RESPONSE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA ON MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT
RESOLUTION 69/61 ENTITLED
Women, Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Arms Control

Background

Jamaica recognizes the critical role of women in preventing and reducing armed violence through greater involvement in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Further, the country stands ready to develop the requisite mechanisms to facilitate the participation and representation of women in policy-making, planning and implementation of our National Small Arms Control Strategy.

Jamaica is a small developing Island State (4,411 square miles in size) with territorial waters three (3) times the size of the country’s land mass. Further, Jamaica has experienced challenges in effectively patrolling its territorial waters, owing to insufficient resources, which has resulted in the country’s borders being porous. Consequently, Jamaica’s porous/unprotected borders have facilitated the illicit trafficking of contraband such as firearms and ammunition, as well as drugs, into and out of the country.

Developments

► The development and administration of a National Crime Victimization Survey (2012/2013), which seeks to disaggregate data based on sex and age to better understand the impact of armed violence on Jamaican citizens, to include women and girls.

► A recent study by the ILO found that Jamaica has the highest proportion of women managers, globally at 59.3%. This figure is also reflective of the increased participation/roles of females in activities involving stockpile management, such as the electronic tracing of illicit firearms and ammunition, as well as the National Firearm Marking Project, among other areas.

► The Jamaica Crime Observatory Integrated Crime and Violence Information System (JCO-ICVIS) is an instrument that brings together all primary data sources to improve the quality of crime and violence statistics that directly influence the design and implementation of evidence based strategies and policies to boost peaceful co-existence and citizen security in Jamaica.

Validated data entered into the JCO-ICVIS database are used to generate reports, charts and geo-referenced maps using variables such as: age, sex, date and time of incident, place of occurrence, police division, name of the community, context of the incident and type of weapon used in the incident.

► The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) through its work with the JCO-ICVIS is also able to identify the perpetrators and victims of violence, as well as circumstances around each case of death or injury. By so doing the VPA in partnership with key stakeholder entities is able to employ risk reduction strategies in or around the exact geo-location of the incidences- thereby facilitating the prevention of use of firearms to commit violence against women and children.

► The Violence Interruption Programme is also intended to target high risk individuals within volatile communities having a high propensity to the use of firearms. The Programme seeks to
employ de-escalating tactics which contribute to a reduced propensity to resort to firearm use and gun violence. Also, by utilizing proven canvassing methodologies within high risk and volatile communities, the Programme provides another opportunity to facilitate the prevention of use of firearms to commit violence against women and children.

- The Citizen Security and Justice Programme (CSJP) is actively implementing its Risk Assessment Process which will support the detection of the most at risk individuals within communities and will employ Case Management Strategies which will seek to alleviate their individual levels of risk. This Process will contribute significantly to facilitating the prevention of use of firearms to commit violence against women and children.

- The establishment of Women’s Empowerment Groups within communities by the Peace management Initiative to influence the reduction of use of firearms and reduce risks of violence is also one actively used method to prevent the use of firearms to commit violence against women and children.

Jamaica will continue to remain engaged on issues to stem the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and will remain unwavering in its support for disarmament in all its aspects, including nuclear disarmament.