



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**STATEMENT BY**

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OF JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**TO THE**

**AD HOC OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL WORKING GROUP TO STUDY ISSUES  
RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF MARINE  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY BEYOND AREAS OF NATIONAL JURISDICTION**

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK  
16<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2014**

Co-Chairs,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Bolivia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and Trinidad and Tobago on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). I would like to use this opportunity to make supplementary remarks from a national perspective.

Co-Chairs,

First of all, I reiterate the high importance that Jamaica attaches to the enhanced mandate of the Working Group. We are pleased at the constructive discussions of the first round of meetings held in April. Co-chairs, we thank you for so ably guiding those discussions and for preparing the useful informal overview of issues raised during the first round of meetings. In the course of the discussions in April, we believe that a broad consensus has emerged that while efforts have been undertaken to address key areas of concern, there are serious legal and implementation gaps that need to be addressed in a comprehensive and transparent manner

We are also pleased to have had the opportunity to submit additional views on scope, parameters and feasibility. In this connection, we thank the Secretariat for compiling and circulating the additional views submitted by Member States.

We approach this week's meeting as a further opportunity to clarify the complex issues at stake; as well as share our respective concerns and options to address them, thereby building the confidence we need to enter the negotiations in a climate of good faith and common understanding based on broadly agreed principles.

We do so mindful of the Rio+20 mandate and UN General Assembly resolution 68/70, which are firmly rooted in the international community's recognition of the urgent need to address ocean governance in a more holistic manner. Our deliberations at this second round must, therefore, be fully geared towards concrete, constructive and fruitful dialogue, as the Working Group helps to prepare the General Assembly to take a decision that is integral to safeguarding the "Future We Want".

Co-Chairs,

Given that our discussions at this juncture are of a general nature, I take the opportunity to underscore a few of the basic elements of our position in support of an implementing agreement:

- We are cognizant of the need for swift and decisive action to address the myriad threats being posed, largely by human activity, to the world's oceans, including stemming the unprecedented rate of loss of marine biodiversity. We are convinced that working together within the universal framework of the United Nations, we can halt this occurrence and create an enhanced framework of ocean governance that results in integrated management and sustainable development of the oceans and seas, and the regulation of new and emerging maritime activities.
- A new international instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction is necessary if we are to preserve and protect our common interests in the high seas and our common heritage in the Area and its resources. We reiterate our view that this requires a comprehensive framework which builds on existing legal regimes and weaves together the fragmented cooperation arrangements relating to the preservation and exploitation of marine resources.
- The elaboration of detailed rules, standards, guidelines and practices to give effect to more general provisions of international law relevant to areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ) should provide us with an instrument which is dynamic in character, enabling us to respond to new problems or priorities as they arise.
- We believe that all elements at stake (conservation, sustainable use, including the sharing of benefits, and capacity-building and transfer of technology) need to be addressed "together and as a whole". To this end, we underscore that the "package" that was agreed by this Working Group in 2011 and subsequently endorsed by the

General Assembly must be maintained as the basic building block for the scope of a new international agreement.

- An implementing agreement should be built on UNCLOS principles in addition to other emerging norms.
- A new agreement should respect the mandate of existing international organizations and avoid duplication; contain provisions for an enhanced cooperation and coordination mechanism building on the role of the International Seabed Authority as provided for in UNCLOS and the 1994 Implementing Agreement as well as maintain the fundamental balance of rights and obligations under UNCLOS within an overall package approach.

Co-chairs,

We do not underestimate the challenges that lie ahead. This will require a great deal of cooperation and understanding by all countries. It is through the negotiations process that our conflicting or diverse interests may be reconciled and cooperative action taken. It is our expectation, therefore, that this second meeting will move us closer to making a recommendation to the General Assembly by our third meeting in January to launch negotiations.

Co-Chairs,

In closing, against the backdrop of the International year of Small Island Developing States and the upcoming Third International Conference on SIDS, as well as the processes underway to create a set of sustainable development goals and elaborate the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we are only too aware of the significance of the oceans to our development imperatives. We have long looked to the ocean for our sustenance and have grown accustomed to its centrality to our lives and livelihood. We consider this broadening of ocean governance to be in our best interest. We therefore reiterate our willingness to work with the

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international community, including civil society, as well as to engage in constructive and fruitful dialogue with all delegations to enable the General Assembly to take a decision, which we believe is integral to safeguarding the “Future We Want”.

I thank you.