



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

STATEMENT BY

**MS. SHORNA-KAY RICHARDS
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**



AT THE

**FIFTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES TO CONSIDER THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO
PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

CLOSING STATEMENT

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
20TH JUNE 2014**

Mr. Chairman,

I take the floor on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

At the conclusion of our work, allow me to congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, the Bureau, the Moderators, Mr. Simpson and Mr. Faize, as well as the Secretariat on the accomplishment by this meeting of a full consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument. We appreciate the open, transparent and efficient manner in which you have steered our work, as well as the constructive participation by all delegations.

Mr. Chairman,

This fifth biennial meeting, including the presentations and side events, has confirmed that the global commitment to a comprehensive approach to promote at all levels the prevention, reduction and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, is an essential contribution to international peace and security.

CARICOM welcomes the adoption of the Outcome Document which broadly meets the objectives we have set for the meeting. We all now have the responsibility of undertaking prompt, concrete and effective implementation of the decisions contained in the Outcome Document, at the national, regional and international levels.

CARICOM considers international cooperation and assistance, particularly capacity-building and training to be areas of priority. The meeting has agreed on helpful measures to build the capacity of States in order to ensure effective practical implementation. The initiation of these measures in concrete terms should start expeditiously and therefore, CARICOM Member States will make their needs known, as well as take advantage of the cooperation with regional and international organisations. We encourage States and international and regional organisations in a position to do so to render adequate and sustainable cooperation and assistance, particularly technical and financial, as soon as possible. We reiterate our thanks to our bilateral partners and international and regional organisations that have assisted greatly in our implementation efforts over the years.

CARICOM welcomes the decision to task next year's meeting of the MGE with considering the implications of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology, as well as ways to support the transfer, uptake and effective utilization of tools and technologies.

CARICOM strongly believes that a comprehensive approach to stockpile management should include ammunition. Having listened to the many interventions made during the past few days, our understanding is that there is broad agreement on the need for such a comprehensive approach. We deeply regret that the outcome on this matter was not ambitious.

Against the backdrop of the high levels of armed violence and crime in our region, we strongly welcome the recognition given at this meeting to the complementary role the exchange of ballistics information can play in relation to the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons in the context of criminal investigations. CARICOM has embarked on a project, the Regional Integrated Ballistic Network, to utilise this system and therefore welcomes the call for the provision of technical and financial assistance to strengthen national capacities for ballistics collection and exchange.

CARICOM fully supports the call by the meeting to promote the participation and representation of women in implementing the PoA particularly in the areas of stockpile management and international cooperation and assistance.

We take note of the numerous examples of steps undertaken by States at the national level, as well as ongoing processes at the regional and subregional levels towards the effective implementation of the PoA and ITI. On the part of CARICOM, we have taken the opportunity of the side event to present the experiences, best practices and challenges from within the region. We look forward to continue working with the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, the OAS and UNLiREC, as well as with our bilateral partners within and outside of the region and international organisation in undertaking the measures we have agreed in the Outcome Document. We also view the continued involvement of civil society as critical.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, we believe, that the constructive atmosphere and operational results of this meeting can have a positive effect beyond the immediate scope of the PoA and ITI. We, therefore, continue to hope that it will be possible, within the review cycle, to engage in substantive discussions on certain issues outside the scope of the POA, but which are critical to its effective implementation, including addressing the complementarities between the PoA and the ATT. The dynamic and evolving illicit trade in small arms and light weapons demands this of us.

I thank you.