



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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**ON BEHALF OF  
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**



***THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS***

**FIRST COMMITTEE  
SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chair,

I take the floor, on behalf of the 14 member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to speak on the cluster related to nuclear weapons. I align my statement with those delivered on behalf of the NAM and CELAC.

CARICOM joins this discourse as concerned members of the international community with an abiding misgiving over the continued reliance by some states on nuclear weapons as a feature of their national security policies. As small island developing states with porous borders and limited resources with which to secure and protect them, we are ever mindful of the heightened risks posed by any use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons. CARICOM countries regard these weapons as inimical to the maintenance of international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

The international community needs to convincingly and frontally pursue its nuclear disarmament obligations. This is made more evident by the heightened tensions on the Korean Peninsula. We implore all parties to exercise restraint in the interest of preserving peace and stability. Every effort must be made to reduce the risk of nuclear war through the pursuit of diplomatic measures.

It is inconceivable that in this era of wanton need and increasing crises, that a premium is being placed on the maintenance of nuclear arsenals. As the Secretary-General has noted, “while efforts towards reducing existing stockpiles are acknowledged, the estimated total number of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, still amounts to several thousand.” Equally alarming is the fact that nuclear weapon states continue to undertake programmes aimed at modernizing their weapons, delivery systems and related infrastructure.

Against this background, the international community must urgently work for the total elimination of nuclear weapons by stimulating a sense of collective purpose. CARICOM, therefore, joins the call for the convening of a high-level meeting on nuclear disarmament, in order to take urgent and effective measures to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chair,

We continue to play our part in various efforts aimed at facilitating the implementation of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements. To this end, CARICOM was actively involved in the negotiations that culminated in the historic adoption in July of the first legally binding treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons. We welcome the fact that the Treaty provides for a range of obligations to be undertaken by States Parties to prevent the development, testing,

production, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. One member of the community, Guyana, has since signed and ratified the Treaty, and it is expected that other states from the region will do likewise in the near future.

Mr. Chair,

The fight against terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remain central to the goal of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. To this end, CARICOM supports the work of the UN to tackle the global threat posed by the acquisition by terrorists of weapons of mass destruction. We are committed to implementing UN Security Council resolution 1540 on weapons of mass destruction. We also strongly support the Council's resolution 2325, unanimously adopted in December 2016, which calls on all States to strengthen national anti-proliferation regimes to facilitate the implementation of resolution 1540. As a region, we are working to ensure that we do not become fertile ground for terrorist activities.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM publicly acknowledges and places on record its appreciation for the work done by civil society towards the goal of nuclear disarmament. They have proven to be invaluable partners whose support and commitment have been unwavering. In this regard, we congratulate the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons.

Mr. Chair,

We share the frustration of other delegations that the disarmament machinery has not been functioning as effectively as it should. One of our greatest disappointments is that the Conference on Disarmament is yet to agree on its programme of work. CARICOM is nonetheless encouraged by continued efforts to return the Conference to work through the establishment, of a working group on the way ahead. It is our fervent hope that the Working Group will be able to fulfil its mandate by identifying common ground for a programme of work with a negotiating mandate.

In the same vein, we hope that we can reach consensus within the Disarmament Commission on recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

CARICOM holds to the expectation that the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty will enter into force and we welcome the ongoing efforts to discuss, review and reinvigorate deliberations on the Treaty. In addition, we continue to regard the CTBT as a core element of the international nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM is pleased that the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was convened in Vienna this past May. Although there was disagreement regarding the pace of implementation of disarmament related commitments, we welcome the fact that States Parties underscored the continued validity of the 64-point action plan agreed at the 2010 Review Conference.

CARICOM continues to value the work done by the IAEA to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies. Its independent verification work allows it to play an indispensable role in preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. We will continue to lend our support in this regard and look forward to deepening cooperation with the IAEA. This is in keeping with recent deliberations that culminated in the updating of the CARICOM-UN Cooperation work plan to include the IAEA as a contributing Organization.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM member states are proud to be parties to the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which 50 years ago, pioneered the concept of nuclear weapon free zones, which has since been replicated in several regions across the world. As the first zone of its kind in a densely populated area, the Treaty has been central to the maintenance of regional and global disarmament, peace and security. We salute the hard work undertaken by OPANAL, its Secretary-General and the rest of his team, and applaud their commitment to ensuring that State Parties comply with their obligations under the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

I conclude by reaffirming the region's continued support for achieving the shared goal of general and complete disarmament and implore all member states to intensify efforts in this regard.

I thank you.