

United Nations  Nations Unies

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REFERENCE: LOS/SGR/2018/1/IGO

9 October 2017

Dear Madam/Sir,

With the present letter, we seek the contribution of your Organization to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, pursuant to General Assembly resolution A/71/257, entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”.

In paragraph 339 of that resolution, the General Assembly decided that in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on the Oceans and the Law of the Sea shall focus at its nineteenth meeting, in 2018, on the theme “Anthropogenic underwater noise”.

In accordance with past practice, it is anticipated that the report of the Secretary-General will be issued in two parts. Part I of the report will provide information on the topic of focus of the nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process.

In this regard, intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, as well as funding institutions are invited to submit a contribution outlining their views on the above-mentioned theme. It is suggested that contributions could include: (i) challenges posed by anthropogenic underwater noise; (ii) actions and activities, including research activities, that have been undertaken at the national, regional and global levels with regard to anthropogenic underwater noise, in particular those undertaken to address its adverse impacts; and (iii) any suggestions for further action to address the adverse impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise.

Due to the restrictions on the length of the documents, in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 52/214, this Office may not be in a position to reflect the full contribution of your Organization in the report. Notwithstanding the limitation on the length of documents, this Office stands ready, with the consent of your Organization, to publish on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the full text of the contribution of your Organization.

In this context, I would like to draw your attention to General Assembly resolution 71/328, entitled “Multilingualism”, which emphasizes the paramount importance of the equality of the six official languages of the United Nations and reiterates that all content-providing offices in the Secretariat should continue their efforts to translate into all official languages all English-language materials and databases posted on the United Nations website in the most practical, efficient and cost-effective manner. Consequently, this Office would appreciate it if the contribution were transmitted in English by the deadlines indicated, accompanied later by a translation into the official languages of your Organization for posting on the website, as appropriate.

It would also be greatly appreciated if the contribution of your Organization could be transmitted directly to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (email: doalos@un.org, with a copy to lika.diouf@un.org), in electronic format, by 30 November 2017.

An invitation to contribute to Part II of the report regarding all other developments in the field of ocean affairs and the law of the sea within the scope of the activities of your Organization will be sent in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Miguel de Serpa Soares
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs
and United Nations Legal Counsel