



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

STATEMENT BY

MR. KAVOY A ASHLEY

FIRST SECRETARY

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

AT THE

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 2020 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS (C-34)**

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY 2020

NEW YORK

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to address the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C – 34) during its Substantive Session. Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

At the outset, let me congratulate you Mr. Chair, and the other Bureau Members on your appointment to this important task of reviewing UN peacekeeping operations as a whole.

My delegation further thanks the President of the General Assembly, Ambassador Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, as well as Undersecretary General Lacroix for their opening presentations delivered yesterday. We look forward to receiving the remainder of the in-session briefings as the session progresses.

In this context, Jamaica welcomes the finalization of the new Report structure of the C-34, in line with the eight (8) Action for Peace (A4P) themes. We believe that this new structure will allow for greater progress and accountability in the work of the committee.

Mr. Chairman,

The greatest weapons possessed by humanity have always, and will forever be the arsenals of peace, love and unity. It is a part of our most basic nature, though it remains the elusive reality for which we fight. The collective history of our peoples reminds us of this duty. Indeed, despite our origins and our cultures, we are centrally united by our humanity – and that we fight in service of every, man, woman and child who is unable to do so for themselves.

As a Small Island Developing State, Jamaica is uniquely aware of the extent to which the maintenance of peace and security is crucial if we are to foster continued social and economic growth and development. It is for this reason that Jamaica attaches such importance to the work of this Committee, and in particular, to the continued sacrifices of the brave women and men who form our peace keeping contingents.

In August of last year, Jamaica mourned the loss of Mr. Clive Peck, one of three United Nations (UN) staff members who died when a bomb-laden vehicle exploded outside a shopping mall in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi. Mr. Peck served the United Nations for 26 years and was a former member of the Jamaica Constabulary Force's Special Branch and a respected member of his community.

We salute the service and dedication of the brave individuals like Mr. Peck who, as Peacekeepers, courageously place themselves at the frontlines of conflict in dedication to the goals of the UN and in the service of humanity.

Mr. Chairman,

On the matter of gender parity in Peacebuilding and Security, Jamaica continues to support the active participation of women in all efforts to promote Peace and Security, and are particularly pleased with 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. Jamaica 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).

We encourage the DPKO to continue to strengthen efforts to increase the number of female officers in peacekeeping missions. We recall the adoption of resolution 2242 (2015) by the Security Council, which builds on resolution 1325 (2000), and embodies the UN's commitment to integrate women, peace and security concerns across all country-specific situations.

We look forward to future reports outlining efforts towards the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including the finalization of the Gender Forward Looking Strategy of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support. We, therefore, encourage the DPKO to continue to strengthen efforts in this regard, and to increase the number of female officers in peacekeeping missions.

Mr. Chairman,

Small Island States such as Jamaica continue to play an important role in peacekeeping operations, as both contributors of troops, and contributors to the overall peacekeeping budget. We are all aware of the current liquidity crisis with which the United Nations is currently faced, and therefore wish to extend commendation to all Member States, including SIDS who have paid their contributions, and who have also contributed to the voluntary funds.

The promotion and maintenance of international peace and security is a core priority for Jamaica, and we remain vested in this overall process, which also includes ensuring that Peacekeeping operations perform at optimal levels, and that they remain accountable on all fronts.

Jamaica further recognizes the efforts undertaken to measure and to improve the performance of uniformed personnel and accountability in peacekeeping operations, in line with the 'Action for Peacekeeping' (A4P) initiative. This initiative is welcomed by the Government of Jamaica, as it aims to strengthen peacekeeping by spurring collective action by all peacekeeping stakeholders, including all Member States, the Security Council, the General

Assembly, financial contributors, troop and police contributing countries, host countries, intergovernmental and regional organizations.

Mr. Chairman,

For several years, United Nations Specialized forces, including a contingent of Peacekeepers, have been assigned as a part of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), which was replaced by the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) in 2017 that concluded its operations in October of last year.

It is against this background that we welcome the recent adoption of Security Council Resolution 2476 (2019), to establish the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH), a successor initiative to the MINUJUSTH for an initial one-year period.

Jamaica further welcomes the appointment of Ms. Helen Meagher La Lime, as the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Haiti, and Head of BINUH. We are committed to assisting her where possible, in carrying out her responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, Jamaica remains fully committed to the cause of Peace and Security within the Global Community, and will continue to assist the work of this Committee. While we seek to ensure that the policies surrounding these initiatives are sound; let us also not forget the people for whom we fight. It is our obligation, as we press forward for the cause of Peace, to listen to their voices, and to remember that each face recounts a story that is worth protecting.

I thank you.