



PERMANENT MISSION OF  
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

**STATEMENT BY**

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DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE**

**ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA**

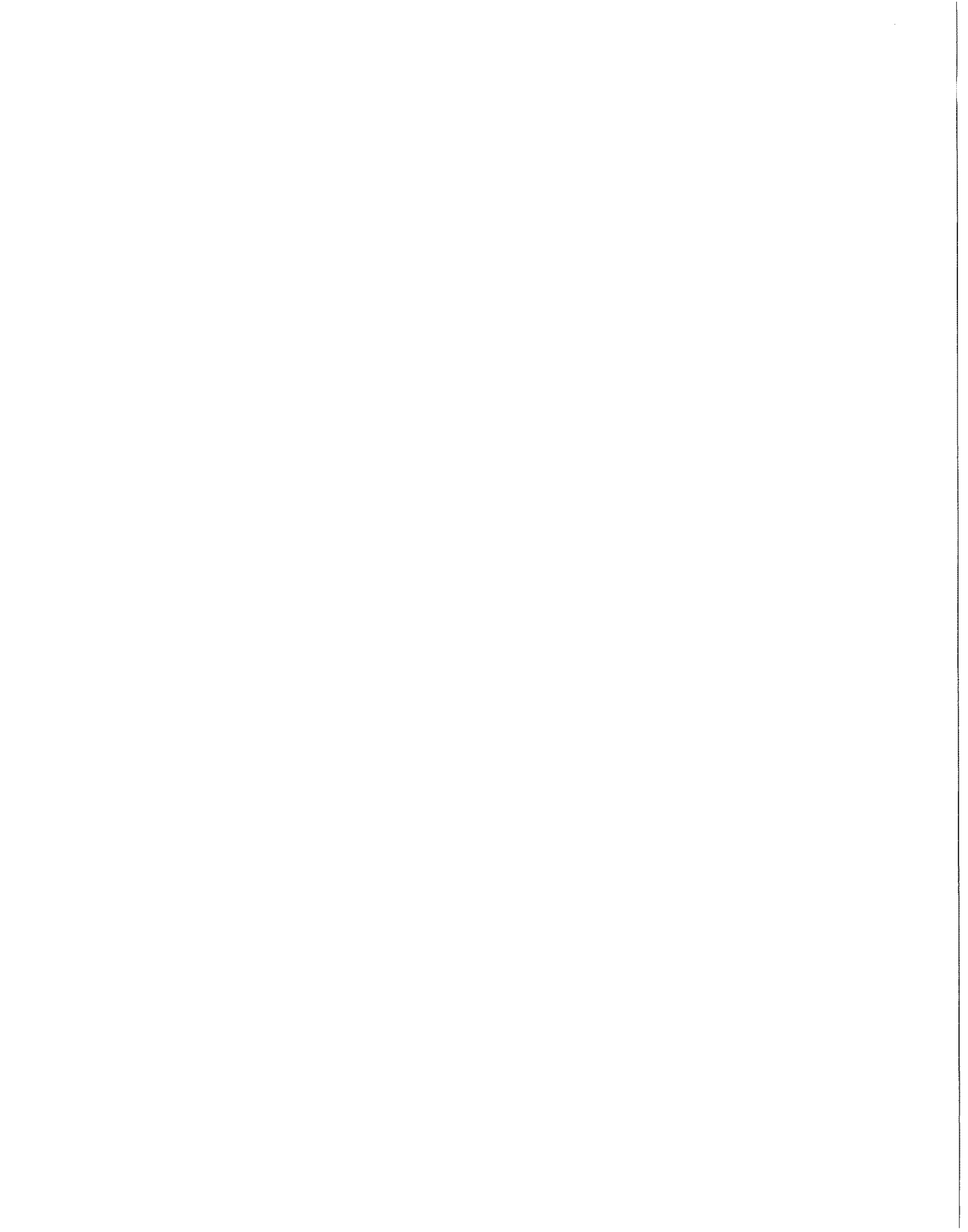
**AT THE**

**32<sup>ND</sup> SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION**

**NEW YORK**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2010**

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Mr. Chairman

My delegation is pleased to see you presiding over the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session of the Committee on Information. We welcome the returning members of the Bureau, as well as Mr. Shalva Tsiskarashvili of Georgia who was elected as Vice-Chairman for the 32<sup>nd</sup> Session, to replace Mr. Irakli Chikovani, who served this Committee with distinction over the past year.

