

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY**

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## PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA

**ON BEHALF OF**

**THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

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**ON**

**AGENDA ITEMS 107: *CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE***

**&**

**108: *INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL***

**IN THE THIRD COMMITTEE**

**SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE**

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on Agenda Item 107: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and Item 108: International Drug Control.

CARICOM congratulates Ambassador Einar Gunnarsson on his election as Chairman and, indeed, the entire Bureau on your election to the leadership of this Committee. We wish you every success and reaffirm our support for the successful execution of the adopted programme of work.

CARICOM thanks the Secretary-General for his comprehensive reports submitted to the General Assembly under these agenda items. We note the actions undertaken by the United Nations in support of Member States as we grapple with urgent issues related to transnational organised crime and the world drug problem. We further note the recommendations for action outlined in these reports, as we advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

CARICOM reiterates its position that an enabling environment, conducive to social stability and economic growth, is indispensable to achieving our goals. In this regard, we place utmost importance on instituting comprehensive crime prevention strategies, promoting access to effective and efficient criminal justice systems, and implementing sound drug control policies.

Nevertheless, Mr. Chairman, our Member States face significant challenges in achieving sustainable development, as a result of organized criminal activities conducted on our shores which continue to pose the most immediate and significant threat to the region.

Trafficking in illicit drugs, the illegal trade in small arms and ammunition, human trafficking, and money laundering wreak havoc on the social fabric of our small island states. We are compelled, therefore, to divert resources from vital development activities such as education, healthcare and infrastructure development to combat these scourges.

Given these realities, earlier this year, CARICOM Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitment to combatting transnational organized crime. In keeping with the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy, our region has continued its unwavering efforts to counter these illegal activities and reduce their impact within the region. Such efforts include border control and management programmes, such as via the expansion of the Advance Passenger Information System (APIS) and the establishment of an Advance Cargo Information System (ACIS), designed to enhance the safety and security of our nationals. We have also finalized a CARICOM Counter Terrorism Strategy and continued work on the CARICOM Maritime and Airspace Security Co-operation Agreement.

We have benefited in these efforts through its collaboration with key international partners, for which we are deeply appreciative. CARICOM looks forward to increased levels of international cooperation with its development partners in the areas of information sharing, capacity building and technical assistance. Collaboration in these areas will support our efforts to strategically disrupt criminal activities, strengthen our criminal justice responses and aid in the creation of peaceful and inclusive societies.

The successes we anticipate from these developments will greatly bolster the region’s capacity to enhance the safety our citizens, the security of our borders, and reduce the negative impact of crime within the sub-region. It will also foster an enabling climate for investment, economic growth and development.

Mr. Chair,

The World Drug Problem is a common and shared responsibility that poses a multi-dimensional challenge, which therefore requires a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach. CARICOM is committed to the implementation of an integrated, balanced and effective drug control strategy that is based on strengthened international cooperation across the seven thematic areas reflected in the outcome document of the 30th UNGASS on the world drug problem.

It is crucial that the broadest participation and engagement in the post-UNGASS process be fostered and encouraged. In this regard, CARICOM welcomes the efforts to provide webcast services of the thematic discussions held in Vienna last month. We hold to the view that the most effective multilateral processes are those are that are the most inclusive, and therefore look forward to the remaining thematic discussions scheduled for October and November. In this regard, we encourage continued webcasting of the meetings to facilitate the full participation of our sub-region, as most of our Member States do not have permanent representation in Vienna.

CARICOM Member States reiterate that it is only through a global well-coordinated and strategic plan that we will be able to overcome the scourge of illicit drug use and trafficking. The 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action have guided our collective actions, thus far, in keeping with the aims and obligations of the three international drug conventions.

We are mindful that the current Plan of Action and Declaration will expire in 2019, and recommend that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs give early consideration to its follow-up. At this juncture, it is of utmost importance that we examine the future trajectory of our strategy to counter the world drug problem, bearing in mind the need for greater space to craft policies best suited to our national situations.

CARICOM also emphasises the vital importance of broad coordination and collaboration between UN agencies and bodies relevant to action on the world drug problem. In this regard, the CND as the policymaking body of the UN with prime responsibility for drug control, along with relevant regional and international organizations, with the full assistance of the private and public sectors, all play a critical role in shaping a full and effective response to the world drug problem.

While mandates are to be respected and followed, the world drug problem requires concerted joint efforts based on a comprehensive, balanced and integrated approach towards a shared goal. Our drug control policies must address the illicit activities related to drug trafficking and drug use while ensuring a people-centred approach with full respect for human rights and public health considerations.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, CARICOM again underscores the need for the UNODC to be provided with adequate, predictable and stable resources to enable it to effectively undertake the activities within its mandate. Of particular importance is the role in supporting the capacity building requirements of Member States, and its cooperation with regional bodies.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.