



PHILIPPINES

STATEMENT

Commemoration of the 40th Anniversary of the Adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 27th Session of the International Seabed Authority Assembly

Monday, 1 August 2022
Kingston, Jamaica

Thank you, Mr. President.

As the Philippines is taking the floor for the first time, allow us to congratulate you on assuming the role as President of the 27th Session of the Assembly of the International Seabed Authority in the interim.

We thank the Government of Jamaica for hosting this session and join its people in commemorating Emancipation Day. It is but fitting that on this very day, we also commemorate the 40th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea here in Jamaica, where the Convention opened for signature, amidst the promise of a new international economic order.

We signed the Convention on the day it opened for signature at Montego Bay and we were among the first few States that submitted its instrument of ratification in the common aspiration to establish a new legal order for the oceans.

Forty years later, with the unprecedented challenges and the 'global emergency' facing the world's oceans, the Convention remains a bulwark of humanity. The second World Oceans Assessment has described that among drivers that apply pressures on the world's oceans, regional disputes and geopolitical instabilities may impede the implementation of global and regional treaties and agreements, thereby affecting economic growth, the transfer of technologies and the implementation of frameworks for managing ocean use.

As an archipelagic state, a maritime nation with a seafaring tradition, the Philippines reaffirms that the Convention is the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out.

The Convention remains the 'constitution of the oceans' – establishing clear rules in promoting their peaceful uses, the equitable and efficient utilization of their resources, the conservation of their living resources, and the study, protection and preservation of the marine environment. It clearly defined limits on the maritime areas in which States are entitled to exercise sovereign rights and jurisdiction. It comprehensively allocated rights to maritime areas.

PHILIPPINE MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

556 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY 10036 • TEL. (212) 764-1300 • FAX (212) 840-8602

Observance and compliance with the rules and norms codified and developed, in the Convention contribute to the strengthening of peace, security, cooperation and friendly relations among all nations, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations. Compliance with the Convention is required of all States Parties.

As we commemorate the 40th year of the adoption of Convention in the context of the 27th Session of the Assembly of the ISA, we reaffirm our support for the ISA and its critical role under the UNCLOS, as it fulfills its mandate of organizing and controlling all mineral-resources-related activities in the Area for the benefit of mankind as a whole, while proceeding within the framework of sustainable development

Forty years since its adoption and almost thirty years since its entry into force, the Philippines reaffirms its commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
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