



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

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

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

ITEM: 3: GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

**18TH JUNE 2018
UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK**

Co-Chairs,

My delegation wishes to again congratulate you on your appointment to lead our deliberations during the 19th meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. Our sincere appreciation also extends to the Under-Secretary for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States, for their respective remarks.

My delegation also aligns its intervention with the statement delivered by Egypt on behalf of the G77 and China.

Co-Chairs,

The proposed theme of our deliberations, “*Anthropogenic underwater noise*,” is being considered amidst heightened anxieties about the state of the Ocean. Like other delegations, we are deeply concerned about the threat posed to our marine environment and believe that urgent action is required to ensure that the situation is addressed. We, therefore, regard our focus on anthropogenic underwater noise as part of the comprehensive and holistic approach necessary to protect the Ocean.

The Secretary-General’s report, contained in document A/73/68, provides a very useful point of reference for us to have an informed and in-depth discussion. We thank him for the very frank observations and believe that the report, along with the discussions to be had in conjunction with the expert panels, will enable us to have a better understanding of the gravity of the situation that confronts us and how best to respond.

Co-Chairs,

A central theme for my delegation emanating from the Secretary-General’s report is the importance of international cooperation, coordination and capacity-building. Undoubtedly, this will be critical to ensuring an effective and comprehensive response to what is clearly fast emerging to be a global challenge. For this reason, my delegation would wish to underscore the following points.

First, knowledge acquisition and capacity building will be critical and must include training in:

- underwater noise pollution identification;
- measurement of underwater noise with exposure to equipment, tools, techniques, and software;
- identification of key indicator species and the impact noise pollution has on each species;

- developing management strategies for underwater noise pollution; and
- determining how much noise pollution is sustainable for a population or ecosystem.

Such a focus, inclusive of the transfer of technologies, could assist in addressing some of the data and knowledge gaps highlighted in the Secretary-General's report and increase the potential for effectively responding to underwater noise.

Secondly, there will be the need for different types and forms of cooperation to allow for the most robust and comprehensive partnerships. This augurs well for enhancing the sharing of best practices and for benefitting from the best available technologies. The potential for the development of toolboxes, as pointed out in document A/73/68, could be one useful mechanism in this regard. In doing so, however, due consideration would have to be given to the divergence within and across regions. We, therefore, are drawn to the importance of recognizing the socio-economic and cultural contexts of particular regions and sub-regions to maximize the potential for real progress.

Thirdly, while there might not be a specific legal global framework for addressing underwater noise, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) – the Constitution of the Ocean – provides us, as the Secretary-General correctly asserts, with an obligation to take all measures necessary to prevent, reduce and control the pollution of the marine environment. This could in turn influence the scope for greater policy coherence in recognition of the cumulative impacts of multiple stressors on the Ocean. We should, therefore, work to ensure that action at all levels - national, regional and global - is complementary. The interface between science and policy will be an essential component.

Coordination must also extend to the institutional framework to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment. Against this background, we are pleased to note the references in the Secretary-General's report, in particular paragraph 71, to the work of several intergovernmental organisations, including the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and how these entities could better advance the objective of understanding and responding to anthropogenic underwater noise. We note the reference to the General Assembly in supporting this endeavor, including through UN-Oceans. We believe that this could be a very useful approach.

Finally, Co-Chairs, my delegation wishes to close by expressing its gratitude to those who have contributed to the Trust Fund that has enabled the participation of developing countries in this session of the ICP. Like others, we are concerned with the limited resources that remain to facilitate future participation and would join in urging those in a position to do so, to lend their support in this regard.

I thank you.