



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**ON BEHALF OF
THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**



**2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON
THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

GENERAL DEBATE

NEW YORK, 28TH APRIL 2015

Madam President,

At the outset allow me to express sincere condolences to the Government and People of Nepal as it grapples with the immense grief and massive humanitarian crisis stemming from last Saturday's earthquake that has occasioned a rising death toll that currently stands at over 5,000 killed and 8 million people directly affected; quarter of Nepal's population.

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM delegations congratulate you, Madam President and other members of your Bureau on your election to guide the work of this critically important Review Conference. Your invaluable expertise in disarmament issues coupled with your wealth of experience in diplomacy leave us in no doubt that you will steer our work to a successful conclusion and we pledge our full support and cooperation in this regard.

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the statement to be delivered by Ecuador on behalf of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States.

As States which subscribe fully to the rule of law in the promotion and maintenance of international peace and security, CARICOM attaches high importance to the convening of this Review Conference. On this occasion we reiterate our firm view that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity and a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and the Charter of the United Nations.

As we gather for this Ninth Review Conference, CARICOM States are mindful that 2015 represents an historic year for arms control and disarmament, since it marks a fourfold anniversary: seventy years from the founding of the United Nations, as well as the end of the Second World War, forty-five years following the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the 20th year since the indefinite extension of the Treaty. With the staging of this Conference occurring a few months before world leaders meet to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we are particularly mindful that peace and security represents a vital prerequisite for sustainable development.

It would be regrettable if we were to allow this historic moment to pass without mounting a sincere and concerted effort, at this conference, to achieve an outcome that best serves our common objective of achieving international peace and security. This will require that we undertake a forward-looking and robust review of the Treaty's operations, which focuses on the need to ensure full implementation of the commitments we undertook at the 2010 Review Conference.

Madam President,

CARICOM States have been ardent supporters of the NPT; we are committed to its full and effective implementation and to its universality. Indeed, we view the near universality of the NPT, with 191 States Parties, as a powerful reflection of our collective commitment to eliminate

the spread and use of nuclear weapons. We call on the small number of States that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty and place their facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.

All of us present here recall the optimism that emanated from the 2010 Review Conference as we adopted the 64-point Action Plan negotiated and agreed by all States Parties. Yet regrettably, just five years later that optimism has waned in the face of very limited progress achieved in implementing its provisions.

Our dismal track record of implementing the commitments of successive Review Conferences has led to increasing frustration and raised questions about the credibility and relevance of the NPT regime. To date, and under the provisions of Article VIII of the Treaty, eight review conferences have been convened to assess the operation of the NPT. At each of these conferences, the overriding and most noteworthy common feature has been the palpable dissatisfaction of most of the non-nuclear weapon States parties with the failure of the nuclear weapons States to live up to their obligations. We refer primarily to the manifest breach of obligation to implement the nuclear disarmament provisions contained in Article VI of the Treaty. Furthermore, one of the key demands by non-nuclear weapon States parties, concerning the pledge that non-nuclear weapon States would not be the target of the use, or threat of use, of nuclear weapons by NWS, has still not been placed in a legally binding form. Instead, nuclear modernization programmes continue apace and the doctrine of nuclear deterrence persists, thereby providing pernicious and malign incentives for proliferation.

Moreover, selective approaches which focus on the urgency of the non-proliferation pillar, while paying scant regard to the need for progress in relation to multilateral disarmament, merely serve to weaken the Treaty. We cannot continue to ignore these realities which all serve to undermine the efficacy of the NPT. CARICOM countries are seized with the urgent need to preserve the NPT's indispensable role as the cornerstone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime, which requires that the Treaty be implemented in all its aspects. Given these circumstances, we ask: what do we wish to accomplish at this Conference? How do we intend to address the lack of implementation of the commitments we made at the 1995, 2000 and 2010 Conferences? How concerned are we about the clear lack of accountability and, if we are, what are we prepared to do about it? In particular, how do we pursue our legal undertaking to advance the effective measures called for in Article VI of the Treaty?

Madam President,

Despite the many challenges and woeful lack of progress of the past five years, we have seen some positive developments; most notably the framework for a Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear programme. In addition, non-nuclear weapon States parties have sought to address the imbalance in the implementation of the NPT through a number of initiatives, including the convening of the first ever High-level meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament in 2013.

This was complemented by the subsequent adoption of General Assembly Resolution 68/32, which designated the 26th September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of

Nuclear Weapons. Additionally, the resolution calls for the early conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear convention and a follow-up conference to be held in 2018. Emanating from the 2010 Review Conference we have also witnessed growing support, both among States and civil society, for a humanitarian approach to disarmament that is rooted in the recognition of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons.

CARICOM States have supported and joined efforts to place humanitarian concerns at the forefront of the discourse and action on nuclear weapons, including at this Review Conference. As Small Island Developing States, CARICOM States view the prospects of a nuclear detonation, whether by design or accident, as an existential horror that would decimate the entire region. We are deeply concerned about the humanitarian impact and the long term consequences on public health, food security, social services, infrastructure, environmental assets and the psychological well-being of our citizens. Our strategic location, porous borders and socio-economic realities give cause for our extreme concern regarding the possibility that these weapons could be used by nation States, or illegally transferred and acquired by terrorist groups and other non-state actors.

As a result of the international conferences on the humanitarian consequences held in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna, the international community now has a much clearer understanding of the risks of a nuclear weapon detonation and the wide-ranging effects of such an occurrence. We remain convinced, in the interest of the very survival of humanity, that nuclear weapons are never to be used again under any circumstances. For this to be assured, their total elimination remains the only guarantee against their use. We reiterate the endorsement by our Heads of State and Government at the CELAC Summit this January of the pledge made at the Vienna Conference in December 2014 to fill the legal gap related to the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons.

