



**REMARKS**  
by  
**Senator, the Honourable Kamina Johnson Smith**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica**

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**75<sup>th</sup> UNGA High Level Plenary Meeting to commemorate and  
promote the  
International Day of Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

*Mr. President,*

Since its inauguration in September 2014, the commemoration of the **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons** has kept the issue of global disarmament efforts at the forefront of world attention. Each commemorative event therefore, represents a further opportunity to focus on advancing the goal of achieving a nuclear weapons-free world.

Jamaica as a non-nuclear weapon State has been playing its role in advancing nuclear disarmament. Jamaica has strengthened its legislative and administrative framework to combat nuclear weapons proliferation by:

(i) enacting the **Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act (NSRPA)** and

(ii) establishing its implementing agency the **Harzardous Substances Regulatory Authority (HSRA)**, to regulate the use of ionizing radiation and nuclear technology for the protection of people, property and the environment.

*Mr. President*, to further global efforts towards the elimination of nuclear weapons, Jamaica will shortly ratify the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons**.

It is undoubtedly positive that nuclear weapons have not been used since 1945. However, the threat continues to loom as tense relations exist among nuclear weapons States. As a community of nations, we can do more. Non-proliferation is insufficient. We know from history that the use of nuclear weapons has devastating humanitarian effects, inflicting mass death and destruction. We also know that the strengthening of national nuclear weapons systems diverts resources from the world's biggest threats such as climate change, inequality and pandemics.

Mr. President, to achieve general and complete disarmament under effective international control, we must all recommit to engaging in cooperative dialogue based on good faith, utilising the multilateral system that has been created for that very purpose. We call on States that have not joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) to consider doing so as a matter of urgency.

Jamaica stands with all states parties to Treaties such as these, which support the global goal of a world that is peaceful and secure for present and future generations.

We will do our part. Jamaica remains committed to the disarmament agenda. We join the international community in working to eliminate nuclear weapons. Their presence has no role in the future we need.

I thank you.