



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY**

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OF JAMAICA**

**TO THE**

**FOURTH COMMITTEE OF THE  
68<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 53: *COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE  
WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS***

**NEW YORK, 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2013**

***PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY***

Mr. Chairman,

The Jamaican delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the distinguished representative of Cuba speaking on behalf of the Member States of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

At the outset, allow me to take this opportunity to commend Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Hervé Ladsous and Under-Secretary-General and Head of the Department of Field Support, Ms. Ameerah Haq for their comprehensive briefings on the ongoing activities both within the DPKO and DFS, as well as the challenges being encountered in carrying out the mandates of their respective Departments and the way forward for United Nations peacekeeping. We also extend our sincere appreciation to the dedicated and hardworking staff of DPKO and DFS for their engagement with Member States throughout the year, for the over 20 briefings received from the DPKO/DFS in the context of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34), as well as the briefings received throughout the year in the context of the Security Council Working Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica would like to reiterate its longstanding support for UN peacekeeping. Since its inception, we have come to regard peacekeeping as an essential aspect of the maintenance of international peace and security, having deployed both police officers and civilians to UN Peacekeeping Missions in Africa, the Middle- East, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, South America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation is cognizant of the demanding and often extreme conditions under which peacekeepers strive to execute their mandates. We wish to acknowledge the sacrifices peacekeepers have made in the pursuit of peace and we honour those brave men and women who have paid the ultimate price to bring security and stability across the globe. In the light of the tragic loss of 78 lives in the past year, I am compelled to express my Government's strong condemnation of all attacks which have been launched against UN peacekeeping personnel.

Mr. Chairman,

We are all aware that UN personnel operate in hazardous environments that are either experiencing or recently emerging from violent conflict. Focus on the enhancement of safety and security of our peacekeepers is therefore of paramount importance. In this regard, Jamaica continues to stress the importance of determining clear criteria for assessing security needs and evaluating threat perception. We commend all efforts by the Secretary-General that are geared towards developing new security policies and programmes that are directly aimed at managing risk.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to commend the DFS and the DPKO for the policies concerning the preservation and sustainable use of the environment through the utilization of modern equipment and technologies. We believe that environmentally friendly technological innovations that improve service delivery while realizing resource efficiencies should be supported. We are pleased to note, in this connection, the initiatives geared towards reducing energy consumption in peacekeeping missions through the establishment of solar energy farms. Deserving of particular note is the inclusion of environmental considerations in the peacekeeping mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). We regard these and other related developments as positive and encouraging and we welcome, in this regard, the proposed establishment of the expert panel to examine the use of modern technology in peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman

Jamaica has always believed that sustainable peace and stability can best be achieved by addressing the root causes of conflict. These include poverty, efficient allocation of and competition for scarce resources, unemployment, and the systemic violation of human rights. We recommend the adoption of a holistic approach to conflict prevention including the use of social and developmental policy instruments, continuous development and implementation of early warning and early response systems, and the full actualization of agreed commitments on the part of developed countries to enable developing and least-developed countries to meet their socio-economic goals. Equally significant is the role of South-South cooperation in facilitating technology transfers and in building capacity.

We also are convinced that peacekeeping and peacebuilding should be seen as two sides of the same coin. Critical peacebuilding initiatives such as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), security sector reform (SSR), rule of law, governance, institution building, and support to the democratic processes are all hinged on the work carried out by UN peacekeepers.

Mr. Chairman,

We have observed with keen interest the gradual contraction in resource allocation to peacekeeping missions. We have also observed that such resource allocation has failed to keep pace with mandate expansion and that peacekeeping missions are being called upon to do more with less as evidenced by the existing shortfalls faced by the military component of our missions. Jamaica wishes to emphasize that the resources accorded to peacekeeping missions need to be commensurate with mandates and that efficiency measures should never compromise operational necessities or the safety of UN peacekeeping personnel.

We wish to underscore that the overall consolidation of peace operations have not changed the fact that both uniformed and civilian peacekeepers are needed more than ever before to support and enable critical tasks that serve to bolster institution building and encourage inclusivity. With this in mind, we wholeheartedly endorse the view that peacekeeping missions should be planned and implemented through close collaboration among peacekeeping operations, UN country teams and development actors. We wish to encourage to the greatest extent possible, coordination between the Security Council, the C34, troop and police contributing countries, the UN Secretariat and other bodies in terms of formulating and implementing clearly defined peacekeeping mandates. Equally necessary, Mr. Chairman, is synchronization of processes which serve to identify those specialized skills required for deployment and those processes that involve a pre positioning of personnel and equipment for the purpose of deployment.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation regards the matter of criminal accountability as a key issue in the context of peacekeeping missions and the need for ensuring adequate protection of civilians.

