

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Wayne McCook, Permanent Representative
of Jamaica to the IAEA**

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Mr. Chairman,

I wish to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this 59th Session and thank you and your team for the able guidance of the work of this Committee.

It is my pleasure to join other delegations in welcoming our new members –Turkmenistan and our fellow CARICOM countries, Barbados and Antigua and Barbuda. We are heartened by the increased membership, especially from our region. This is an attestation to the important work of the IAEA in supporting the application of safe and peaceful uses of nuclear energy as a tool of development for developing countries and Small Island developing States, in particular.

As we look ahead to the coming weeks when over 150 world leaders, including Jamaica's, will meet in New York to adopt the new sustainable development agenda, we welcome the recognition of the contribution that science and technology makes in moving countries closer to their development goals and the role played by the IAEA in this regard.

My delegation is pleased to note the continuing priorities identified in the 2016-2017 Programme and Budget, including technical cooperation and nuclear safety and security. These align closely with my country's own priorities and we encourage all fellow Members, in a position to do so, to continue to contribute to the technical cooperation fund to ensure that there are sufficient resources to meet the growing demand for IAEA's assistance, particularly in light of the increasing membership.

My delegation notes the fourth and final progress report on the implementation of the IAEA Action Plan on Nuclear Safety and is welcomes the retention of this activity as a priority of the Agency and

the significant advances in the 12 key areas. Notwithstanding these achievements, the Agency and its Member States must maintain focus to ensure full implementation of the Action Plan.

Jamaica is pleased to advise that Parliament adopted in July of this year, the Nuclear Safety and Radiation Act which provides a legal framework for the regulation of activities, practices and facilities involving radiation and nuclear technology. It is aimed at protecting human health and the environment while harnessing the benefits of nuclear technology.

Chairman,

We note with interest that over the reporting period of July 2014 to June 2015, 243 incidents have been reported to the Agency, 16 of which involved illicit possession and attempts to sell nuclear material. We are encouraged that the material from the 16 incidents has been seized by the relevant authorities. As we well know, illicit diversion to non-state actors poses a serious threat to international security and in this regard, we remain concerned that recovery has not yet taken place in 2 of the cases of theft reported as involving dangerous sources.

Mr. Chairman,

The strengthening of the Agency's technical cooperation activities, from which we have benefitted significantly, remains an important item for Jamaica. Jamaica maintains a strong interest in IAEA programmes and welcomes the thrust by the Agency to synergise national development priorities and IAEA assistance within the broader UN Development Assistance Frameworks.

We wish to express our gratitude for the emergency and response preparedness mission in July of this year, appraising Jamaica's readiness to act in the case of an emergency associated with operation of the SLOPWOKE II research reactor. We welcome the team's report and note the recommendations and suggestions, for our continued work.

The additional capacity from the project to convert the fuel used in the reactor from HEU to LEU will allow for expansion in research related to food safety, food security, and water and air quality. It provides an opportunity to accommodate additional research needs from the region.

In this regard, the critical role of the Regional Co-operation Agreement for the Promotion of Nuclear Science and Technology in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARCAL) cannot be over-emphasised. Jamaica sees ARCAL as an important mechanism for technical cooperation in the region and to this end, Jamaica is currently advancing domestic arrangements to join in the First Extension of the Agreement.

A priority area of development to which technical cooperation has been directed is the area of human health. Jamaica sees a productive and healthy workforce as fundamental to our development and we welcome the contribution of the IAEA through the PACT and current programme to re-establish public nuclear medicine services in Jamaica.

Mr. Chairman,

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 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 2015 in Belen, Costa Rica where it was reiterated that complete, transparent, irreversible and verifiable nuclear disarmament is an

important goal of this community of states and that the only effective guarantee against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is its total elimination and prohibition. It is for this reason that Jamaica supports the negotiation of a universal legally binding instrument proscribing nuclear weapons with a multilaterally agreed timetable.

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

Mr. Chairman,

As the Agency seeks to accelerate and enlarge the contribution of nuclear energy to peace, health and prosperity, Jamaica renews its commitment to the goal of the safe and effective uses of this technology for the global 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.