



STATEMENT

BY

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ON

AGENDA ITEM 9: INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

**THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE
TREATY (ATT)
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND – 21st to 25th August 2023**

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Thank you, Madam President,

On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, heartiest congratulations on your appointment as President of the ninth Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and commendation to the members of the Bureau for judiciously guiding the work of the Conference.

Jamaica joins other State Parties in lauding Andorra and Gabon for their ratification of the ATT, which brings the international community a step closer to achieving full universalisation of the Treaty. We are of the firm belief that this landmark agreement remains a core pillar in the global disarmament architecture, and the international community's quest to mitigate the harm caused by illicit arms transfers.

Jamaica applauds the Secretariat, under the leadership of Mr. Dumisani Dladla, for its commitment to supporting States Parties on the effective implementation of the Treaty. Since the last Conference of States Parties, the Secretariat has worked assiduously in facilitating States' requests for assistance with Treaty implementation and the promotion of international cooperation.

We also welcome the Secretariat's efforts to support States Parties in meeting their reporting obligations, a critical component of our

joint action to secure the objectives of the Treaty and contribute to international and regional peace and security.

Madam President,

There is much work to be undertaken by the international community to address new and existing conflicts, affecting different parts of the world. Heightened geopolitical tensions, climate induced conflicts, and the increasing threat of diversion of conventional arms and ammunition to the illicit market for unauthorized end use, all pose significant consequences for the preservation of international peace and security.

Coordinated joint action and international cooperation, therefore remains vital in preventing the negative and far-reaching impact of arms and weapons in a comprehensive manner.

Jamaica remains firmly committed to addressing the negative ramifications of the diversion of conventional arms and ammunition, the implementation of the ATT, and related international instruments.

It is well known that Jamaica does not manufacture conventional weapons or export large quantities of conventional weapons. Nonetheless, given our island's geostrategic location in the

western hemisphere as well as other contributing factors, we remain cognisant of the risk posed to national and regional security by criminal actors' using Jamaica as a transshipment point and a destination for weapons to be used in transnational and domestic organised criminal activities.

In this regard, Jamaica is committed to national, regional, and international efforts to implement international security instruments by giving effect to national measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms and ammunition.

Madam President,

The Government of Jamaica has sought to strengthen our domestic capabilities to support these efforts. In this regard, we sincerely believe that the international assistance received, through on-going support from the ATT Secretariat, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), as well as under the European Union ATT Outreach Project II in June 2019, continue to play a pivotal role towards Jamaica's efforts to meet its obligations in the management of stockpiled arms and ammunition, and the development of the security infrastructure of the country.

Madam President,

Jamaica's participation in the EU ATT Outreach Project II complemented national activities to strengthen existing structures and legal bases to facilitate implementation of the ATT. The Jamaican Delegation is pleased to report that the Firearms (Prohibition, Restriction and Regulation) Act, 2022 was passed in September 2022 and became operational in November of that year.

This important legislative development closes significant gaps in Jamaica's regulation of the trade in firearms and ammunition and outlaws other conventional weapons such as cluster munitions. It provides for far greater adherence to the requirements of the Treaty. Jamaica is now progressing steadily to develop the necessary subsidiary legislation to fully operationalise the Act.

Madam President,

Jamaica's national focal point and other technical experts have also benefitted from support under the ATT Sponsorship Programme. This has greatly enhanced our ability to participate in the meetings and work of the ATT, as well as to share our national perspectives and experiences in this critical area. Jamaica values the support provided to States Parties, particularly developing states in the Caribbean and Latin America, which allows for more inclusivity and participation of Member States.

The Government of Jamaica therefore welcomes the continued efforts of the Secretariat in administering the ATT Sponsorship Programme, the Voluntary Trust Fund, as well as the Dedicated Project under the EU Council Decision CFSP 2921/649.

Cooperation and collaboration with relevant organizations within the field remains important in enhancing States Parties' capabilities to respond to increasing security threats and meet their development priorities. Jamaica looks forward to the continued collaboration with the Secretariat and conveys our deep appreciation to donor countries and other relevant international partners for their continued contribution and support in this regard.

In closing Madam President,

Jamaica reiterates its commitment to the full implementation of the ATT and the work of the Secretariat to ensure that States Parties meet their obligations and stem the scourge of the illicit transfers of conventional weapons.

I thank you.