



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE

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

**MAIN COMMITTEE III
TECHNICAL COOPERATION**

NEW YORK, 12TH MAY 2015

Mr. Chairman,

As this is the first time that my delegation is taking the floor, I join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election to guide the work of this Committee. You can be assured of our full support and cooperation.

Jamaica recognizes and underscores the right of all States to peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with Article IV of the NPT. Indeed, the benefits to be gained through peaceful application of nuclear energy remain of significant value to developing countries.

For its part, Jamaica attaches high importance to leveraging nuclear technology to more effectively meet the developmental challenges faced by ourselves and the wider Caribbean sub-region. To this end, we have maintained a strong interest in the IAEA's activities related to nuclear science, technology and related applications, from which we continue to derive significant benefits. These include knowledge transfer gained from IAEA related programmes, fellowships and scientific visits. Technical assistance of this nature represents a most valuable component of our relationship with the IAEA, in which we place great store and seek to maintain and indeed strengthen.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica became a State Party to the Agreement for the **Cooperative Arrangement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL)** in November 2011 and attaches great importance to the collaboration we have forged through this regional mechanism, which focuses on some of our critical socio-economic developmental needs.

We are pleased that the IAEA has been taking steps to deepen its collaboration with the Caribbean. This has no doubt contributed to the fact that a Caribbean country has been among the group of new members admitted in each of the last four General Conferences - Dominica, Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas and Guyana. Jamaica welcomes the IAEA's increasing efforts to collaborate with our sub-region and that it continues to take tangible steps to provide support through a number of initiatives, including via the co-hosting of sub-regional workshops.

In November 2012, Jamaica hosted an IAEA **Sub-regional Workshop on Tools and Best Practices for Technical Cooperation Project Design**. We also hosted an IAEA Meeting on **Nuclear Law for Member States in the Caribbean Region**, in March of 2014, within the framework of the IAEA technical cooperation project entitled: **Strengthening the Regional Nuclear Sector and the Application of Nuclear Science and Technology for Development through Training and Facilitating Strategic Activities**. The Meeting provided, *inter alia*, a comprehensive overview of the relevant international legal instruments governing nuclear safety, security and other safeguards, as well as the development of a national legal infrastructure.

National Projects

At the national level, Jamaica has benefited from projects in several areas and is actively engaged with the Department for Technical Cooperation for Latin America (TCLA) in developing projects in areas of high priority, in particular health and water resources management. The project in the health sector complements the initiatives that Jamaica and our sister CARICOM states have spearheaded at the United Nations and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to promote the development and implementation of prevention and control policies that can address the grave multidimensional challenges posed by Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).

Our efforts are based on a multi-sectoral approach that is focused both on prevention and cure. With regard to the latter, we consider the use of nuclear medicine to be critical. In this regard, the support of the IAEA for our efforts to re-establish a Nuclear Medicine Capacity for the management of NCDs, including Cardiac diseases and cancers, is of vital importance. We are, therefore, pleased that in response to our request, the IAEA undertook several Missions to Jamaica during 2012 and 2013. These included an Impact Mission to carry out a wide-ranging assessment of our cancer control capacity and needs.

Another Mission provided support to a project currently being implemented that focuses on the sustainable management of water resources to prevent deterioration in the quality and quantity of drinking water in urban areas.

In recognition of the value and importance of the cooperation projects being undertaken with the support of the IAEA, Jamaica has taken steps to meet its current obligations in relation to the Technical Cooperation arrangements. We will make further efforts to meet our obligations in this area, despite serious resource challenges.

Research and Technology

Mr. Chairman,

In the field of research and technology, we have embarked on a project in partnership with the IAEA and the United States aimed at converting the fuel used in our nuclear research reactor from Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) to Low Enriched Uranium (LEU), thereby decreasing non-proliferation risks while doubling the reactor's utilization capacity. We express appreciation to the IAEA and the Government of the United States for the assistance that is being given to Jamaica, in particular under the Peaceful Uses Initiative (PUI). The additional capacity will allow us to expand research work related to food safety, food security and air quality. Moreover, with the additional capacity provided to what is the Caribbean's only research reactor, we will be able to accommodate the research needs of other countries from the Caribbean. We encourage other States to pursue fuel conversion in keeping with international efforts, supported by the IAEA, to reduce the amount of HEU used in research reactors around the world.

Mr. Chairman,

In 2014, CARICOM launched its Nonproliferation for Development Initiative (NDI) aimed at highlighting the practical benefits of nonproliferation through the advancement of implementation activities. Under this Initiative, Jamaica and fellow CARICOM Member States continue to explore a range of new programmes with various intergovernmental organizations including the IAEA. Cooperation with the IAEA has been primarily aimed at improving food security and attending to important ecological concerns, such as ocean acidification. In addition, we continue to work 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.

More recently, the IAEA has cooperated with the CARICOM-UNSCR 1540 Implementation Programme to stage a special initiative targeting CARICOM Member States, which focuses on the safe transportation of nuclear materials. The main rationale for this initiative, which commenced in June 2014, is to address the deficit of regulatory mechanisms within CARICOM Member States, in order to ensure the safe transportation of nuclear and radiological materials commonly used in several development-related domains, particularly in the health sector.

While a key focus of the initiative involves the handling and physical protection of nuclear materials, a major interest is to address the challenges that several CARICOM states continue to face in obtaining affordable radiological materials, including Cobalt-60, used in radiation treatment in hospitals across the region. This is of particular importance given the fact that these countries do not have proper legislation and attendant regulations in place.

Since 2014, the CARICOM 1540 Implementation Programme has been used by the IAEA as a coordinating platform to address these issues, considering that the ongoing legislative programme in support of 1540 implementation also considers regulations that overlap with those proposed to address issues related to the transportation of radioactive material.

This represents the first time that such an initiative had been specifically geared towards Caribbean countries, which have limited radiation safety infrastructure. The programme is also educating and informing CARICOM Member States about key issues surrounding the safe transportation of radioactive materials, including international regulations pertaining to the transportation of radioactive materials, required documentation and labeling protocols, self-assessment approaches, as well as the development of a transportation network predicated on international best practices. The implementation of basic controls for the transport of radioactive material and the development of emergency responses to transport incidents has also been a key priority of this initiative. In fact, it builds on another ongoing activity currently funded by the IAEA in the Caribbean, which is the development of an emergency response architecture that can be deployed in the event of a nuclear or radiological incident.

It is also important to mention that under this initiative, ongoing IAEA programmes such as the Thematic Safety Areas (TSA-7) that focus on Transportation Safety and the

Radiation Safety Information Management System (RASIMS), which have been of clear benefit to other Member States, are also slated to be instituted within Jamaica and other Member States of the Caribbean Community.

In closing, I wish to underscore that the IAEA's practical and meaningful technical cooperation projects are greatly appreciated by Jamaica and many small developing Members States. The benefits we derive from such collaboration continues to make a tangible contribution to our ability to strengthen our capacity to pursue the peaceful uses and application of nuclear energy, while at the same time furthering our efforts to achieve our development aspirations.

Thank you.