



**REMARKS BY JAMAICA’S HEAD OF DELEGATION
LT GEN ROCKY MEADE
Chief of Defence Staff
AT THE 2021 SEOUL UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING MINISTERIAL
7 - 8 DECEMBER 2021**

Session 2: “Partnerships, Training and Capacity Building”

Honourable Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Korea General SEO Wook

Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea, H.E. CHUNG Eui-yong

Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr Antonio GUTERRES,

Distinguished Ministers of Government and Defence Officials

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good day.

Jamaica would like to thank the United Nations Secretariat, the Republic of Korea and the other partner nations for facilitating this important peacekeeping ministerial. Jamaica welcomes the opportunity to address this session on the topic: “Partnerships, Training and Capacity Building”.

The issues being discussed in this session are of particular importance to Jamaica as we have begun to put in place the foundational steps that will lead to the provision of a dedicated military contingent to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions. This goal of having a military company group consistently deployed on UN peacekeeping missions is outlined in our Strategic Defence Review 2017-2037, recently updated in the context of the COVID_19 pandemic.

This objective reflects Jamaica’s consistent support for International peace, the rule of law and particularly the UN’s activities in the area of peacekeeping. It also reflects our commitment to playing our part to secure peace and security at the local, regional and international levels.

Since 2017, Jamaica has been building the capacity for UN peacekeeping support primarily by increased recruiting through our Jamaica National Service Corps. This includes a deliberate gender optimization effort targeting a minimum of 20% of women in each cohort of recruits. This reflects our tangible recognition of the Women Peace and Security agenda. These recruits are trained not only in basic military skills but also in relevant specialized skills and human rights protocols.

Jamaica would be pleased to welcome partnerships from countries, more experienced in UN peacekeeping, in training and capacity building. Among the areas in which partnerships would be particularly useful are exposure of our officers to peacekeeping theatres, language training and strategic airlift.

We have already commenced dialogue with a number of our key bilateral partners to determine what pre-deployment training assistance can be provided and for opportunities to deploy our officers to serve with other contingents in current and future peacekeeping operations, to build hands on experience. This is a crucial step in building our internal capacity to undertake these missions.

Before I conclude these remarks, allow to me express our support in principle for the Seoul Initiative on Technology and Medical Capacity Building in Peacekeeping. We believe the goals outlined will be critical to improving safety and security for all peacekeeping personnel on the ground.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, Jamaica would like to register its commitment to tangibly supporting UN peacekeeping efforts, and looks forward to partnerships to facilitate our capacity building, training, the exposure of our officers and strategic airlift to facilitate Jamaica making specific pledges to UN peacekeeping in the near future.

Jamaica would like to again thank the United Nations Secretariat, the Republic of Korea and the other partner nations for facilitating this important ministerial and wish for its complete success.

Thank you.