



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

STATEMENT BY

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OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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



ON

AGENDA ITEM 55:

***COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF
PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS***

**IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE
72nd SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Final Text

Mr. Chairman,

I have the distinct honour to address the United Nations Special Political and Decolonization Committee on its consideration of agenda item 55 (the comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects), I do so on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM.

At the outset, we take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome Mr. Jean-Pierre Lacroix, who recently received the baton as Under Secretary General for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). CARICOM extends its full support to him and his team in the execution of their duties.

We are grateful for the comprehensive briefings delivered by Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Mr Athul Khare, and the Assistant Secretary General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, Mr. Alexander Zuev, on the developments regarding the Organization's peacekeeping activities.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM welcomes the collective commitment of the DPKO and the DFS on their efforts to find innovative solutions to our common challenges. In this regard, we look forward to receiving details on the potential impact of the implementation of the proposal on restructuring the peace and security architecture put forward by the Secretary General on the Organization's work in peacekeeping.

Peacekeeping is one of the largest and most visible activities undertaken by the UN and we, the Membership, recognize that the scale of the Organisation's peacekeeping operations, supported by the DPKO and DFS, is significant. We recognize that, despite the challenges, there is a commitment to improve service delivery and to achieve more effective implementation of mandates.

CARICOM salutes the dedication of the over 100 thousand peacekeepers in the service of peace across the globe, and we honour the memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while on the frontlines of creating conditions for lasting peace.

CARICOM therefore reaffirms its support to the initiatives of the Organization aimed at strengthening its capability, in order to ensure the safety and security of personnel across all peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM has long regarded UN peacekeeping as essential to efforts to bridge the divide from conflict to peace. It remains one of the most effective ways in which the UN

supports the transitional process in countries seeking to restore and consolidate their democratic order.

We are convinced that in order to create lasting peace, it is imperative that we understand the root causes of conflict and invest in helping countries to build their institutions as a means of strengthening resilience and promoting conflict prevention. It is against this background that CARICOM supports the establishment of the UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH) for an initial six-month period, from 16 October this year to 15 April next year.

In order to consolidate the progress made in Haiti and maintain an environment conducive to sustained development, the international community has to remain actively engaged in effective partnership with the Government and People of Haiti.

We remain committed to assisting and advocating for Haiti as it progresses along its path towards sustainable peace, stability and development.

We commend Member States that have supported Haiti throughout this period of transition. The assistance provided includes the support given to the Secretary General's New Approach to Cholera in Haiti, and the authorization provided by countries to redirect their MINUSTAH balances towards the UN Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund. CARICOM implores Member States, regional organizations, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector and individuals to collaborate with the recently appointed UN Special Envoy for Haiti by providing contributions to the Trust Fund, which remains well short of targeted resources.

Mr. Chairman,

We are of the view that our debate on peacekeeping is complimentary to the ten-year review of the peacebuilding architecture. We place emphasis on the close coordination between Peacekeeping Operations and the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, in particular the Funds and Programmes, working in close partnership with national authorities.

The natural synergy that exists between peace, security and development has been further reinforced by our collective endorsement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), and in particular Goal 16, which we are committed to attaining through practical implementation.

We recognize this synergy as one of the main features of the SG's proposal to reform the peace and security pillar, through the establishment of a single department that combines the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) with the PBSO's peacebuilding responsibilities, within a new Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs

(DPPA). We anticipate that this will ensure a more holistic approach to the prevention of conflicts, peace-making, and sustaining peace.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM continues to support the active participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and in all efforts to promote international peace and security. We recall the adoption of resolution 2242 (2015) by the Security Council, which embodies the Organization's commitment to integrate women, peace and security concerns across all country-specific situations. We look forward to future reports informing that this is in fact being achieved.

Similarly, CARICOM is pleased with the progress made in implementing Security Council Resolution 1325, in peacekeeping and other areas of the UN system. Special note is taken of the efforts to appoint gender advisers to peacekeeping operations, as well as to mainstream gender perspectives throughout the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). We encourage the DPKO to continue to strengthen efforts in this regard and to increase the number of female officers in peacekeeping missions.

We acknowledge the concerted efforts to achieve gender parity that are being made by Member States and the Secretariat, through the ongoing creation of opportunities to engage women in the area of peacekeeping. CARICOM commends the UN Office of Military Affairs on its acceptance of women Warrant Officers and Lieutenants with five years' experience in the role of Military Observers. We recognize that this is as an effort to achieve the Organization's goal of 15 per cent women staff officers and military observers. We perceive a need, however, for greater institutionalization of a gendered perspective in all militaries and throughout peacekeeping missions.

In the same vein, we encourage Member States to continue efforts to deploy female peacekeepers in peacekeeping missions, particularly at senior levels.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM is fully supportive to the Organization's zero-tolerance approach to all forms of misconduct, and in particular, acts of sexual exploitation and abuse on the part of peacekeeping personnel. We believe that action taken on allegations of misconduct, especially acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, should be dealt with in a comprehensive and inclusive manner.

We are also supportive of the comprehensive approach laid out by the Secretary General in placing the rights and dignity of victims at the centre of efforts to end impunity through better reporting, transparency and accountability. We are equally in favour of the deepening of engagement with civil society and key national and

international actors. We look forward to further progress in this regard as we work to ensure that UN personnel continue to be held to the highest standards.

Mr. Chairman,

In the face of heightened risks, including unprecedented targeted attacks in increasingly dangerous environments, peacekeepers must be alert, proactive and properly equipped. CARICOM underscores the need for appropriately resourced, well equipped and capable UN peacekeeping missions. We therefore look forward to the provision of diversified learning programmes and educational resources for peacekeeping personnel.

We are encouraged by the technological advances that have been made, including the cost-free multilingual e-learning courses provided by the Peace Operations Training Institute. We note, in particular, the E-learning for Peacekeepers from Latin America and the Caribbean programme, which supplements traditional training methods and provides access to standardized training materials across a wide cross-section of military, police and civilian peacekeepers. CARICOM also welcomes the integrated distance learning programmes provided directly to the peacekeeping missions by the Institute.

We are also appreciative of the support provided by UNITAR for pre-deployment training, which builds on the training package developed by DPKO.

Mr. Chairman,

The effectiveness of any peacekeeping mission depends on strong political support and adequate human and financial resources. CARICOM emphasizes the importance of the full participation of troop contributing countries (TCCs) and police contributing countries (PCCs) in policy formulation from the outset, in order to achieve the level of partnership, cooperation, confidence, mutual trust and effectiveness required for UN peacekeeping missions.

Furthermore, we highlight the need for consistent, transparent and effective triangular cooperation between the Security Council, the Secretariat and the TCCs and PCCs in addressing the challenges of peacekeeping. This cooperation would be best served by initiatives that allow for TCCs and PCCs to provide substantial input into the decision-making process of peacekeeping missions.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, CARICOM looks forward to meaningful and comprehensive engagement on UN peacekeeping. We remain committed to doing our part to actively support and participate in the development of practical solutions to all aspects of current and future peacekeeping matters.

I thank you.