



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

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)



AT THE

HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING TO COMMEMORATE THE
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS

TUESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2023

NEW YORK

FINAL TEXT

Mr. President,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

By a recent count, twelve thousand, five hundred and twelve nuclear weapons still remain in this world, and the countries that possess nuclear weapons appear to have well-funded, long-term plans to modernize their arsenals.

Nuclear Weapon States insist on a narrative that their ownership of nuclear weapons makes the world a safer place. They persist in maintaining large stockpiles, and continue to resist the goal of total nuclear disarmament. In the eyes of CARICOM, however, the possession of nuclear weapons does not make the world safer, the very existence of these weapons of mass destruction only makes our planet a more dangerous place for us all.

Mr. President,

Allow me to outline here to restate the very obvious:

1. Nuclear weapons have the capacity to cause unparalleled levels of destruction. A single warhead can obliterate entire cities, causing mass casualties and long-lasting environmental damage.
2. The immediate and long-term effects of a nuclear detonation, including blast, radiation, and fallout, can lead to widespread suffering, death, and illness on an unprecedented scale.
3. The existence of nuclear weapons increases the risk of escalation in conflicts. The use of even a single nuclear weapon could lead to a full-scale nuclear war with devastating global consequences.

4. The presence of nuclear weapons encourages other nations to seek them, leading to nuclear proliferation. The more nations there are with nuclear weapons, the more likely it is that they will be used.

5. Maintaining nuclear arsenals is expensive. The resources spent on nuclear weapons could be redirected to address pressing issues like poverty, healthcare, and climate change.

Mr. President,

Unfortunately, nuclear weapons have been used twice in our history, which is two times too many. The horrors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki should never be forgotten.

CARICOM's position is unwavering. Simply put, in the future we want, indeed, in the future we deserve, there is no place for nuclear weapons. The Members of our Caribbean Community have demonstrated commitment to their total elimination, as States Parties or signatories to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. Others are in the process of signing on to these important multilateral compacts. Furthermore, as States Parties to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), we are proud to be part of a region designated as a "Zone of Peace".

Mr. President,

In December 2013, by resolution 68/32, the General Assembly declared the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. Since then, we have gathered every year to discuss the total elimination of nuclear weapons. And every year, UN Member States talk about the imperative of implementing measures towards a world without nuclear weapons.

But Mr. President, it is past time to move beyond the pyrrhic solace of rhetoric. We must begin to take resolute and concrete steps towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons so that we can create a safer planet for ourselves and our children, and bequeath a more stable and sustainable world to future generations.

I thank you.