



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY E. COURTENAY RATTRAY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**AT THE**

**HIGH-LEVEL THEMATIC DEBATE ON THE  
UNITED NATIONS, PEACE AND SECURITY**  
*"In a world of risks: Today's threats to international peace and security"*

**ON**

**WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016**

**AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS  
NEW YORK**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. President,  
Ministers,  
Excellences,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Jamaica commends you Mr. President for convening this High Level Thematic Debate on the United Nations, Peace and Security. We commend in particular, your strategic focus on contemporary threats and challenges to peace and security in this our anniversary year.

Our discussions over these two days will be integral to creating a greater awareness of the complexity of contemporary global conflicts and assist our collective understanding of what is required to mount coherent and effective international responses to these challenges.

Mr. President,

Without question, in recent years the interaction of multiple sources of instability such as extremism, pandemic threats, cyber-crime, corruption, population displacement, porous borders and vulnerability to external shocks to name a few, have given rise to more complex and diversified security challenges. It is imperative that the entire UN system, work actively to devise practical, multifaceted solutions to overcome these evolving challenges and threats.

As part of a renewed commitment to peace, we contend that our efforts to secure the requisite human and material resource needs for the United Nations must be matched with a similar commitment to mobilizing the necessary political will to take collective action as and when required. We go so far as to say that the shield of state sovereignty should not be used to justify the turning of a blind eye to our responsibility to intervene in situations where human life is threatened on a mass scale . For sovereignty also requires that states abide by their responsibility to protect their populations in a manner consistent with their obligations under international human rights and humanitarian law. The yardstick for collective action cannot be determined solely by strategic geo-political considerations – not when the fate of vulnerable populations is at stake.

Mr. President

States such as Jamaica are notable for our small size, porous borders and for being prone to natural hazards and external shocks. We are constrained by high debt burdens and are over-reliant on external markets, technology transfers, international capital flows and foreign expertise.

This is exacerbated by our extensive, porous coastlines, which facilitate money laundering and various forms of illicit trafficking in drugs, arms, and ammunition. All of these factors interact to undermine law and order and impede our economic growth prospects and social development.

While we have achieved promising results in tackling the aforementioned multidimensional security threats, there is more that needs to be done.

We therefore call for stronger global partnerships and more efficient forms of cooperation to help Small Island States in their fight against the scourge of transnational organized crime.

Finally, Mr. President

My delegation maintains that the UN cannot effectively pursue its peace and security mandate in the absence of a reform of the Security Council itself. The "prompt and effective action" that this critical UN organ is mandated to take must be based on its sustained credibility and legitimacy. This dictates that there is need for greater transparency of its decision-making process and a more representative membership.

By failing to take account of changes in the relative standing of States over the past 70 years and the expansion of the UN's membership, the Security Council has allowed its representative character to be diminished and its legitimacy to suffer.

Let us move on with the reform process.

Let us build now on areas of agreement and work with determination towards adoption of measures that are essential to the effective performance of the Council's mandate in this new era.

Mr. President,

Jamaica is prepared to work with all stakeholders and partners to develop multifaceted solutions to multi-dimensional security threats, in order to ensure a more secure, just and prosperous world for ourselves and for succeeding generations.

I thank you.