



**STATEMENT BY DR. KENRICK WILLIAMS, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF BELIZE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY (CARICOM)**

FIRST COMMITTEE - CLUSTER 7 – DISARMAMENT MACHINERY

Mr Chair,

It is my honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the fourteen Member States of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, under the agenda item on the Disarmament Machinery.

CARICOM aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr Chair,

CARICOM wishes to highlight four key points.

First, CARICOM reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the pursuit of general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. We recognise that the disarmament machinery, comprising the General Assembly and its First Committee, the Conference on Disarmament, and the United Nations Disarmament Commission, forms the backbone of the multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation framework. Its revitalisation is therefore essential to ensuring that the international community remains capable of addressing contemporary peace and security challenges.

We share the concern expressed by the Non-Aligned Movement regarding the gradual erosion of multilateralism in the fields of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. CARICOM reiterates that multilateralism, grounded in the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, remains the most reliable and equitable approach to advancing global security. The persistent paralysis of the Conference on Disarmament remains deeply troubling. CARICOM therefore calls for renewed political will to adopt a balanced and comprehensive programme of work that reflects the legitimate security interests of all States and upholds the principle of equity reaffirmed in the Final Document of the First Special Session on Disarmament.

Second, CARICOM attaches great importance to the United Nations Disarmament Commission as the sole universal deliberative body mandated to develop consensus-based recommendations for the General Assembly. We welcome the convening of its 2025 substantive session and commend the inclusion of deliberations on emerging technologies and international security. As artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, cyber capabilities and space-based technologies evolve, the international community must act collectively to ensure that these innovations serve peaceful purposes and do not become instruments of instability.



We emphasise that revitalisation must also translate into tangible implementation and systematic follow-up. Commitments undertaken within this machinery must be matched by action and periodic assessment to ensure that progress is not confined to rhetoric. Restoring trust and confidence among Member States is essential to overcoming the paralysis that has too long characterised disarmament discussions. Building trust requires dialogue, transparency and a genuine willingness to engage in good faith.

Third, for the Caribbean, the challenges of disarmament are closely linked to human security and sustainable development. The illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons continues to threaten our region, fuelling organised crime, undermining governance and diverting scarce resources away from health, education and climate resilience. CARICOM therefore underscores the importance of integrating disarmament objectives into the broader implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

We continue to support the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to Disarmament, which would provide a timely opportunity to assess the effectiveness of the existing machinery, strengthen implementation and chart a more responsive and inclusive global security agenda.

Fourth, CARICOM stresses the importance of inclusivity, capacity and regional cooperation. We join others in calling for equitable geographic representation within the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and related bodies. Transparency, inclusivity and fairness in participation are essential to the credibility and legitimacy of this machinery.

Mr Chair,

At the regional level, CARICOM expresses its deep appreciation for the invaluable work of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through its technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives, UNLIREC continues to strengthen national institutions, improve stockpile management and assist our Member States in curbing illicit arms flows. CARICOM encourages enhanced resourcing for UNLIREC and for capacity-building programmes that allow small States to participate meaningfully in the implementation and monitoring of global disarmament commitments. Strengthening institutional capacity in our region is indispensable to sustaining progress and ensuring that no State is left behind.

We also commend the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research for its independent and forward-looking work, including the Space Security Lexicon, which represents an important step towards fostering shared understanding and responsible behaviour in outer space.

Mr Chair,

CARICOM is proud to belong to a region that has enshrined its commitment to nuclear disarmament through the Treaty of Tlatelolco. We further reaffirm our strong support for the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which embodies our collective moral conviction that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is both a humanitarian and a security imperative.



Finally, CARICOM recognises the vital role of civil society, academia and youth in advancing disarmament education and advocacy. Their engagement reminds us that disarmament is not merely a matter of treaties or technology, but of safeguarding people, their safety, dignity and right to live free from fear.

Mr Chair,

As we look to the future, CARICOM calls on all Member States to demonstrate renewed commitment to dialogue, trust and cooperation. By strengthening the disarmament machinery, enhancing implementation and supporting capacity-building for developing countries, we can uphold the principles of collective security and ensure that the pursuit of peace remains the defining legacy of our generation.

Thank you, Mr Chair.