



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON
CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS**

**FIRST COMMITTEE
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UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chair,

I welcome the opportunity to speak on the cluster related to conventional weapons. I align my intervention with the statements made on behalf of the NAM and on behalf of CARICOM.

Mr. Chair,

The global security landscape continues to be significantly impacted by the changing nature of conventional weapons. More advanced technologies and the increased number of non-state actors have resulted in the growing usage of ever more sophisticated conventional weapons in conflicts and situations of armed violence across the globe. These weapons have become more pervasive and destructive and have a devastating impact on the lives of ordinary civilians who fall victim to their wanton and oftentimes indiscriminate use.

We have a duty, therefore, to ensure the effectiveness of the frameworks that we develop to curb the illicit proliferation and use of such weapons.

To this end, my delegation looks forward to the convening in 2018 of the Third Review Conference on the Programme of Action (POA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. RevCon3 presents a prime opportunity to build on the important progress made at the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States Parties to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action, which was held in June 2016 (BMS 6).

We are pleased that the consensus outcome document from BMS6 addressed several key areas that will feed into the 3rd Review Conference, including the life-cycle management of small arms stockpiles, new forms of small arms trafficking, and the gender aspects of PoA implementation. It also makes an important link between the PoA and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4, which speaks to significantly reducing illicit arms flows. As part of the process going forward, we hope that there will be deliberations on the issue of ammunition that will culminate in its inclusion in the proposed outcome document of RevCon3.

Strengthening cooperation and ensuring that sustained international assistance continues to underpin the implementation of the Programme of Action will also be of priority to my delegation. We, therefore, look forward to the updated comprehensive study to be provided to the Conference by the Secretariat on the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of financial and technical assistance for the implementation of both the POA and the International Tracing Instrument.

Mr. Chair,

The recently concluded Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) represented an important milestone towards the universalisation and full implementation of the obligations of the ATT. We congratulate Finland on its successful Presidency of the Conference and look forward to the Fourth Conference to be presided over by Japan.

The significance of the ATT lies in its potential to stem the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons. It therefore represents, for us, an important mechanism that assists the security and crime strategy of our sub-region. We are pleased to report that Jamaica has been making steady progress towards improving its policy and legislative framework for the implementation of the ATT. We have, for example, proposed amendments to our Firearms Act to satisfy the minimum requirements of the Treaty, to better define several key terms, incorporate an in-transit provision, and to provide for a 'transit and transshipment permit.'

In recognition of the synergy between the ATT and UN Security Council resolution 1540, Jamaica has been taking a more comprehensive approach to preventing and eradicating the diversion of weapons to the illicit trade. Several representatives from relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies have benefitted from capacity building exercises and technical assistance. Efforts are also being made to introduce new provisions for the operationalisation of a Competent National Authority, as well as the implementation of a national control system.

Mr. Chair,

A lot of what we have been able to achieve would not have been possible without the valuable partnerships from which we have benefitted. I speak, for example, of the support rendered by the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC). We are pleased to note, as outlined in the Secretary-General's Report in A/72/99, that technical training has been provided by UNLIREC to more than 600 personnel of national authorities across the region. Equally encouraging is the fact that the Centre has undertaken more than 60 technical, legal and policy assistance activities over the past year. Jamaica has been a beneficiary of UNLIREC assistance, most recently by a project that supports private security providers in stemming the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons.

Mr. Chair,

I close by underscoring the importance we attach to the deliberations on this agenda item and reiterate our support for efforts aimed at ensuring their full consideration in the context of the maintenance of international peace and security.