

*Agenda item 11: Tribute to the late Nii Allotey Odunton
Former Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority
Part II, 27th Session of the ISA
(Remarks by Jamaica's Delegation)
1st August 2022*

Mr President,

Jamaica would also like to recognise the sterling contribution of the late Nii Allotey Odunton, former Secretary-General, to the work of the Authority and the development of the international regime governing the deep seabed and its resources, which are the 'common heritage of humankind'.

Thus, as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in 1982, we mourn the loss of a true stalwart in ocean affairs. His Excellency Nii Allotey Odunton dedicated his life to championing the effective protection of the marine environment from the harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed activities. We recall his service as *Interim Director-General of the Enterprise, Deputy Secretary of Special Commission 3 on the mining code for polymetallic nodules* and *Secretary of Special Commission 2 on the Enterprise*, which laid a solid foundation for the Law of the Sea regime that we have today.

Through his life and leadership, Nii Odunton also demonstrated a deep commitment to improving the current state of scientific knowledge of deep-sea mineral resources.

As early as 1988, as the first officer-in-charge of the United Nations Kingston Office for the Law of the Sea, he solidified a strong working relationship with the Government of Jamaica. There is no doubt that that paved the way for the eventual establishment of the Authority here in Kingston in 1994.

Mr President,

His life, work and achievements have provided a rich legacy for humanity as a whole. Of this, Jamaica, as host to the Authority, is especially grateful.

As we take stock of the progress we have made to increase the Authority's scientific knowledge base on the Area, as well as towards the development of a robust and balanced regulatory regime for deep seabed mineral exploitation, may we continue to honour his legacy.

I thank you.