



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING THE

**THEMATIC DEBATE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS 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 Indonesia on behalf of the Non-aligned Movement and Kazakhstan on behalf of states parties to the TPNW.

This discussion on nuclear weapons serves as a pointed reminder of our collective responsibility: The responsibility to prevent the possession, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, thereby, fostering an international environment that secure a world free of the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons.

Jamaica, however, takes the view that nuclear technology should only be used for peaceful purposes. Jamaica agrees with the sentiment that a nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought. The mere existence of nuclear weapons continues to cast a dark shadow over the future of the entire world. We are meeting at a time when this threat is more pronounced and dangerous than it has been for decades. Jamaica is concerned that nuclear weapon states have spent US\$91.4 billion on their nuclear arsenal in 2023, a 13.1% increase over 2022.

Unfortunately, the potential for use of nuclear weapons is no longer an abstract concern, but a tangible reality that risks the unravelling of the very fabric of human civilization and the foundations of the UN Charter. While Jamaica does not produce or possess nuclear weapons, we are acutely aware that we are not insulated from their catastrophic impacts. Let us remember that the radioactive fallout, environmental devastation, and economic disruption that would follow their use are not bound by geography. No nation would be immune. Let us seize this moment to pull back from the precipice and recommit to a path of peace.

Madam Chair,

There is a false narrative that nuclear weapons provide security. Their continued existence serves only to heighten tensions and perpetuate global instability. Jamaica, therefore, calls for renewed global engagement based on a shared understanding that true security cannot be achieved through the doctrine of deterrence. We stand in solidarity with peace loving countries in advocating for general and complete disarmament. We call on all nations to recommit to engagement in cooperative dialogue based on good faith, utilizing the multilateral system that has been created for that very purpose.

In this regard, the Pact of the Future provides a critical framework within which the international community, especially nuclear weapons state, can revitalize their collaboration to achieve the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons. This framework is not only complementary to the UN Secretary General's Agenda for Peace, but also to international instruments aimed at total elimination of nuclear weapons.

For this reason, Madam Chair, Jamaica calls on States, that have not joined the NPT, the CTBT and the TPNW, to do so as a matter of urgency. Jamaica also calls on states to ensure that the 2026 Review Conference of the Parties achieves a meaningful outcome.

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. These instruments support the global goal of a world that is peaceful and secure for present and future generations. Certainly, the entry into force of the TPNW and the adoption of a political declaration at its Second Meeting of States Parties in December 2023 mark crucial steps in galvanizing international cooperation toward this critical goal.

Madam Chair,

In closing, We support the work of the IAEA. Jamaica reaffirms its unwavering dedication to the cause of peace. We remain committed to working through this United Nations to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and secure a safer future for all.

I thank you.