



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

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

**SIXTEENTH MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPEN-ENDED
INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS
ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA**

**MONDAY, 6TH APRIL 2015
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Co-Chairs,

My delegation is pleased to associate itself with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and that by the Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States.

We thank the Secretary-General for the advance text of his comprehensive Report and, in so doing, commend the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea for its work in preparing the report. It is indeed our good fortune, Co-Chairs, that you will guide our deliberations and my delegation warmly congratulates you on your appointment.

The year 2015 is a truly defining moment in global affairs. Our oceans are an integral component of our efforts to create a sustainable development agenda that builds upon the Millennium Development Goals and which addresses the most pressing social, economic and environmental challenges of our time. In this regard, we must seize this unprecedented opportunity for action.

As the Secretary-General's Report points out, the role of oceans and ocean activities in achieving sustainable development, is well-established and recognised in the outcome documents of various conferences and summits on sustainable development, including Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and more recently, "The Future we want". Indeed, it is worth repeating that in "The Future we want", our leaders recognised the important role that oceans play in contributing to poverty eradication; sustained economic growth, food security and the creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while simultaneously protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change.

For Small Island Developing States like Jamaica this is even more so, as our viability and very survival are closely interlinked with the oceans and seas. We, therefore, attach high importance to the results of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States contained in its outcome document "the Samoa Pathway", which focuses the attention of the global community on the special needs and interests of SIDS, particularly on actions to ensure that SIDS benefit from the sustainable development of oceans and seas.

Within the context of the intergovernmental negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we maintain that special focus must be placed on the significant contribution of oceans and seas to the three dimensions of sustainable development. In this connection, we welcome the proposal by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development for a goal to "conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development". We are also pleased that the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report on the Post-2015 Agenda boldly asserts that "We must protect our oceans, seas, rivers and atmosphere as our global heritage, and achieve climate justice".

With the inclusion and prominence of oceans in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the international community has a timely opportunity to effectively address the closely integrated problems of ocean space, while enhancing the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. As the Secretary-General's report states "a transformational approach, as well as mobilising the necessary means of implementation are essential to promote a balanced integration..." We agree with his assessment that this includes developing a supporting policy framework; implementing the legal measures that facilitate integrated approaches; establishing the supporting institutional mechanisms for cross-sectoral cooperation and coordination; promoting technology and development transfer, as well as science to support sound-decision making; developing suitable indicators to measure progress in implementation; and investing in capacity-building.

In particular, we view the fragmentation of ocean governance agreements at the global and regional levels as one of the main impediments to the application of a comprehensive governance framework across the three dimensions of sustainable development. We are, therefore, pleased that Professor Emeritus Robin Mahon, from the University of the West Indies' Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, will address this issue during his panel presentation entitled "*Implications of the regional-global ocean governance nexus for sustainability: the example of the Wider Caribbean*".

In tandem with the Secretary-General's report, we believe that the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea can make a significant contribution to the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. Indeed, UNCLOS remains an indispensable instrument for the sustainable management and use of the ocean and its resources.

In this connection, we continue to underscore the need to scale-up cooperation and provide support to develop capacity to effectively implement the Convention. It is clear from the Rio+20 processes that significant gaps remain in terms of integrated approaches to building capacity and the provision of sustained funding for capacity development in oceans.

Co-Chairs,

As we exchange views on the opportunities for, and challenges to, the enhanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in relation to oceans, let us do so with a renewed commitment to taking the action required to secure "the future we want".

My delegation looks forward to hearing from all the panellists and to participating in open and informative discussions with all delegations.