PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

DURING THE

GENERAL DEBATE OF THE THIRD PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR
THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
30TH APRIL 2014
Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica warmly congratulates you on your election to Chair this third Preparatory Committee meeting and I offer you our full support and cooperation as you discharge your responsibilities. We are pleased to align ourselves with the statements made earlier by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and Costa Rica on behalf of CELAC.

Mr. Chairman,

The 2010 Action Plan presented a tangible opportunity to deliver significant progress in achieving the goals of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, and justifiable optimism that this could be done. Yet, a year before the 2015 Review Conference, optimism has waned and we are faced with the sobering reality of very limited progress made in implementing this far-reaching Action Plan.

Many statements which have been made over the course of the past two days, have expressed disappointment at the continuing lack of any real progress in the multilateral disarmament agenda. We fully share these concerns.

Of great concern to the Jamaican delegation is the continued disregard for, and the absence of equal attention to the three pillars of the NPT. Equally troubling have been the attitude of the nuclear weapons States towards their legal obligations and the continued significance of nuclear weapons in their national security and alliance doctrines. At the same time, nuclear weapons states and those States remaining outside of the NPT continue to develop and modernize their nuclear arsenals further threatening international peace and security. All of this has contributed to a heightened sense of frustration and puts at risk the delicate balance of the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives envisaged by the NPT.

Mr. Chairman,

At this final and crucial preparatory meeting, we are confronted with the questions: how do we address the lack of concrete progress and the slow pace of implementation? How do we do we allay legitimate fears that the indefinite extension of the Treaty is carte blanche for indefinite possession of nuclear weapons? In response, we must make clear that the ’grand bargain’ which enabled the coming into being of the NPT must be implemented in both letter and spirit. We, therefore, urge the nuclear weapons States to fully comply with their obligations and commitments under Article VI of the NPT and respond to the desire of the overwhelming majority of States for prompt and effective measures to pursue the goal of full and verifiable disarmament in a time bound framework, and as a matter of urgency.
We further call on these States to enhance transparency with respect to all nuclear weapons, as an essential confidence-building measure. Furthermore, we stress the need for the full implementation of the concrete actions leading to nuclear disarmament in line with conclusions and recommendations adopted at the 2000 and 2010 NPT Review Conferences.

In keeping with the adoption of UN General Assembly resolution 68/32, following on the historic High-Level Meeting on Nuclear Disarmament, we strongly support the call for the early conclusion of a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention and a follow-up Conference by 2018. The implementation of this resolution should be given due importance by this preparatory meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

We are deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of a nuclear detonation, whether accidental or deliberate. The indiscriminate negative and calamitous impact on public health, the environment, food security, infrastructure, economic growth and sustainable development, is most alarming and underscores the urgent need for a ban on these weapons. We, therefore, join with others in placing humanitarian concerns at the forefront of the discourse on nuclear weapons. Our participation in both the Oslo and Nayarit Conferences is a reflection of our strong desire to see much needed progress towards the elimination of nuclear weapons; the only way to fully ensure the prevention of a nuclear detonation. We, therefore, look forward to the next International Conference on the Humanitarian Consequences of Nuclear Weapons, to be convened towards the end of this year in Austria.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica’s commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is reflected in our participation in the Treaty of Tlateloloco. As one of the earliest signatories to the Treaty, Jamaica has long recognized the very important role that nuclear-weapons-free-zones can play in strengthening regional and international security through confidence-building. In this connection, we regret the postponement of the Conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, which is a key commitment of the 2010 Review Conference. We urge that this Conference be convened without further delay.

Mr. Chairman, Jamaica recognizes and underscores the right of all states to peaceful uses of nuclear technology in accordance with Article IV of the NPT. At the same time, we insist that this right must take place in full compliance with the verification and safeguards provisions of the IAEA. The role of IAEA in providing the necessary monitoring and verification should be respected.

We reiterate the importance of the universality of the Treaty and call on the states currently outside the NPT framework to accede to the Treaty and place their facilities under comprehensive IAEA safeguards.
We must also recognize the urgency of eliminating the testing of all nuclear weapons and urge ratification by the remaining Annex II countries to enable the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, Jamaica attaches great importance to nuclear security and safety. The Fukushima D’Aichi incident has underlined the necessity of ensuring the highest standards of nuclear safety. This is also relevant to the transportation of nuclear material, and bearing this in mind Jamaica reiterates its strong opposition to the shipment of nuclear waste through the Caribbean Sea, notwithstanding the assurances given with regard to these shipments. The dialogue, within the context of the IAEA, on measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, is timely and important.

The tasks ahead of us in this final preparatory meeting, Mr. Chairman, are urgent. In undertaking them, we must remind ourselves that there can be no backtracking on commitments, and that we must live up to the obligations freely undertaken.