



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**GENERAL DEBATE ON ISSUES RELATED TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE WORK OF
THE THIRD SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE 2020
REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE
NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**30TH APRIL 2019
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Mr. Chair,

Jamaica joins in extending congratulations to you on the efficient manner in which you have been steering our deliberations.

Our intervention will highlight some of the issues of particular importance to Jamaica, in addition to those raised in the statements delivered on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) as well as on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Mr. Chair,

Today's international security environment reflects a world in turmoil. We see a mix of traditional and contemporary security challenges that put at risk, longstanding efforts to ensure the maintenance of international peace and security. One of the most striking features of this new environment is the broader range of threats that we face, including with respect to weapons of mass destruction. It is against this background that our preparations for the 2020 NPT Review Conference takes on even greater significance. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), born out of the shared commitment to non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and complete and general disarmament, remains as relevant now as it did almost 50 years ago when it came into being.

Its survival rests on the equal consideration and implementation of all three pillars of the Treaty. It is imperative that we live up to the obligations in Article VI of the Treaty and "pursue negotiations in good faith."

Every effort must be made to ensure observance of and adherence to the IAEA comprehensive safeguards. The Agency is critical to the overall effective implementation of the NPT and to supporting the framework through which the inalienable rights of developing countries to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, can be pursued. Jamaica has been working closely with the IAEA in this regard and will continue to do so pursuant to Article IV of the NPT.

In accordance with Article VII of the NPT, significant progress has been made in the creation of nuclear weapon free zones. Latin America and the Caribbean is proud of its contribution in this regard, with the successful adoption over 50 years ago of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. As the first densely populated region to be designated a nuclear weapon free zone, we are committed to ensuring that this status is not reversed. There is merit in the establishment and maintenance of these zones. Consequently, we continue to support the call for the creation of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East and hope that the conference to be convened later this year will begin to pave the way towards this reality.

Mr. Chair,

In keeping with the foregoing, Jamaica has spoken against the continued reliance on nuclear weapons as part of security and military doctrines, given the catastrophic humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. We should not ignore the indiscriminate, unacceptable harm caused by nuclear weapons, the socio-economic costs, their environmental implications and the negative

impact for current and future generations. The increased potential for such weapons to fall into the hands of non-state actors, especially given new and emerging technologies, is equally disconcerting. We therefore support the universalization and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, to prevent terrorist groups from accessing and using weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chair,

The importance of applying a gender-sensitive approach to the disarmament agenda is critical to the achievement of sustainable peace and development. Jamaica continues to be a strong proponent of the full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes in nuclear disarmament, noting that women and girls are disproportionately affected by ionizing radiation.

Multilateral engagement remains central to ongoing efforts to advance the objectives of the NPT. My delegation, therefore, joins others in calling for the universalisation of the Treaty and for greater efforts to ensure that its abiding principles and obligations are upheld. The Secretary-General's Disarmament Agenda reinforces the urgency with which disarmament in general and nuclear disarmament in particular needs to be confronted by the international community.

It is this compelling desire to support this overarching endeavour that led Jamaica to be actively engaged in the negotiations that culminated in the successful adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). For us, the TPNW stands as an important complement to the NPT in making progress with respect to nuclear disarmament. It is our hope that the narrative against the TPNW will be transformed in favour of the promotion of the positive contribution it can make towards the goals enunciated in the NPT.

Notwithstanding the relevance of the NPT and the most recently adopted TPNW, the international community must recognize that gaps remain in the disarmament architecture. In this regard, Jamaica supports all initiatives aimed at halting the production of fissile material and eliminating existing stocks, with the aspiration of realizing general and complete disarmament.

We also hope that progress will be made towards the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the objectives of which are also closely linked to the NPT. We encourage Annex II states to take the requisite action in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

It is our hope that collectively we will be able to demonstrate the requisite political will to build on the outcomes of previous Review Conferences and forge the necessary consensus towards real and meaningful progress.

Thank you.