



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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**AT THE**

**HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
ON TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME**

**DURING THE**

**64<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK**

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*Please check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statement to be made by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). In addition, I would like to use this opportunity to make supplementary comments from a national perspective.

Mr. Chairman,

As we gather to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and its additional Protocols, we are faced with the grave reality and concern over the impact of transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, narcotic drugs and small arms and light weapons, as they continue to hamper our development process, and undermine peace and security.

Transnational organized crime is a global phenomenon, which impacts every country and every region. As such, we encourage collective responses to this global scourge and we call upon the international community to continue to support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in efforts to enhance the capacity of affected States, to combat the broad range of criminal activity addressed by the Convention, including money-laundering, corruption, piracy, trafficking in persons, and counter-narcotics efforts. We emphasize that the efforts of the UNODC should include, but not be limited to assisting Member States in creating effective law enforcement responses, strengthening their judicial capacity and the provision of technical assistance.

As a small island developing State, Jamaica continues to grapple with the negative effects of transnational organized crime which are endangering the well-being of our people. Indeed, recent events in our nation's capital Kingston, has underscored a pertinent fact; that the easy access to small arms and light weapons and the illicit wealth generated from transnational organised crime, particularly narcotics trafficking, promotes conflicts, exacerbates violence, increases the activities of organized crime and in many instances threatens to undermine the authority of the State as well as the socio-economic development of our society. It highlights the increasing vulnerability of States to such crimes.

Our Ministry of National Security continues to work assiduously to implement a comprehensive policy agenda in line with national security objectives. Concrete responses to the challenges posed by transnational organised crime include a number of legislative measures, the most recent of which are the Criminal Justice (Plea bargaining) regulations, and the Financial Investigations Division (FID) Act.

A plethora of solutions which will take into account further legislative proposals is being considered by the Government at this time, including, *inter alia*, an Organised Crime Act. Despite the crime challenges our Security Forces are committed to the task at hand and we have restructured, upgraded, and equipped the Transnational Crime and the Narcotics Divisions to provide a formidable force in disrupting and reducing all trafficking related offences;

A Financial Crimes Unit was established to investigate financial crimes and apply the Proceeds of Crime Act in separating criminals from ill-gotten assets is an important development in local law enforcement. Additionally, gang leaders have been arrested as a means of tackling organized crime.

Mr. Chairman,

For many small island developing States like Jamaica, one of the many and varied ways by which those engaged in transnational organized criminal activities have managed to exploit with impunity, has been through relatively open and moderately secured borders.

Considerable efforts have therefore been made to strengthen port and border security. However, Jamaica, and indeed our CARICOM partners continue to face significant challenges given the porous nature of our borders: land, air and sea, which has unwittingly facilitated to a large extent, the transboundary movement of criminal commodities. Active collaboration and the assistance of our regional and international partners is therefore critical in our fight to develop and implement effective border control methods, practices and procedures.

At the regional level, Jamaica continues to participate meaningfully with our partners in the Caribbean Community in efforts to address the crime and security agenda through the Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS) and the Council of Ministers responsible for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE).

Jamaica also joins its CARICOM partners in reiterating our urgent calls for the reopening of the United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) in Barbados. It is ironic and unfortunate that the UNDOC is not present in our region which unfortunately has become recognized as having the highest incidence of gun-related violence in the world.

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

We appreciate efforts over the past week in working towards achieving an outcome for this meeting. We regret, however, that agreement could not be reached on the text of a political declaration. Our view is that an expression of political commitment would have been an important outcome as the United Nations commemorates this important anniversary of the Convention.

I thank you.