

**STATEMENT BY THE HONORABLE ARNALDO BROWN, MP**

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND FOREIGN TRADE OF JAMAICA**

**AT THE**

**1<sup>ST</sup> CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE  
TREATY**

**ON**

**24 AUGUST, 2015**

**CANCUN, MEXICO**

**PLEASE CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Mr President,

It is with a deep sense of pride that I address this Conference as a representative of one of the first 50 States Parties to the landmark Arms Trade Treaty. We are indeed proud to join other States Parties, Signatory States, Observer States, inter-governmental organisations and civil society groups gathered here for this historic event, as we seek to realise the common vision of ending human suffering and contributing to international peace and development.

Jamaica greatly welcomes the convening of this first Conference of States Parties and we do so, first with a feeling of accomplishment, considering the tremendous efforts undertaken by the international community to secure the early entry into force of this important instrument; and, secondly, with great anticipation, that together we will use the opportunity of this First Conference to establish a robust and comprehensive regime that will put the implementation of the Treaty on a firm and successful path.

We are particularly proud that this momentous event is taking place in the Latin American and Caribbean Region; a region whose people have suffered tremendously from the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and ammunition. Today, we pay tribute to Mexico for having taken on the task of hosting this Conference and for its steady leadership during the long and arduous preparatory process.

We also wish to congratulate Mexico, in its role as the provisional secretariat for the excellent preparatory work undertaken and organisational arrangements. We are confident that the meeting will meet its objectives under your able leadership, and with the cooperation of all States Parties and participants.

Mr President,

Since its inception, Jamaica, together with its CARICOM partners, have actively participated and played a significant role in the negotiations surrounding the Treaty. While we do not manufacture these weapons nor import them in any significant quantities, the Caribbean sub-region has been disproportionately affected for far too long by the disastrous impact and tragic consequences of the illicit trade. We therefore view the Arms Trade Treaty as an important tool in strengthening the security of the region. We recognise that the Treaty has the potential to greatly assist efforts aimed at curbing the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons through the region, thereby contributing significantly to reducing the high incidence of armed violence.

This, in turn, will reduce the suffering of many of our citizens, who live under the devastating impact of the illicit trade in small arms and ammunition, and stem the decline in our socioeconomic development.

Indeed, the opening for signature and ratification process of the ATT has seen unprecedented levels of support which is a testament to the desire of civilized nations to eliminate the scourge of violence which continues to plague humanity.

Now that the Treaty has entered into force, we as States Parties must work to ensure its effective implementation in our respective territories. This week our task is make the important decisions on how our Treaty will be implemented. Critical to its implementation are effective rules of procedure, equitable and sustainable financial rules, an independent and properly resourced secretariat and comprehensive and transparent reporting. We are pleased that, under the able leadership of Ambassador Lomanaco and the respective facilitators, significant preparatory work has been carried out on the four key areas over the past year. This puts us in a good position to achieve the objectives of this meeting.

Mr. President, we cannot overemphasise the critical importance of States Parties taking the decision on the seat of the Permanent Secretariat at this first Conference. In so doing, we underscore the importance of ensuring that the selection of the Secretariat is done through a fair and transparent process,

which is open to all States Parties, in keeping with practice in the multilateral arena.

We welcome the viable offers of three States Parties states to host the Secretariat. I take the opportunity to reiterate our full support for CARICOM's and GRULAC's endorsed candidate, Trinidad and Tobago.

We recognise the efforts of those States and International Organisations that have willingly been providing support and building technical capacity for the implementation of the ATT in those States that are unable to do so. Jamaica has received assistance in its efforts to implement the Treaty through the support of the European Union under its ATT Implementation Project. We are also presently working with CARICOM to develop Model ATT legislation. We acknowledge with appreciation the ongoing support being provided by the European Union.

Mr. President,

Universal and effective implementation will be the true measures of success of our action. Although the 'Race to 50' has ended, with the entry into force of the Treaty, let us not allow the momentum to wane. Let us continue to work hard towards the global participation in this very important instrument. We

therefore encourage those States that have not yet done so to accede to the Treaty at the earliest opportunity.

Finally Mr. President,

The importance of this Treaty cannot be over emphasised. It has the potential to contribute in a significant way to achieving global peace and security.. As States Parties at this first Conference, we have the opportunity to make decisions which will impact the world for generations to come.. Jamaica remains ready to live up to our obligation and call on all States to do the same to achieve our common goal of saving lives.

We look forward to a successful meeting.

Thank You