



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**FIRST COMMITTEE
THEMATIC DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

**SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE
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Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by Guyana on behalf of CARICOM.

With the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty on 24 December, the international community will have for the first time a legally-binding instrument to resolutely address the catastrophic consequences caused by the unregulated trade in conventional weapons. This positive development is borne of the common vision and concerted action of a coalition of like-minded States, inter-governmental organisations and civil society to end human suffering and contribute to international peace, security and development.

It is therefore worth repeating that for Jamaica, a country that has been plagued by high levels of armed violence and has long suffered the devastating consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the Arms Trade Treaty is of singular importance. We therefore joined efforts in making the Treaty a reality as well as the "race to 50" ratifications.

Mr. Chairman,

The ATT has the potential to become a welcomed and well-needed Christmas gift to countless peoples around the world, living daily under the deadly and devastating impact of the illicit trade in these weapons. However, this will only be possible if we make a determined effort to translate the words of the Treaty into full, effective and practical implementation, even as we promote its universalisation. It is for this reason that during the negotiations, Jamaica and other CARICOM countries called for strong provisions on international cooperation and assistance as key components of the Treaty to assist States with capacity and legislative challenges. Enhanced sharing of information, best practice and intelligence among States are critical to the Treaty's implementation. So is a dedicated and properly resourced Secretariat, as embodied in Trinidad and Tobago's bid to host the Secretariat.

Jamaica has begun the work to implement the Treaty and welcomes assistance received towards these efforts since the start of the year, including the needs assessment workshop hosted by Trinidad and Tobago and the workshop on brokering and Article 6 provisions hosted jointly by the CARICOM Agency for Crime and Security and the ICRC, with support from UNSCAR. The model legislation provided by New Zealand and the Stimson Centre's Arms Trade Treaty Baseline Assessment Project (ATT-BAP) have also been of immense value and much appreciated. We also appreciate the assistance that will be provided by the EU under its ATT Implementation Support Programme commencing January 2015.

With entry into force fast approaching, we warmly welcome Mexico's timely offer to host the First Conference of States Parties (CSP1), at which we will commence the important work of operationalising the Treaty. The first round of informal consultations held in Mexico last month has set the stage for progress on key issues to be decided at the First CSP. We look forward to even greater progress at the second round of informal consultations in Berlin next month.

This past June, we welcomed the opportunity to take stock of the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light

Weapons (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument at the Fifth Biennial of Meeting of States. Key outcomes for Jamaica included increased attention to the participation of women in implementing the PoA, capacity-building measures, as well as an acknowledgement of the complementary role the exchange of ballistics information can play in tracing small arms and light weapons in the context of criminal investigations.

However, critical to our future efforts will be the establishment of a legally binding instrument on marking and tracing of small arms and light weapons, and the incorporation of ammunition in the Programme of Action. So too will be our engagement in substantive discussions on issues such as brokering and border controls and consideration of the complementarities between the PoA and the ATT.

For its part, Jamaica is strongly committed to the full and effective implementation of the PoA. Over the past few years, we have, with the assistance of our partners, made efforts to reduce the number of illegal guns and ammunition from our streets, which have met with some success. We appreciate assistance provided to Jamaica at the bilateral and regional levels in areas such as training for law enforcement and customs officials, as well as the marking of firearms, stockpile management and the disposal and destruction of weapons and ammunition. In this connection, we wish to highlight and strongly commend the OAS and UN Regional Centre for Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean for their tremendous work in Jamaica, which remains crucial in our efforts to confront the challenges posed by illegal weapons.