



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY  
AMBASSADOR / PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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



***THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS***

**FIRST COMMITTEE  
73<sup>RD</sup> SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

Mr. Chair,

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is pleased to participate in this debate on nuclear weapons. We align our intervention with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM.

As non-nuclear weapon states and members of the first densely populated region to be declared a nuclear weapon free zone, we continue to have an abiding belief in the need for urgent global efforts towards achieving the objective of the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In addition to their dire humanitarian consequences, we remain convinced that nuclear weapons run counter to the belief that they create safer and more secure environments. On the contrary, such weapons heighten the prospects for military warfare and increase the risk of instability.

It is against this background that the Secretary-General's report on, "*Nuclear disarmament; follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat of use of nuclear weapons; reducing nuclear danger,*" takes on even more significance. In addition to the special commemorative meetings that were held to mark the observance of the International Day against Nuclear Tests and the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, we witnessed the start of a new 3-year cycle of the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC). As we look to the discussions in 2019, we trust that we can make real progress on reaching consensus on "practical recommendations for achieving the objective of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons."

The SG's Report also speaks to the positive advancements made by the two nuclear-weapon states with the largest arsenals "to implement the reductions agreed to" in the Treaty for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms." We note, however, the Secretary-General's caution that despite this progress, the "estimated total number of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, still amounts to several thousand."

Also noteworthy is the important steps taken by the Conference on Disarmament to establish subsidiary bodies to consider emerging and other issues relevant to its

substantive work. While we welcome this development, we note that the CD has not resumed negotiations and remain perturbed that the stalemate that has stymied its effectiveness for several decades will persist. We hope that our concern will not materialise.

CARICOM anticipates that the third session in 2019 of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons will culminate in more tangible results. This would be in keeping with the stated commitment of States parties to the full and effective implementation of the decision and resolution adopted by the 1995 Review and Extension Conference, the Final Document of the 2000 Conference, and the conclusions and recommendations for follow-up actions of the 2010 Review Conference, including the action plan. The NPT remains as vital now as it did 50 years ago when it entered into force. We therefore look forward to the Review Conference in 2020 and urge those countries that are not yet parties to the Treaty to consider acceding to it expeditiously.

Mr. Chair,

Like other delegations, we welcome the positive dialogue underway to ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula and to work towards its denuclearization. We encourage further progress in this regard and urge the parties to continue to work towards a denuclearization process that is complete, verifiable and irreversible.

Mr. Chair,

Urgent and effective nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures remain as relevant now as they did years ago. For this reason, CARICOM joins the NAM in its call for follow-up action pursuant to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament. The early convening of a follow-up meeting would provide an important platform through which the objective could be realized and accomplished, without prejudice to the deliberations that need to take place by the Conference on Disarmament.

The Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty continues to be an integral part of the legal framework that promotes nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. We, therefore, look forward to its early entry into force, pursuant to the requirements of the Treaty.

Mr. Chair,

This year marks the first anniversary of the adoption of the milestone Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. For the first time in 2 decades, we can point to something tangible on the nuclear disarmament landscape. This Treaty plays an important role in supporting the existing global nuclear security architecture. We are proud of the fact that several CARICOM countries have signed the Treaty, including Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent & the Grenadines. Moreover, Guyana was amongst the first countries to ratify the Treaty when it opened for signature in September 2017. As strong supporters of this process from the outset, CARICOM continues to play its part to promote the early entry into force of this Treaty. In so doing, we trust that the division that has characterized the negotiation and adoption of the Treaty will dissipate in favour of greater collaboration and cooperation towards its full implementation. We will continue to work with all partners, including those from civil society, in this regard.

CARICOM joins the call for non-nuclear weapon states like ours to be given the requisite assurances by nuclear weapon states against the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons. We believe that this remains an ethical imperative, especially given the enhancement and modernization of existing nuclear weapons, their means of delivery and related infrastructure. A universal, legally binding instrument on effective, unconditional, non-discriminatory and irrevocable security assurances must be concluded.

We acknowledge and commend the work of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which continues to play an indispensable role in support of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Through its independent verification work, the IAEA has been central to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. Consequently, CARICOM will continue to lend its support and deepen cooperation with the IAEA. In this regard, we

highlight the fact that earlier this year Grenada became the latest CARICOM member country to join the Agency.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM places on record its deep appreciation to the Secretary-General for his agenda for disarmament, “Securing our Common Future,” which he launched this May. We are especially grateful for the focus that it places on nuclear disarmament and assure the Secretary-General of our full support as he takes the disarmament agenda forward.

I thank you.