

## PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

MAJOR GENERAL ANTONY ANDERSON COMMISSIONER OF POLICE JAMAICA CONSTABULARY FORCE

## HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF COUNTER-TERRORISM AGENCIES OF MEMBER STATES

## SESSION II: COMBATTING THE EVOLVING THREAT FROM FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTERS

28<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2018 UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK Mr. Chair, Fellow delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Jamaica is fully committed to the global partnership in tackling terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms. To this end, we greatly value the strengthening of international cooperation through the sharing of information and intelligence. For Jamaica, this is especially important given the evolving nature of terrorism that continues to threaten peace and security at all levels.

Jamaica is a State party to sixteen (16) international counter terrorism instruments, thereby ensuring that the country's counter-terrorism laws, policies and measures comply with international law. Consequently, Jamaica has a comprehensive counter terrorism law, the Terrorism Prevention Act, which has been in effect since 2005 and is currently in the process of a fourth amendment to enhance legal capacity to countering terrorism. Amendments will include criminalizing incitement to commit a terrorist act (s); criminalizing the travel of foreign terrorist fighters; and criminalizing the financing of Foreign Terrorist Fighters' travel. The Extradition Act, Financial Investigation Division Act, Proceeds of Crime Act, Mutual Assistance Criminal Matters Act and the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection Act are some of the supporting legislations to counter acts of terror.

Additionally, the Counter Terrorism Forum, established in 2015, has been effectively promoting robust communication and intelligence sharing with local and regional intelligence agencies. Focus has also been given to instituting measures to mitigate against unconventional threats such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the diversion of chemicals and precursors for chemical, biological radiological, nuclear and high yield explosives (CBRNE) weaponry.

To assist in the protection of Jamaica's Information Communication Technology infrastructure, the Government established a Cyber Incident Response Team in 2016. The Government also partnered with the Caribbean Maritime University in 2017 to deliver a Post Graduate Diploma in Strategic Counter Terrorism Management. Our bilateral partners continue to support our efforts through the provision of technical and capacity-building initiatives by offering training opportunities in areas such as Pre and Post Terror Incident, Terrorism Financing, Radiological and Nuclear Security, Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience and Interdicting Terrorist Activities. We would wish to place on record our appreciation for this unwavering commitment.

## Mr. Chair,

A directive to effectively manage the Local Counter Terrorism Watchlist is being used as a guide for the relevant agencies, in particular, Immigration and Border Security officials and intelligence personnel with responsibility for counter terrorism. The reality now exists that Caribbean nationals are returning from conflict zones that may have been exposed to extreme ideologies. Upon their return they may seek to recruit, facilitate and radicalize vulnerable individuals. It is therefore critical for the region to share information/intelligence on returning foreign terrorist fighters for ease of detection

Preparations are underway to develop Jamaica's Counter Terrorism Integrated Response Readiness Contingency Plan and the National Counter Terrorism Strategy. As a part of our national priorities, we continue to maintain a cadre of experts for strategic advice and direction, investigation, response and rehabilitation. Several private and public sector organisations have been sensitized on Terrorism to increase awareness, build resilience and strengthen community relations with law enforcement.

In closing, Mr. Chair, the Government of Jamaica reaffirms its position against the use of terror and remains committed to the fight against terrorism and associated violence. We wish to emphasize our commitment to counter radicalization and violent extremism and focus on vulnerable youth that may fall prey to recruitment by terrorists.