

**STATEMENT**

**High Commissioner Laurie Peters  
International Seabed Authority, Assembly  
July 25, 2019**

**“Commemoration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Seabed Authority”**

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- The Most Honourable Prime Minister of Jamaica
- Other Excellencies, Heads of State and Government
- Madame President,
- Secretary General
- Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,
- Good afternoon.

It is a distinct pleasure to join in this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration of the signing of the Montego Bay Convention, which established the International Seabed Authority.

Madame President,

Let me first take this opportunity to thank the Government of Jamaica for hosting the Authority in Kingston and to congratulate Jamaica on assuming the Presidency of the Assembly.

As you know, Canada has the longest coastline in the world, bordering on the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans – measuring over 202,000 km. We are also a major player in the offshore hydrocarbon industry. At the same time, we are global champions for the protection of the environment.

Therefore, issues related to the sustainable and equitable management of the common marine environment are of particular and critical importance to our country.

“Our oceans and coasts are under considerable threat – from increases in plastic pollution, more frequent and severe weather events, and illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Resilient coastal communities and healthy oceans are vital to growing economies that work for everyone and that is why we are committed to working with others to protect the world’s oceans.”

—The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada

We are pleased to join with other Member States of the International Seabed Authority in the development of regulations that govern the exploration and sustainable

exploitation of the Area; so that all of humanity will more equitably benefit from the resources found in the sea.

We are particularly supportive of the work to build the capacity of developing countries – especially Small Island Developing States (SIDS), who look to benefit from sea resources.

Canada is seen as a friend and mentor to SIDS and we have championed their inclusion and full participation in multilateral frameworks. Our effort was on display during our G7 Presidency, when we ensured the representation of small states during an outreach session on healthy oceans and resilient communities in Charlevoix; during the Halifax Ministerial Summit on Environment, Energy and Oceans; and during our co-hosting of the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi.

In that regard, I would like to thank the Secretary General and Staff of the Authority – past and present - as well as successive Permanent Representatives, for their stewardship of the organisation, over the last quarter century. The attention to capacity-building must continue as the Authority and Member States addresses matters on the agenda.

Canada is keen to ensure that decision-making on these matters; the utilisation of resources; and distribution of benefits is inclusive. In particular, our Feminist Foreign Policy requires us to ensure that women and girls, alongside men and boys, participate in and benefit equally from international initiatives.

I congratulate the Authority on the increased recruitment of female staff members over the years and its status as one of the UN agencies with the highest levels of female representation.

Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen, let us continue to champion through this forum an equitable, inclusive and sustainable ocean economy – which will benefit us all.

Laurie Peters  
High Commissioner  
Kingston, JAMAICA  
July 24, 2019

The logo for Canada, featuring the word "Canada" in a serif font with a small Canadian flag icon above the letter "a".