



Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Portia Simpson Miller, has underscored Jamaica's continued support for the work of the United Nations (UN) and its pursuit of human rights, justice, social equity and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Delivering Jamaica's policy statement this morning's (Sept. 27) during the 67th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Mrs. Simpson Miller reiterated the country's adherence to the principles of the UN Charter, multilateralism and "the inviolability of diplomatic institutions in the conduct of relations among states";

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She noted that recent events have called attention to the fragility of peace and security in many parts of the globe and highlight the importance of respect for the rule of law, democracy and good governance.

The Prime Minister pointed out that the cycle of insecurity transcends borders and therefore must be dealt with on a collective scale.

She therefore called for increased partnership to fight the scourge of transnational crime, narco-trafficking and the illicit trade in small arms and ammunition, further pointing out that Jamaica will continue to work with all delegations to achieve a comprehensive and robust Arms Trade Treaty.

"(These) are major components of the cycle of insecurity," she said. "They continue to endanger lives, undermine the rule of law, and fuel violent crime."

Meanwhile, Mrs. Simpson Miller said that Jamaica is "deeply concerned at the escalating internal violence and the resulting loss of life" in Syria, stating that the conflict in the country poses a real threat to international peace and security.

"It is our conviction that this conflict can still be resolved through political and diplomatic means," she told the gathering.

Turning to the Israel-Palestine conflict, the Prime Minister said "we continue to urge the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian authority to resume negotiations as early as possible, based on the two-state solution and relevant United Nations resolutions. These address Israel's right to exist within secure borders as well as the aspirations of the Palestinian people for self-determination and statehood."

She further noted that all states must ensure that the UN remains relevant to its membership through a process of reform of its organs, including the Security Council.

"Negotiations should proceed urgently towards a satisfactory conclusion," she stated.