



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

REMARKS BY

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UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

**25 YEARS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEABED AUTHORITY'S
CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE
ENVIRONMENT**

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United Nations

New York

Distinguished Co-chairs
Mr. Nii Odunton
Esteemed Panelists,
Excellencies
Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome the opportunity to bring congratulatory remarks on behalf of the Government of Jamaica at this special event to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the International Seabed Authority.

Indeed, it is a special occasion for collective reflection on the work of the Authority since it came into existence as one of the 3 mechanisms provided for under the milestone UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Jamaica is proud of its association with the International Seabed Authority and the Convention as a whole, ever since the international community began its deliberations on how best to protect the marine environment. We fondly recall some of our Jamaican stalwarts including former UN Permanent Representative, Ambassador Don Mills and Dr. Kenneth Rattray - whose strong support for the Convention have been matched by such luminaries as Dr. Arvid Pardo of Malta - the '*Father of the Law of the Sea*,' Ambassador Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe of Sri Lanka, the first President of the Conference and his successor, Ambassador Tommy Koh of Singapore. We

acknowledge, in particular, that Ambassador Ratray served as the first Rapporteur General of the preparatory commission for the International Seabed Authority and that Mr. Lennox Ballah of Trinidad and Tobago, served as the first President of the Council of the ISA.

The Authority has also benefited from the leadership, dedication and commitment of those who serve at the helm of the Organisation. We have had the great fortune of having selfless and devoted individuals, who have worked with Member States in building and maintaining the profile of the Authority. Mr. Satya Nandan of Fiji, and Mr. Nii Odunton from Ghana, and now Mr. Michael Lodge, UK, are to be commended for their hard work and unrelenting determination to see the Authority fully execute its mandate under UNCLOS. Their efforts have been augmented by the unwavering support of the many men and women who work at the ISA Secretariat. The Government of Jamaica is indebted to them for their years of yeoman service. We look forward to deepening this relationship over the next 25 years.

The Authority's strength lies in its continued efforts to evolve. To this end, we have been pleased to witness the Review of Article 154 and the development of a Strategic Plan. We also welcome the efforts to ensure

consistency with and to provide a linkage to the SDGs. Also noteworthy are the robust environmental regulations and management plans that have been developed, which further solidifies the Authority's leadership role in this regard. The same holds true with respect to the draft mining regulations being elaborated. We further commend the Authority for its continuing role in providing sensitization seminars and training for persons from all over the world. In this regard, special note is taken of Secretary General Lodge's inaugural young scientists and researchers award, which was initiated last year and is intended to encourage greater involvement of youth, scientists and women in the area of deep sea research and related regulatory frameworks.

As we engage in the BBNJ process, we believe that the ISA is poised to play an instrumental role with its vast expertise in ocean governance. Jamaica, therefore, stands ready to lend its support in this regard.

As host of the ISA, we are committed to the work that is being done to secure the resources of the Area for the benefit of all, as well as to preserve and protect the environmental integrity of the deep seabed. We encourage all delegations to continue to support us in this endeavour and assure you that

Jamaica will continue to fulfill its obligations as Host Country for the Headquarters of the ISA. Thank you.