



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

REMARKS BY

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on the occasion of the High-level Thematic Debate of the General Assembly on "The Role of Regional Organisations in Strengthening and Implementing Crime Prevention Initiatives and Criminal Justice Responses"

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Thank you Mr. Moderator,

Jamaica has experienced its share of challenges, and has employed diverse strategies to address crime, with varied results. Our national crime statistics, including a high murder rate of more than 40 per 100,000, are cause for serious and deep concern, since it negatively impacts our ability to attain the SDGs as well as the goals set out in our National Development Plan – Vision 2030, which is to make “Jamaica the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business”.

Indeed, the level of crime in the Caribbean Community, and wider region has worrisome implications for the health and well-being of our societies. Porous borders, irregular migration, the transshipment of drugs, corruption, the flow of illegal firearms and emerging threats in the domain of cyberspace all contribute to an environment in which criminality thrives. As such, Jamaica has joined with other Member States to increase its focus on the social determinants of crime, raising public awareness and mobilizing government efforts and action to address the multidimensional aspects of crime and related issues.

Jamaica, through its participation within CARICOM, is committed to fulfilling its duty, in line with the regional Strategic Plan for 2015-2019, which is to ensure a safe and secure Community for our people, where human rights and social justice are guaranteed.

Security Cooperation is the fourth pillar of CARICOM’s integration movement. As such, CARICOM Heads of Government, at their 29th Inter-Sessional Meeting in February 2018, committed to strengthening the relevant inter-sectoral systems at the national and regional levels, to ensure efficient collaboration in the planning and execution of relevant programmes to address the root causes of crime.

A number of key strategies to support our ongoing efforts to ensure a safe and secure CARICOM have been employed. These strategies focus on: increasing the social resilience of communities at the national level, and reducing their vulnerabilities, undertaking statistical data collection, as well as creating an enhanced focus on citizens’ security.

Mr Moderator,

Notably, CARICOM, in collaboration with the UNODC, has developed the CARICOM Crime Prevention and Social Development Action Plan, which aims to address the dichotomy between the criminal justice, and crime prevention approaches. CARICOM, with assistance from UNDP and Interpol, has also developed the Roadmap for the Development of Crime and Criminals Justice Statistics, as well as the Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network. However, these initiatives, which aim to strengthen regional capacities, require on-going support and continued collaboration if their full benefits are to be realized. In this regard, we commend the work that is being undertaken by CARICOM IMPACS, including via its partnership with UNDP and UNODC on developing crime and security and counter-terrorism strategies for the region.

We see a need for closer collaboration between our various law enforcement agencies, particularly those responsible for border security on land and sea. This is in light of the fact that guns remain the most instrumental factor contributing to serious crimes and the high murder rates in the Region. At least 70% of violent crime in CARICOM Member States has been committed with the use of illegal firearms.

In conclusion, Jamaica believes there is need to galvanise the efforts of the international community to build the capacities of regional organisations in the development and implementation of legislation at the national and regional levels. Work also needs to be done to further the ratification and implementation of international instruments aimed at the prevention of crime and related activities.

Thank you.