



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE**

**FORMAL OPEN CONSULTATIONS ON  
SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED  
PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)**

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Mr. Chairman,

Over a decade ago, with the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), the international community took a resolute stand for non-proliferation and in defense of global peace and security. It is within this context that Jamaica welcomes the opportunity to participate in this comprehensive review of the status of 1540 implementation.

We do so mindful that with the adoption of Resolution 1540, for the first time Member States were called upon to take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, which included providing comprehensive reports indicating national activities and programmes.

Jamaica and fellow CARICOM Member States, in concert with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community, have developed a unitary approach to the implementation of Resolution 1540. As a result, significant gains have been realized within Jamaica and the CARICOM region in relation to the implementation process, within a relatively short period of time.

The implementation of Jamaica's obligations is undertaken within a multi-faceted programme that is focused on the adoption of legislative and enforcement mandates that primarily emanate from operative paragraph 3 of the resolution. This has been made possible by significant bilateral and international support provided by the governments of the US, Australia and Canada among others, as well as entities such as the UNODA, IAEA and the OPCW. This support has been channeled through the CARICOM-UNSCR 1540 Programme.

Mr. Chairman,

Notwithstanding the advances we have made in the implementation process, Jamaica and other CARICOM Member States continue to experience difficulties in meeting our obligations related to legislative, regulatory, and administrative mandates arising under UNSCR 1540. There is a need for support arrangements to enable more effective implementation of our enforcement mechanisms to prevent the trans-shipment, transit, export, re-export, and brokering of strategic goods and dual-use materials.

CARICOM Member States also experience difficulty in comprehending several sections of the 1540 Matrix. This evaluative tool, which features over 300 questions, also presents a challenge to our ability consistently complete and update its various sections. This stems from a lack of technical expertise to guide States in properly navigating and responding to the questionnaire. At the recent Legislative Drafting Exercise (LDE) in support of the implementation of UNSCR 1540 held in Kingston Jamaica from 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> April 2016, attention was focused on the format and content of the matrix and the need for greater technical assistance from the 1540 Group of Experts to assist States in meeting this reporting obligation.

While Jamaica continues to make strides in developing an omnibus mechanism to meet its legislative obligations under 1540, this process has also been fraught with significant challenges. Moreover, while Jamaica has benefited from its consistent engagement with the international community on this front, the process has been exceptionally arduous given the dearth of expertise in drafting strategic trade legislation, not only in Jamaica but throughout the region. This problem has been even more daunting for smaller CARICOM Member States, particularly those in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States sub-region, which face considerable difficulty in developing the strategic trade legislation that is essential to the full implementation of UNSCR 1540.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me reiterate that Jamaica and its CARICOM partners are committed to fulfilling our obligations under resolution 1540. However, we must highlight the fact that the pace of implementation continues to be affected by a perennial shortfall in institutional capacity and technical capability. CARICOM Member States also grapple with developing adequate domestic export controls and licensing protocols, which are essential to preventing the illicit movement of strategic goods and effectively controlling and managing trade in dual-use materials.

There are a range of other administrative weaknesses that limit the development of functional enforcement capacity within the Caribbean, such as the absence of harmonized customs control procedures and systems; a lack of expertise in risk analysis and profiling; as well as the establishment and utilization of databases and watch lists to identify suspect transfers and end-users.

Another area of weakness relates to the inability to leverage appropriate control lists in order to prevent transfers that violate export control laws and regulations. The development of capacity in this area would provide officials with additional tools to detect, identify, and interdict strategic commodities and dual-use materials. It is therefore fundamental that entities, such as the Australia Group, be encouraged to provide assistance to non-members in developing control mechanism to aid the 1540 implementation process and prevent proliferation

Mr. Chairman,

Operative paragraph 7 of the resolution "Recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of this resolution within their territories and invites States in a position to do so to offer assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests to the States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling the above provisions." As I mentioned earlier, while Jamaica has received key support in the implementation process from the international community through the CARICOM-UNSCR 1540 Implementation Programme, other Member States in the region have not been as fortunate.

It is therefore essential that this Comprehensive Review focus on ways in which opportunities for targeted assistance can be effectively communicated to Member States, so that States in need can leverage this support to enhance their ability to undertake their national implementation activities.

Lastly, it is of fundamental importance that the 1540 Committee continues to adopt approaches aimed at partnering with Member States to raise awareness among policymakers and key stakeholders and engender the necessary political support to achieve the full implementation of UNSCR 1540. Furthermore, it is important to underscore that Jamaica and other CARICOM Member States continue to require assistance in developing interagency and institutional mechanisms to assist the reporting process, as well as in raising awareness among civil society and opinion leaders about the resolution and its relevance to national/regional security. This includes a need for sensitisation about the potential impact of the use of weapons of mass destruction, which threaten the very viability of small and vulnerable states, such as Jamaica and other in the Caribbean region.

I thank you.