



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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AMBASSADOR / PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF  
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

ON

AGENDA ITEM 54:

*Comprehensive Review of the Whole question of peacekeeping operations  
In all their aspects*  
Special Political and Decolonization Committee

and

AGENDA ITEM 56:

*Questions Relating to Information*



IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE  
75<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK

*Please check against delivery*

**Mr. Chair,**

I have the honour to speak today on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on Agenda Item 54 - **Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects** as well as Agenda Item 56 - **Questions Relating to Information**.

At the outset, CARICOM extends sincerest congratulations to you and the other members of the Bureau on your election, and assures you of our full support throughout this session. We place on record our appreciation for the work done by your predecessor, His Excellency Mohammed Hussein Bahr Aluloom of Iraq for successfully guiding our work during his tenure as Chair of the Fourth Committee during the 74th Session.

**With respect to Agenda Item 54**, CARICOM aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM.

**Mr. Chair,**

Since last we gathered to assess the progress made in respect of the UN's peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations, the world has drastically changed. The onset of the corona virus pandemic has exacerbated existing challenges in every possible way. Now, more than ever, the questions of sustainable development, peace and security have been called into question as a result of the destabilizing effect that the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic has engendered for several countries, not least amongst them being Small Island Developing States.

For this reason, CARICOM wishes to highlight and to congratulate Under-Secretary General Jean Pierre Lacroix and his team for their responsiveness and continued efforts, despite the considerable challenges posed by the pandemic to on-the-ground operations globally.

It is commendable that despite the circumstances, various Missions have remained steadfast in sustaining the peace through the provision of effective support to political

peace processes, as well as by responding to and preventing various forms of civilian threats, which sadly have not diminished despite the pandemic.

As the UN continues to monitor the situation of its field missions in the face of this pandemic, and to support implementation of prevention and mitigation measures, CARICOM echoes the appeal of the Secretary-General for a Global Ceasefire. In the words of the Secretary-General: *“We must commit to reinforcing diplomatic action [in this regard], which will help create conditions for the delivery of lifesaving aid and bring hope to places that are among the most vulnerable to the COVID-19 pandemic. There should only be one fight in our world today, and that is against COVID-19”*.

**Mr. Chair,**

The maintenance of peace and security is a critical component to fostering social and economic growth and development. It is for this reason that CARICOM attaches enormous importance to the peacekeeping and peace building efforts of the United Nations.

In this regard, we welcome the adoption of last year’s Security Council Resolution 2476 (2019), which established the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), under the leadership of Ms. Helen La Lime. As the successor to MINUJUSTH, the Mission has worked consistently to strengthen and promote political stability and good governance in Haiti. It has played an important advisory role to the Government of Haiti in key areas such as: justice reform, human rights protection and accountability, and community violence reduction.

We remain committed to assisting and advocating for Haiti as it progresses along its path towards sustainable peace, stability and development. We are convinced that this approach of sustained dialogue and inclusion will continue to augur well for the efforts of all parties involved.

**Mr. Chair,**

On the matter of gender parity in peacebuilding and security, CARICOM continues to support the active participation of women in all efforts to promote Peace and Security.

We are supportive of the Secretary-General's system-wide strategy, which sets the deadline of 2028 to achieve gender parity among internationally recruited staff across the UN system. CARICOM is pleased with the progress made in appointing gender advisers to peacekeeping operations, and efforts to mainstream gender perspectives throughout all the offices of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

**Mr. Chair,**

CARICOM recognizes the efforts undertaken to measure and improve the performance of uniformed personnel and to establish systems of accountability in peacekeeping operations, in line with the 'Action for Peacekeeping' (A4P) initiative. This initiative is welcomed by CARICOM, as it aims to strengthen peacekeeping by spurring collective action by all peacekeeping stakeholders, including Member States, the Security Council, the General Assembly, financial contributors, troop and police contributing countries, host countries, as well as intergovernmental and regional organizations.

