

Statement by H.E. Mr. Raymond Wolfe, Permanent Representative of Jamaica
to the United Nations (25 April 2012)

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to commend you and the members of the Bureau for your excellent stewardship of the Committee over the past year. My delegation looks forward to continuing to work with you throughout this session, towards the timely conclusion of our work.

Jamaica extends its gratitude to the staff of the Department of Public Information, for their unfailing efforts in continuing to promote the activities and accomplishments of the organization across its entire range of activities. We take this opportunity through you Mr. Chairman and the Acting Head of DPI, to commend former USG for Public Information, Mr. Kiyoo Akasaka, for the hard work and dedication displayed throughout his tenure.

We thank Mr. Maher Nasser, Acting Head of DPI for his presentation before the Committee at yesterday's opening session. We also extend our gratitude to the DPI staff for the engaging and useful interactive dialogue.

We also thank the Secretary-General for the reports contained in documents A/AC.198/2012/2; 3 and 4; covering the Department's activities from July 2011 — February 2012; informing of the DPI's activities in the areas of strategic communication services; news services and outreach services respectively.

Jamaica associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished delegations of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Chile on behalf of CELAC.

Mr. Chairman,

In our statement before the Fourth Committee last October, we drew attention to the fact that 2012 has the potential to be a watershed year in our collective efforts to stem the illicit flow of conventional weapons including small arms and light weapons and ammunition, including through the conclusion of a legally-binding Arms Trade Treaty, as well as the Second Review Conference of the 2001 Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

We thank the DPI for acceding to our request to bring greater focus to the issue of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and their deleterious impact on individuals, communities, and the social and economic development prospects of countries across the globe, and in particular, for allowing for a Small State perspective through an article contributed by the Permanent Representative of Jamaica.

We look forward to the DPI's continued focus on this important area of the UN's activity, by inter alia highlighting the outcomes of these key meetings. From Jamaica's perspective, the UN Chronicle, as one of the organization's key publications continues to serve a vital role in

monument at the United Nations in honour of the victims of slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The DPI remains an integral partner, along with the African Union, CARICOM, and Member States from all geographical regions, in our commitment to educate future generations of the transatlantic slave trade; the erection of a permanent memorial at the UN in honour of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade, and the annual commemorative events surrounding the International Day of Remembrance.

As an update on the initiative to erect the Monument, following the launch of the international design competition in September of last year, over 300 design proposals, from artistes in over eighty-three countries.

In closing Mr. Chairman, allow me to expr