We thank the Secretary-General for the reports submitted to this Committee on the activities of the Department of Public Information: in the areas of strategic communications services, news services and outreach activities, contained in documents A/AC.198/2010/2 - 4.

Jamaica associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Yemen on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We will however address a number of issues of critical importance to my delegation.

Mr. Chairman

My delegation wishes to recognize the efforts of the entire DPI staff, under the direction of Under-Secretary General Kiyo Akasaka, for their efforts in ensuring that the message of the UN continues to reach all persons across the globe. The support of the global citizenship is critical to ensuring the continued success of the Organisation's efforts in its three priority areas: development, peace and security and human rights.

We also wish to express our gratitude to USG Akasaka and his team for the extremely useful and informative interactive briefing session held yesterday. This annual feature of the Committee on Information is a testament to the spirit of *partnership* that continues to underpin the relationship between this Committee and the DPI.

Mr. Chairman

In recent years, the DPI has undertaken a number of new initiatives to educate young people in particular, about the aims and activities of the Organisation, including using popular social networking internet sites such as Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, and YouTube.

At the same time, we welcome the expansion of traditional face to face interaction between the Organisation and young people particularly through the organization of student conferences; UN4U, and the Global Model UN, in Geneva 2009. We welcome the annualisation of the Global Model UN as well as the decision to stage it in various countries around the world, beginning with Malaysia in 2010. We hope that this will encourage wide participation of students from both developed and developing countries.

Mr. Chairman

In the annual resolutions adopted by this Committee, we acknowledge the existing digital divide between developed and developing countries, acknowledge the need to bridge the gap, and call on the DPI to contribute to raising awareness of the implementation of the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society.

While there have been some improvements and there is a global movement toward creating a global information society, which is in part evidenced by increased mobile cellular usage in developing countries, the progress toward bridging the divide remains slow and uneven. The recently released publication of the International Telecommunication Union: *'Measuring the Information Society 2010'* states: While Internet penetration in developed countries reached 64% at the end of 2009, in developing countries it reached only 18%. The ITU also concluded that although the digital divide is slightly shrinking, it is still significant especially between those countries with very high ICT levels, typically in the North and those with lower levels, typically in the South.

More must be done to close this gap, especially given the potential of ICT to assist countries in achieving their development objectives. We applaud the initiative of the DPI to engage in discussions/seminars with COI Members States and the wider UN Membership in the period between its annual sessions. Since the end of the last COI, there have been seminars examining the use of new media and the decline of the newspaper industry in developed countries. We would encourage the DPI in collaboration with the relevant entities, to include 'bridging the digital divide' among the topics for its seminar series in the coming months. Such seminars could significantly contribute to sharing best practices on innovative measures being undertaken by individual Member States, and international organizations, to improve the spread and utilisation of ICT.

Mr. Chairman

Since 2007, the DPI has been a key partner of the initiative lead by CARICOM and AU States to erect a Permanent Memorial to honour the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade here at UN Headquarters, a project which is scheduled to be completed in 2012. I take this opportunity to once again express our support for the commitment demonstrated by the DPI, and commend them for their valuable contribution as a member of the Permanent Memorial Committee.

The Initiative is now entering a critical stage, where, under the guidance of UNESCO, the international design competition will be launched, within a short period of time. We look forward to the continued support and engagement of the DPI as we work together to see this Project through to completion.

Mr. Chairman,

During the debate in the Fourth Committee of the 64<sup>th</sup> Session on the agenda item: Questions relating to Information, my delegation, while reaffirming our continued commitment to nuclear disarmament and expressing support for the 'We Must Disarm' Campaign; called on the DPI to also focus on the issue of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, and their negative impact on individuals, communities, and the development prospects of countries worldwide. Our call has been supported by the findings of the survey of the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference, in which 80% of NGO's reported that conventional weapons disarmament was of particular relevance to their constituents.

In this context, we reiterate our call for greater focus to be paid to this issue, in order to raise awareness, generate momentum and support ahead of the forthcoming 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2001 Programme of Action to Combat the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

In closing Mr. Chairman, as we look toward another World Press Freedom Day, we pay tribute to those journalists across the world who lost their lives in the course of their duties.

I thank you.

