



**PERMANENT MISSION OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**



STATEMENT

delivered by

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On behalf of the Member States of CARICOM

at the

**United Nations Conference to negotiate a legally-binding instrument to
prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination**

On Topic 3 - Institutional Arrangements

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
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Madam President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The case for the nuclear weapons ban treaty has been driven by serious concerns regarding the humanitarian consequences of nuclear detonations. As a result, CARICOM delegations call for the treaty's institutional arrangements to ensure all states parties provide for international cooperation and assistance to comply with positive obligations arising from the Treaty. These positive obligations include environmental remediation, risk education, victim/survivor assistance and stockpile destruction.

The treaty's institutional arrangements should further include obligations on states to promote universalization of the treaty and discourage violations of its norms. National measures to implement the treaty's obligations could include penal sanctions to prevent and suppress violations of the treaty and its norms.

Madam President,

We believe that the contribution of civil society has been instrumental in this process, and should be included in the treaty as instrumental in applying and implementing the treaty, as well in raising awareness regarding the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons.

Additionally, the Member states of CARICOM are of the opinion that the treaty should establish a mechanism that will facilitate the treaty's effective implementation and universalization. This mechanism will be responsible for overseeing the operation of the treaty, to ensure compliance, to manage follow-up steps and to provide a forum for consultation and cooperation among state parties. This mechanism will also be charged with managing and organizing regular conferences of states parties, with the support of the UN. In keeping with our position to avoid duplication of roles and resources and to strengthen the broader nuclear disarmament mechanism, it is envisaged that related bodies including the IAEA could be invited to support the established mechanism.