



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

**Chair,**

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the 14 Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on All Disarmament and International Security Agenda Items. At the outset, CARICOM extends its congratulations to you on your election as Chair of the First Committee and we similarly offer our congratulations to the other members of the Bureau. CARICOM pledges its full support as you embark on your Chairmanship of this Session.

**Chair,**

As we convene today to deliberate on international peace and security, it is crucial to begin by confronting the stark reality: the world remains under multiple, overlapping threats posed by weapons of mass destruction, by rapidly evolving conventional arms and by emerging technologies that could destabilize security in unforeseen ways.

Against this sobering backdrop, it is important to recall that we have now passed the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Yet, the persistence of armed conflict, the spread of weapons and the destabilizing influence of insecurity continue to reverse hard-won gains and stall progress across many of the Sustainable Development Goals. For CARICOM, advancing international peace and security is not only a question of disarmament and non-proliferation, but also of creating the conditions for sustainable growth, resilience and equality. CARICOM therefore takes this opportunity to reaffirm the importance our region attaches to the 2030 Agenda and to the contribution this Committee can make, not only to the realization of target 16.4 on significantly reducing illicit arms flows, but contributing to the call for the Caribbean and Latin America to remain a Zone of Peace, as it was proclaimed during the 2014 Second Summit of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Havana.

**Chair,**

The prevalence of gun related fatalities due to the proliferation of illegal arms and ammunition, illicit drugs, money laundering, cyber-crime and other dimensions of trans-boundary criminal activities are among the most significant threats to the security of CARICOM. However, we are doing our part. The implementing agency on strategies related to crime and security, CARICOM IMPACS, continues to tackle the multi-dimensional nature of crime and security in close coordination with national authorities. In keeping with the CARICOM Crime and Security Strategy, CARICOM IMPACS has embarked on a number of initiatives and partnerships to track and aid in the recovery of the proceeds of crime.



**Chair,**

CARICOM underscores the critical importance of the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and welcomes the significant outcomes of the 2024 Fourth Review Conference which provided a vital opportunity to take stock, reinforced commitments and charted a more ambitious and coordinated path forward in addressing illicit arms flows.

The proliferation of small arms and light weapons continues to inflict a severe toll across the CARICOM region, fueling gang violence, organized crime and drug-related offenses, while undermining public security, development and the rule of law. These challenges are threatening the stability of our societies and the safety of our communities, demanding urgent, collective and sustained action.

In this context, CARICOM also welcomes the outcome of the 2025 Preparatory Meeting of States on the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, which underscored concrete measures to strengthen national and regional capacities, enhance stockpile security and reduce the diversion of ammunition. This Framework represents a critical, practical tool to assist States in mitigating the risks posed by ammunition proliferation.

Furthermore, CARICOM reaffirms the importance of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as a key instrument for regulating the international trade in conventional arms, preventing their diversion to illicit markets and reducing the harm caused by unregulated flows. The ATT, in conjunction with the Programme of Action and the Global Framework, provides an integrated approach to address both the supply and the lifecycle management of conventional weapons. CARICOM encourages States fully to implement these instruments, ensuring that international norms and standards are upheld and that regional and global security are strengthened.

**Chair,**

Earlier this year, CARICOM Member State, Trinidad and Tobago, proudly hosted the Small Arms and Light Weapons Fellowship Training which brought together practitioners from across the region to build technical expertise, exchange lessons learned and enhance regional cooperation in tackling small arms and light weapons. Such initiatives demonstrate the importance of capacity building, knowledge-sharing and sustained collaboration to ensure that commitments made in international fora translate into tangible and meaningful outcomes for States and communities.



**Chair,**

Nuclear weapons continue to cast a long shadow over humanity, with arsenals being modernized and proliferation risks growing, even as the international community reaffirms its determination to achieve the total elimination of these weapons.

The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons and the recent Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), remind us that the path to nuclear disarmament is unfinished and requires renewed resolve.

