



STATEMENT BY

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**DEPUTY PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE**

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

AT

**THE THIRD MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

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**UNITED NATIONS
HEADQUARTERS**

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Mr. President,

Jamaica congratulates you on your effective and inclusive stewardship as President of the Third Meeting of the States Parties. You can be assured of Jamaica's full support.

Mr. President,

Please also allow me to extend our appreciation to Ambassador Juan Ramón de la Fuente of Mexico, for his successful tenure as President of the 2nd meeting of the States Parties.

Mr. President,

Jamaica has been a longstanding and consistent supporter of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament. We find it difficult to reconcile, the possession, use, or threat of use of nuclear weapons, with the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including international humanitarian law. Our leaders' adoption of the Pact of the Future is another opportunity to redouble our efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

Against this background, Jamaica joins other delegations in welcoming Indonesia, Sao Tome and Principe, Solomon Islands and Sierra Leone, as parties to the Treaty since the Convening of the Second Meeting of the States Parties in 2023. This brings us closer to our collective objective of universalization of the TPNW.

Mr. President,

The increased number of ratifications serves as a pointed reminder that it is our collective responsibility to pursue a world free of the existential threat posed by nuclear weapons. It is also a

clear manifestation that the development, possession, testing, reliance on or use or threat of use of nuclear weapons in any context is without moral, ethical or legal justification. We call on states that have not yet done so to ratify the TPNW as soon as possible. Jamaica further calls on States that have not joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) to consider doing so as a matter of urgency.

Mr. President,

The mere existence of nuclear weapons continues to cast a dark shadow over our collective future on this planet. We are meeting at a time when the realities of current wars and conflicts mean that the threat posed by nuclear weapons is more pronounced and dangerous than it has been for many decades. It is regrettable that we have arrived at a point in history where the potential for use of nuclear weapons is no longer an abstract concern, but a tangible reality, with the attendant risks to civilization as we know it.

There is a false narrative that nuclear weapons provide security. The reality is that the continued stockpiling and reliance on these weapons is incompatible with peace and security. Their continued existence serves only to heighten tensions and perpetuate global instability. Jamaica, therefore, calls for renewed global engagement based on a shared understanding that true security cannot be achieved through deterrence. True security can only be achieved through disarmament.

Jamaica is alarmed that there continues to be such a strong reliance on these weapons by nuclear armed states, marked by the increased expenditure on nuclear arsenals to approximately \$91.4 billion in 2023, up from \$82 billion in 2021 and \$89 billion in 2022. Even more concerning is that fact that billions of dollars are being budgeted for upgrades while development goals and pledges remain unfulfilled, the SDGs are underfunded and efforts to prevent and deal with the consequences of

climate change, a very real existential threat to humanity, remain inadequately financed.

Mr. President,

While Jamaica does not produce or possess nuclear weapons, we are acutely aware that we are not insulated from their catastrophic impacts. Let us remember that the radioactive fallout, environmental devastation, and economic disruption that would follow their use are not bound by geography. No nation would be immune.

Against this background, we commend the work of Kazakhstan and Kiribati for their work dedication in intercessional work to further the humanitarian goals of the TPNW. Let us seize this moment to pull back from the precipice and recommit to a path of peace.

This is where partnerships become very important. The state cannot do it alone and the conversation needs to extend beyond the humanitarian, environmental and security dimensions of the impact of nuclear weapons, to include additional focus on issues of social justice and the economic imperatives of nuclear disarmament.

Academia, the scientific community and advocates of social justice, therefore, have an important role to play. Jamaica, therefore, welcomes the increased investment of civil society in the campaign against nuclear weapons. In this regard, we congratulate Nihon Hidankyo on being awarded the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize. It is also in this context that we continue to acknowledge the invaluable work done by the Scientific Advisory Group. We further welcome the participation of a wide array of stakeholders in this meeting.

In closing, Mr. President, Jamaica looks forward to the adoption of the Political Declaration for the

Second Meeting of the States Parties. The document is comprehensive and is an important complement to the Vienna Declaration and Action Plan. Jamaica reaffirms its unwavering dedication to the cause of peace. We remain committed to working through this United Nations to achieve the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and ensure that this planet remains a safe and secure habitat for present and future generations.

I thank you.