



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

STATEMENT BY

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**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE
ON ALL DISARMAMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS**

**SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. Chair,

Please accept my delegation's congratulations on your election to preside over the First Committee for the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly. You and your bureau can be assured of Jamaica's full support.

Our sincere thanks go to the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq and his colleague bureau members, who successfully steered the deliberations of the Committee during the 72nd session.

Mr. Chair,

As we begin our work for the 73rd session, we are confronted with several challenges that underscore the urgency with which we are required to take firm and decisive action for the promotion of international peace and security. We continue to wrestle with protracted conflicts for which meaningful solutions have remained elusive. Moreover, new sources of strife and warfare have been fueled by social, economic and political discontent. Despite these challenges, our goal and our mission must be to continue to work together as a family of nations.

Our belief in multilateralism must be steadfast.

Our commitment to the rules-based international order must be unshakable.

Mr. President,

Against this background, Jamaica commends the Secretary-General for his efforts to promote the maintenance of international peace and security, including through the launch in May 2018 of his disarmament agenda. It is timely that our focus should be directed not only on Disarmament for Humanity, Disarmament that Saves Lives, and on Disarmament for Future Generations, but on conflict prevention – which has been a strong feature of the Secretary-General's strategic approach since assuming office.

In order for real progress to be realized, however, several things will be required.

First, the disarmament machinery must function more effectively. We proudly recall the progress made last year in the UN Disarmament Commission, the progress made concerning the agenda for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly on Disarmament, and the Conference on Disarmament's decision this past February to take forward its substantive work. While these represent significant strides, they should not lull us into complacency. The disarmament machinery must not fall victim to the divisiveness that has plagued it and resulted in stalemate for so long.

Second, the UN must continue to play a pivotal role in supporting peace and security at all levels. To this end, we publicly acknowledge the support that has been provided by the Regional Centres on Disarmament. Jamaica has benefitted tremendously from practical and technical assistance provided by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), with which we have been working closely in addressing the particular security challenges we face due to the illicit proliferation of small arms. We will, therefore, continue to work with UNLIREC and make our voice heard in meetings of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

We are committed to stemming the flow of these weapons, given the severe impact they continue to have on the social and economic fabric of societies in our region and across the globe. We are, therefore, pleased that the Third Review Conference on the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the International Tracing Instrument was successfully convened in July 2018 under the able leadership of Ambassador Jean-Claude Brunet of France. We also welcome the fact that the issue of ammunition was included in the final declaration of the Conference. It is our expectation that we have established a basis on which to build on this significant achievement.

Equally important will be efforts to ensure the non-weaponisation of outer space and to safeguard against the increased use of new frontier technologies in fueling the tools for conflict and warfare.

In the same manner, Mr. Chair, we would encourage that greater emphasis be placed on the relationship between disarmament and development, in recognition of the fact that both are mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Chair,

My third point is that our efforts will be futile if attention is not paid to disarmament and non-proliferation education. It is essential that this aspect of our work be given the prominence that it deserves so that each person can be engaged in reducing, controlling and eliminating all kinds of weapons. I wish to pause here to recognize the work of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), which is celebrating its 35th year of existence and to commend the Director and the rest of the team for their unswerving commitment over the years. UNIDIR has effectively brought states, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and academia together in the pursuit of finding viable solutions to threats to international peace and security.

We also acknowledge the important training afforded to young professionals from all over the world who participate in the annual United Nations Programme of Fellowships on Disarmament. Jamaica is proud to have a Fellow in this year's Programme and can proudly boast of several alumni. Our junior and mid-career diplomats have been able to put the knowledge

gained as disarmament fellows to practical use when they have been assigned to cover the work of this Committee. We thank the sponsors who have consistently supported the Programme and encourage continued cooperation in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

Another important feature of our deliberations is the role that women can play in disarmament processes. Women have and continue to contribute to establishing the conditions for peace in our societies. Indeed, they are critical agents in the maintenance of international peace and security. This role should not be diminished or taken for granted. Jamaica, therefore, will continue to lend its support to initiatives aimed at maximizing this potential, including through our support for the biennial resolution presented in the First Committee by our CARICOM sister-country, Trinidad and Tobago, on “*Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.*” It stands as an important corollary to UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and should enjoy the support of all Member States.

Mr. Chair,

A year has passed since the milestone adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. Jamaica is pleased to have signed the Treaty in December 2017 and, like others, will continue our efforts towards ratification as soon as possible, in order to support its entry into force. It is our hope that the entire international community will rally around this Treaty in the not too distant future.

Similarly, we join the clarion call for the urgent entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), given its potential seminal role in prohibiting all nuclear explosions.

Mr. Chair,

It would be remiss of me to conclude without expressing the sincere appreciation of my delegation to our partners in civil society. They have been a source of great strength and support in our collective efforts to promote international peace and security. We look forward to not only continuing this partnership but deepening it in the years to come.

I thank you.