



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING THE

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE FOR THE 79TH
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

ON

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Thank you, Madam Chair,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and CARICOM. Jamaica congratulates you on your election to Chair the First Committee. We also extend congratulations to other members of the bureau. You can count on my delegation's full support.

This general debate takes place at a time when the world faces significant challenges to international peace and security that, unfortunately, seek to upend the principles and objectives of the UN Charter. We are witnessing an increase in the number of conflicts within and among states; greater use of emerging technologies by criminal networks to further their objectives; expansion of investment in nuclear weaponry; and persistent obstacles to international efforts to stem the illegal flow of small arms and light weapons. These are key concerns for Jamaica, in respect of which more robust action is needed by the United Nations and the international community.

Jamaica, therefore, welcomes the submission of draft resolutions from individual delegations in these and other areas. We have been engaging on these resolutions in the informal consultations and look forward to their further consideration including at the plenary meetings. We particularly look forward to contributing to the strengthening of the draft resolution which aims at giving effect to the outcome document of the Fourth Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade of Small and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (RevCon4), which was convened in New York in June this year. I wish to thank the Office of Disarmament Affairs for their work on this file. The severe consequences emanating from the illicit manufacture, transfer, and circulation of small arms and light weapons must be addressed. We call on all states, in particular, major arms producing States, to put in place stringent control mechanisms to ensure that the supply of small arms and light weapons from their borders is not diverted to unauthorized entities and individuals.

We also have a keen interest in engaging on the draft resolution on Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. Implementation of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management is a priority for Jamaica.

Madam Chair,

Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to achieving the total elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons. No country is insulated from their disastrous radioactive, humanitarian, environmental and economic impacts, in addition to the geo-political instability their very existence fosters. A peaceful and stable security environment cannot be achieved through the application of the doctrine of deterrence. We call for a redoubling of efforts by all members, especially nuclear weapons states, to fully implement their international commitments, including under the NPT. We further call

for the universalization of the CTBT and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). Jamaica welcomes the convening of the 2nd Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW which adopted a comprehensive set of actions to be taken in pursuance of prohibiting nuclear weapons. The TPNW is a strong complement to the NPT and an effective tool to advance our universally shared disarmament goals.

We express concerns over the emergence of new types of WMD. Jamaica supports monitoring and evaluation of the situation with a view to taking effective actions where required. We, therefore, welcome the adoption of the GA Resolution 78/15 entitled “Prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of WMD and new systems of such weapons: report of the Conference on Disarmament”.

As it relates to the impact of emerging technologies on international peace and security, we acknowledge the importance of and pledge our full support for initiatives underway. These include references to emerging technologies in the RevCon4 outcome document, the work of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on ICTs, the UNGA resolution on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, efforts underway for the United Nations to address artificial intelligence in the military domain and activities towards regulating unmanned aircraft systems. Use of technologies that impact peace and security must adhere to ethical standards and to international humanitarian law. All efforts must also be made to ensure that they are not diverted to the possession of criminal enterprise. Technical assistance and capacity building must be accorded to developing countries to address issues arising from their increased use and to facilitate their effective participation and representation in international discussions on these issues.

Women Peace and Security is another area of priority for Jamaica. Jamaica pledges its unwavering commitment to the protection of women in conflict situations, as well as the full participation and leadership of women in the area of peace and security. In this regard, women are at the helm of several departments and agencies, including the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, the National Forensic Laboratory, the Jamaica Defence Force and the Ministry of National Security. We therefore look forward to supporting the resolution being facilitated by the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago on this issue.

In closing, Madam Chair, Jamaica underscores the importance of international cooperation, as well as the provision of technical assistance and capacity building support to developing countries in dealing with the current and emerging issues with which we are confronted in the areas of disarmament. We, however, need to see greater political will, especially by major countries, in dealing with challenges such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons and stemming the flow of small arms and light weapons through their borders. The UN Secretary General’s Agenda for Peace provides a good basis for pursuing this goal.

Jamaica looks forward to contributing to the work of the First Committee in tackling these major issues as we collectively strive for a global security environment that is peaceful, safe, stable, rules-based and characterized by multilateral engagements and cooperation in pursuit of shared goals and commitments.

I thank you.