



PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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IN THE

FIRST COMMITTEE  
GENERAL DEBATE  
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*PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Mr. Chairman,

I join other delegations in warmly congratulating you and the members of the Bureau on your election. Yours is the challenging task of facilitating our exchange and action on vital and complex issues affecting international peace and security. We are confident that your skill will bring the work of this important committee to a successful conclusion. I offer you Jamaica's full cooperation and support.

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of CARICOM.

Mr. Chairman,

Seventy years ago when the United Nations was established in the wake of the Second World War, it was with the lofty goal to "save succeeding generations from the scourge of war". To this end, the Charter established the framework for a system of collective security based on the prohibition of the use of force, the peaceful settlement of disputes and the formation of multilateral institutions for giving practical effect to these principles. The progressive reduction of armaments and the achievement of the goal of general and complete disarmament are of utmost significance in realizing the noble goal on which this Organization was founded.

During this 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary session of the First Committee, it is also important that we acknowledge and reaffirm these general principles as the foundation of our efforts. No matter what may be the challenges and the perceived realities of the moment, the promotion of disarmament must play a central role in the United Nations' efforts to maintain international peace and security.

Nevertheless, we acknowledge the seriousness of the challenge we face. While we have avoided a war of global scale over the past seventy years, today we face increasingly complex, interconnected threats to our peace and security. In the international situation, new challenges have surfaced as a result of acts of terrorism and violent extremism.

and commitment to achieve our stated goals and objectives; for to ever gain consensus on amending the decision-making rules will require commitment at the political level. To do so, we need to rebuild trust and confidence among ourselves.

The Humanitarian approach which is gaining momentum can inject new life and urgency into what is currently a moribund process. This approach, we believe, will allow us to be more ambitious and progressive and to bring onboard more diverse actors. We therefore agree with the Secretary-General's timely observation that "the more we understand about the humanitarian impacts, the more it becomes clear that we must pursue disarmament as an urgent imperative".

The Secretary-General's insightful observation is particularly relevant to the priority area of nuclear disarmament, where the recent focus by a growing number of States and civil society groups on the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons is helping to reinvigorate this stalled agenda. Jamaica welcomes the Humanitarian initiative, which reflects our strong desire for progress on the nuclear disarmament pillar. From our standpoint, there is no alternative to the total and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

We are deeply disappointed that the international community failed to seize the opportunity provided by the 2015 NPT Review Conference to make significant progress on its commitment to rid the world of nuclear weapons. For far too long we have been locked in a cycle of intense frustration over the lack of progress on nuclear disarmament. Yet, forty-five years after the entry into force of the NPT and twenty-five years after its indefinite extension, some are prevailing on us to persist with the flawed step-by-step approach, as the only realistic way to achieve our common goal of a world without nuclear weapons. However, these incremental steps have not proved successful in advancing our disarmament goals.

August for the First Conference of States Parties, which laid the foundation for the full and effective implementation of the ATT.

Nevertheless, we cannot rest on a successful first conference. States Parties now need to put in the hard work to ensure the full implementation of the provisions of the Treaty at the national, regional and international levels, through cooperation and greater efforts aimed at capacity building. In this connection, universal adherence will be key to the success of our action. Let us therefore continue to work towards universal participation in this very important instrument, as only then will it be able to achieve its full potential. We therefore encourage those States that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty at the earliest opportunity.

The ATT and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons are mutually reinforcing. The PoA, which remains the focal point for our efforts towards eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, requires our attention now more than ever. While we witnessed a successful conclusion of the Second Open-ended Group Meeting of Governmental Experts, held this year with its consideration of new technologies, we must now look towards setting an ambitious agenda for the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) in June 2016.

As we move towards the Third Review Conference of the PoA in 2018, Jamaica looks forward to BMS6 as an important opportunity to reinvigorate the PoA process. As Member States, we each need to ensure that we are making real progress in the implementation of the PoA at the national level, while strengthening the measures for inter-state cooperation and capacity building.

Mr. Chairman, a few days ago our leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the most comprehensive, universal global agenda for sustainable development the world has yet seen. The deliberations and work of this Committee and the rest of the disarmament machinery cannot be divorced from this transformative agenda, for as we know development without peace and security is short-lived.