

ISA: UNCLOS 40: UK STATEMENT

- The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea – UNCLOS - is a major achievement of diplomacy and international law making. We praise the leadership of Dr Arvid Pardo of Malta and those fellow pioneers who had the vision and expertise to help bring it into being.
- As we commemorate Emancipation Day today we are as ever grateful to Jamaica in this its 60th year of independence for giving its name to the Montego Bay Convention and playing host to the ISA as one of the three key institutions under UNCLOS alongside ITLOS and the CLCS.
- The United Kingdom also pays tribute to the memory of the late Nii Allotey Odunton of Ghana. We are indebted to his work and that of his predecessor as ISA SG Satya Nandan – truly today we are “standing on the shoulders of giants”.
- UNCLOS has made a significant contribution to global peace, prosperity and security by providing consistency and certainty concerning the governance of the ocean. It provides the legal framework for all activities in the ocean and seas.
- The UK recognises, however, that challenges to ocean governance remain. Despite duties on States to protect the marine environment, the health of the ocean has significantly degraded due to human action, including from industries directly regulated by UNCLOS.
- As leader of the Global Ocean Alliance, and Ocean co-chair of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature & People alongside Costa Rica and France and a member of the High Ambition Coalition for BBNJ, the UK looks forward to the conclusion of an ambitious BBNJ Agreement in this 40th anniversary year of UNCLOS - truly something to celebrate.

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