



*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

**MRS. JULIETTE BABB-RILEY
CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE

**THIRD INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL LEGALLY-BINDING
INSTRUMENT UNDER
THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA
ON THE CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF
MARINE BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY OF AREAS BEYOND
NATIONAL JURISDICTION**

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**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

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I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM aligns itself with the statements delivered by Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Belize on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Madam President,

You will recall that when we began our session in March, we indicated that we wanted to have a “draft document with greater flow, for consideration at IGC3”. We therefore wish to thank you for preparing a draft treaty text which has streamlined many of the options that were contained in your Aid to Negotiations, and doing so well in advance of IGC3. We are generally pleased with the draft text, which continues to reflect many of the key issues that we discussed during the Prep Com and in the two previous sessions of the Inter-Governmental Conference. While some text remains in brackets, and nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, we view the draft text as a very good basis on which to continue our negotiations.

Madam President,

CARICOM Foreign Ministers, at their annual meeting in May of this year, “mandated CARICOM negotiators to continue their advocacy on the matter of the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction” The Foreign Ministers further instructed us to “ensure that the elements of the draft treaty text include consideration for:

- (1) the special circumstances of SIDS,
- (2) the modalities and mechanisms for effective capacity building and transfer of marine technology and
- (3) strikes the right balance between conservation and sustainable use”.

We are fully committed to achieving this goal. And like many in the room, we are committed to completing our negotiations by 2020. CARICOM looks forward therefore to participating constructively in this penultimate Session of the Conference. We remain open to finding answers to the difficult issues that will need to be resolved, if we are to meet our core objective of conserving and sustainably using our marine resources for present and future generations. It is with this objective in mind that CARICOM stands ready to continue our engagement with delegations, listen actively, and share our perspectives, on what we see as the key elements that must be meaningfully reflected in the new Agreement.

In closing, CARICOM would like to thank the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea for their inter-sessional work and for their invaluable support in ensuring that we have a productive meeting. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to those countries that have contributed to the Voluntary Trust Fund. Additionally, we take this opportunity to encourage others that are in a position to contribute, to do so, as we are concerned that this absence of funding could undermine the ability of small delegations, like our own, to participate actively and effectively in these negotiations.

Finally, Madam President, I wish to assure you that, as always, you can count on the full support of CARICOM.

I thank you.