



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY**

**MRS. ANGELLA HAMILTON BROWN  
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS**

**GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE**

**62<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NEW YORK**

**15<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2007**

*Please check against delivery*

Mr. Chairman,

I begin by expressing by delegation's congratulations on your election to the position of Chair of this Committee. Congratulations are also extended to the other members of the bureau on their election. The Jamaican delegation pledges its support towards the successful completion of the work of the Committee during the session.

I use this opportunity also to thank the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Sergio Duarte for his presentation on the state of affairs of the disarmament and non-proliferation machinery and the work of the newly restructured Office for Disarmament Affairs. We wish him well.

Jamaica associates itself with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and by Suriname on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

Mr. Chairman,

There can be no denying that over the recent past there has been a tremendous increase in concerns brought about by the threats of weapons of mass destruction and their proliferation. At the same time, these concerns have not been met with a corresponding desire to attend to the elimination of this growing stockpile of nuclear weapons, which has led to this feeling of mistrust, insecurity and intimidation. As it stands, the situation is a challenging one, leaving the majority of States harbouring well founded fears as to when, not if, the world will have to face the calamity of a nuclear fall out. For us who fear the worst, we continue to query the will of the nuclear weapon States to move decisively and expeditiously to eliminate the nuclear threat and the accompanying possibility of proliferation beyond speculation, once and for all.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica is deeply concerned that increasing events over the past twelve months continue to undermine the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a Treaty which stands at the center of global

efforts aimed specifically at disarmament and non-proliferation. We must redouble our efforts to address the myriad of challenges which confront and threaten the integrity and confidence of the NPT.

We continue to be convinced that the total elimination of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction is the only reassurance that the use of such weapons will never come into question. At the same time, we fully support the right of all States to the peaceful use of nuclear technology as stipulated by Article IV of the NPT. However, this right must be accompanied by the attendant commitment to the IAEA verification, monitoring and safeguard provisions. In this connection, Jamaica welcomes the efforts currently underway to resolve peacefully, international concerns over nuclear activities in the Middle East and the Korean Peninsula.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica welcomes the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this year, of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We note that its membership has reached 182 States Parties. We urge States which have not yet ratified or acceded to the Treaty to do so, bringing it closer to the desired universal membership.

Jamaica also welcomes the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mine Ban Convention and looks forward to the positive outcome of up-coming meeting on cluster ammunitions in November.

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear-Weapon- Free-Zones constitute a positive step towards the objective of the elimination of nuclear disarmament. The long-standing Treaty of Tlatelco, in Latin America and the Caribbean is a fitting example. We welcome the establishment of other Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones in other regions in the world and call for early inter-governmental talks on the creation of such Zones where none currently exists. The establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones as a confidence building measure will undoubtedly serve to reduce anxiety and tension and will also assist in bolstering confidence and developing trust.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite the setback of recent years, the disarmament machinery gained modest advances during the past year. The Conference on Disarmament remains a crucial link in the disarmament machinery. While its work continues to be dogged by differences in approaches which hamper its ability to develop a substantive programme of work, there is still the hope and a desire that greater political effort will come to bear on the process.

At the same time, the work of the UN Open-ended Working Group on convening a fourth Special Session on Disarmament (SSOD IV), had three one-week sessions of energetic and frank discussions, aimed at keeping the channels open and all parties engaged. It is true that there were no concrete results, however, the lines of communication were kept open and this was for us indeed, a positive sign.

The UN Disarmament Commission also had what we consider, a useful session. We look forward to greater flexibility to be shown by delegations, particularly by the protagonists, in an effort to move the process forward during the current cycle of work.

Mr. Chairman,

A nuclear weapon free world is in itself a much safer and consequently a better world, if only the proponents of nuclear weapons could understand and accept this. While the international community grapples with this however, an equally sinister phenomenon is upon us. I speak of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and its deleterious effects on humankind, wreaking havoc and untold harm in many parts of the world, daily. The easy access to illegal weapons and ammunitions and its connection to the narco-trade places a needless burden on the socio-economic structure of many governments, including Jamaica's, resulting in the diversion of scarce resources from our national budget to tackle its crippling effects and so, retard levels of growth and development. Herein lies the crux of the debate, at least for us, the nexus between disarmament and development.

The failure of the Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects, still lingers. We should not be deterred however, but instead, redouble our efforts to seek new and innovative ways to avoid past failures using these as spring boards to accomplish our aims. It is within this context that we fully supported General Assembly resolutions A/61/66 "The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its Aspects" and A/61/89, "Toward an Arms Trade Treaty: Establishing Common International Standards for the Import, Export, and Transfer of Conventional Arms".

I would like to emphasize, Mr. Chairman, that Jamaica fully endorses recent efforts relating to the latter and in this regard, and as requested by the Secretary-General, has submitted its views to the Secretariat, on the feasibility, scope, and draft parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. We look forward to the establishment of the group of government experts, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution and a detailed account of their findings, to be presented to the Assembly for consideration at the sixty third session, next year.

Mr. Chairman,

In the same breath, as host of the recently held regional 1540 Seminar in Kingston, Jamaica would like to express its appreciation to the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) for the timely meeting which promoted the importance, significance and the need for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540. The seminar was fruitful in many respects and indeed, the Caribbean and Latin American region stands to benefit enormously from it.

We welcome the renewed efforts by the ODA through the UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament particularly in the area of the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons. It is anticipated that with the establishment of another center, in the Asia Pacific region, the overall work of these Centres will be strengthened considerably.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica remains committed to the principles and ideals of multilateralism and in this respect believes that multilateral diplomacy must remain the cornerstone of all global efforts designed to resolve issues surrounding global peace and international security, including for all of us, the vexing question of disarmament and non-proliferation. Let us resolve to bequeath to our children, and our children's children, a safer more secure world, free from the annihilating threat, or use, of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

I thank you.