



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

**STATEMENT BY**

**MR. CRAIG DOUGLAS**

**DEPUTY PERMANENT  
REPRESENTATIVE**

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

**AT**

**UNGA 78 AGENDA ITEM 75-  
OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA**

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**UNITED NATIONS  
HEADQUARTERS**

**NEW YORK**

Madam Vice President,

Jamaica aligns with the statement delivered by Cuba on behalf of the G77 and China.

Madam Vice President,

Jamaica's economy and society depend on the marine environment and resources, not only to thrive, but in many ways, to survive. A healthy ocean is critical to support marine bio-diversity, and with it, livelihoods, food security, trade and maritime security.

Unfortunately, the ocean is under threat. In addition to unsustainable use of the ocean by some economic actors, sea level rise, coastal erosion, increased sea temperature, marine biodiversity loss and other impacts of climate change affect economies like ours that depend on the Ocean. We look forward to receiving the advisory opinion of the ICJ, which we believe would be helpful in clarifying the obligations of States in respect of Climate Change.

It is within this context, Madam Vice President, that Jamaica supports efforts aimed at protecting the oceans and ocean resources. We are committed to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans. A healthy and well managed ocean is essential for our sustainable development, including through participation in the blue economy.

Jamaica, therefore, welcomes the adoption of the BBNJ Agreement, which has been open for signature since 20 September of this year. Jamaica is taking steps towards an early ratification of the Agreement. We are pleased to note the high number of signatories thus far, and urge all UN Member States to ratify the Agreement, as soon as possible, to allow for the entry into force of the Agreement and its implementation. The BBNJ will serve well to address the longstanding gaps in global governance of the oceans, with its focus specifically on the areas beyond national jurisdiction.

The high seas cover the largest area of the ocean, which itself covers the largest surface of our planet. Together with SDG14 and the BBNJ, the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework complements the global architecture for the protection of biodiversity. In light of the impact of plastics pollution, including on the oceans, Jamaica is also actively participating in the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, aimed at developing an instrument to addresses the full life cycle of plastics, including its design, production, use and disposal.

We are also actively engaged in negotiations to complete Phase II of the Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations at the WTO, as we seek to join global efforts in addressing the issues of IUU fishing, over fishing and over capacity. These initiatives are testament to the significant role of multilateralism in dealing with issues of oceans governance, with UNCLOS at its core.

As host to the International Seabed Authority, oceans affairs remain a priority issue for Jamaica at the United Nations. We support the Authority's Strategic Plan for 2024 to 2028 and will continue our collaboration with partners in its implementation. As we

undertake a collective effort to enhance governance for the future of our oceans, technical assistance and capacity building for developing countries, including SIDs, must be a critical part of our work. All members should be adequately capacitated to contribute to this important global thrust.

This is necessary to address issues such as IUU fishing, gaps fisheries management, decarbonisation in shipping, marine pollution, access to new marine technologies, use of the oceans to facilitate illegal activities and the need to improve research capacity in this area.

Jamaica also takes the view that the achievement of effective oceans governance can be bolstered by bilateral and regional cooperation, especially to address the issue of using the oceans for criminal purposes.

Madam Vice President,

Jamaica thanks the delegations of Norway and Singapore, respectively, for their coordination of negotiations on the sustainable fisheries resolution and the resolution on the Oceans and Law of the Sea. The tradition of adopting these resolutions is a critical component of the United Nation's work on oceans issues that should be sustained. Jamaica, therefore, supports the adoption of these resolutions.

In closing, Madam Vice President, Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to the continuous improvement in the governance of oceans affairs for the future of the oceans. We will continue to play our part in ensuring that use of the oceans and ocean resources are sustainable, so that the common heritage of humankind can better serve the needs of future generations.

I thank you.