



*Mission Permanente de la République d'Haïti
auprès des Nations Unies*

STATEMENT

BY

**MR. MICHELET ALOUDOR
MINISTER COUNSELOR
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF HAITI TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON BEHALF OF THE CARICOM MEMBER STATES

AT THE

GENERAL DEBATE

OF THE

FIRST COMMITTEE

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2008
NEW YORK**

Please check against delivery

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the Caribbean Community Members (CARICOM), namely: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and my own country Haiti.

We congratulate you on your assumption as the President of the First Committee during this sixty-third session. We believe that under your leadership, our discussions will yield a successful outcome. We would also wish to congratulate the other members of the Bureau on their election and assure them of our support as we, collectively, deal with issues of disarmament and international security. We also would like to thank, H.E. Ambassador Sergio Duarte for his opening statement.

CARICOM Member States would like to express appreciation to Ambassador Paul Badji, Chairman of the First Committee for the manner in which he conducted the work of the Committee during the sixty-second session. As members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), CARICOM states would like to associate ourselves with the statement made by Indonesia on behalf of the NAM.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM has noted with concern the deteriorating situation faced by the international community in the field of disarmament and international security. The Preamble of the United Nations Charter is clear that the International Community should unite in strength to maintain peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite little progress made in recent years by the disarmament machinery, CARICOM remains faithful in our commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, we reiterate our support for the work of the Disarmament Committee and its open-ended working group, and further support the convening of the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (SSOD IV).

For CARICOM, multilateralism remains the only viable option for maintaining international peace and security. The critical and urgent challenge which lies before us is to insure the efficacy of the multilateral disarmament machinery in enhancing and addressing the difficult questions of disarmament and non-proliferation. These issues need to be addressed hand in hand to ensure balanced progress and the building of mutual confidence.

Accordingly, CARICOM calls on nuclear weapon States to promote greater respect for legal obligations which will result from adherence to the Treaty on Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. CARICOM would further like to underline the

necessity of assurances against the threat or use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states.

CARICOM's commitment to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is embodied in the participation of all its members in the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the world first nuclear weapon free zone in a densely populated area. This effort to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons succeeded in establishing a framework to free the region from the threat of nuclear proliferation, and has earned us the distinction of being the first nuclear weapon free zone in the world.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM Members continue to call attention upon an issue that is of critical importance to the region : the transshipment of nuclear waste through the waters of our region. As previously expressed, the risk of an accident - or worse yet - a terrorist attack on one of these shipments pose a grave threat not only to the environmental and economic sustainability of the region, but to our very existence in the Caribbean. Heads of Government of CARICOM, and of the wider Association of Caribbean States (ACS) have consistently called for a total cessation of these shipments in our waters, and we reiterate our strenuous and forceful rejection of the continued use of the Caribbean Sea for the shipment and transshipment of nuclear waste material and toxic waste. We continue to call upon the countries that produce nuclear and toxic waste to implement urgently relevant measures which would put an end to the need for transshipment of nuclear and toxic waste.

CARICOM also urges those countries involved in production and shipment of nuclear waste to adopt measures aimed at strengthening international cooperation in order to comply with security measures on transportation of radioactive material, especially those adopted at the 47th General Conference of AIEA (Austria, 2003).

Mr. Chairman,

The International Community remains concerned by the threat posed by non-State actors acquiring weapons of mass destruction. With the extension of the mandate of Security Council resolution 1540, Caricom together with other member States will endeavor to intensify efforts to promote the full implementation of resolution 1540.

Pursuant to our obligations under this resolution, many CARICOM States have submitted reports to the Security Council Committee established to monitor implementation.

We express the hope that the extension of the mandate will provide member States ample opportunity for sharing experiences and lessons learned in the areas covered by resolution 1540, as well as the availability of programs that might facilitate the implementation of the resolution. *In this regard, we call for increased efforts aimed at capacity-building, the sharing of best practices and the transfer of technology, where*

appropriate, to assist developing countries in implementing their obligations under the resolution.

Mr. Chairman,

The proliferation of conventional weapons continues to pose a threat to international peace and security. It continues to be a cause of conflict and organized crime, in particular narco-trafficking.

Small arms and light weapons, which are now regarded as the contemporary causes of mass destruction, remain a high priority issue of our region and deserve special attention of the international community. The increasing spread of these weapons has already caused much suffering, whereby hundreds of thousands of people are killed every year by such weapons. *We wish to reiterate previous calls made by CARICOM for the United Nations to explore further scope, feasibility and parameters for the negotiation of a legally binding Arms Trade Treaty, under the purview of the General Assembly which would set common international standards agreeable to all parties. This is necessary in order to ensure that those who trade in such weapons comply with the relevant provisions of international law, particularly, international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We encourage Member States to intensify their efforts in this regard.*

CARICOM welcomes the third Biennial Meeting of States Parties, which took place in New-York from 14 to 18 July 2008, in the framework of the Programme of Action. We recognize the importance to work in the implementation of its recommendations and to establish a follow up mechanism to the Programme. CARICOM underlines also the importance to examine the issue of ammunitions for it is linked to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. CARICOM, for its part, will pursue regional efforts to combat this phenomenon, and we welcome all forms of cooperation and assistance at the regional and international levels.

Mr. Chairman,

CARICOM underlines the importance of the relationship between disarmament and development in the agenda of the General Assembly. Achieving the international accepted development targets requires the acknowledgement of the existing relationship between disarmament and development, given the enormous sums spent on arms worldwide which diverts necessary resources from the development agenda.

It is vital for the International Community to demonstrate the necessary political will in halting the proliferation of nuclear weapons, in putting an end to the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and more generally by strictly adhering to international obligations relating to nuclear disarmament and non proliferation.

CARICOM Members express their continued willingness to keep working in the adoption of joint mechanisms, and will constructively participate in the international deliberations as we collectively strive to work towards advancing the disarmament agenda.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.