



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

STATEMENT BY

**MRS. DIEDRE MILLS
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA**

ON AGENDA ITEM 13: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**UNITED NATIONS, NEW YORK
12TH JUNE 2018**

Mr. President,

The 28th meeting of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea takes place one year after our historic Ocean Conference and with continuing reports of the worsening state of our marine environment. In order to arrest and reverse this trend, we must ensure that we do all that we can to restore and protect our oceans and seas.

It is against this background that the effective implementation of international legal instruments on the ocean, in particular the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), takes on even greater primacy. As the constitution of the Ocean, UNCLOS remains central to the sustainable management and use of marine resources.

Jamaica continues to play its part in this endeavour and is currently working towards the development of several policies to complement its voluntary commitments made during the 2017 Ocean Conference. To this end, work has begun on a draft cays management policy to ensure the effective management of the islands, cays and rocks that make up the Jamaican archipelago, by taking into account the flora and fauna and associated ecosystems, as well as climate change and sea level rise. Action is also forecast for the development of draft diving regulations, as well as an integrated coastal resources policy.

Mr. President,

The effectiveness of the institutional arrangements provided for under the Convention are an important complement to action being undertaken at national and regional levels. My delegation, therefore, wishes to place on record its appreciation to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the International Seabed Authority and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, for their invaluable work in advancing the implementation of the UNCLOS. We also wish to acknowledge and publicly thank DOALOS for its unwavering support as the Secretariat of the Convention.

Mr. President,

As my delegation stated yesterday, Jamaica remains committed, as host of the International Seabed Authority, to supporting the work of the Authority. For this reason, we are pleased

to hear of the progress being made by the Authority with respect to the development of the Strategic Plan, environmental regulations and the draft mining regulations. Like Secretary-General Michael Lodge, we look forward to welcoming members to Kingston at the forthcoming meetings of the Authority, as we continue to deliberate on these and other matters.

Mr. President,

As a small island developing state whose socio-economic development is integrally linked to oceans and seas, Jamaica greatly values the opportunity afforded by the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference, that will commence the negotiations for a legally binding agreement under the UNCLOS to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. Jamaica stands ready to lend its support to the successful outcome of these negotiations.

Mr. President,

My delegation wishes to conclude by underscoring the importance of international cooperation and more effective coordination in order to maximise the scope for meaningful implementation of the UNCLOS. Each State Party to the Convention has a role to play in this collective endeavour but collective efforts are best advanced when we work together and share a common objective. Significant action will be needed at all levels.

I thank you.