



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

STATEMENT

BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON A CULTURE OF PEACE

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, 5TH SEPTEMBER 2018

Madam President,

Jamaica is pleased to participate in today's High-level Forum on a Culture of Peace. The meeting is both timely and relevant, not least because we are approaching the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. However, we continue to be challenged in our pursuit and attainment of peace across the globe. The situation, therefore, demands urgent and determined action. For this reason, we applaud the efforts of the Secretary-General to put greater emphasis on prevention and on sustaining peace. His assertion that "*prevention should permeate everything we do*" is a necessary mantra that we should all embrace. Action is required at all levels and by all relevant actors.

Jamaica is committed to this endeavor. We have pursued several programmes and policies at the national level with a view to improving the administration of justice, as well as to promote a culture of peace.

Efforts are underway for the creation of a Multi-door Justice System that will place a stronger focus on restorative justice practices and mediation. Over the past year, more than 8,000 persons received training in restorative practices, including 653 Justices of the Peace.

Mediation is also being targeted for special attention as part of an overarching approach to alternative dispute resolution. My government is working in partnership with the Dispute Resolution Foundation, a private voluntary foundation that assists persons to resolve conflict at the community level through the intercession of trained mediators.

Madam President,

Peace does not exist in a vacuum. It must be fostered in an environment that assures development, upholds human rights and the rule of law, as well as promotes mutual respect and understanding. Partnerships and cooperation will be critical. Indeed, many of the national programmes and policies we are pursuing are being done with the support of civil society, the private sector and bilateral and international partners, which provide coherent and strategic assistance in the prevention of violence.

Attaining a culture of peace will also be dependent on the level of engagement and involvement of key stakeholders. I speak in particular about the role of women and youth in the pursuit of peace and security. Their meaningful inclusion in peace processes is a necessary corollary for concrete action on the ground. We encourage continued efforts to ensure that they play an integral role in this regard.

The United Nations has a special role to play in our efforts to build and sustain peace. Strengthening the Organisation's support to national, regional and inter-governmental processes will, therefore, be critical. The reform of the peace and security pillar will also be central to ensuring that the UN is able to render support commensurate with the risks and challenges that confront Member States.

Madam President,

The United Nations Charter commits the international community to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war. It is a moral responsibility and obligation from which we should not resile. We must remain steadfast in our duty to ensure that this becomes a reality. Please be assured that Jamaica stands with all Member States in its commitment to the attainment of this objective.

I thank you.