

Closing remarks by the Legal Counsel
(for DVD prepared by OLA for Shanghai World Expo)

Hello, I am Patricia O'Brien, the Legal Counsel of the United Nations.

As illustrated in the film, the oceans play an essential role in sustaining many communities around the world. However, there are many serious threats to the health and vitality of the oceans: destructive fishing practices, marine pollution and the impacts of climate change, just to name a few.

Much important work is being done around the world to address these threats under the framework of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. But, more needs to be done.

We all benefit from the oceans and we have a shared responsibility to ensure that action is taken to protect and preserve the marine environment so that the oceans can continue to sustain us, now and into the future. Thank you!