



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

*Agenda Item 8: Commemoration of the 25th anniversary
of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*

**29th Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of
the Sea**

17th June 2019

Mr. President,

Let me begin by congratulating you and your bureau on your election to preside over the deliberations of the 29th meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. We would also like to acknowledge the work of the previous Bureau, who successfully guided our work in the just concluded 28th meeting of States Parties.

Jamaica is pleased to be able to join the international community in celebrating the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. The UNCLOS, as it is popularly called, remains a seminal feature of the legal landscape and with its near universal membership – has fittingly earned the moniker – the "Constitution for the Oceans." With its adoption, the Convention has not only created new international law but has codified much of what had become customary law of the sea.

The adoption of this Convention serves as a model for the governance of other global commons and provides the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. The existence of the Convention has also created the means through which all mankind can share in and benefit from the development of the world's largest resource – its Ocean.

Jamaica is proud of its contribution to the development of the UNCLOS. We fondly recall the opening for signature of the Convention in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 10th December 1982. Since then, the Convention has provided the framework under which countless maritime disputes have been successfully negotiated and created the legal order for the delicate balance between the rights and obligations of coastal states with those of other states.

The institutions provided for under the Convention are to be credited with ensuring the successful implementation of the Convention. The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) has made substantial contributions to the development of international law, especially environmental law, through its efficient management and consideration of cases. Similarly, the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) has worked through its extensive workload to consider over 80 submissions that have been made by in excess of 60 coastal states.

The International Seabed Authority (ISA), for its part, has provided significant scientific and technological insight into the ocean and its resources. The Authority has been working steadily towards carrying out activities in the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole. We are pleased to host the Authority and to welcome delegations each year to its various meetings.

As we look to the next 25 years, we envisage even further progress towards fully operationalizing the regime envisaged in the Convention on the common heritage of mankind. Critical to this endeavour will be strengthening the means of implementation by giving greater effect to the duty to cooperate as well as the need to improve coordination at all levels. This will not only see to addressing the gaps and responding to new and emerging issues, but steadily ensuring the conservation and sustainable use of the Ocean and its resources, in keeping with the 3 pillars of sustainable development. Increasing scientific knowledge and facilitating the transfer of marine technology, especially as we look to the UN Decade for Ocean Science and work towards the attainment of SDG 14, will also be critical.

In concluding, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the work of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), in supporting the UNCLOS. I, therefore, take this opportunity to reiterate my delegation's sincere appreciation in this regard.

Thank you.