



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

**FOURTH COMMITTEE MEETING ON AGENDA ITEM 52:  
'COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SPECIAL POLITICAL  
MISSIONS (SPMS)'**

**STATEMENT BY**

**MR. CRAIG DOUGLAS  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**NEW YORK, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

*Please check against delivery*

Thank you, Chair.

We align with the statement delivered by Morocco on behalf of the Non-aligned movement. We are in solidarity with the statement delivered by Haiti.

I also thank the briefers for their comprehensive and useful updates.

SPMs are an important mechanism to assist countries in their efforts to consolidate peace, security and stability, and to transition to successful post-conflict societies and economies, especially in complex situations. They can help to strengthen the capacity of states to build or rebuild their institutions, protect civilians and prevent recurrence of conflicts. SPMs provides critical information, data and support to assist the host governments and the international community to address obstacles to peacebuilding and to advance post-conflict recovery and restoration of rule of law. These are but a few of the areas of support provided by SPMs to host countries and regions.

In this context, we commend the valuable role of BINUH in supporting capacity building and promoting peace and stability in Haiti. We also support SPMs in other states and regions. We acknowledge the good work of the UN Secretariat, and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in particular, in facilitating training for UN staff assigned to SPMs.

Chair,

Attacks on UN facilities are unacceptable, and an affront to multilateralism and the Charter of the United Nations. Jamaica condemns, in the strongest terms, all such attacks. We maintain the view that attacks must be thoroughly and expeditiously investigated, and perpetrators held to account. As UN members, we have a duty to protect UN premises and facilitate their operations that are consistent with their mandates. Heads of SPMs should ensure at all times that members of their teams display the highest level of professional conduct and do not engage in activities that infringe on the rights of civilians, especially women and children. Professional misconduct by UN staff can impugn the reputation of the UN and create insurmountable challenges for the mission to carry out its mandate. Such allegations must also be thoroughly investigated and appropriate measures taken where founded.

Chair,

SPMs should deepen their partnerships with regional and sub-regional institutions of which the host state is a member. It is also important for SPMs to work closely with peacekeeping missions, UN country teams and other stakeholders, where appropriate and in line with the rules of the host state, to assist SPMs in fulfilling their mandates. SPMs should never be viewed as an avenue for interference in the domestic affairs of states. Hence, Jamaica is of the view that the best safeguard against such interference is for host states to own and lead in setting and pursuing objectives for SPMs.

Chair,

The Pact for the Future underlines the importance of SPMs and sets out a framework for our approach to the future of the UN peace operations. We support the calls for a review of the future of all forms of United Nations peace operations. We also consider the UN Secretary General's Agenda for Peace as a useful reference in strengthening the effectiveness of SPMs. We support increasing women's participation and representation in all dimensions of SPMs, including in leadership, and consider this to be critical to ensure the success of peacekeeping operations. This is in line with UN Security Council resolution 2242 of 2015, building on resolution 1325. Youth participation in peacebuilding is also valuable to finding durable solutions, in respect of which, UN Security Council Resolution 2250 has a critical role to play.

Chair,

Messaging is also essential in the operations of these missions. SPMs can be affected by misinformation on social media and other platforms. Misinformation can even jeopardize the safety and effectiveness of UN staff. Appropriate strategies must therefore be put in place to address misinformation, disinformation and hate speech against UN staff. We support the use of technology, including artificial intelligence, to enhance the impact of SPMs, especially as they adapt to an evolving security environment. Jamaica considers that it would be useful for the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs to compile a living document

containing good practices and lessons learned in the operations of SPMs. This can be used as a reference document for future political missions and by states that are engaged in post-conflict rebuilding efforts.

In closing, Chair, Jamaica reaffirms its support for SPMs. We extend our appreciation to UN staff assigned to work in these missions. SPMs are essential to peace and security for countries in post-conflict contexts. We support initiatives aimed at enhancing their effectiveness to implement their mandates.

I thank you.