



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

STATEMENT BY

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**GENERAL DEBATE ON ALL DISARMAMENT &
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AGENDA ITEMS**

**FIRST COMMITTEE
THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr Chair,

I extend warm congratulations to you and your Bureau on your appointment to preside over the work of the First Committee during the 76th Session. Please be assured of Jamaica's support over the course of your tenure. I also thank your predecessor and his team for their work over the last Session.

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

Mr Chair,

As we begin this 76th Session of the UN General Assembly a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) like Jamaica views progress in disarmament and international security as action that guarantees human, national and collective security in the effective control of conventional weapons and the regulation of new weapons of technology. There is no doubt that our collective peace and security is increasingly under threat. This has become even more evident with protracted conflicts involving transnational networks and new actors all over the world as well as challenges experienced since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr Chair,

Jamaica has long experienced firsthand the negative impact of the unregulated trade in conventional weapons, particularly small arms and light weapons, on social and economic life. The proliferation illicit trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition in our region continues to seriously hamper our development efforts. The illicit trade has not only threatened our peace and security, it has also had a staggering financial impact on our health sector and the physiological wellbeing of families and communities.

At the national level, Jamaica has introduced a suite of cutting-edge technology to our police force to aid in the fight against the illicit trade in firearms and ammunitions. We are taking the necessary steps to modernize our police force and are aggressively bringing it into the 21st century with the requisite tools to ensure impact and sustainability. We are also strengthening the legislative framework and introducing new provisions to treat with trafficking of arms and other similar offences. In addition, we are improving the provisions to treat with the regulation of the industry and capturing some of our international obligations not currently included in the principal act.

In addition to the actions taken at the national level, Jamaica continues to be committed to and engaged in regional and international responses to firearms control. We will remain actively engaged in discussions on the UN 2001 Programme of Action (PoA), the International Tracing Instrument, the Arms Trade Treaty, CIFTA and the Firearms Protocol.

In this regard, we will maintain our active participation in the Eighth Biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the PoA (BMS8), which will be convened in 2022. We further encourage member states to engage in constructive discussions on the inclusion of ammunitions in the deliberations. After all, issues related to SALW and ammunitions are inseparable - they make each other viable.

Jamaica is also committed to working with UNLiREC, our own CARICOM IMPACs and other international partners to implement practical measures to prevent and combat illicit firearms proliferation.

Mr Chair,

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of information and telecommunications technology has increased our vulnerability to security threats exponentially. Jamaica, in examining its cyber security approach recognized that its national security issues cannot be ignored. It is essential

that the necessary support is provided to our police force, intelligence and other national security services to ensure the maintenance of law and order, to deter, mitigate and protect against significant external or internal threats.

This will involve bolstering our vital infrastructure and building the resilience of our social and economic systems so that they can withstand threats. The very nature of cybercrime makes it's a new paradigm for law enforcement agencies. Existing deficiencies in our capacity, processes and technology to properly investigate and prosecute these crimes must be addressed. In addition, the trans-border nature of cybercrime requires international cooperation to assist in the prosecution, mitigation and recovery efforts. The academic community and the private sector are also critical stakeholders in securing our cyberspace and playing a significant role in advancing these efforts.

Indeed, the pandemic has served as a dramatic wake up call for all nations to accelerate its digital agenda from mere words on paper to actions on the ground. We welcome collaboration with the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of the Republic of Estonia for the establishment of a Cybersecurity eGovernance Academy. The academy will assist Jamaica in improving its technology and enabling the country to harness technology necessary to combat cybersecurity threats.

Mr Chair,

Jamaica is proud to be located in a region that has been designated a nuclear free zone and is also proud to be a State party of the Treaty of Tlatelolco. This Treaty has long served as a model for the creation of other nuclear free zones. In this regard, it is our hope that the efforts towards the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction will achieve success without further delay.

We welcome the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in January 2021 and congratulate the Government

of Chile for its ratification of the Treaty and on becoming its 56th State Party, only a few days ago. Although there is evidence that the support for the Treaty is rising, Jamaica remains concerned with the strong opposition to the Treaty. Notwithstanding, we call on all member states that have neither signed nor ratified the agreement to consider doing so as their action would signify their commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation efforts and to regional and international peace and security.

Mr Chair,

Jamaica considers that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the centerpiece of global efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. We look forward to constructively participating in the Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty in January 2022.

In closing, I would like to thank the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), an organization entrusted with key verification responsibilities under the NPT, for their support provided to Jamaica. Through their technical cooperation programme the IAEA has assisted Jamaica in building its capacity in the safe and peaceful use of nuclear technology for sustainable socio-economic development. We have been the beneficiaries of capacity building training and equipment to re-establish the public nuclear medicine service at the University Hospital of the West Indies, equipment for quality control of diagnostic imaging and the provision of real time RT-PCR equipment to our national laboratory to test for the corona virus.

I thank you Mr Chair.

