PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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 ILICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

ON

Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels

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UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
Mr. President,

From the outset, my delegation wishes to join others in congratulating you on your appointment as the President of the Third Review Conference. We are confident that under your able leadership and guidance, our discussions will be fruitful and will yield a significant outcome. Our congratulations also extend to the other members of your bureau. Please be assured of Jamaica’s full support throughout the process.

I also wish to align Jamaica’s intervention with the statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Caribbean Community, (CARICOM).

Mr. President,

It is indeed opportune that we should be meeting at this crucial juncture to assess the progress made in the implementation of the PoA. We are doing so even as we continue to witness increased instability and wanton loss of life arising from the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW). We are sadly reminded of the social upheaval and the foregone economic opportunities associated with the attendant rise in access to illicit small arms and light weapons as they continue to disrupt the fabric of societies like ours. We, therefore, share the Secretary-General’s concerns, which have been previously espoused, that the diversion of small arms and light weapons poses a significant threat to the daily existence and survival of ordinary citizens, and should form an integral part of our disarmament discourse.

For this reason, Mr. President, your proposed elements for discussion and your focus on how we can prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade at the national, regional and global levels provide much food for thought. Indeed, our efforts during the course of RevCon3 must culminate in us being better able to chart a course towards more targeted, enhanced and focused measures that support the full implementation of the PoA.

Against this background, it is my delegation’s considered view that for this to be realized, priority attention must be given to creating and sustaining a framework that facilitates implementation at multiple levels. Indeed, while states have the primary responsibility for implementing the PoA, their efforts are best bolstered through supporting arrangements at the regional as well as multilateral levels. For developing countries like ours, such cooperation takes on particular significance given the porosity of our borders, our capacity constraints but more importantly, the fact that we are neither manufacturers nor suppliers of small arms and light weapons. Consequently, and further to the points elaborated by CARICOM, Jamaica would regard the following as key priorities for the international community going forward and as we seek to build on BMS6:
(a) Maximizing and fully exploiting the natural synergies that exist not only in terms of the other instruments that address SALW, including the ATT, but among instruments from entities like IMO and ICAO that play a role in enhancing border security. Such coordination will also assist with addressing issues concerning diversion across all levels and assist with countering the nexus between SALW and organized crime. Coordination should also take account of the important gender perspective that must be brought to bear in any effort to address the illicit trade in SALW;

(b) Identifying opportunities for creating greater synergies in the reporting process, as a means of providing a more dynamic medium to capture data and information across several platforms that complement the implementation of the PoA. We believe that this bodes well for promoting greater reporting compliance. There is also the added advantage for enhancing implementation with respect to the SDGs and national development plans. An integrated approach, therefore, increases the chance for a holistic and comprehensive approach to development through heightened prospects for data collection and analyses;

(c) Providing a forum for the exchange of information and best practices, including for the intensification of technical and technological exchange to augment risk assessment and regulation, as well as to regulate emergent technologies. Such exchanges could be done through electronic and other portals, as well as through the creation of expert networks that span different regions and sub-regions; and

(d) Preventing the illicit manufacture and conversion of SALW. Jamaica believes that a key focus of this endeavor should be on ensuring that manufacture and sender states fulfil their obligation by fully apprising other states of the details surrounding the types and source of weapons once they have been deemed to be illegally obtained. We are convinced that this level cooperation should naturally take account of diverted ammunition, which has long been an anomaly in the scope and coverage of the PoA. We expect that further dialogue on this issue will materialize and culminate in an overwhelming consensus towards ensuring that the global community is able to build on the discussions held within BMS6.

It would also be prudent that there be a standardization of the marking regimes, including secondary markings, as a means of further ensuring that issues of traceability are fully accounted for. There should also be greater reciprocity of efforts regarding the extradition of small arms offenders and the tightening of regimes meant to secure legitimate stores of firearms.
Finally, we also wish to reiterate the calls for emphasis to be placed on controls of ammunition as a major thematic area of the PoA as we also believe that differentiation of the firearm from ammunition is an artificial application.

I thank you.