



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

**STATEMENT BY**

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**AT THE**

**PREPCOM FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW  
PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF  
ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN  
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

**ON**

**Implementation Plan for the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify  
and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light  
Weapons, 2018-2024**

**22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH 2018**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Mr. President,

Jamaica is pleased to be able to join in the discussions on the Implementation Plan for the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (ITI).

We acknowledge that the ITI significantly augments the effectiveness with which states can more comprehensively implement the PoA. Against this background, Jamaica believes that the implementation of the ITI is critical to national efforts aimed at having a meaningful impact towards reducing crime rates – specifically the perpetration of homicides involving firearms.

To this end, we would wish to share the following for your consideration and our collective synthesis as we approach the Third Review Conference:

- The importance of record keeping as a strategic point of convergence that facilitates other aspects of the ITI that relate to Marking, Tracing and Tracking, as well as the wider realm of the PoA which speaks to Export, Import, Transit and Transfer requirements;
- In keeping with the foregoing, we would recommend that consideration be given to the acceptance of the school of thought that national marking regimes that capture manufacture marks and/or those that introduce secondary marks, be subject to centralized smart databases linking ballistic signature information with marking information and general Firearm Information. We maintain that such an integrated approach enables the marking and tracing of firearms to be converted from a reactive strategy, to a proactive means of improving accountability and 'inventorization' as promoted by the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) - thereby reducing the risk of diversion of licit firearms into criminal domains; and
- The centralization and integration of marking information, ballistics signature information with general firearm information, will bolster reactive approaches, largely operationalized by law enforcement bodies when investigating firearm related crimes. We believe that many of our procedures could be shared with others and so we will be submitting a paper on our marking regime as a possible tool for other countries to utilise.

Mr. President,

As previously noted, Jamaica has benefitted from bilateral, regional and international cooperation with respect to the illicit trade in SALW. For example, assistance has been received from the Organisation of American States (OAS), with the technical guidance from UNLiREC for the implementation since 2012 of a Firearm Marking Regime for the affixation of unique Jamaican Import Codes on firearms as secondary marks.

The regime was conceptualized and implemented as a unique strategy to introduce a database to capture marking information while providing the ballistic profiles for firearms under the banners of Record Keeping and Tracking. We want to highlight this development as fodder for additional internal cooperation since we are inviting all interested states to partner with us in exchanging technical know-how and equipment best suited for the cause.

Finally, Mr. President, we also wish to use this medium to highlight the fact that the implementation of the ITI revolves significantly around the science involved in analysing firearms as weapons systems inclusive of the firearm, its components, accessories and significantly, the characteristics of ammunition whether at the point of being expended or encased as whole. Therefore, we deem it to be logically incumbent that ammunition be duly incorporated as an area of specific mention within the ITI.

Thank you.