised Crime. Transnational organised crime, which manifests itself in several forms of criminal activity, including illicit narcotics production and trafficking, money laundering and illegal arms transfers, has taken advantage of advances in technology to broaden its reach across international boundaries. The international community also must take advantage of technological advances and the expertise available to wage our battle against terrorism. In advancing our cause, those who have the know-how must be prepared to share it with those who lack it. To this end, our focus must take into consideration all aspects of terrorism and effectively deal with all instruments at the disposal of terrorists. In any consideration of terrorism, therefore, particular attention must be given to efforts aimed at countering the traffic in small arms and light weapons, which undoubtedly contributes to the spread and escalation of terrorism. The international community must move forward in concert on this most important issue.

Mr. President,

There are a number of immediate actions required of us as Member States of the United Nations: we must take action to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorists; we must remove their ability to move funds across borders to facilitate their activities and to traverse the globe with such ease; we must deny access to funds used by terrorists and their supporters without delay. We must refrain from providing any form of support at the state, group or individual level; end all safe havens for terrorists and their supporters; and share vital information necessary to effectively deal in a coordinated and cooperative international effort in combating terrorism. We must further serve the cause of justice by eliminating impunity for all terrorist acts utilizing all lawful means at our disposal.

We must be mindful of the fact that terrorism largely visits suffering upon innocent civilians, particularly women and children who are often killed, maimed or orphaned thereby resulting in humanitarian tragedies.

The international community must act now, resolutely and deliberately, to secure a safe world for ourselves and for the generations to follow. We must act in step with each other, and together, as the community of nations, in carrying out the decisions we take in the United Nations. We must assert and support the leadership role of this organisation in the fight against international terrorism. The Security Council has begun the work necessary for effective action. The General Assembly must act likewise. Let us go forward from this Chamber unified in our determination. Let us reaffirm our collective will, and let our actions in pursuit of this cause surpass our words.

Thank you.

Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations
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