



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Welcome Remarks by

H.E. Raymond O. Wolfe

**Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United
Nations and the International Seabed Authority
at the Sensitization Seminar on the Work of the
International Seabed Authority**

Kingston, Jamaica 28th -30th March 2011

Dr. The Honourable Kenneth Baugh, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade,
H.E. Nii Odunton, Secretary General of the International Seabed Authority (ISA)
H.E. Ambassador Satya Nanda, former Secretary General of the ISA
Judge Dolliver Newls, former President of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea
Excellencies
Distinguished Colleagues

At the outset, let me join the Honourable Minister in extending a warm welcome to you all and I certainly look forward to what promises to be a very informative and productive Seminar.

I also wish to express sincere appreciation for the kind invitation extended to me to make opening remarks at this Sensitization Seminar, on the work of the Authority, the first such to be held in the Caribbean and Jamaica.

I commend the Secretary General for this very important and timely initiative and welcome the theme which you have chosen for this Sensitization Seminar viz: "Prospecting, Exploration and Exploitation of Deep Seabed Mineral Resources in the Area: Challenges for the Caribbean and opportunities for collaboration."

As a representative of the Host Country for the Authority, I am very pleased to note that this Seminar is being co-hosted by the Government of Jamaica, in conjunction with the Secretary General of the Authority and the University of the West Indies.

As indicated in the Report of the Secretary General to the Sixteenth Session of the International Seabed Authority, the main purpose of these Seminars is to inform Government Officials, Marine policy-makers and Scientists at national and regional institutions, of the work of the Authority, and to promote the participation of scientists from institutions in developing countries, in marine scientific research being undertaken in the area, by international research organizations.

Another key objective is to introduce participants to the institutions created by the Law of the Sea Convention, in particular, the United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea.

I am therefore very pleased to note that, included on the provisional agenda for this sensitization seminar are a wide range of inter-related presentations focusing on the work of the Authority, ranging from the Authority's organs, the mineral resources of the Area, the protection, and preservation of the marine environment for activities in the Area, capacity building and the Authority's endowment -fund.

The challenges for Jamaica and other Caribbean States are how to forge effective partnerships between our Governments and the Authority, UWI and other Tertiary

institutions across the region in taking advantage of the endowment-fund, in support of the participation of our Scientists and technical personnel in existing marine research programmes and activities, including through training, technical assistance and scientific cooperation programmes.

In noting that a number of available fellowships are only available to graduate or post doctoral students from developing countries, I would encourage some discussion at this Sensitization Seminar, as to what sort of collaborative efforts can be undertaken, and appropriate framework established, to ensure that this level of advance training is indeed available to Caribbean students.

At the same time, we are encouraged that with the Advisory opinion of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in respect of the Nauru case, more opportunities will be open to developing countries to participate in activities in the Area.

In conclusion, I am proposing that in order for the outcome of this sensitization seminar to achieve a lasting impact, the Authority should consider the organization of special workshops for students at the secondary and tertiary level, here in Jamaica and across the Caribbean region. This would indeed be highly beneficial in the efforts aimed at heighten awareness and knowledge about the critically important work being undertaken by the Authority and its organs. Moreover, these workshops could also prove useful in generating interest among students, for the pursuit of studies in Marine Sciences, as well as in promoting information about Marine Scientific Research being conducted in the Area, by International Research Institutions.

I thank you.