



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 United Nations Security Council

on

**“PEACE-BUILDING: TOWARDS A
COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH”**

New York, February 5, 2001

(Final text)

Peace-building: Towards a Comprehensive Approach

Mr. President,

Let me thank you for convening this open debate which allows both members and non-members of the Council to express their views on the topic, "*Peace-building: towards a comprehensive approach*", and for the working paper which suggests points of departure for our discussion.

We particularly welcome the fact that this debate precedes the Fourth United Nations/Regional Organizations High-Level Meeting, which will discuss cooperation for peace-building. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for his presence at today's meeting, and for his important statement.

Last July, the Security Council reviewed the complex dimensions of the causes and prevention of armed conflicts, recognizing the importance of peace building, particularly in post-conflict situations. In November, the Security Council established a doctrine on peace operations by adopting resolution 1327 (2000) after careful consideration of the Brahimi panel's recommendations. At that time, we recognized the role of the Security Council in support of post-conflict peace-building. This was followed up by an examination of our exit strategies in peacekeeping operations. Today, as we seek to determine a comprehensive approach to bring peace, security and stability to the peoples and regions of the world, we are, as it were, completing the circle.

In past debates, we have examined, to some degree, how the root causes of deadly conflicts ultimately manifest themselves in the outbreak of war, causing untold deaths, humanitarian suffering and economic destruction. We have seen from our experiences and our reviews of many conflict situations, how many of these causes have remained unchanged in the aftermath of the bloodletting and destruction. We have seen how deadly conflicts have recurred, for the same reasons they started in the first place, after the warring parties have committed themselves to a peace process. We have learnt lessons on successes and failures; and this debate today must, as you have admonished us Mr. President, point us toward a comprehensive approach to peace-building, involving the organs of the United Nations and its funds, programmes and agencies, the international financial institutions and, equally important, regional political and economic organizations and institutions, as partners in an integrated holistic approach to peace-building.

Mr. President,

Let me make a few brief comments on the elements which my delegation considers indispensable for successful peace-building; when and where we should engage in peace-building; by whom and how should it be applied; and what are some of the instruments that might be successfully employed.

By failing to address the causes of deadly conflicts, situations of conflict develop which might otherwise be preventable. While we often think of peace-building in the context of post-conflict situations, my delegation posits that peace-building can and must be employed in conflict prevention. Eradicating the causes of conflicts necessitates building societies to respect the rules of law, adherence to international norms of human rights and humanitarian laws, and promoting economic and social development to eliminate human suffering from poverty and disease. These are among the challenges facing societies in pre- and post-conflict situations. For these and many other reasons, the international community must view peace-building within this framework. By being pro-active in dealing with conflicts rather than responding to conflicts after they have occurred, the international community will have spared the lives and suffering of millions of people around the world, and the resources employed in reconstruction and rehabilitation of conflict-devastated societies could be channeled into meaningful programmes aimed at sustainable economic and social development.

While the United Nations and its partners pursue peacemaking in conflict situations, the dividends of peace must be clearly enunciated to the warring parties. These dividends naturally include the benefits to be derived by all parties in post-conflict peace-building. It underscores the importance of introducing peace-building strategies during the negotiating process and imbedding peace-building programmes, at the very outset, in peace agreements. By doing so, the international community will be able to demonstrate to the warring parties the peace dividends that would inure to their benefit, which would provide further inducements for peaceful settlement of disputes.

We must consider how to ensure that our peace-building strategies have the greatest impact. Far too often, the international community seems to favour a top-down approach to peace-building. With the exception of humanitarian assistance, the grassroots population tends to have the peace-building process imposed upon them often without regard to their indigenous structural and societal needs, ignoring in the process the importance of civil society and the important role of grassroots non-governmental organizations. For this and other reasons, we must recognize that the process of peace-building does not end with the cessation of hostilities and the holding of elections, when in fact the conditions for conflict remain intact. We have examples of this in Guinea-Bissau and the Central African Republic. While this useful step in the democratic process is an obviously important element in the reconstruction process and the

development of institutions of government, much more needs to be done over the long term.

So often the international community seems willing to expend resources on peacekeeping, without an equal willingness to expend similar resources on peace-building. As we seek to answer how peace-building may be effectively accomplished, we must clearly define the respective roles of the partners in this process. While their activities must be coordinated to avoid competing interests, waste and duplication, there is need for full integration of programmes aimed at peace-building to ensure their effectiveness. The United Nations, for its part, has a central role in the process of coordination and integration through its organs, and particularly, through its Secretary-General. Of similar importance are the roles that regional institutions and organizations must have in peace-building, both at the pre- and post-conflict stages. These regional institutions and organizations must, however, be appropriately equipped, structured and adequately resourced to carry out these responsibilities. The meeting over the course of the next two days between the United Nations and Regional Organizations, convened by the Secretary-General, is therefore most timely, and we look forward to being briefed on the results of this meeting.

Let me conclude, Mr. President, by highlighting some of the important and indispensable elements for successful peace-building by the international community as a whole:

- We must promote democratic governance and the rule of law by ensuring that our programmes develop respect for human rights, minority rights, and peace with justice;
- We must ensure that the international community provides assistance to emerging democracies, in pre- and post-conflict situations that promote long-term economic prosperity and social development;
- We must seek to strengthen the capacity of international financial and developmental agencies to focus attention on peace-building measures at all stages of a country's involvement in conflict;
- We must provide adequate resources to regional organizations and institutions so that they may become pro-active at the pre- and post-conflict stages in peace-building efforts and throughout the peace process;
- We must ensure that, when threatened from without, a nation should be secure in the understanding that the international community will provide the necessary support for its security and territorial integrity;

- We must ensure that the programmes we design in a post-conflict situation make adequate provisions for disarming former combatants, their rehabilitation and, most importantly, their reintegration into society, politically, socially and economically;
- We must ensure that the exploitation of natural resources inures to the benefit of the people as a whole in the country concerned and does not support the corrupt within and without.

Finally, no matter how much we recognize what needs to be done to address each situation, if there is a lack of political will by those involved in the process and anything less than the full commitment of the international community - both indispensable elements for successful peace-building - our efforts will be all for naught. If we bring all of these things together in an integrated approach to peace-building, the successes, which have eluded us in the past will finally be achieved.

I thank you, Mr. President.

*Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations
NEW YORK
February 5, 2001*