



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

STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

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

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Madam President,

Allow me to warmly congratulate you on your election as President of the Twenty-Sixth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. We are assured that under your able leadership, our work will be effectively managed and we will have a productive outcome. We also extend our congratulations to the other members of the Bureau.

Let me express also my delegation's appreciation to Mr. Nii Odunton, Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), for his report on the work of the Authority during the last year. We recognise his stewardship of the organisation and the considerable progress being made in developing a framework for the effective management of the resources of the deep seabed.

As host country to the ISA, Jamaica is committed to the Authority and to ensuring that it is provided with the necessary support for the effective implementation of its mandate. We are confident that the critical work being done will determine how we can all benefit from the resources of the deep seabed, while ensuring the preservation and protection of this common heritage of mankind.

We join in welcoming Antigua and Barbuda as the most recent Party to the 1994 Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). We continue to encourage all States that have not yet done so, to accede to the Convention. We also urge accession or ratification to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Seabed Authority. We believe that as the number of States Parties to these important Instruments increases, so too does the strength of the Authority. We also wish to commend Chile, for acceding to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the Convention relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks.

Madam President

As we look towards the upcoming Twenty-second Session of the ISA, which will take place from 11th to 22nd July 2016, in Kingston, we are conscious that the decisions to be taken at this session will have far reaching implications for the Authority and its membership. We note in particular the presentation of the interim report of the Review of the Authority, the first to be held under Article 154 of the Convention. We welcome the Review and anticipate that it will produce recommendations that will serve to improve efficiency and maintain the integrity of the Authority. We look forward to opportunities to discuss the findings and, in collaboration with other Member States, determine how best to proceed.

Of significance also are the elections for membership of the Legal and Technical Commission (LTC) and the Finance Committee, as well as for the Secretary General of the Authority. My

delegation extends best wishes to both candidates, in the upcoming elections, for Secretary General.

We encourage Member States to be present in Kingston, to actively participate in the work of the Authority, in order to enhance its effectiveness and to ensure that the decisions taken on matters concerning exploration and eventual exploitation of the deep seabed are accepted without question. We, of course, look forward to welcoming you to Jamaica for this important Session of the ISA.

As the level of interest in deep seabed mining increases, we anticipate the finalisation of the mining code. It is imperative that the code be carefully crafted to take into account environmental considerations. Indeed, our efforts to realise the potential for economic and financial gain from deep seabed mining, must be done in the context of a legislative framework for mining, that is anchored in a holistic approach to sustainable development. We are confident in the progress being made by the Authority through the Legal and Technical Commission in this regard.

Madam President,

As a small island developing state, Jamaica is cognisant of the significance of the sea to its sustainable development efforts. We are convinced that the resources of this global common have the potential to enhance considerably our developmental imperative. We are also aware of the important responsibility that all countries share for the conservation and sustainable use of the resources of the deep seabed. In this connection, we underscore that UNCLOS remains an indispensable legal framework for the conservation, sustainable management, exploration and exploitation of the living and non-living marine resources within and beyond areas of national jurisdiction.

We therefore welcome the opportunity to be briefed on the work of the other bodies, created by the Convention, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. It is the important work being done by all three institutions of the Convention, and our active participation in that work, which will ensure that while our common heritage serves the needs of humanity, it is also protected.

Jamaica is committed to ensuring that the Convention enjoys universal participation, and that as host to the Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority, the Authority's work is truly reflective of the objectives envisaged in the Convention.

I thank you.