



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

STATEMENT BY

**MISS WENDI-ANN WILLIAMS
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING THE

**THEMATIC DEBATE ON CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS IN THE FIRST
COMMITTEE FOR THE 79TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

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Thank you, Madam Chair.

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by Grenada on behalf of CARICOM, and by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Madam President,

Jamaica continues to be negatively affected by the global increase in the illegal manufacturing and trafficking in conventional weapons, particularly small arms and light weapons.

Although Jamaica does not manufacture arms, some 3,495 firearms and 61,000 rounds of ammunition were seized by the authorities within our territorial jurisdiction during the period between 2018 and 2022. This indicates that there are active demand and supply networks operating within our territory. It is within this context that we re-iterate that a comprehensive approach to dealing with illicit flows must focus on both supply and demand, as well as the need to assign greater responsibility to exporting states and industries to take meaningful action to stem these flows. Engagement with civil society is also an important avenue to foster greater collaboration and raise the level of advocacy around these issues.

In Jamaica, we are implementing a multi-pronged strategy, which primarily focuses on putting in place adequate laws, regulations, administrative and operational procedures and building our capacity to deal with the levels of trafficking and the consequences thereof. However, no country can tackle these challenges on its own.

Jamaica, therefore, welcomes continued and streamlined international cooperation and support in the area of conventional weapons, and reiterates its steadfast support for and commitment to the provisions and principles of the Arms Trade Treaty, the CCW and other norm-setting instruments. We urge all states to adhere to their international commitments and uphold global norms in these areas.

We welcome the adoption of the Outcome Document of RevCon4 on the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument. For impactful results, we must simultaneously tackle issues related to Small Arms and Light Weapons and ammunition management, and on this regard, we welcome the adoption of the Global Framework on Ammunition Management and see its effective implementation as a strong complement to the PoA/ITI.

In line with the PoA/ITI, Jamaica has promulgated a new Firearms Act, 2022, which imposes harsher penalties for offences connected to the illicit trade, manufacture, stockpiling, possession and use of illegal guns. The Act now facilitates prosecution of offences such as illicit trafficking, diversion and stockpiling of prohibited weapons, in an effort to align the legislation with international norms, such as those under the Firearms Protocol and the PoA/ITI. Marking and tracing is now mandatory.

Jamaica also adopted the “Caribbean Firearms Roadmap”. Consequently, Jamaica, has been working closely with UNLIREC and the CARICOM IMPACS, in implementing certain key priority actions under the Roadmap.

We have also improved border controls through, *inter alia*, the strengthening of maritime domain awareness and coastal security.

We have nationally embraced and we fully support gender equality and the inclusion of women, including in leadership positions, in international approaches to combat the illicit trade in SALW.

Madam Chair,

International cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building are particularly important in light of the challenges posed by new and emerging technologies, such as 3D printing, craft weapons, artificial intelligence and use of unmanned aerial vehicles by unauthorised individuals to circumvent security controls being implemented by states. We express concerns over the increased use of lethal autonomous weapons systems, and given its implications, we call on all states to cooperate and ensure that their uses are in line with international law, including international humanitarian law.

We welcome the support by the UNODA and UNDP through the SALIENT project, which effectively complements our national development goals for the security sector, and has assisted national initiatives to stem the proliferation of illicit firearms and reduce violence, especially among the youth.

In closing, Madam Chair, Jamaica reiterates the importance of international cooperation to build the capacity of developing countries in eradicating the illicit manufacture and trade in conventional weapons. We also call on all States, especially exporting states to implement more stringent border measures to address their illicit flows. We look forward to supporting the resolutions tabled on conventional weapons.

I thank you.