

## 18TH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES (COP18)

Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)

Monday, 13 October 2025

08:30 AM - 09:00 PM

The Jamaica  
Pegasus Hotel

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### ABOUT THE CEREMONY

The Opening Ceremony marks the start of the Eighteenth Conference of the Parties (COP18) to the Cartagena Convention — the only legally binding regional environmental agreement for the protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea. This milestone event celebrates over four decades of regional cooperation for a healthy, resilient, and productive Caribbean marine environment.

### PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Master of Ceremonies: Christopher Corbin, Coordinator, Cartagena Convention Secretariat

#### Opening Remarks:

- Mr. Christopher Corbin – Coordinator, Cartagena Convention Secretariat, UNEP
- Mr. Alberto Pacheco – Head, Regional Seas Branch, UNEP Headquarters
- H.E. Dr. Erja Askola – Ambassador, Delegation of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize and The Bahamas
- H.E. Marianne Ziss – Ambassador of France in Jamaica
- Hon. Minister Matthew Samuda – Minister for Water, Environment and Climate Change

**The Opening Ceremony will be open to the media and invited guests.**

#### FOLLOWED BY:

Session 1: Formal Opening of COP 18 and Agenda Items 1-4 **(9:00-10:30am)**  
Morning Coffee Break (10:30 a.m.)

**All guests are invited to remain for the first session of the COP 18, where the Secretariat will present its major achievements during the 2023–2025 biennium, including ongoing regional projects and national initiatives in Jamaica.**

#### THEME OF COP18

**“Uniting for a Resilient Caribbean Sea: Strengthening Cooperation, Action, and Impact.”**