



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

STATEMENT BY

**MRS. DIEDRE MILLS
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

SECURITY COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON

**UPHOLDING INTERNATIONAL LAW WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF
THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY**

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK

17TH MAY 2018

Madam President,

Jamaica wishes to congratulate you and Poland on the assumption of the Presidency of the Council for the month of May. We welcome the opportunity to participate in this open debate, which is both timely and relevant. Our thanks also extend to the Secretary-General, the President of the International Court of Justice and the President of the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals for their remarks.

Madam President,

The Concept Paper prepared for this debate provides very pointed questions to guide our collective reflection on how best to ensure that the tenets of international law are not only upheld but are fully respected by all Member States. My delegation believes, however, that at the core of our discourse must be the reform of the Security Council. As the main organ charged with the maintenance of international peace and security, it is critical that the Council is able to meaningfully, effectively and convincingly respond to international peace and security threats. Consequently, clear and decisive action has to be taken in this regard. Security Council Reform must be pursued as a matter of urgency if real progress is to be realised.

Secondly, ensuring respect for international obligations has to be promoted as part of a larger agenda that takes account of action being undertaken at the national level. Efforts to promote peacebuilding and sustaining peace through a concentrated focus on not only conflict resolution but conflict prevention will be essential. Such an approach is necessary in the face of traditional, as well as new and emerging threats to international peace and security, which are being fuelled by a myriad of social, economic and political factors that provide breeding ground for discontent, conflict and strife.

Thirdly, innovative and creative approaches are effective insofar that they are grounded in the legality of the action that they purport. We must, at a minimum, put greater premium on the reliance of the tools that we already have at our disposal, including those provided for in Chapter VI of the UN Charter. Although it is accepted that many disputes arise from bilateral disagreements, it should be incumbent on the parties involved to explore all available prospects for peaceful resolution and for the UN to be able to play a part in facilitating this solution, particularly in the face of protracted disagreements for which all reasonable approaches have not been fully exploited. My delegation remains convinced that combined action at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels remains the best course of action for conflict resolution and that the Council should be prepared to engage on all fronts before resorting to Chapter VII mechanisms or to individually undertake unilateral action. We would, therefore, join those who argue, for example, for a greater use by the Council of the advisory opinions of the ICJ in the

course of its deliberations. Creating more strategic partnerships with regional organisations could also prove useful.

Madam President,

My delegation's argument for greater reliance on Chapter VI measures is not advocated in a vacuum or to the complete exclusion of those provided for under Chapter VII of the Charter. We must, however, continue to find a way to ensure that sanctions achieve their intended objectives and, given their legally binding nature, are fully respected by Member States. To this end, we would propose that the adoption of resolutions imposing new sanctions also continues to coincide with the organisation of briefings to Member States, as well as the possible publication of more user-friendly information on the main features of the proposed sanctions regime. It is believed that this would increase the chances for better dissemination amongst and appreciation by national stakeholders of the importance of compliance. The prospects for assistance to Member States to support implementation should remain a viable option and would necessitate the provision of the requisite resources for this to be undertaken in a sustained manner.

In concluding, Madam President, let me assure this august body of Jamaica's unswerving commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security, and to upholding international law in pursuit of this common objective.

I thank you.