



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

REMARKS BY

**SENATOR THE HONOURABLE KAMINA JOHNSON SMITH
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THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
28TH SEPTEMBER 2021**

Mr. President

Distinguished Delegates

Jamaica is pleased to participate in this commemorative event for the total elimination of nuclear weapons. Today provides an opportunity for the global community to galvanize support for this common goal and to convert expressions of support into meaningful action.

Nuclear disarmament has been a priority for the international community since the creation of the United Nations. In October 2020, an important milestone was achieved with the ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. It should be recalled that this is the first international treaty to ban this weapon of mass destruction. The journey to ratification taught us many lessons, but none greater than the power of the collective will of States to advance global goodwill during challenging circumstances, a principle we can use in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which we currently confront.

Jamaica was honoured to be the 48th ratifying state to bring the treaty across the line to meet the 50th State requirement, and we look forward to working in earnest at the First Meeting of State Parties scheduled for March 2022, to ensure the full and effective implementation of the treaty.

Mr. President,

The journey towards nuclear disarmament continues. While we can be proud of the first half of our journey in which we acquired the tools to achieve the goal, we must also be mindful that the next stage carries the imperative of implementation. I call on the members of this august body to

remain vigilant, so that we continue on track to meet the obligations and targets set out in the treaty.

Jamaica is committed to the goal of nuclear disarmament and to playing its part in this endeavour. The Government has passed **The Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act (NSRPA)** and established the implementing agency, **Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority (HSRA)**, to regulate the use of nuclear technology for the protection of people, property and environment from the harmful effects of ionizing radiation. We have implemented these regulations because-we are cognizant, as a Small Island Developing State, of the life-altering consequences a nuclear detonation, whether by accident, miscalculation or design, could have on the country, our Caribbean Community and the world at large.

It is well-known that nuclear weapons are a real threat to international peace and security and pose a clear and present danger to one of the core values of the United Nations, and by extension, to the very survival of humanity. They also divert valuable resources which could be used to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

We must, therefore, through education, challenge the view that the possession of nuclear weapons is a viable security strategy. We must cease the manufacturing and modernisation of nuclear weapons, destroy existing stockpiles and universalise the TPNW, the NPT and the CTBT.

Mr. President, the future of international peace and security should not be conceived in nuclear weapons but in dialogue, grounded in good faith, with a willingness to resolve issues for the benefit of all humankind.

I thank you.