



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

STATEMENT BY

**MRS. DIEDRE MILLS
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES, A.I.
PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM 89: REPORT OF
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

**SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**FRIDAY, 10th NOVEMBER 2017
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. President,

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to participate in the annual consideration by the General Assembly of the report of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Like other speakers before me, I wish to thank the Director-General for his statement and to acknowledge the invaluable work undertaken by the Agency over the past year. We also wish to congratulate him on his reappointment to lead the Agency and to assure him of Jamaica's continued support in this regard.

Mr. President,

Jamaica attaches signal importance to the work done by the IAEA. Over the past year, we have benefitted from a range of technical and other assistance that have been instrumental in several key priority areas such as education, health and research, including the programme of action for cancer therapy (PACT).

We continue to witness the consolidation and expansion of the relationship that we have enjoyed with the Agency since becoming a member in 1965. Jamaica is proud of the fact that we are parties to five (5) IAEA Multilateral Agreements and two (2) Safeguards Agreements. In addition and in keeping with our commitment to partnering with the Agency, Jamaica will be hosting three IAEA Workshops on the Security of Radioactive Material in Transport in the last and first quarters of 2017 and 2018, respectively. Earlier this year, Jamaica also deposited its Instrument of Acceptance pursuant to the Regional Cooperation for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL).

Mr. President,

The work of the IAEA in the promotion of the peaceful uses of nuclear technology and the application of a safeguards regime for verification, safety and security remains critical. Consequently, we continue to encourage States, which have not yet done so, to accede to the legally binding international conventions and to commit to working towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The adoption this past July of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons represents a significant milestone achievement towards de-legitimising nuclear weapons and reinforcing the norms against their use. We look forward to the role that this Treaty can play in realising this objective.

In keeping with our own commitment to use nuclear energy for scientific and peaceful purposes, the Jamaican Parliament has passed the *Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act* and has, since July 2015, established the Hazardous Substances Regulatory Authority. Through these and other frameworks, we continue to regulate activities, practices and facilities involving ionizing radiation and nuclear technology.

Mr. President,

We are especially pleased that the IAEA continues to attract new members and takes this opportunity to welcome our fellow CARICOM partner, Grenada, whose membership has been approved by the General Conference. As we noted at the recently concluded General Conference of the IAEA, small island developing states like ours stand to benefit from the provision of technical assistance, capacity-building and the transfer of knowledge offered by the Agency. We, therefore, look forward to working with them as the newest member of the Agency.

In the same vein, my delegation also wishes to recognise those member states who have contributed to the IAEA's technical cooperation fund and encourage those in a position to do so, to continue to support the Fund to ensure that there are resources commensurate with the increase in membership and the growing demand for the Agency's assistance.

Mr. President,

Jamaica welcomes the efforts of the IAEA to support national efforts aimed at advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We believe that this augurs well for greater synergy between national development priorities and IAEA assistance within the broader UN Development Assistance Framework. We would encourage further work in this regard.

Mr. President,

In closing, let me reiterate Jamaica's strong commitment to working with the IAEA and to supporting its effort in the years to come.