



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 54:
*'COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF SPECIAL POLITICAL MISSIONS'***

IN THE

**4TH COMMITTEE OF THE 68TH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chairman,

The Jamaican delegation joins others in thanking the Secretary General for his comprehensive Report on Overall Policy Matters Pertaining to Special Political Missions (SPMs) A/68/223.

This Report is timely in light of the proliferation of SPMs over the past decade. The facts provided are a useful record of the genesis and development of SPMs and their contribution to the maintenance of International Peace and Security. There is overwhelming evidence that political missions incorporating conflict prevention and peace building mandates are critical at the beginning of the peacekeeping process. Equally important are post conflict resolution measures in the aftermath of a conflict to safeguard the gains achieved during the peace making process. Special Political Missions therefore are never intended to be unending but should have a limited duration in accordance with the circumstances on the ground.

The Jamaican delegation has consistently articulated the need for greater focus on the roles of peace building and conflict prevention as important components of peacekeeping, as these target the root causes of conflict. It has been proven time and again that it is less costly to prevent conflict than it is to maintain peace.

That being said Mr Chairman, my delegation would now wish to turn attention to the content of the Report and make a few comments.:

The expansion of SPMs over the past decade has now created what is a parallel field presence along with the traditional peacekeeping operations. Both have separate roles and purposes and should be distinct in their mandates. In the absence of clear mandates, the duplication of functions as well as confusion of tasks could arise leading to the UN presence on the ground being rendered ineffective. This is even more evident where both are deployed in the same country. Clear goals and reporting lines are therefore of the utmost importance. Indeed, the environment in which peacekeeping and SPMs operate are usually volatile and challenging. The absence of clear mandates could also put UN personnel at risk and danger if the roles are not clearly defined.

Mr Chairman,

As is evident, the range of actors seeking to play a part in ensuring sustainable peace continue to diversify and expand in response to the challenges. In this regard, the partnership between the UN and international/ regional organizations can be an effective means of tackling the complex tasks in conflict areas. We fully support the view that partnerships between SPMs and regional/ sub-regional organisations are a key component in the successful implementation of mandates and for advancing international peace and security. My delegation concurs with the observation made in the Report that partnership between the United Nations and regional partners can have a multiplying effect by drawing on their comparative advantages. However, while this may be the ideal situation, it is noted that oftentimes there are conflicting priorities and agendas between the United Nations field presence

and the host Government and / or the regional organization. Mutually agreed priorities and goals especially as it relates to developmental concerns will go a far way in furthering the implementation of the mandate.

Mr Chairman,

The multidimensional nature of SPMs, due to the complex nature of conflicts, calls, more than ever, for an integrated approach within the UN system. The Report has alluded to the tangible success that can be achieved if there are increased partnerships among all the agencies within the UN system that are present in the conflict areas. This is laudable, however, it is prudent that a careful assessment be carried out, clearly defining functions and responsibilities for each agency so as to ensure that there are no overlapping mandates.

Careful attention must also be paid to the exit strategy employed when a SPM is drawing down from a conflict zone. In many circumstances, the SPMs are required to play an intrinsic part in securing law and order, providing security and safeguarding human rights in post conflict societies. If the SPM is withdrawn suddenly, often a vacuum is created which the local authorities may not have sufficient capacity to fill. In such circumstances, the gains achieved in acquiring tangible successes may soon be eroded.

Mr Chairman,

My delegation remains concerned that there are no specific reporting mechanisms for SPMs to give account to member states. Though mandated by

the Security Council, there has not been, prior to now, any report on performance and accountability for SPMs. This is unlike Peacekeeping Missions that are mandated to report to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C34) on a regular basis. My delegation therefore supports the call for continued consultations between the Secretariat and the C34 on the policy matters pertaining to SPMs in order to ensure transparency and accountability.

Finally, Mr Chairman,

While underscoring the importance of SPMs and ways to increase efficiencies of their operation, my delegation would appreciate that further consideration be given to options for minimizing the increasing costs of SPMs. We await the deliberations in the Fifth Committee during this session of the General Assembly and hope to be guided by its decisions.

I thank you Mr Chairman.