We commend the efforts of the UN to streamline and improve peacekeeping operations as a whole, including through the revised format of the C-34 report to ensure a more nuanced and targeted outcome document from this special committee. The newly established 2020 review process of the UN Peacekeeping Architecture is also welcomed by the group.

**Mr. Chair,**

With respect to Agenda Item 56 on **Questions Relating to Information**, CARICOM aligns itself with the statement made by Guyana, on behalf of Group of 77 and China. We take note of the report of the Secretary-General on this agenda item and reaffirm our support for the work undertaken by the Department of Global Communications under the able leadership of Under-Secretary-General Melissa Fleming.

**Mr. Chair,**

We commend His Excellency Omar Hilale of Morocco for his astute management of the 42nd session of the Committee on Information during these extraordinary times. We take note of the Report of the Committee on this session, which highlights the importance of the work of the Department of Global Communications and its network of

UN information centres, which ensuring the dissemination of reliable, accurate and science-based information, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Mr. Chair,**

Modern technology and interconnected communication networks presents the opportunity to share, educate, relate and mobilize across geographic, political, economic, social and cultural divides. Digital communications networks also bring attention to the most complex and urgent challenges facing humankind. The Fourth Industrial Revolution, as this technological revolution has been dubbed, is evolving at an exponential pace that presents challenges that have resulted in uncertainty and disorder, such as the spread of misinformation.

In this regard, the Department of Global Communications plays a critical in promoting the dissemination of fact based, reliable information, which builds awareness and support for the work carried out throughout the UN system. The department also assists citizens throughout the world in participating in events of global importance, which are of cultural, socio-economic or humanitarian significance to their daily lives. CARICOM recognises and applauds the Department for its sustained efforts and initiatives to publicise the work of the United Nations system to the widest possible global audience. In this context, we commend the United Nations Information Centres for their multilingual outreach in nearly 100 languages, including Braille.

**Mr. Chair,**

CARICOM welcomes the cross-cutting reform efforts being undertaken by the Department of Global Communications, which focuses on strategic planning and management, strategic partnerships, resource mobilization and innovation. We support the Department's commitment to monitoring and evaluation, which is designed to ensure that the qualitative and quantitative impact of its work is accurately assessed.

We take note that the implementation of the ongoing repositioning of the UN Development System, has resulted in a number of efficiencies and savings through consolidation within common premises and back offices. This includes the merger of UN Information Centres with Resident Coordinator Offices. However, we reiterate the

importance of ensuring that this ongoing transition does not erode the considerable gains achieved by United Nations Information Centres, nor eliminate the communication tools that have been most effective in our region. We are optimistic that this merger will result in better delivery of public information services, compatible with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, and in consultation with Member States.

**Mr. Chair,**

Inclusivity remains essential to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of their background, worldviews or language, are kept faithfully updated and engaged in the process towards the realization of the sustainable development goals and their associated targets. Robust efforts must therefore be made to ensure the effective use of existing communication platforms, as well as to develop innovative ways to use new and evolving media platforms and technologies. Accordingly, the Department is encouraged to continue its pursuit of creative and effective mechanisms to share information, particularly with respect to the engagement of our youth and the most vulnerable in society.

CARICOM recognizes the resource constraints that the Organisation currently faces. However, we reiterate the need to use all official languages at as many United Nations events as possible, and emphasize the necessity for multilingualism to be practiced at all United Nations Information Centres. This plays a vital role in addressing specific challenges, such as the persistent digital divide that has been thrown into sharp relief by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Mr. Chair,**

We reaffirm our region's support for the United Nations Information Centres, in particular the Centre located in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, which also serves territories in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean.

We reiterate our unwavering commitment to the activities and initiatives undertaken by the Department of Global Communications and look forward to maintaining our collaboration with a view to ensuring that no one is left behind.

As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, we underscore the significance of the work of the Fourth Committee, particularly during these challenging times, and reaffirm CARICOM's support and constructive engagement in the advancement of the work of this Committee throughout this historic 75<sup>th</sup> session.

I thank you.