In this connection, we underscore the pressing need for the prompt adoption of a universally and legally binding instrument prohibiting the possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, while taking full account of the principles of transparency, irreversibility and verifiability.

Madam President,

CARICOM's commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is embodied in the participation of all its Member States in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established the first nuclear weapon free zone in a densely populated region. It is a source of immense satisfaction to CARICOM states that this Treaty enjoys universal adherence throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. It has served our region well by contributing to the strengthening of regional security and has been a model for the establishment of other such zones. Building on this, Heads of State and Government of CELAC reaffirmed and designated the region as a Zone of Peace in January 2014.

CARICOM States have long recognized the important role that nuclear-weapon- free zones can play in strengthening regional and international security, not least through confidence-building. We are, therefore, pleased that 115 States are Parties and Signatories to the Nuclear-Weapon-

Free-Zones Treaties. In this regard, we commend the Government of Indonesia for its leadership in convening, on 24 April, the Third Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear Weapon-Free-Zone and Mongolia. We reaffirm that nuclear-weapon-free zones must be respected by all States, without any reservations and limitations.

CARICOM States have supported the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and welcomed the specific benchmarks for the convening of a conference on the establishment of such a zone, mandated by the 2010 Review Conference. In this connection, we express our disappointment that the Conference has not been held. We continue to believe that such a zone will go a far way towards reducing tensions in the region. We therefore reiterate our call for the full implementation of the 1995 Resolution on the Middle East, which should be placed as a priority for this Conference.

Madam President,

The elimination of the testing of nuclear weapons remains a critical element in the overall process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. To this end, we urge the eight remaining Annex II States to sign and/or ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty immediately and unconditionally, in order to enable its entry into force. We applaud the work of the Provisional Secretariat of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organisation in promoting the entry into force of the Treaty. Pending the entry into force of the CTBT, all States should continue to abide by a moratorium on testing. Of continued concern is the failure to begin negotiations on a verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty and we call for negotiations to begin at the earliest opportunity.

CARICOM States recognize and underscore the right of all states to peaceful uses of nuclear technology in accordance with Article IV of the NPT. At the same time, we insist that this right must take place in full compliance with the safeguard provisions of the IAEA. The role of the IAEA in providing the necessary monitoring and verification should be fully respected and strengthened.

CARICOM attaches significant importance to the work of the IAEA in the promotion of safeguards applications for the peaceful uses of technology. The strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities remains important to us. We maintain a strong interest in the IAEA programmes, designed to enhance the use of nuclear technology in advancing human and social development and aiding economic progress. In 2014 CARICOM launched its Nonproliferation for Development Initiative (NDI) aimed at highlighting the practical benefits of nonproliferation through the advancement of implementation activities, including action on the NPT.

Under this Initiative, CARICOM continues to explore a range of new programmes with the IAEA, primarily aimed at improving food security and attending to important ecological concerns, such as ocean acidification. In addition, we continue to cooperate with the IAEA on issues relating to the safe transportation of radioactive materials, given the fundamental importance of these materials to healthcare and to industry in general. Our national capabilities in the areas

of nuclear science, medical physics and water resources have been boosted through the technical assistance of the IAEA by way of knowledge transfer and capacity building.

Madam President,

CARICOM States are particularly committed to the issue of nuclear safety. To this end, all Member States of CARICOM have concluded safeguard agreements with the IAEA and a number have signed the Additional Protocols. However, the most important nuclear safety issue for CARICOM States remains the trans-boundary movement of radioactive materials. The transshipment of nuclear waste through the Caribbean Sea, and the concomitant threat to the environment and economic sustainability of Small Island Developing States of the region remains of grave concern to CARICOM States. While we are cognizant of the mechanisms in place to enhance cooperation in the area of nuclear radiation, transport and waste safety, we are still mindful that emergency preparedness and response mechanisms are limited in their capacity to respond adequately and effectively to a nuclear accident or incident.

To this end, CARICOM is also working closely with the IAEA to organize a Subregional Workshop for Caribbean Countries on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage, which will take place in Panama City, Panama, from 22-25 June. This initiative will undoubtedly go some distance in addressing long-standing concerns for CARICOM Member States, in relation to the decades-old reality of the largely unaccounted transportation of nuclear waste through the Caribbean. As we work to continue to seek progress on these important matters, we urge all Parties to consider the specific situation of our region and the potential impact of any incident given the vulnerabilities of our Small Island Developing States.

Madam President,

Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation are challenges that remain unique to this period of human history and rapid scientific and technological development. Paradoxically, these weapons are of no use in addressing today's security threats. They serve no purpose in combating transnational organised crime, preventing terrorism, violent extremism and curbing cyber warfare. Rather they breed a climate of insecurity that heightens the risks of proliferation. Moreover, their existence and threatened use serves to cede the moral high ground to rogue States and non-State actors that seek a convenient argument to excuse their own excesses.

We, the Member States of CARICOM ask, is the continued possession and proliferation of nuclear weapons a reflection of the example we wish to set for our citizens? Is it the legacy we seek to bequeath to our children and successive generations? Are these instruments of war, which cause indiscriminate death and widespread destruction really the best way to direct our resources and to harness our energies, skills and collective ingenuity? We cannot accept that the moral, responsible or rational answer to any of these questions can be expressed in the affirmative. We therefore call on all here gathered to ensure that this Conference will, at the end of the day, be cited as a moment when the tide against nuclear proliferation and in favour of general and complete disarmament finally began to turn.

I thank you.