



Closing remarks for Part I of the 31st Council Session

by H.E. Madam Secretary-General, Leticia Carvalho

19 March 2026

Plenary

Jamaica Conference Centre, Kingston, Jamaica

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates and Members of the Council,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we bring Part I of the thirty-first session of the Council to a close, allow me to express my sincere appreciation to our host country, Jamaica, for its warm hospitality, and its continued commitment to the work of the Authority.

I also wish to extend my appreciation to the President of the Council, the Vice-Presidents, the Regional Coordinators, and the facilitators of the Informal Working Groups and the Friends of the President.

I thank the facilitators for their leadership, their commitment, and the care with which they have guided our deliberations. Their work has been instrumental in structuring discussions, deepening understanding, and advancing progress across a number of complex issues.

I would further like to thank all delegations and observers for their active engagement, and for the dedication with which they have approached the work of this Council.

Distinguished delegates,

This session has marked meaningful progress across a number of areas. It reflects a collective effort to move the negotiations forward in a constructive and focused manner.

Importantly, this progress provides a stronger foundation for a more structured and efficient advancement of our work in the period ahead.

Looking forward, the intersessional period will be critical. It is during this time that we can consolidate progress, deepen technical work, and continue bridging areas of divergence. I encourage all delegations to remain actively engaged, including through informal groups and other available modalities.

Let me also reaffirm that the Secretariat remains fully at your disposal, not only during sessions, but throughout the intersessional period, to support your work in any way required.

Distinguished delegates,

As I noted at the opening of this session, the credibility of the Authority, and of multilateral ocean governance more broadly, rests on our collective ability to translate the principles of UNCLOS into a practical and implementable regulatory framework, as soon as possible.

Before concluding, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the staff of the Secretariat, the conference services teams, security personnel, and all those who have worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of this session.

Let us carry forward the progress achieved with a continued spirit of cooperation.

I thank you.

As we commence, I encourage delegations to engage in a constructive and forward-looking manner, mindful of the collective responsibility entrusted to this Council.

I thank you, Mr. President, and all delegates.