



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

STATEMENT BY

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ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)



on

**Agenda items 106: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
&
108: International Drug Control**

**THIRD COMMITTEE
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Mr. Chairman,

I am pleased to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community on agenda items 106: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and item 108: International Drug Control.

CARICOM congratulates Ambassador Christian Braun on his election as Chairman, and the entire Bureau on its election to the leadership of this Committee. We affirm our support for the successful execution of the adopted programme of work.

CARICOM thanks the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports submitted to the General Assembly, which provide a useful context for our deliberations. We note the actions undertaken by the United Nations, particularly the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in support of Member States' efforts to address issues that negatively impact our Region's ability to attain the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The level of crime in the Caribbean Community has worrisome implications for the health and well-being of our societies. We must confront the challenges posed by our porous borders, irregular migration, the transshipment of drugs, the flow of illegal firearms, and emerging threats in the domain of cyberspace.

Additionally, we cannot ignore the added pressures that natural disasters and other devastating impacts of climate change place upon our already

burdened security systems. These events can result in humanitarian crises, which may give rise to violence and criminal activity. As such, CARICOM is committed to the full implementation of our Strategic Plan for 2015-2019, to ensure a safe and secure Community for our people, where human rights and social justice are guaranteed. The Region, therefore, has increased its efforts to address the social determinants of crime, raise public awareness and mobilize regional action to tackle the multidimensional aspects of crime and related issues.

Mr. Chairman,

Security Cooperation is the fourth pillar of our integration movement. CARICOM Heads of Government, at their 30th Inter-Sessional Meeting in February 2019, reiterated the critical importance to the Region of the national and regional security architectures in combatting crime and violence, transnational crime and other security threats, as well as for the effective functioning of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Free Movement Regimes.

We have, therefore, devised a number of key strategies to support our ongoing efforts to ensure a safe and secure Community. These include: increasing the resilience of the Region and reducing our vulnerabilities, undertaking statistical data collection, as well as focusing on citizens' security.

Other efforts include:

- preparation of a CARICOM Crime Prevention and Social Development Plan (CPSD Action Plan) that aims to prevent and reduce levels of violence and crime in Member States;
- adoption and opening for signature of the Agreement on the Return and Sharing of Recovered Assets from criminal activity;
- work on the Roadmap for the development of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics;
- development of the Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network; and
- ongoing work to establish new, and strengthening existing Drug Treatment Courts (DTC).

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM continues to experience high levels of gun related crimes that stem from the nexus between the illicit trade in drugs and the illicit importation of small arms. At least 75% of violent crime, including those related to gang and drug-related activities, in CARICOM Member States features the use of illegal firearms. Despite the gains made in reducing murders in some Member States, there remains an overall high number of firearm related homicides across the Region. Hence, there is need for closer collaboration between our various national, regional and international law enforcement agencies, particularly those responsible for border security on land and sea.

We call on the international community to lend its support for the development of legislation at the national and regional levels, as well as the further ratification and, implementation of international instruments aimed at addressing these issues. CARICOM, therefore, looks forward to participating in the discussions in the forthcoming Fourteenth Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto, Japan to be held from 20th to 27th April 2020, and will be actively engaged in the pre-Congress consultations, particularly those related to the declaration to be adopted at the Congress.

It is undeniable that the world drug problem and the illicit drug economy have the propensity to destabilise security, as well as, negatively affect the health, economic and social development of vulnerable states. We commend the UNODC for its comprehensive and in-depth study and analysis of the world drug problem. As its 2019 World Drug Report shows, combatting the illicit drug trade, drug abuse and addiction is a complex challenge that is constantly evolving. This activity threatens the health and well-being of all people, in particular our youth, and requires the continued collaboration of all stakeholders.

As such, we welcome the assurances provided by the UNODC to support Member States, upon request and subject to the availability of resources, in their implementation of the international drug control conventions, and of decisions and resolutions adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. We are cognizant of the need for a careful balance to be struck as Member States seek to address illicit activities related to drug trafficking and drug

use, while at the same time ensuring a people-centred approach with full respect for human rights and public health considerations.

The post-UNGASS process requires broad-based participation and engagement. We welcomed the opportunity to engage in the discussions at the 62nd Session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs (CND) held in March, as well as the recently concluded 5th Inter-sessional Meeting of the CND in Vienna, Austria. We appreciate the responses that emanated from the World Health Organisation (WHO), which supports our view of the need for greater flexibility to be provided for countries to craft policies best suited to their national contexts.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM is committed to gender balance in all spheres and we applaud the contributions that women have made and continue to make towards addressing transnational organized crime and drug trafficking in the Caribbean region.

We are conscious that our citizens have become targets for recruitment by extremist organisations. In this regard, CARICOM looks forward to the hosting of a United Nations Conference on Counter-Terrorism in Trinidad and Tobago in 2020, which demonstrates our commitment to this critical issue.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, we reaffirm our commitment to strengthening our cooperation with our international partners, as well as our UN agencies,

including the UNODC, on this important issue, and implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 16.

Thank you.