



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**MR. KURT DAVIS  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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

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

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*Please check against delivery*



Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I congratulate you on your election to preside over the work of the First Committee at its 77<sup>th</sup> Session and assure you of Jamaica's full support. I also express thanks to the Chair and Bureau of the 76<sup>th</sup> session for their able leadership of the Committee in the last session.

Jamaica aligns with the statements delivered by the NAM, CELAC and CARICOM.

Mr. Chair,

We gather in this session in a very difficult international political climate. The challenges we face are varied and urgent. From the nuclear disarmament pillar to the work on Small Arms and Light Weapons, from Cyberspace to Outer Space, pressing matters affecting the security and safety of our people demand our attention, cooperation and action.

The big picture may lead us to believe all is lost. However, Mr. Chair, it is important that we recognize where progress has been made. Even in the context of the failure of the Tenth Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to adopt a consensus outcome, we take note that the vast majority of States Parties were prepared to agree on important commitments; these can still be voluntarily implemented in a show of good faith and support for the Treaty and its aims.

Jamaica also welcomes the convening of the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action. We reiterate that the TPNW is a strong complement to the NPT and an effective tool to advance our universally shared disarmament goals.



The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) has also languished for too long. It is incomprehensible that there is near unanimity on the disastrous effect of any nuclear detonation and a common understanding of the incalculable humanitarian impact of past or future nuclear testing, and yet, a few states refuse to commit to banning any further nuclear weapons test. Jamaica believes that the CTBT completes the loop to prevent development, proliferation or use of any nuclear weapons.

We therefore call on non-parties to sign, ratify and accede to the NPT, the TPNW and the CTBT, and to pursue their implementation without delay.

It is disappointing that the Conference on Disarmament has still been unable to agree on a programme of work and fully assume its role as *"the single multilateral disarmament negotiating forum of the international community."* We are hopeful that the engagements within its subsidiary bodies will serve as a means of relieving the paralysis that has stymied the work of the Conference. Similarly, we look forward to the coming discussions in the final session of this cycle of the UN Disarmament Commission building on the groundwork from last year and this year.

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica welcomes the progress made in the area of conventional weapons and ammunition. The pervasive presence of illicit small arms and ammunition is a daily threat to the health, safety, security and development of the Jamaican people. Preventing the diversion of conventional arms and ammunition to the illicit market or to unauthorised end use or users is a priority for my country. We therefore fully support all global, regional and national measures to address the illicit trade in conventional arms and ammunition.



In this regard, Jamaica reaffirms the relevance of the Arms Trade Treaty and its provisions. We also welcome the successful convening of the 8th Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (BMS8) and its outcome document adopted by consensus. We look forward to the implementation of the commitments contained therein, including for international cooperation and capacity building.

At the same time, Jamaica is pleased to note the progress being made by the Open-Ended Working Group on Conventional Ammunition. We reiterate that the gaps in through-life ammunition management demand our urgent action and we look forward to the further deliberations within the OEWG in the coming year to arrive at a global framework on ammunition management.

I use this opportunity to reiterate our call for greater action by countries which manufacture weapons and ammunition to ensure that these items do not make their way into illicit use or trade. We thank the Group of Governmental Experts on the UN Register of Conventional Arms for their work and support their recommendations for further action to better account for the international transfer of small arms and to increase participation by Member States.

Jamaica fully supports promoting a gender-perspective in the peace and security pillar. While addressing the particular impacts on women and girls, men and boys, we should also ensure that our efforts fully include women in peace, disarmament and non-proliferation activities.



Mr. Chair,

Turning to cybersecurity, we join in acknowledging that the world is heading to an even more digitally-engaged society and economy. It is therefore incumbent upon us to put in place measures to effectively protect cyberspace from malfeasance and ensure that both the tangible and intangible information and communication technology infrastructure is safely and securely available to users across the world.

Jamaica therefore welcomes the work undertaken by the Open Ended Working Group on the security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025. The OEWG's annual progress report reflects both areas of emerging convergence but also issues on which further work is required. We look forward to continued engagement in that forum and remain hopeful for further progress towards a consensus on how we can - together - ensure a framework that guides responsible behaviour by states and other stakeholders in cyberspace.

Mr. Chair,

Disarmament and the maintenance of international security are central to our efforts to ensure peace across the world and to achieve sustainable development. Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to our shared duty to address the challenges before us and to make progress for the benefit of our peoples.

I thank you.