



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

STATEMENT

BY

**HIS EXCELLENCY BRIAN WALLACE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

DURING THE

**HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING TO COMMEMORATE
AND PROMOTE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE
TOTAL ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
MONDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER 2022**

Mr. President,

Jamaica welcomes the convening of this annual meeting to commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons. The current environment in which we observe this International Day reaffirms the very need for such a day and it is important that we can join our voices to resoundingly declare that nuclear weapons have no place in this 21st century.

We stand at a point in history where the risk of nuclear weapons use is at its highest in decades. There are generations of people who, for the first time in their lives, have to consider the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons as a threat to their very existence. At a time when the world should be pressing forward to address serious social, environmental and developmental crises, we find ourselves diverted to a matter on which the moral conscience of humanity has already agreed.

The imperative to achieve a world without nuclear weapons remains more pertinent than ever, especially given recent threats by actual and potential nuclear powers. Allow me to remind us all that the use of a nuclear weapon would result in incalculable destruction not only in terms of human lives, but also for infrastructure, the environment – in fact, the very survival of our species as we know it.

We are truly disappointed that the 10th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was unable to arrive at an outcome last month, despite agreement amongst all states that the NPT remains relevant and that nuclear weapons should be eliminated. However, we hold fast to the hope that the entry into force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and the convening of the first Meeting of States Parties earlier this year in Vienna, will focus hearts and minds to summon the political will needed to sensibly and pragmatically confront the issues.

There is a fallacious perspective perpetuated by some, that possession of nuclear weapons provides an assurance of security. This argument is made at the same time as acknowledging that use of a nuclear weapon threatens mass destruction. The two arguments are incongruous. Objectively, it is clear that only the latter is true. Indeed, we are now seeing that possession of nuclear weapons serves to embolden states to leverage the threat of their use to provide cover for other flagrant violations of international law, including the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and provisions of the United Nations Charter.

Jamaica supports every effort being made to redefine this narrative of insecurity. We call for greater public education, especially amongst those who hold false comfort from the reliance on the narrative of “nuclear deterrence” so that as a global community we can make meaningful progress towards the elimination of nuclear weapons. This objective remains the only true foundation for the assurance of peace and security for all.

Rising tensions run the risk of triggering nuclear annihilation. As we observe this international day, Jamaica urges all nations, especially nuclear weapons states to recommit to the pledge to never use a weapon. Let us all use this moment to remind ourselves of the futility of a nuclear war and to take a bold step back from the brink of catastrophe.

In closing, Mr. President, I reiterate Jamaica's fervent commitment to promoting nuclear disarmament. We will continue to play our part through this United Nations to work towards a true assurance of peace and security through the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

I thank you.