



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

STATEMENT BY

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

IN

**THE FIRST COMMITTEE
GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT &
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS
(ITEMS 89 TO 105)**

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

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Mr. Chair,

Permit me begin by saying that I, like you, am profoundly shocked to learn of the untimely passing of our dear friend and colleague Girma, Permanent Representative of Eritrea, and convey deepest condolences to his Government, colleagues at the Permanent Mission and especially to his family and friends.

I align my statement with those delivered on behalf of the NAM and CARICOM. I also wish to warmly congratulate you, Ambassador Boukadoum, and the members of your Bureau on your successful election to steer the work of the First Committee throughout its 71st Session. You can be assured of my delegation's full support as you guide our deliberations.

Mr. Chairman,

Our discussions this year take place against the backdrop of a continuation of heightened security concerns and anxieties throughout the world. The pervasive and seemingly intractable nature of the security threats that confront us stand as stark reminders that our duties and obligations as an international community, to maintaining international peace and security, impose a heavy responsibility that is not to be taken lightly. As we consider our agenda we must not only reflect on these challenges, but strengthen our resolve to effectively respond to them. For my delegation, this remains at the forefront of our approach to the work of the First Committee.

We must also be conscious of the fact that our citizens cannot live meaningful, productive lives if they do not live in peaceful, secure environments. Consequently, at each juncture, our deliberations must be grounded in the reality that our actions must positively impact and transform the lives of ordinary citizens.

To this end, our deliberations must continue to be informed by the recognition that there is a mutually reinforcing and indivisible relationship between peace and security, disarmament and development. We are mindful that this fundamental and integral relationship should underpin our actions as an international community. Unless we are prepared to confront and address the root causes of conflict, then efforts to respond to the social, economic and political factors that sow the seeds of discontent and insecurity will be futile.

As my Prime Minister reiterated in his Policy Statement to the General Assembly recently, we cannot expect to secure sustainable peace and security without creating the enabling economic conditions that will present opportunities to empower individuals. As we have collectively underscored with the adoption of Agenda 2030, a multifaceted and multidimensional approach is central to our attempts to arrest the causes of instability and insecurity in our societies.

My delegation is, therefore, reassured by the Secretary-General's report entitled, "*Relationship between disarmament and development*," which outlines the areas in which work in this field is already being pursued. We are also encouraged by the ongoing efforts to strengthen Inter-Agency coordination and to integrate security-related themes into the follow-up to the Sustainable Development Agenda.

Mr. Chair,

Our discussions must be open, honest and frank. They must place as much emphasis on the urgency of eliminating weapons of mass destruction, as they do on controlling the proliferation, possession and use of illicit conventional arms.

Jamaica reiterates its long-standing commitment to the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and has been fully supportive of efforts to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations. We participated actively in the inclusive work of the Open Ended Working Group and support the important recommendations contained in its report, not least of which is the convening by the General Assembly of a conference in 2017 to commence negotiations on a Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons, leading to their total elimination. We remain convinced that pursuing a comprehensive prohibition on nuclear weapons is the next realistic step on our collective path to attain and maintain a world free of nuclear weapons.

Turning to conventional weapons, we welcome the outcome of the 2nd Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), as we seek to create a robust framework for the effective implementation of the Treaty. In the past year we have undertaken a number of legislative and regulatory activities in support of our efforts to fully implement the Treaty. We are particularly grateful for the assistance we have received from the EU-ATT implementation support programme.

Our efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) are a top priority for our government. Jamaica was honoured, therefore, to chair the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) to consider the implementation of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) on small arms and light weapons. We view the ATT and the PoA as complementary tools in our efforts to tackle the illicit trade in these weapons, which cause untold damage to our society and retard our developmental aspirations.

We deem it of significance, therefore, that the BMS6 Outcome Document recognises the link between this illicit trade and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Moreover, it paves the way for the Third Review Conference that will take place in 2018, as we seek to reinvigorate the POA process.

Mr. Chair,

The institutional framework for advancing discussions on disarmament and international peace and security must be responsive to the challenges of the present security environment. For this reason, we must ensure that the disarmament machinery functions fully and effectively. Where it is obvious that this effectiveness is compromised, we must be bold enough to take the kind of action that would enable us to remain true to our obligations to ensure that international peace and security can be maintained.

For years the Conference on Disarmament has been stymied in its efforts to address the issue of nuclear disarmament. Viable alternatives must be sought so that we are not lulled into inaction on account of a sole reliance on a mechanism whose work has been rendered ineffective for decades. We, therefore, concur with the Secretary-General's assessment "that breaking the deadlock in the United Nations disarmament machinery and modernizing its approach are critical to enabling real progress."

The invaluable support provided by the United Nations to member states in building capacity to respond to challenges to international peace and security will remain critical to our collective endeavour. My delegation is therefore pleased to note the Secretary-General's numerous reports of the work being done through the United Nations Disarmament Information programme, the United Nations Institute for

Disarmament Research, the UN Regional Peace and Disarmament Centres and the range of other UN entities. Their work ensures that countries like mine can benefit from a broad span of technical and capacity building support to effectively respond to our contemporary security challenges.

In this regards, I wish to recognise and publicly acknowledge the assistance provided by the Regional Centres, which mark their 30th anniversary of establishment this year. We can point proudly to the work that the Centres have undertaken in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, as well as in Africa.

There is also scope for cooperation between the United Nations and other entities charged with supporting and complementing disarmament efforts aimed at maintaining international peace and security. We look forward, therefore, to the tabling of the inaugural General Assembly resolution devoted to increased cooperation between the UN and INTERPOL.

We also continue to value the support given by specialised Agencies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), which are broadening their outlook to determine how they can support the holistic approach to disarmament and development, of which I have already spoken.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation is convinced that this Committee is poised to make a difference. Let us ensure that the opportunity to do so is not only seized but fully maximized. You can be assured of Jamaica's unswerving commitment to support this endeavor as we strive to have a world in which we can all coexist peacefully.