



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

STATEMENT BY

MR. CRAIG DOUGLAS

**DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE**

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

AT

**THE SECOND MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

27 NOVEMBER TO 1 DECEMBER 2023

**UNITED NATIONS
HEADQUARTERS**

NEW YORK

Mr. President,

Jamaica congratulates you on your assumption of the role of President of the Second Meeting of the States Parties. Jamaica also commends you on your effective and inclusive stewardship. You can be assured of Jamaica's full support.

Through you, Mr. President, please allow me to extend our appreciation to Ambassador Alexander Kmentt of Austria for his successful tenure as President of the 1st meeting of the States Parties.

Mr. President,

Jamaica has been a longstanding and consistent supporter of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and disarmament. We have done so convinced that the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including international humanitarian law, cannot coexist with the possession, use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. We are, therefore, pleased that the TPNW has been added to disarmament landscape with a clear focus on prohibiting nuclear weapons.

Against this background, Jamaica joins other delegations in welcoming the Bahamas, Barbados, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Haiti and Sierra Leone as signatories since the Convening of the First Meeting of the States Parties in 2022. This is a clear manifestation that the development, possession, testing, reliance on or use of nuclear weapons in any context is without moral, ethical or legal justification. We call on non-State Parties to take urgent steps to sign and accede to the Treaty, and are confident that we will be able to welcome more countries at our next meeting of States Parties.

Mr. President,

We share the Secretary-General's assessment that the geopolitical situation has worsened beyond levels seen in decades. For this reason, and conscious of the serious impact that nuclear weapons pose to international peace and security, we are alarmed that there continues to be such a strong reliance on these weapons by nuclear armed states, culminating in approximately \$82 billion and \$89 billion being spent in 2021 and 2022, respectively. Even more concerning is that fact that trillions of dollars are being budgeted for upgrades while development goals and pledges remain unfulfilled, the SDGs are underfunded and climate financing is inadequate.

This reality makes it is even more critical that we work towards the full implementation of the TPNW and champion its universalisation. As States Parties, we must continue to ensure that its provisions establish new norms and reinforce its indispensable feature as part of the global disarmament architecture.

To do this, we must not only act within our own jurisdictions, but through our engagements with parties and non-parties in multilateral, regional and bilateral fora.

Mr. President,

We must continue to dispel the notion that the possession of nuclear weapons represents power, status, deterrence and an instrument of national security. As responsible States Parties and champions of nuclear disarmament, it falls to us to encourage greater public awareness about the dangers of such weapons and more targeted steps towards nuclear disarmament.

This is where partnerships become very important. The state cannot do it alone and the conversation needs to extend beyond the humanitarian, environmental and security

dimension of the impact of nuclear weapons, to include additional focus on issues of social justice and the economic imperatives of nuclear disarmament. Academia, the scientific community and advocates of social justice, therefore, have a decisive role to play. It is in this context that we acknowledge the invaluable work done by the Scientific Advisory Group and applaud the commitment of the co-chairs, Ms. Patricia Lewis and Mr. Zia Mian.

In closing, Mr. President, Jamaica looks forward to the adoption of the Political Declaration for the Second Meeting of the States Parties, which we believe is an important complement to the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the First Meeting of States Parties. We pledge our full support and solidarity with all parties and relevant stakeholders, as together we strive for a safer, more secure world without nuclear weapons.

I thank you.