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Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 69/292 of 19 June 2015 and 71/257 of 23 December 2016 the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution 69/292 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 will hold its fourth session from 10 to 21 July 2017 at United Nations Headquarters in New York

Invitations to the meeting were sent on 23 May 2017 to all Member States of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Other interested entities were invited as observers in accordance with the established practice of the United Nations. According to that practice only entities that have received a standing invitation to

9* in& to t! e limited number of time slots a%ailable t! e Di%ision may not be able to accommodate all re. uests for side e%ents or "referred dates! 8! e Di%ision *ill aim to accommodate u" to t* o side e%ents "er day in order to ensure t! at e%ents are *ell attended! +! ould t! e Di%ision recei%e more re. uests t! an it can accommodate on a &i%en date t! e Di%ision *ill e?ercise its discretion in assi&nin& time slots to side e%ents ta0in& into account t! e sub,ect matter of t! e e%ents and t! e re. uestin& or&ani4ation in order to ensure a balance bet* een +tates inter&o%ernmental or&ani4ations and non5&o%ernmental or&ani4ations! +! ould t! e number of re. uests e?ceed t! e total number of a%ailable time slots t! e Di%ision *ill e?ercise its discretion in selectin& side e%ents *it! a %ie* to ensurin& %ariety in t! e to"ics co%ered by t! e side e%ents! @ased on "ast e?"erience it is e?"ected t! at t! e Di%ision *ill recei%e substantially more side e%ent re. uests for t! e first *ee0 in "articula 8uesday and Aednesday :11 and 12 July; t! an it *ill be able to accommodate and t! erefore encoura&es dele&ation to consider alternati%e dates!

2nformation on t! e "rocedure to be follo*ed by inter&o%ernmental and non5&o%ernmental or&ani4ations to obtain "asses to access 'nited Cations "remises for t! e duration of t! e session *ill be included in t! e letter of in%itation to t! e fourt! session of t! e Pre"aratory #ommittee!

2n accordance *it! General Assembly resolution 69/292 a s"ecial %oluntary trust fund *as establis!ed for t! e "ur"ose of assistin& de%elo"in& countries in "articula t! e least de%elo"ed countries landloc0ed de%elo"in& countries and small island de%elo"in& +tates in attendin& t! e meetin&s of t! e Pre"aratory #ommittee! Burt! er information includin& on t! e a""lication "rocess and t! e a""lication form are a%ailable at\$ [! tt"\\$// * * *un1or&/De"ts/los/bbn,tf/inde?! tm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/bbn_tf/index.htm)