



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

STATEMENT BY

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TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**SIXTH MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP OF THE
WHOLE OF THE REGULAR PROCESS FOR GLOBAL REPORTING AND
ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT,
INCLUDING SOCIOECONOMIC ASPECTS**

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Distinguished Co-chairs,

It is a pleasure to see you once again at the helm of this important Working Group and I join other delegations in congratulating you on your re-appointment. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and takes this opportunity to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

The delegation of Jamaica wishes to congratulate the Group of Experts, the writing teams, the Secretariat and the Bureau, under the able guidance of the Co-Chairs, on the successful completion of the first global integrated marine assessment. We look forward to a productive meeting this week, as we seek to determine the lessons learned from this first cycle and the way forward for the second cycle of the Regular Process.

We recognise that undertaking an assessment of the environmental, social and economic aspects of the ocean is a very complex process, yet the process is also a timely one, as the international community finalises a global compact to drive sustainable development efforts for the next 15 years. Indeed, as emphasized in Agenda 21 and reaffirmed in the “Future we want”, we cannot speak of sustainable development without acknowledging that the marine environment is an essential component of the global life-support system. For this reason, the sustainable use and management of the ocean and its resources constitute a key aspect of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as reflected in Goal 14, which encourages the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources.

Guided by the SAMOA Pathway, Jamaica acknowledges that oceans, seas and coastal areas form an essential component of the Earth’s ecosystem. Furthermore, we are cognisant of the intrinsic link between these marine areas and the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States, in particular. For SIDS, a healthy marine environment is critical to efforts to eradicate poverty, including the promotion of food security, securing the livelihoods of coastal communities, and preserving critical local ecosystems. Furthermore, Jamaica and several other Caribbean Small Island developing States rely heavily on coastal tourism. We, therefore, support efforts to conserve, protect, manage, and sustainably use the oceans, seas and coastal areas.

In this sense, we believe the first global integrated marine assessment will play a critical role in future action, as the ten themes under which it has been organised reflect the priorities not only of SIDS, which face particular vulnerabilities, but also encompass issues which should concern all States. In this context, we wish to highlight themes such as the impact of climate change on sea level rise and the well-being of marine ecosystems and the impact of human activity on the health of the marine environment, with its consequences for food security.

The Assessment will empower States to make informed decisions towards enhancing legal and institutional frameworks for the exploration and sustainable use of the resources of the oceans and seas, in an effort to preserve those resources for generations to come. It is for this reason that Jamaica was pleased to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund to ensure the realisation of this Assessment, and it is for this reason that we call on States to continue providing financial support to the Regular Process. We are also pleased to have appointed experts to participate in the process who served among the Group of Experts and Pool of Experts.

As stated by the G77 and China the critical issue of resource scarcity and budget allocation has been a major challenge for the process. And, we will elaborate on this matter during the discussion on lessons learned and the way forward.

Furthermore, as we move forward, we wish to highlight that there is still need for assistance to SIDS in enhancing their capacity to undertake national assessments through knowledge transfer or other appropriate mechanism. We will also comment on this matter further, as well as other issues, in the Session on lessons learned and the way forward.

Co-chairs,

In closing, let me reiterate that Jamaica welcomes this first global integrated marine assessment which provides us with a timely and comprehensive tool that can contribute significantly to efforts at the national, regional and global levels to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the resources of our oceans and seas.

I thank you.