



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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FIRST SECRETARY, PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE**

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE  
2019 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE  
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (C34)**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**ON**

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***FINAL TEXT***

**Mr. Chair,**

It is an honour to address the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) at the start of its 2019 substantive session. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Jamaica's participation in UN peacekeeping missions began in the 1980s, where police officers from the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) were deployed to Namibia. Despite our size, Jamaica continues to support UN peacekeeping as we recognize the value of the collective investment by the international community in peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

Consequently, the Government of Jamaica continues to attach great significance to the work of the C-34, particularly as we, Member States, tackle the increasingly multidimensional features of UN peacekeeping. Furthermore, my delegation recalls the initiative of the Secretary-General to reform the peace and security pillar which is aimed at, among other things, to enhance the effectiveness and coherence of peacekeeping operations and special political missions, and to align the peace and security pillar more closely with the development and human rights pillars. We therefore look forward to receiving, pursuant to GA resolution 72/199, the second report from the Secretary-General, which is expected to provide comprehensive proposals that take into account the views of Member States, whilst ensuring accountability and transparency.

We also take note of the progress recorded thus far in strengthening peacekeeping, with respect to the implementation by stakeholders of the shared commitments through the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) Initiative.

**Mr. Chair,**

My delegation is grateful for the updates provided by the Under-Secretaries-General of the Department of Operational Support (Mr. Atul Khare) and the Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance (Ms. Jan Beagle) and the Assistant-Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peace Operations (Mr. Alexandre Zouev) on the collaboration of these new entities in strengthening peacekeeping. My delegation looks forward to receiving the detailed briefings from the respective Departments later this week on the activities undertaken to implement recommendations emanating from our last C-34 session. We are also grateful to the Secretariat for the provision of Intersessional briefings to the C-34.

We are confident that our annual deliberations on all aspects of peacekeeping will be pursued in full support of the work of the United Nations in collaboration with all the actors in peacekeeping. This is essential to realizing our common goal of maintaining international peace and security, and enabling stability in all areas of conflict. In this regard, you can be assured of my delegation's full cooperation.

**Mr. Chair,**

It is well known that peacekeepers can provide the valuable space needed for mediation efforts and engagement with conflict actors and marginalized communities, in order to rebuild a shared political space, in both conflict and post-conflict environments.

This reflects the nexus between peacekeeping and peacebuilding, which are mutually reinforcing in the context of our pursuit of durable peace and security. It is imperative, therefore, that we understand the root causes of conflict and invest in helping countries to build their institutions as a means of strengthening resilience and facilitating lasting comprehensive political settlements through the promotion of conflict prevention.

**Mr. Chair,**

As a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Jamaica continues to advocate for the consolidation of the notable progress recorded in Haiti over the past several years, including towards stability and democracy, improvements in strengthening the security and humanitarian situation, and a consolidation of Haiti's democratic institutions.

We recognize that the holding of elections in the fourth quarter of 2019 will be a critical milestone for Haiti's stability. This provides the opportunity for all stakeholders to collaborate and provide adequate electoral assistance to facilitate peaceful elections, which is a fundamental element in the consolidation of democratic governance.

My delegation cannot emphasize enough that close collaboration with the Government of Haiti and its partners will be essential to the successful transition to a non-peacekeeping United Nations presence in that country. We concur with the Secretary General, in his latest report that this broad nature of cooperation between the relevant stakeholders including the private sector and civil society, and enhanced communication between the Haitian institutions and the public, are key to ensuring success in addressing priority tasks. This includes the adoption of short-term measures that can respond to the immediate needs of the people.

Therefore, although the mandate period for the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) is set to expire on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019, it is imperative that the transition take into account the full scope of the realities on the ground. We therefore look forward to the report of the Secretary-General on his next strategic assessment mission to Haiti. We anticipate that this report will include recommendations on the United Nation's future role in Haiti, including in relation to a drawdown and exit of MINUJUSTH.

**Mr. Chair,**

Jamaica is convinced that for peacekeeping operations to be effective and deliver service to where they are most needed, they must be provided from the outset with political support, and given sufficient human resources, including military and police capabilities, financial and logistical capacities.

My delegation, like other Member States, is aware of the worrying financial situation of the United Nations, including the deteriorating cash balances of active peacekeeping missions, due chiefly to the increases in arrears of contributions. Inextricably linked to this situation is the high risk of the dramatic delay of payments to Troop and Police Contributing countries (T/PCCs). This raises concerns due to the adverse effects of such delays on the capacities of T/PCCs to sustain their participation in UN peacekeeping.

In this vein, we emphasize that reimbursements to troop-contributing countries and police forces must be made in a timely and efficient manner.

**Mr. Chair,**

Jamaica continues to support the active participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and in all efforts to promote international peace and security.

We welcome the various initiatives by the Secretariat to ensure gender mainstreaming across peacekeeping operations, both at HQ and in the field. We note the 2018 endorsement by the then DPKO and DFS of a new gender policy on gender-responsive UN peacekeeping operations, which is aimed at enhancing leadership and collective accountability in operationalizing women, peace and security issues in peacekeeping. We also take note of the initiative piloted with UN-Women to enhance gender-responsive conflict analysis, which has contributed to informing strategic processes such as the development of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework in Haiti, a strategic assessment in Darfur and the handover of priorities specific to women, peace and security, from UNMIL to the UN Country Team in Liberia.

We are particularly pleased with the Secretary General's system-wide gender parity strategy, announced in September 2017, which sets the deadline of 2021 to achieve gender parity at senior levels and by 2028 among internationally recruited staff across the UN system.

In addition to developments in gender parity, we continue to be broadly supportive of the Organization's initiatives to increase the participation of uniformed women in peacekeeping; including through its ongoing efforts to implement Security Council resolutions 2242 (2015) and 1325 (2000).

**Mr. Chair,**

My delegation is aware that the changing nature of conflict has exposed peacekeepers to heightened security risks. Although fatalities have decreased from 2017 to 2018, moving from 134 to 95, we firmly believe that we should not only focus on strengthening the resilience of peacekeeping missions, but implement the necessary measures to preserve the lives of peacekeepers. Therefore, we continue support the Secretary General's steps to improve the safety and security of peacekeepers and the Organization's efforts to implement the recommendations from the Cruz Report.

We all assume the collective duty for the care of our peacekeepers. In this respect, training of peacekeepers is of paramount importance in ensuring that work undertaken at the policy level is translated to effective operational activities in the field, including through the efficient use of technology, provision of adequate protected mobility, and proactive occupational safety and health measures designed to reduce the risk among all personnel, including uniformed personnel. We therefore look forward to the creation of an occupational safety and health management system, as outlined in the July 2018 bulletin of the Secretary General.

**Mr. Chair,**

Consistent with the objective of ensuring the safety and security of UN personnel, Jamaica is fully supportive of the Organization's zero-tolerance approach to all forms of misconduct and, in particular, acts of sexual exploitation and abuse on the part of peacekeeping personnel. We believe that action taken in response to allegations of misconduct, especially acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, should be comprehensive and dealt with in an inclusive manner.

**In closing Mr. Chair,**

Jamaica emphasizes that peacekeeping efforts would not be successful without the ardent, dedicated efforts of peacekeepers on the frontline. We are grateful to the over 103,000 civilian staff, military and police personnel engaged in the 14 active peacekeeping missions and pays tribute, in particular to the 3,802 peacekeepers that have paid the ultimate price in the cause of peace over the past 70 years.

***I thank you.***