



PERMANENT MISSION OF

[REDACTED]

STATEMENT BY

**HONOURABLE K. D. KNIGHT
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Mr. President,

I congratulate you on your election to the Presidency of the 59th Session of

recovery. Apart from the provision of emergency relief supplies, there is need for concessionary financing to the affected countries, so as to facilitate medium to

economic crises as they arise and apply remedies for imbalances and disequilibrium in the global economy. Some tentative steps have been taken in this direction following the Monterrey Conference, but much more is required to reform governance in the international economic system to make it more democratic, transparent and responsive to the real needs and priorities of developing countries.

Mr. President,

The cycle of violence from war and terrorism is a troubling phenomenon of our time. International Security is dangerously at risk. What is clear to us is that violence and the use of force cannot be the answer. We must embrace multilateralism and insist that international relations be guided by the rule of law as the basis for our collective security.

Against this background the necessary steps must be taken to strengthen multilateralism. The United Nations must be our instrument of choice. There is no viable alternative and it can only be made as effective as it needs to be if it is given the powers and resources. We must continue to nourish and strengthen it and make adaptations in the face of changing realities to improve its effectiveness and enhance its credibility. Reform could begin with the Security Council to make it more representative in membership, more democratic in decision-making and more accountable and transparent in its operations. These are necessary for effectiveness and legitimacy. We look forward to receiving the recommendations of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.

Mr. President,

Improvement of international security depends on finding durable solutions to regional conflicts and disputes.

In Africa, there is a need to expedite relief for humanitarian emergencies, to promote initiatives toward the resolution of internecine conflicts and to advance the struggle for economic and social progress. We are distressed by the deterioration in the political and humanitarian situation in the Darfur region of the Sudan and we support constructive efforts to bring an end to the disruption and bloodshed. We commend the role of the African Union to resolve the crisis.

We continue to call for good sense and wisdom to defuse the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Jamaica believes that only through a process of political accommodation and the settlement of legitimate claims and grievances on the basis of justice and legality can there be any hope for a durable peace.

The war in Iraq has opened up further complexities and further divisions and is becoming a dangerous source of continuing conflict. A political solution is needed to bring about national reconciliation and peace.

Mr. President,

Small countries face particular dangers in maintaining stability and security. I am referring to the increasing production, distribution and proliferation of small arms and light weapons and sophisticated ammunition. These represent our greatest security threat. Small states do not produce these weapons but have become the principal victims. The influx of these weapons through various illicit channels is fuelling civil conflict and criminal violence, the extent and intensity of which beleaguer and often overwhelm national security forces. It is estimated in the 2004 Small Arms Survey that the proliferation and misuse of small arms contributes annually to approximately 200-270,000 civilian deaths, 40% of which are concentrated in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Equally disturbing to us is the insufficient appreciation of these dangers by those countries which are the producers and source of the weapons. We maintain that such states have a duty to prevent illicit transfers beyond their borders. Additionally, we need more effective co-operation to regulate and restrict the movement of these weapons and to have an effective registration and monitoring of transfers operating within a framework of legally binding obligations. For this reason, it is urgent that we move to conclude the negotiations for an International Convention to achieve these objectives.

We make this demand for action on the basis of the principle of the equal right to security for all States. The threats and dangers we face are as valid as those arising from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. These also demand collective action and in this Jamaica has been unrelenting in its support of effective measures for curtailing the spread of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. President,

The year 2004 was declared the International Year for the Commemoration of

Sadly, the Bicentennial celebration has been overshadowed by circumstances of instability and political crisis which even now continue. The events of February still cast a shadow and leave lingering concerns about how the democratically-elected President demitted office. The sequence of events and the timing of the Security Council in reacting to the crisis were unfortunate.

Mr. President,

At the same time Jamaica recognises that Haiti requires the support and assistance of the international community which must be sustained over the long term to ensure its effectiveness. The rebuilding of democracy and the creation of a stable social, economic and political order cannot be accomplished overnight and therefore should be pursued with perseverance and commitment of the necessary resources.

We share the anguish and grief of the people of Haiti at the tragic loss of life and devastation caused by the recent hurricane. CARICOM will continue to do its part in providing emergency assistance.

Mr. President,

This year we commemorate the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the International Seabed Authority. For all of us and for Jamaica this is a significant milestone in the quiet evolution and promotion of a legal regime for the seabed which embodies the principle of the common heritage of mankind. What we, as a community, can take from this to other spheres of international relations, is the importance of upholding the rule of law and the pre-eminence of principles of justice and equity. The Secretary General rightly emphasised the importance of these norms last Tuesday when introducing his report on the work of the Organisation.

The international community should not stand idly by while there are violations of international law and the promotion of doctrines which run counter to the principles of multilateralism. This is why Jamaica asks of this 59th session that all states recommit to the principles on which this Organization was founded to promote peace, equality and justice for all its members. Let us take the necessary steps to put these principles into practice and to make them the foundation of our policies and programmes. Our universal objective must be to implement the noble ideals to which we subscribe, and not just to articulate them.

Mr. President, I thank you.