



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

STATEMENT BY

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Permanent Mission of Jamaica to the United Nations

Seventh Biennial United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

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Mr President

Jamaica welcomes the convening of the Seventh Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We especially want to thank the co-facilitators, H.E. Mr. Mohammed Al Hassan, the Permanent Representative of Oman and H.E. Mr. Agustin Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of Spain for their tireless efforts and skillful guidance in steering this intergovernmental process over these past months culminating in a draft resolution on the Seventh Review of the Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, on which my delegation joins consensus today.

Mr President,

Jamaica is acutely aware that terrorism remains a real and present danger, a transnational threat that requires global cooperation at the governmental and non-governmental levels. Operating in our new normal has made fighting against this issue even more challenging for my country. However, we remain resolute in our efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism. Over the past year we have recognised that the restrictions in travel and stay at/work from

home orders have made it even more difficult to monitor activities of persons of interest as they have become even more sophisticated in their actions. We have had to become as ingenious as those who seek to carry out these acts of terror.

Although the threat of terrorism is considered low in Jamaica, identified as a 'Tier 2' with low probability, high impact, terrorist activities have become more intertwined with organized crime. Fighting against this activity require collaboration with international and regional partners to bolster national efforts to observe early warning systems, build resilience and counter radicalization to violent extremism and mobilisation.

Mr President,

For us in the Caribbean region, we are threatened with the ripple effect of international terrorism as terrorists seek to penetrate other territorial boundaries. Therefore, trends such as the recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters, Lone Wolves, accessibility of terrorist group propaganda online, self-radicalized Home-Grown extremists, development of clandestine cells and the proliferation of transnational organised criminality have had to be prioritized by our governments.

Our region is also faced with the return of nationals from conflict zones which may have exposed them to violent jihadist ideologies and they, on their return, may seek to recruit, facilitate and radicalize other individuals. Unfortunately, Jamaica has had its challenges with its own national being charged for, among other things, incitement and facilitation of foreign terrorist fighters' travel. Given the cross-border nature of the threat, this reality reinforces the need to share information and intelligence in order for easy detection of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) in the event that they travel through our region.

Therefore, the dynamics of the FTF phenomenon as well as the human rights implications of related cases has highlighted the need for Jamaica and other Governments in the region to have an informed position.

Notwithstanding emerging developments and advancements in efforts to prevent, pursue and respond to acts of terror, to be truly effective, the Government of Jamaica's counter-terrorism response has to rely on strong and cooperative relationships, not only between and amongst local Government actors, but also with foreign State actors, as well as regional and international

collaboration. We therefore applaud the partnerships and cooperation which we have had at both the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

So important is the issue for Jamaica that we have put in place a National Coordination mechanism to ensure the prevention, response, investigation and management of consequences of terrorism and its financing. This mechanism shares real time information and intelligence on emerging threats and trends as well as evaluates and monitors the country's and region's progress in countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Mr President,

Jamaica continues to enhance its national counter terrorism and countering violent extremism measures, through regulatory enhancements and the strengthening of the country's legislative framework. Among the initiatives pursued are:

- Ensuring that the country meets its international obligations and bring into compliance with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) requirements in relation to money-laundering and counter financing of terrorism.
- In this regard, several advancements were made in relation to our counter

terrorism financing and anti-money laundering initiatives, particularly through reporting requirements to the Financial Investigations Division (FID) of regulated entities under the Proceeds of Crime Act, the Terrorism Prevention Act (TPA) and the United Nations Security Council Resolution Implementation Act.

- Under the Terrorism Prevention Designated Reporting Entity (Attorneys-at-Law) Resolution, lawyers are required to disclose information which could link their clients to terrorism. This is to ensure that Jamaica complies with the asset guidelines and monitoring regime which govern anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism regimes within the financial system.
- Jamaica has also developed a good understanding of its money-laundering/terrorism-financing risk, and has introduced effective mitigation strategies and procedures. The Proceeds of Crime (Amendment) Act, 2019 allows for the investigation, identification and recovery of the proceeds of crime.
- Our immigration legislation is currently being amended to strengthen provisions addressing the Advance Passenger Information (API) and to

inform the introduction of the Passenger Name Record (PNR). This will increase the country's ability to conduct robust risk assessments and prevent high risk passengers from boarding vessels and/or entering borders.

Mr President,

In 2016, the Government of Jamaica established a Cyber Incident Response Team (CIRT) to assist in the protection of Jamaica's Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure. In this regard, local law enforcement personnel and policymakers' capacity and capability have been enhanced in countering the traditional and non-traditional forms of terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism, radicalization and mobilization to violence. We take this opportunity to recognise our bilateral and multilateral partners for their support in enhancing the capacity of individuals who are directly and indirectly responsible for countering terrorism and violent extremism.

Efforts are also well-advanced to finalize Jamaica's Integrated Counter Terrorism Response Readiness Plan, which relies on strong and cooperative relationships between the Government, private sector and civil society. The Plan will provide procedures, structures and coordination arrangements to ensure the

prevention, response, investigation and management of consequences of a terror incident at the Pre- incident, Incident and Post Incident stages.

At the regional level, the CARICOM Counter Terrorism Strategy was adopted on February 2018 aimed at reducing the risk of terrorism and associated violent extremism, as well as building resilience to extremist ideology, with a view to ensuring a safer and free CARICOM.

The Government of Jamaica will continue to place great importance and urgency on developing measures to mitigate threats of terrorism and organized crime. We wish to reaffirm our stance in countering violent extremism and terrorism through maintaining collaborative partnerships, facilitating capacity building, sharing of information/intelligence and best practices among local, regional and international partners. We therefore must stand united to prevent, protect, prepare and respond to any act (s) of terror.

I thank you Mr Chair.