We encourage the Secretariat in its application of a zero tolerance approach to instances of sexual and gender-based violence and abuse and recognize the training provided to military and civilian peacekeepers as a means of addressing this problem. We stress, however, that although the overall trend of misconduct and cases of exploitation is gradually decreasing, even one case is too many within the context of UN peacekeeping.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica, as a member Caribbean Community (CARICOM), fully supports the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). We thank the Secretary General for his report (S/2013/493) which provides useful information on the progress of the efforts of the United Nations, through its mission, to bring about lasting peace and stability to Haiti. In this connection, Jamaica welcomes the decision of the Security Council adopted in resolution 2119 (2013) to extend MINUSTAH's mandate until 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2014, with the intention of further renewal.

My delegation also welcomes plans to encourage investments that will play a critical role in spurring the social and economic development of Haiti. Nevertheless, we submit that international assistance must be aligned with Haiti's national priorities to ensure that there is appropriate national ownership of programmes intended to benefit the Haitian people.

We are pleased to note the political milestones achieved by the Haitian government which are indicative of progress. We are particularly pleased by the establishment of the Transitional College of Permanent Electoral Council and the submission of a draft electoral law to the National Assembly. We remain optimistic that the forward momentum achieved thus far will be sustained and that all parties involved in the political process would be able to rise above the differences that exist between them. Nevertheless, we urge the government to work together with the Opposition to put in place the machinery for the holding of the overdue partial senatorial, municipal and local elections.

Mr. Chairman,

We are encouraged by MINUSTAH's level of contribution to the capacity development of the Haitian National Police. We note, however, that the targets of the National Police

Development Plan requires continued commitment by the Government, as well as Haiti's partners in order to ensure that adequate resources are available to support its viability and to ensure that it will eventually be in a position to assume full responsibility for the maintenance of internal security.

There have been a number of other positive developments in Haiti following the devastating earthquake in 2010 and the further destruction caused following Hurricane Sandy last year. We recognize the efforts made by Haitian authorities to propel socio-economic development, including strides made by President Martelly to attract foreign direct investment.

While progress has been made in the aforementioned areas, there is no denying that Haiti continues to experience a political, social and economic crisis. In the light of this, we believe that the discussion at hand should be focused on adequately addressing Haitian concerns. This includes addressing the remaining number of internally displaced persons as well as the suffering caused by the ongoing cholera epidemic. Focus should also be placed on ensuring that the phased withdrawal of the mission is informed by developments that occur on the ground, such as the development of stronger institutions and that it is underpinned by progress toward lasting stability.

Jamaica is also concerned at the slow pace in which funds pledged by the international community to assist Haiti are being disbursed, and the effect which the impact of the lack of resources is having on Haiti's reconstruction efforts. We urge, in this regard, all members of the international donor community to make good on the pledges and promises made to Haiti for its recovery and reconstruction.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation has often stressed the need for the effective implementation of gender mainstreaming in PKO's as we believe that it is crucial to ensuring that women's concerns are adequately integrated into all policy aspects of peacekeeping missions. Women are often the ones most demonstrably affected by conflict but their voices have unfortunately remained in the background. In this spirit, Jamaica commends the UN Police Divisions and DPKO for the various gender initiatives which have been implemented to date. We are disheartened to note that female police officers and female formed police units remain in short supply and we encourage the organization to strengthen its efforts to increase the number of female officers in peacekeeping missions.

For my country, a notable number of female officers have been deployed, all of whom have been vital members of their teams, becoming contingent commanders and teachers. These achievements underpin Jamaica's view that women must be included as truly active participants in every stage of the peacekeeping and peace building processes. We support, in this regard, the strengthening of consultations with civil society within the communities hosting peacekeeping operations and we fully support processes aimed at ensuring sufficient senior level gender expertise within Missions.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, Jamaica looks forward to engaging in meaningful and comprehensive dialogue with respect to UN peacekeeping and we remain committed as always to actively supporting and contributing to the development of policy solutions to all current and future peacekeeping issues.

I thank you.