



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

STATEMENT BY

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AMBASSADOR/ PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

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Salutations,

Jamaica is delighted to be a part of this historic occasion!

75 years after the humanitarian and environmental catastrophe caused by the use of nuclear weapons, we are witnessing the entry into force of the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit these devastating weapons. As one of the fifty (50) States that has made this occasion possible, we continue to call for the universal acceptance of this Treaty and the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and the strengthening of the legal and political norms against their use.

We commend the more than 130 Member States that contributed to the successful negotiation of the Treaty and the 122 States that voted for its adoption in 2017. We also recognise the work undertaken by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs in support of multilateral efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons given their destructive nature and the threat they pose to humanity. In addition, we acknowledge the vital role played by civil society organisations, which campaigned resolutely to ensure that these inhumane and indiscriminate weapons are declared illegal under international law.

We are, however, mindful that the entry into force of the TPNW signifies only the beginning of our mission towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons, as States Parties will now be required to implement their obligations and abide by its prohibitions. This includes encouraging others to join the treaty. As ardent supporters of the treaty we continue to call upon nuclear armed states to engage in nuclear disarmament in good faith.

Small island developing states, such as ours, view the prospect of a nuclear detonation, whether by design, accident or negligence, as an existential threat that could decimate entire regions, such as the Caribbean. The international community, therefore, has a moral obligation to abolish nuclear arsenals before they are used once more against the peoples of the world.

Jamaica stands together with all States Parties to this Treaty in support of the global goal of a world that is peaceful, secure and habitable for present and future generations.

In the words of our Foreign Affairs Minister, 'Nuclear Weapons has no role in the future we need.'

I thank you.