In this regard, CARICOM underscores the centrality of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

The international community will soon turn its attention to the eleventh NPT Review Conference in 2026, an occasion which must deliver tangible progress in advancing all three pillars of the Treaty. Equally, CARICOM reaffirms its support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The first Review Conference in 2026 offers another crucial opportunity to strengthen norms against these weapons and to accelerate the momentum toward their elimination.

**Chair,**

Our region brings to these processes a unique voice and a proud legacy. Through the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the Caribbean and Latin America established the world's first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated area, demonstrating that security is best assured not by nuclear deterrence, but by collective commitment to peace and disarmament. That legacy continues to guide CARICOM's engagement today, as we work with partners to ensure that the total elimination of nuclear weapons remains at the heart of the international agenda.

For CARICOM, 2026 will therefore be a pivotal year for nuclear disarmament diplomacy. We look ahead to these two major review Conferences as moments where political will can be translated into practical steps toward the shared goal of a world free of nuclear weapons.

**Chair,**

The threat of chemical and biological weapons continues to cast a shadow over international peace and security. CARICOM remains deeply concerned about the potential of these inhumane weapons to inflict indiscriminate suffering and destabilize international order. Our region, small in geography but steadfast in principle, reiterates that the prohibition against such weapons must remain absolute. We therefore call for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC).



At this critical juncture, States must not only prevent erosion of these regimes, but work collectively to strengthen their universality, ensure effective verification and close the gaps that could allow for non-compliance. CARICOM reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the international norm that chemical and biological weapons are unacceptable under any circumstances.

**Chair,**

With respect to emerging technologies, CARICOM strongly supports international efforts to establish clear norms and a legally binding instrument on autonomous weapons systems. We recall the CARICOM Declaration on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems which was adopted in September 2023 in Trinidad and Tobago at the CARICOM Conference: The Human Impacts of Autonomous Weapons, in which our region affirmed the imperative that such weapons remain under meaningful human control and operate fully in accordance with international humanitarian law.

The CARICOM region, though far from the battlefields where such systems may first be deployed, has a vital stake in ensuring that legal and moral standards are upheld so as to maintain a stable global order on which our peace, security and sustainable development depend.

**Chair,**

CARICOM notes with concern that States are expanding the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in their armed forces and are increasingly developing and deploying AI technologies for military purposes, including in weapon systems and decision-support platforms. In the absence of specific international legal regulations on the use of AI in the military domain, these practices, spanning research, development, training and operational deployment, are already shaping emerging norms on the use of force. For small states, which rely heavily on the strength of international law and multilateralism, it is imperative that such technologies evolve within a clear rules-based framework to prevent the erosion of legal and ethical standards that underpin global peace and security. In this regard, CARICOM welcomes the adoption of the First Committee resolution in 2024, on AI in the Military Domain its Implications for International Peace and Security.

**Chair,**

CARICOM IMPACS has been advancing the implementation of the CARICOM Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Action Plan, which is being updated to include new provisions on Artificial Intelligence, alongside a strengthened monitoring and evaluation framework. The updated Plan would be overseen by CARICOM IMPACS' Cyber Fusion Unit. This Unit is already providing vital cyber threat intelligence, technical assistance and capacity-building support to Member States, helping to enhance regional preparedness, resilience and coordination in the face of evolving cyber threats. Equally we commend the work of the Open-ended working group on the



transition to the Global Mechanism on developments in the field of ICTs in the context of international security and advancing responsible State behaviour in the use of ICT. This marks a significant step in institutionalizing discussions on ICTs in the context of international security.

**Chair,**

CARICOM recognizes the critical role of women in promoting peace, security and disarmament. Women are disproportionately affected by armed violence and armed conflict, yet they are often underrepresented in decision-making processes related to security and disarmament.

Our region reaffirms the importance of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 and subsequent resolutions, as well as the integration of gender perspectives into all disarmament, arms control and security frameworks. CARICOM is committed to ensuring that women's meaningful participation and leadership are central to regional and international efforts to prevent conflict, reduce armed violence and promote sustainable peace.

**Chair,**

In conclusion, CARICOM stands ready to work with all States, international partners and civil society to translate commitments into tangible outcomes, to protect communities and to build a safer, more secure and more peaceful world for present and future generations.

I thank you.