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RECEIVED

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DIVISION FOR OCEAN AFFAIRS
 AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

Dear Mr. Tarassenko,

The Director-General has asked me to reply to your letter of 29 December 2011, requesting a written contribution from the WTO in connection with the UN Secretary-General's forthcoming report to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, on development sustainable fisheries.

As you are no doubt aware, sustainability considerations are at the centre of the mandate pursuant to which the WTO and Development Agenda fisheries subsidies negotiations, referred to in paragraph 77 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/182, are being conducted. In particular, the Negotiating Group on Rules has received and considered many proposals in which fisheries management systems and measures would form part of a broader new disciplines on fisheries subsidies, including as a possible condition under new disciplines in the provision of subsidies that otherwise would be prohibited. Related to this are discussions as to how to ensure that developing Members receive adequate assistance to effectively implement eventual new disciplines, including management systems and measures. Differences remain, however, as to the exact nature and scope of new disciplines on fisheries subsidies, and the precise role that would be played, in particular, by fisheries management systems and measures, and sustainability considerations in general. These issues will only be fully clarified when the Doha Round reaches a conclusion.

Yours sincerely,

Johann Human
 Director
 Rules Division

- J. A. Baez
 - M. Shewchuk