



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

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

**PREPCOM FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW
PROGRESS MADE IN 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**

ON

**Promoting Effective International Cooperation and Assistance in the Fight
Against the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light weapons**

20TH MARCH 2018

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to reiterate our continued commitment, as expressed in our statement delivered yesterday, to implement the Programme of Action.

We want to further use this opportunity to share additional comments on the matter of International Cooperation and our sense of obligation relating to same.

- 1) First, Jamaica acknowledges that by design, the implementation of the PoA is structured to be augmented through assistance and cooperation from international Partners who agree to coordinate regional efforts – multilaterally and/or bilaterally. We note that this is facilitated through the mutual offer of financial assistance and technical exchange. We therefore desire to use today's platform to renew our commitment to uphold this sort of a regime in our own policies and strategies as a form of our contribution to curbing global proliferation of SALWs.
- 2) Secondly, we see the merit of cooperation with our international partners, including Agencies of the United Nations.

Of note, in this regard, is the Assistance Package Jamaica received from the UNLiREC, which between 2010 and 2012 saw to the disposal of over 5000 stockpiled firearms and over 200,000 rounds of ammunition. It is our firm belief that the provision of this capacity significantly reduced our risk of these firearms and ammunition being diverted to the illicit trade.

We also benefitted from training offered to regulatory personnel that perform key operational and strategic functions spanning several portfolios of the Government of Jamaica. Most recently, in keeping with its sustained interest in promoting peace through disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNLiREC assisted with our tracing and tracking capabilities through the coordination of a Forensic Ballistic Project. This culminated in the issuance of high specification bullet imaging systems which supplemented our capability to add and retrieve real time data for ballistic signatures. Importantly, the technical exchange facilitated the development of improved quality assurance controls among our forensic tool mark examiners and so, we believe we are better able to clear caseloads in the criminal justice system by virtue of the speed and accuracy with which technical findings can be concluded.

Not only will we seek to leverage these added capacities for our own benefits, but also position ourselves as a repository of support to augment the needs of our regional partners through the similar lens of technical exchange.

- 3) Thirdly, we regard international cooperation as central to developing the requisite strategies targeting the marking of firearms with secondary marks as well as to bolster screening and scanning capabilities at our ports of entry.
- 4) Fourthly, we also believe that international cooperation and assistance will be critical to achieve:

A unified regime for marking of ammunition and settle on a final position on the best suited technical modality in furtherance of the wider reach of the ITI;

Consensus on emergent firearm technology to explore the wider cadre of firearm weapon systems, particularly those manufactured by means of additive technology and those which are purposefully distributed as modular designs as against whole-designs; and

Create mechanisms to herald synergies of efforts to ensure cross-cutting international security oriented tenets with the tenets of Conventions that deal with global small arms control;

- 5) Fifth, awareness building within our urban domains will be essential to stemming the illicit spread of SALW within our countries. We will, therefore, seek to collaborate with likeminded partners in developing intervention programmes that leverage the role of women as mothers in targeting youth males involved in or are at risk of becoming involved in armed violence or organised crime. We believe partnerships that offer expertise in leveraging the role of mothers would be novel in addressing the youth male cohort through means of outreach and re-alignment of thought, as a form of intervention. As you might be aware, 100 percent of homicides in Jamaica are non-conflict oriented and so are derived from armed violence, further, well beyond 80% of such murders are involve the use of a firearm and over 50% are committed by youth males between the age of 15 to 30.
- 6) Finally, Mr. President, we would wish to underscore the fact that promoting effective international cooperation and assistance in the fight against the illicit trade in SALW requires sustained and predictable support in order to be meaningful and to increase the scope for capacity-building. My delegation, therefore, hopes that this will continue to be at the forefront of our deliberations as we look to RevCon3.

Thank you.