



**Closing Statement by**

**Mr. Andre Coore, Deputy Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the  
International Seabed Authority during the**

**First Part of the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the ISA**

**Jamaica Conference Centre | Kingston**

**19<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

***Please check against delivery***

Mr. President,

As we bring to a close the first part of the 31<sup>st</sup> session of the International Seabed Authority, allow me to extend my delegation's appreciation to you, the Secretary General and the Secretariat team, and all delegations for their constructive engagement throughout these deliberations.

Over the past days, we have reaffirmed our collective commitment to ensuring that activities in the Area are carried out for the benefit of humankind, with due regard for the protection of the marine environment and the interests of present and future generations.

Jamaica welcomes the progress made in the review of the further revised draft consolidated text on exploitation of mineral resources in the Area. We extend our thanks to the facilitators and intersessional working groups to advance work on specific issues related to the revised draft regulations. Our debates underscored the urgency of finalising the draft regulations, particularly as we try to balance the growing pressures for the commencement of commercial activities, with our collective desire for a robust regulatory regime.

Delegations reiterated the need for strong provisions on equitable participation, capacity building and training opportunities, and focused heavily on the importance of contractors meeting their contractual obligations. In this vein, the importance of the oversight of the Legal and Technical Commission was emphasised. We also focused on the future operationalisation of the Economic Planning Commission – an essential mechanism for sustainable and inclusion participation. Equally important, was the attention given to the Authority's future engagement with the BBNJ Agreement and its attendant bodies.

My delegation is pleased that the session fostered a spirit of collaboration, with delegations engaging constructively across regional and policy lines. In the same vein, we acknowledge that further work needs to be undertaken ahead of the second part of the 31<sup>st</sup> session to bring us closer to consensus on critical areas including effective control, parent company liability, the treatment of the Enterprise, to name a few. In the case of the latter, my delegation has taken note the joint paper on the treatment of the Enterprise in the draft ISA exploitation regulations that was prepared its interim director-general and the United Kingdom, and we continue to study its contents.

These areas remain central to our future work.

Excellencies,

This session has demonstrated that while challenges remain, our shared determination to uphold the principles of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the 1994 Agreement and the common heritage of humankind is unwavering. Let us carry forward the momentum built here in Kingston, with renewed commitment to consensus, equity, and stewardship of the deep ocean.

We look forward to welcoming you once again to our shores in the coming months, as we continue our important work.

I thank you.