



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**MISS CHRISTINE R. BAILEY  
COUNSELLOR  
PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON**

**AGENDA ITEM 6:**

*Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level and the global level, including consideration to preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients*

**AT THE**

**SEVENTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE STATE 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**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

**27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2021**

**FINAL TEXT**

**Mr. Chair,**

As it is the first time my delegation is taking the floor, we extend our congratulations to you on your election as Chair of the 7th Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. I reassure you and the bureau of Jamaica's constructive engagement during this BMS7.

Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of CAIRCOM by the Permanent Representative of St Kitts and Nevis and would like to share a few proposals in our national capacity.

**Mr. Chair,**

With respect to agenda item 6, as far as my country understands it, these biennial meetings of States are to consider the implementation of the PoA to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects. How then, in good conscience, can we be discussing implementation of the PoA, a politically binding instrument, in fact the only universal instrument dealing with preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects without addressing a major part of what make these weapons operable, their ammunitions. As our distinguished colleague of Costa Rica pointed out yesterday, people do not die of gun wounds. They die of bullet wounds.

**Mr. Chair,**

In spite of the efforts by Jamaica's law enforcement officials to stem the scourge of illicit trafficking of firearms and ammunition into the country, it continues to be a crippling issue for our sustainable development.

According to Jamaica's National Security policy for Jamaica, Jamaica's development continues to be crippled by violence and crime and largely as a result the economy has stagnated for many years with low growth and declining productivity. The cost of gun crime is approximately 5% of GDP, which effectively negates any advances we make in relation to productivity gains.

Over the reporting period 2019-2020 - Jamaica's National Report on the implementation of the PoA and the ITI informed that there were several seizures of SALWs and ammunition at Jamaica's ports, to include incidents involving diversion related to international transfers. The details are as follows: (a) 2018 - 27 SALWs and 695 rounds of ammunition were seized (b) 2019 - 40 SALWs and 4,607 rounds of ammunition were seized. This represents the lives of 5,302 persons from a population of 2.7mil.

**Mr. Chair,**

The staggering financial impact of guns on the health sector and the deep trauma that haunts relatives and communities after these violent incidents are two compelling reasons why the focus should not only be on SALW but also on ammunition. These are inseparable issues both making each other viable.

Jamaica therefore calls for the inclusion of small arms and light weapons and ammunition across various paragraphs 21, 22, 24 - 28, 32-34, 36, 38-39, 42, 51, 59, 62, 67, 68, 70, 71, 72, 76.

**Mr. Chair,**

Over the past 5 years, Jamaica has been making strides in the attainment of the sustainable development goals of the 2030 Agenda. However, we are particularly strangled by the non-attainment of Goal 16 and Target 16.4 on illicit arms flows.

We are very much aware that the sustainable development of our sub-region is inextricably linked to the peace and security of our people. We reiterate our call for synergies and complementarity of the interaction between the PoA and SDG16.4 bearing in mind the direct correlation between armed violence and development in the Jamaica.

We also want to stress the importance of considering synergies between global instruments for example the PoA and the ATT especially in light of our capacity constraints. We therefore are always seeking practical measures that allow harmonized implementation of the ATT and the PoA.

**Mr. Chair,**

Jamaica maintains that there must be a gender responsive approach to the implementation of the PoA and ITI. The RevCon3 encouraged the mainstreaming of gender considerations into small arms and light weapons policies and programmes. States also reiterated the importance of encouraging “the full participation and representation of women, including in leadership roles and as agents of change, in policymaking, planning and implementation processes.”

**Mr. Chair,**

My delegation continues to be convinced that the UN Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument together remain important global frameworks at our disposal to tackle the complex issue of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. To this end, let us take concrete steps towards their implementation.

**Thank you.**