



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

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT &
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS**

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

**FRIDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2020
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Mr Chairman,

I extend congratulations to you and your Bureau on your election to preside over the work of the First Committee during the 75th Session and assure you of Jamaica's support during the course of your tenure. I wish to also thank your predecessor, and his team for their work during the past year.

Jamaica associates itself with the statements delivered earlier by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM.

Mr. Chairman,

We are meeting during this 75th Session against the background of a global security landscape that is complex and demanding, requiring greater urgency in our efforts to find solutions to the unfinished business of the disarmament agenda, while addressing a paralyzing COVID-19 pandemic and the associated challenges. From Jamaica's perspective, these developments, coupled with our efforts to attain sustainable development, for which peace and security is a prerequisite, gives particular importance to this session of the First Committee.

We are all aware that the United Nations Charter established the framework for a system of collective security based on the prohibition of the use of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the formation of multilateral institutions for enforcing these principles. It is evident that these objectives, which have eluded us for 75 years, will not be realized without general and complete disarmament.

Jamaica therefore reaffirms these principles as the corner stone and foundation of our efforts and reiterates that the United Nations is critical to the building of a world of peace, security and development, no matter the persistent setbacks in critical areas of the disarmament agenda. However, the central question remains whether the existing framework can effectively address the threats we presently face.

Mr Chairman,

As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) disarmament and International peace and security are central to our efforts to realize sustainable development as well as safeguard current and future generations from the scourge of conflicts.

For this reason, Jamaica continues to reaffirm the importance of multilateral approaches to the issues of disarmament and development. However, this relationship can only be mutually beneficial where there is evidence of strong political will, the provision of adequate resources and continued and effective coordination and close cooperation between and among development partners.

Mr Chairman,

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a menace that deeply affects my country and our sub region. It forms a persistent barrier to our ability to achieve a more secure and stable society, in which social and economic development can be

advanced. The illicit trade in these weapons has been a key driver of human suffering and caused untold misery.

We have long recognized that a significant reduction in illicit arms flows is central to any country, big or small, rich or poor, attaining peace, security and sustained development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which we are all aspiring to achieve, reiterates this fact,

Mr Chairman,

Jamaica remains committed to the United Nations Programme of Action (PoA) to prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its aspects, including the International Tracing Instrument (ITI).

That is why, regionally, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has been investing in enhancing the capacity of its member states to address issues related to arms control and disarmament by preventing the diversion of conventional arms to the illicit market. This issue will remain a priority for Jamaica.

We also recognize our obligations in respect of the management of stockpiled ammunition and have been strengthening our stockpile management capabilities through technical assistance provided by the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLiREC). We have, in addition, embarked on a technical cooperation programme with the UN

Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) to strengthen our strategic border management programme to counter the threat of terrorism.

Mr Chairman,

Jamaica is committed to the global partnership to prevent acts of terror and violent extremism and remains resolute in its stance against terrorism in all spheres and against persons who pose a threat to international peace and security. Recognising our susceptibility to this threat, we have been building out our national counter-terrorism architecture by establishing cohesive legislative and operational systems. At the regional level, we will continue to partner with other CARICOM member states to build resilience to extremist ideology and ensure a safe and free Caribbean region.

Mr Chairman,

Jamaica is a proud party to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), which has long served as a model for the creation of other nuclear free zones. We therefore welcome the important step taken towards the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction. The adoption of a political declaration by Member States at the First Session of the Conference on the establishment of this Nuclear Free Zone is a demonstration to the international community of our political will, renewed commitment and determination to achieve

that objective. Like Secretary-General Guterres, we believe that the realization of such a zone would be of significant value to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts and to regional and international peace and security.

Jamaica reaffirms its strong commitment to the aim of total disarmament in line with the three pillars of the **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons**. In this regard, Jamaica looks forward to participating in the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty no later than April of 2021.

We call on States that have not yet done so to sign the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**. We have made a commitment to ratifying this treaty in the shortest possible time and we intend to fulfill this commitment.

We wish to reaffirm the vital importance and urgency of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and urge the countries whose ratifications are necessary for its entry in force to sign and ratify it without further delay.

Mr Chairman,

The slow rate of progress in implementing nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation agreements is worrisome. Of major concern for my country is the non-resumption of negotiations at the **Conference on Disarmament**. We are also gravely concerned at the continued reliance on and prevalence of nuclear weapons as a feature of defence, security and military doctrines. This is evidenced by the continued

increase in global military spending. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research reports that global military expenditure saw its largest annual increase in a decade, reaching a total of \$US\$1.9 billion in 2019. Now more than ever, is the opportune time to redirect portions of these funds to assist global development initiatives and poverty eradication strategies.

We, therefore, welcome the Secretary-General's continued efforts to facilitate dialogue among Member States through engagement in formal and informal settings with the hope that this will lead to the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

We remain deeply disappointed at the inability of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNODC) to formally convene a meeting to address issues of great importance to Member States. It is our hope that the Commission will be able to continue its work in earnest as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

We have long acknowledged that information and communications technology plays an important role in our attainment of sustainable growth and development. With the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, countries like ours require sustained and strategic investment that will result in a digital society facilitated by internet access that is provided as a right for all our citizens.

As we make this digital transition, Jamaica calls for greater cooperation with states and international organizations, through the provision of capacity building and technical assistance that will strengthen our cyber security infrastructure and facilitate greater participation in the global digital economy. We have advanced our legislative framework for data protection and are scaling-up our cyber security capability. To this end, we applaud the efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) for implementing an early warning system to assist in protecting our cyber infrastructure.

However, we are disquieted by the emerging threats that are occurring in the cyber domain, which international law does not address. We, therefore, support and encourage the creation of an internationally legally binding instrument to address the use of cyber space.

Mr Chairman,

On the issue of gender and peace and security, Jamaica supports the view that decisions on disarmament must consider the effects on both men and women. While most men are often the victims of crimes, increasingly women are becoming targets. It is also the women who are often left to pick-up the pieces following these devastating acts. They are also the ones who are most at risk of falling into poverty. Women are often emotionally and mentally scarred in the wake of such crimes. Hence, we cannot create a safer world without considering one half of the world's population. We will, therefore, continue to express our support for this issue in the

annual resolution on women disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, introduced by our fellow CARICOM Member State, Trinidad and Tobago.

I thank you.