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STATEMENT BY MRS. ELAINE BAKER
ON THE HEMISPHERIC MULTILATERAL
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The Jamaican Government is fully committed to the fight against drug abuse and is fully supportive, and will participate without reservation in the collaborative efforts of the nations of the hemisphere to deal with the problem.

Mr. Chairman, the Government of Jamaica continues to be concerned about the growing problems of drug abuse, drug trafficking, the diversion of chemical precursors for illicit purposes and related criminal activities and remains committed to the fight against such activities.

Jamaica, has over the years endeavoured to fulfil its international obligations through adherence to the 1988 United Nations Convention, the Single Convention of 1961 and the 1971 Psychotropic Convention Hemispherically, our membership and role in the work of the distinguished Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) and adherence to its Model Regulations our involvement with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) as well as our commitment to the Declaration of Principles of the Summit of the Americas all endorse our commitment to this global war.

The proposal by the Government of Honduras for the creation of an Inter-American Multilateral Mechanism for the evaluation of each member state's efforts against the trafficking and use of illegal drugs was indeed commendable as a properly designed mechanism will provide the international community with tangible evidence of each country's performance in the area of drug control. At the same time, we have taken note that there was a similar proposal by the United States Government.

Chairman,

We should be extremely careful however, to ensure that any evaluation mechanism introduced will seek to enhance and give support to the efforts of member states and should neither be punitive nor sanction imposing. Such a mechanism should provide channels for the expression of concerns, be consultative and above all be transparent with clearly defined and agreed goals and objectives.

It is vitally important for us to be aware that implementation of the various international drug control designs whether they are conventions, regulations or plans of actions do place pressure on national budgets and specifically I refer to those requiring the building of national institutions. Accordingly, this distinguished body will need to look at financial support for small nation states side by side with any evaluation mechanism to be implemented.

Jamaica is indeed heartened by the fact that US Officials are in discussions with the Congress regarding the concerns in the hemisphere about the certification process and would hope that if the multilateral mechanism proves successful that country may soon move away from the unilateral process now in place.

It is our view that any new evaluation exercise should as far as possible reflect a structure and content which can be coordinated with other evaluation mechanisms -already in place in the region and which commands acceptance regionally and internationally. Otherwise the evaluation process is likely to become burdensome and time consuming while not achieving the desired objective.

Mr. Chairman,

At the Summit of the Americas, our heads of government gave the decisive mandate to develop, within the framework of CICAD, a multilateral governmental evaluation to monitor the individual and collective efforts to implement the Anti-Drug Strategy. Jamaica looks forward to working with other member states towards the establishment of this mechanism.