



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 General Assembly**

**on the**

**REPORT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL  
TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*New York, October 19, 2000*

*(Please check against delivery)*

**STATEMENT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY  
HER EXCELLENCY M. PATRICIA DURRANT  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
OCTOBER 19, 2000**

***"Report of the Security Council to the General Assembly"***

Let me begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Martin Andjaba of Namibia, for his introduction of the annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly. This debate cannot be treated as a ritual as it provides a useful opportunity for member states to assess how the Security Council has fulfilled its responsibility under the Charter of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. President,

We all agree that the character of the Security Council's work has changed dramatically since end of the Cold War and with the increase in intra-state conflicts which have implications for international peace and security. This has broadened the scope of the issues before the Council and has challenged it to find ways to be more responsive to situations as they arise.

Mr. President,

Over the past year, the Security Council has sought to become more responsive to the wider United Nations membership. It has focussed attention on conflicts in Africa and is currently fully engaged in peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia and Eritrea. Earlier this year, the Council met with the Heads of State and Government of African States of the countries in the Great Lakes region and with Foreign Ministers of the Committee of Six of ECOWAS. The Council has also addressed issues such as the prevention of armed conflict, demobilisation,

disarmament and reintegration (DDR), children and armed conflict, the protection of civilians and humanitarian workers in the face of armed conflict – issues which pose challenges to international peace and security. The debate on conflict prevention held in November 1999, and again under Jamaica's Presidency in July of this year, demonstrated the commitment of the Council to addressing this pertinent issue, in keeping with the Secretary-General's call for the United Nations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to increasingly focus on preventive action.

We look forward to the report of the Secretary-General on conflict prevention which is due in May 2001, and believe that it will provide a basis for future action by the Council. The consideration of these broad areas is an attempt by the Council to address relevant and cross cutting issues which are outside the mandates of specific peacekeeping missions. At the same time, the Council's missions to East Timor, Kosovo, DRC and the recently-concluded mission to West Africa, provided opportunities to gain a better understanding of these complex and unique undertakings by the international community, and to respond in a timely manner to these situations.

We have seen in recent years an effort by the Security Council to respond to the call of Member States of the United Nations to raise the standard of its reporting to the General Assembly; to be more analytic and informative. In the past year, there has been some progress: we have seen some improvement in the transparency in the work of the Security Council. There has been a conscious effort to widen participation by Member States in its discussions. The Council has engaged, in a decidedly more meaningful way, in communication with affected Member States; and, during this reporting period, has devised some new and made use of previously under-utilized meeting formats to discuss sensitive issues with affected parties to disputes.

Mr. President,

Jamaica subscribes to the view that as much as is possible, the Council's work should be conducted in public. Nevertheless, the utilization of the private meetings format does however, allow participants to have frank exchanges of views. This format was used for meetings with President Mandela and Sir Ketumile Masire. Arria Formula meetings have, in our view, continued to provide an opportunity for members of the Council to interact with representatives of non-governmental organisations and other groups, which are often intimately involved with issues of primary concern to the Council. In addition, the monthly assessments by former Presidents of the work of the Council, taken together, provide a useful overview of the Council's work.

This is not to say that we entertain any misperception of having arrived at a satisfactory level of reform. There remains much to be done.

Jamaica is currently an elected member of the Security Council, and we are honoured to serve the international community in this capacity. We wish to make it absolutely clear, however, that our temporary presence on the Security Council does not, and indeed will not, obscure our vision of the need for profound changes as to how the Council is constituted and how it should operate. Prime Minister P. J. Patterson stated in the Security Council Summit debate on 7 September 2000, that the Council must have a truly representative membership; and that by failing to take note of changes in the relative standing of States in the past half-century and the expansion of United Nations membership, the Security Council has allowed its representative character to be diminished and its democratic legitimacy to suffer.

Jamaica will continue working for reform of the Security Council until the necessary fundamental changes are effected.

An issue of concern to my delegation is the use of sanctions. We are therefore pleased that the Council has decided to create a Working Group on Sanctions. We look forward to the provision of practical recommendations for streamlining sanctions regimes and providing guidelines for the imposition and lifting of sanctions. We wish, in particular, to commend the path-breaking work done by the Committees on Sanctions relating to the situations in Angola and in Sierra Leone which has sharpened the focus on the link between armed conflict and the illegal exploitation of natural resources, particularly diamonds.

Mr. President,

In recent weeks, Member States, have been paying much attention to the *"Report of the Panel on Peace Operations"*, chaired by Ambassador Locktar Brahimi. The Brahimi Report has identified significant weaknesses in the way the United Nations carries out its responsibilities, in the area of peace operations and has made recommendations, for our consideration, on conflict prevention, peacekeeping operations, and post-conflict peacebuilding. The Security Council has now established a Working Group, which Jamaica has the honour to chair, tasked with undertaking a full examination of the recommendations relating to the Security Council that are contained in the Brahimi Report. Council members have approached this undertaking with an open mind, but most importantly with a clear undertaking to improve the work of the Security Council in carrying out its responsibilities.

The Working Group, among other things, has undertaken to examine its decision making process; ways in which to establish closer collaboration and meaningful consultations with

troop contributing countries; ways to ensure consistency of peacekeeping operations with international human rights regimes; how to establish clear and well-defined mandates reflecting the needs and conditions of the situation on the ground; and how to involve the Security Council in conflict prevention, including closer cooperation with other United Nations agencies and organs. The Working Group has been placed on a fast track by the Security Council, a clear recognition of the Council's will to reform its peacekeeping operations.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to extend sincere congratulations to the newly-elected members – Colombia, Ireland, Mauritius, Norway and Singapore, and looks forward to working with them in the Security Council.

My delegation wishes to underscore the need for a strengthened Security Council which will effectively ensure the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations. We will work towards this goal.

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