



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING THE

**THEMATIC DEBATE ON *OTHER DISARMAMENT MEASURES AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY* AT THE FIRST COMMITTEE FOR THE
79TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK

ON

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Madam Chair,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statement delivered by Grenada on behalf of CARICOM and Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement.

Jamaica reaffirms its view that disarmament is intrinsically linked to development. An arms race, in our view, diverts resources from development goals and creates an environment of instability and geo-political tensions, which, in turn, are inimical to development. While Jamaica acknowledges the right of countries to self defence, we find it particularly poignant that the financing gap for SDGs is estimated at USD2.5 to USD4 trillion dollars annually, while, at the same time, global military expenditure alone amounts to over USD2.4 trillion annually.

International cooperation on disarmament is particularly important in light of the challenges posed by new and emerging technologies in the military domain and those becoming available to transnational criminal networks.

Madam Chair,

Effective disarmament measures require continuous training and capacity building, especially for developing countries. Building understanding and awareness around the root causes of conflicts and mobilising consensus on ways to address them are essential to disarmament efforts. So, too, is the need to foster an environment of peaceful co-existence. Academic and research institutions can play an important role in this effort. We therefore support ongoing partnerships between the UN and these institutions. The work being undertaken at the UN's University for Peace is an important example of the role that academics can play in advancing disarmament goals.

We commend the UN Secretariat for its efforts over the years in providing training on disarmament issues. We look forward to participating in fellowships to be provided, including in the area of SALW.

Madam Chair,

Jamaica commends Ambassador Gafoor of Singapore for his inclusive and transparent stewardship of the OEWG on ICTs. We welcome the interim progress reports, as well as outcomes from the process thus far. We look forward to the final report and continued engagement on how to advance work in this area when the OEWG concludes its work. We are particularly pleased with the focus placed on capacity building. The increase in number and widening scope of cyber-attacks, especially on government infrastructure are alarming. As a small developing country, we do not possess adequate capacity to protect our systems from such attacks. For this reason, we call for increased technical assistance and capacity building for developing countries in this area. We also invite members to provide support for the full and effective representation of officials from developing countries in international meetings concerning cyber security.

Madam Chair,

Over time, we have collectively found consensus on and broad support for important treaties, UN resolutions and other outcome documents aimed at promoting

disarmament. It is important that all States abide by their commitments, as these measures constitute the required building blocks for a peaceful, stable and secure international environment.

While our work at the UN remains inter-governmental, we see merit in engaging with civil society, with a view to building partnerships to advance our collective goals on disarmament. Pursuance of a disarmament agenda requires an inclusive approach, which includes engagement of women in the process, including in leadership roles. It is also important to engage youth. Women and youth are the most vulnerable victims in conflict situations and must be part of creating solutions.

Madam Chair,

The increased use of artificial intelligence in the military domain raises justified concerns of ethics, as errors in algorithms can lead to civilian casualties. Deployment of these technologies in the military domain must adhere to international law. We commend the Netherlands, South Korea and other co-sponsors for their efforts to bring a resolution to the First Committee on artificial intelligence in the military domain. The resolution is under consideration in capital.

In closing, Chair, Jamaica reiterates its full commitment to measures aimed at securing disarmament. These are confidence building measures and norms that have a positive spillover effect on development, international peace and security. We call for international cooperation, technical assistance and capacity building for developing countries. We further call on the UN Secretariat to continue enhancing its coordination among specialized agencies and build understanding around the issue of disarmament.

I thank you.