



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

STATEMENT BY

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OF UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540**

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



**OPEN DEBATE OF THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL ON
NON-PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
THURSDAY, 15TH DECEMBER 2016**

Deputy Secretary-General,
Chairman of the 1540 Committee,
Honorable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Caribbean Community Secretariat, I would like to register my thanks to the 1540 Committee and in particular the Permanent Mission of Spain for convening this High Level meeting on UNSCR 1540, focusing on threats related to non-State actors and the possible use of weapons of mass destruction.

From the inception of the CARICOM regional program, which seeks to assist CARICOM Member States with effectively assuming their obligations under Resolution 1540, the 1540 Committee has stood foursquare in support of our efforts, both in terms of its overall engagement, as well as its support for regional initiatives focused on implementing strategic trade legislation and regulations, as well as regional initiatives to build necessary capacity within the Caribbean to prevent proliferation.

I can say, certainly for the leadership of the Caribbean Community and indeed for entities within the region focusing on the prevention of the trade in and use of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons and related materials, that ongoing cooperation with the 1540 Committee remains a cornerstone of our ongoing regional effort to combat proliferation both within the Caribbean and in the hemisphere at large.

Without question, regional progress in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction is inextricably linked to the economic viability of CARICOM Member States. Indeed, we have borne witness to the impact of poverty, privatization and marginalization and its influence on promoting radicalization both within the region and around the world. Fighting terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction can only be successfully waged by fully appreciating the intersect between these corollary realities. Realities, Mr. Chairman, that are not absent from the Caribbean as has been exemplified by the involvement of nationals from the Caribbean as foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) in the conflicts in Iraq and Syria, and on the side of ISIL.

While this may be fading in our collective memories, we are all too cognizant of the region's susceptibility to external shocks, including those occasioned by acts of terrorism, as was the case with the attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001. Notwithstanding the fact that these events took place away from the Caribbean and occurred in the United States, the economic impact on the region and the reverberation felt in regional markets resulted in the loss of over \$900 million in revenue and thousands of jobs, particularly in the tourism and hospitality sectors, within the first year after the attacks.

It is for this reason that terrorism and the proliferation of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials continues to be of significant importance to CARICOM Member States over the past fifteen years, even as regional governments have been grappling with the influx of small arms and light weapons, as well as the deleterious impact of the continuing drug trade and spiraling gun-related crime, which has ensued from these confluence of events.

Mr. Chairman, given the increasing competition for critically needed economic space and resources to effectively deal with these challenges within the security realm, it is therefore fundamental that initiatives aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, reducing trade in strategic goods and related technology and promoting the adoption of important correlate security measures, such as the implementation of effective export controls, receive greater levels of support from the international community.

CARICOM remains grateful for assistance which has been provided by the United States, Canada, Australia, the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom among others, but this is not nearly enough. In order to place non-proliferation firmly and securely within the contemporary regional security vernacular and to elevate it to actionable levels within CARICOM Member States, engagement on this matter cannot be piecemeal or sporadic. It requires sustained interaction with both policy and enforcement entities within the region and the provision of equally sustained material support going forward.

CARICOM views, therefore, this High Level deliberation as a significant and encouraging step forward in this regard and is confident that its outcome will redound to the region's ongoing efforts to advance its objectives within the non-proliferation realm.

Mr. Chairman, let me also emphasize that the involvement of industry, academia and civil society in this discourse is commendable, as there is need for an "all hands on deck" approach to fully achieve the objectives of the resolution, to effectively combat non-State actors, and simultaneously enhance security and aid national development, particularly in the Global South. I would further observe that this debate has particular relevance to the Caribbean, given the expansion of a regional process first initiated in October 2013 in Freeport, Bahamas at the symposium, Public and Private Sector Avenues to Building Maritime and Port Security Infrastructure and Facilitating Secure Trade in the Caribbean through the Implementation of UNSCR 1540.

This gathering of CARICOM Member States, facilitated by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the CARICOM-UNSCR 1540 Implementation Programme, and the Stimson Center, was fundamental in charting a way forward to encourage greater cooperation with industry and governments in the region, in both implementing 1540 and fostering an agenda for joint action on improving port security and aiding development. With the initiation of the Freeport Process, CARICOM Member States agreed to deepen their cooperation to meet obligations under UNSCR 1540, through increased public-private collaboration to address security vulnerabilities at ports within the Caribbean and to combat the transit, transshipment, export, re-export and brokering of strategic goods and dual-use materials.

The Freeport Process has led to new and unprecedented cooperation aimed at strengthening port and border security and undertaking important mandates under Operative Paragraph 3 of Resolution 1540. It has also resulted in a new partnership between CARICOM, the World Customs Organization (WCO) and the US National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) focusing on strategic trade control enforcement (STCE) and will be expanded to other designated CARICOM Member States through 2017.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate that CARICOM Member States are cognizant of the emerging vulnerabilities posed by chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) materials to the safety and security of the region's maritime space and are fully aware of these attendant risks to achieving secure trade and commerce. Activities within the context of the CARICOM 1540 Program underscore the commitment which CARICOM Members continue to place on implementing UNSCR 1540 and signal a prevailing commitment to non-proliferation which will necessitate even greater levels of support by the international community to fully achieve these important security objectives.

Again, let me register my profound thanks to the 1540 Committee and we trust that this dialogue will result in a renewed engagement to realize even more meaningful gains in the 1540 implementation process and serve to enhance regional security, further non-proliferation, while also enhancing the ability of CARICOM and other Member States to effectively confront threats posed by proliferators and non-State actors alike.

Thank you.