

Remarks by H.E. E. Courtenay Rattray
Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations

HIGH LEVEL EVENT FOR FURTHER RATIFICATIONS OF THE TPNW

Friday 23rd October 2020

**Excellences,
Distinguished Representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Jamaica commends the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of Austria, Brazil, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, South Africa and Thailand, together with ICAN, for convening this ***High-Level Event for Further Ratifications of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons***. Today, Jamaica is proud to announce that it has deposited its instrument of ratification, ensuring that we are now on the cusp of its entry into force.

Ratification of the TPNW fulfills Jamaica's international obligation under Article 6 of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. We view the TPNW as an indispensable part of the global disarmament framework. This Treaty's entry into force will move us closer to our objective of a total ban on the possession of certain types of weapons, an achievement which would advance our efforts to secure international peace and security. The TPNW further complements the Nuclear Disarmament framework as it places emphasis on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy for development purposes, while highlighting to States that the act of improving nuclear weapons systems runs counter to the global good.

Jamaica reiterates its call for *all* States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to consider doing so. We join with the growing international consensus on this critical issue. Indeed, it is in the interest of all world citizens to eliminate nuclear weapons and to do so in a verifiable way, under international control. We are proud to be a part of this historic moment for Nuclear Disarmament.

Thank you.