

**Statement**  
**58<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference**  
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Mr. Chairman,

I wish to congratulate you on your election to chair of this 58<sup>th</sup> Session and thank you and your team for the guidance of the work of the Committee.

I take this opportunity to join other delegations in welcoming our new members -the Union of Comoros, the Republic of Djibouti, fellow CARICOM State, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Vanuatu. **We are indeed pleased that there is increasing membership of countries to this important organization especially of smaller developing countries which stand to benefit from the unique and important contribution that the Agency can make especially in technical assistance and capacity building as well as nuclear safety and security which is of importance to each and every country.**

Jamaica attaches significant importance to the work of the Agency in the promotion of safeguards applications for the peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

My delegation welcomes the continued progress made in the implementation of the Plan of Action under measures to Strengthen International Cooperation in Nuclear Radiation, Transport and Waste Safety. It is our view that Nuclear security must be strengthened through a solid regulatory framework, the sharing of best practices and capacity building, to ensure the effective management of the safeguard regimes. To this end, Jamaica welcomed the hosting of the Regional Caribbean Workshop, which was held in Montego Bay in March 2014, aimed at raising a greater level of awareness in relation to adherence to the international legal instruments adopted by the Agency. These steps complement our efforts to complete our own legislative measures at the earliest.

While the Agency has made significant progress in this area it is imperative that all members continue to work in

earnest to ensure the effective implementation of the Action Plan thereby strengthening nuclear safety throughout the world. Jamaica considers nuclear safety and security to be of great importance in the Global effort to effectively address disaster risk factors. We recognize that the impact of nuclear spillage or waste can be borderless in terms of impact and therefore regional and global approaches to the issue are critical. While cognizant of the mechanisms in place to enhance cooperation in the area of nuclear, transportation and waste, we are still mindful that emergency preparedness and response mechanisms are limited in their capacity to respond adequately and effectively to a nuclear accident or incident. It is for this reason that Jamaica continues to highlight the nuclear safety and security concerns relating to the transportation of nuclear waste through the Caribbean Sea.

Jamaica along with other Caribbean Community (CARICOM) States continue to express serious concern about the transportation of nuclear waste through our region and urge all parties to consider the specific

situation of our region and the potential impact of any accident or incident, given the vulnerabilities of our Small Island Developing States.

Mr. Chairman,

We note with concern that over the reporting period of July 2013 to June 2014, there have been consistent incidences involving the illegal possession of nuclear material and radioactive sources as referenced in the Nuclear Security Report. The loss of nuclear material is an act that is indefensible as is the illicit diversion of such material to non-state actors. In such an event, I emphasize the need for implementation of robust security measures to address this situation, especially bearing in mind the implications of any such loss or diversion in the current global security environment.

Jamaica attaches significant priority to the three pillars of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology under the Treaty of Non-

Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to which Jamaica is a State Party. We encourage States, which have not yet done so, to accede to legally-binding international conventions and to commit in earnest to negotiations geared towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Jamaica, as a member of the Latin American and Caribbean region, continues to adhere to the terms of the Treaty of Tlatelolco that establishes a nuclear weapon free zone and declares the region as a Zone of Peace. Our commitment to international peace and security has been reaffirmed in the Declaration made by Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in January 2014 in Havana, Cuba, to eliminate threats or the use of threats in settling regional disputes, thus ensuring that the region remains a zone of peace.

We would encourage other regions to pursue this goal in their global commitment to international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

The strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities remain an important item for Jamaica, for which we have benefitted significantly. Jamaica maintains a strong interest in IAEA programmes designed to enhance the use of nuclear technology in the development of social and economic benefits, which will accrue to Jamaica.

Our national capabilities in the areas of nuclear sciences, medical physics and water resources have been boosted through the technical assistance of the IAEA by way of knowledge transfer and capacity building through related programmes.

The thrust by the Agency to integrate national development priorities with the country's programme is a key component in project planning, management and design. In this regard, the critical role of the Regional Cooperation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL) cannot be over-emphasised. We express our deep appreciation to the Agency and partners, and we look forward to maintaining and strengthening this partnership.

A priority area of development to which technical cooperation has been most useful lies in the field of nuclear medicine. Collaboration on this front has been far-reaching with substantial progress achieved by CARICOM and the Latin American countries. It is noted that the region enjoys a 89.3% compliance rate. Needless to say, the CARICOM Member States and Latin American and Caribbean countries have been capitalizing on technical cooperation projects for the further development of the region. This is evident in the interregional project undertaken to give attention to the development of nuclear medicine to focus on combatting the pervasiveness of non-communicable diseases in the Caribbean region which poses a challenge to the region's sustainable development. The sustainable use of research reactors in treating with the production and demand for radioisotopes and radiopharmaceuticals in the Latin American and Caribbean region, through networking is another initiative that is being explored in conjunction with the Agency.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica is committed to the goal of the safe and effective uses of nuclear technology for the greater good. To this end, we pledge our full cooperation and support for the work of the Agency in collaboration with other members and partners, towards the fulfillment of its mandate.

I thank you.