**Background note regarding documentation for agenda item 8**

A number of documents have or will be made available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea for possible consideration by States in connection with agenda item 8 on “Preparatory work for the resumption of the Review Conference on the Agreement”. These are: the draft provisional agenda for the resumed Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement (the Agreement), the draft provisional organization of work for the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement, the Chair’s Draft methodology for the Outputs and Officers of the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement, and the draft voluntary questionnaire to inform the preparation of the Secretary-General’s updated report to the resumed Review Conference. The present note provides background information regarding these documents.

*Provisional agenda and organization of work for the resumed Review Conference*

In April 2020, following a written consultation with States Parties, the Chair of the Fifteenth Round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement (ICSP-15), the late Professor Fabio Hazin (Brazil) informed the Secretariat that it had been decided to postpone ICSP-15 to 2021 in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also decided that, in preparation for the resumption of the Review Conference in 2021, a consultation by correspondence would be held on the draft provisional agenda and organization of work of the resumed Review Conference. On June 9, 2020, delegations were informed that, following the consultation, the documents had not been further revised and would remain under consideration as circulated. As no further comments were subsequently received by the Chair, these draft provisional documents were considered tentatively agreed.

*Chair’s Draft methodology for the Outputs and Officers of the resumed Review Conference on the Agreement*

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and following consultations with Member States, on 22 April 2021, the Chair informed Member States of a general consensus on his proposal that the ICSP-15 be further postponed to March 2022. It was also agreed to address via consultation by correspondence two outstanding items related to the resumption of the Review Conference which would have been addressed in 2021; namely, the output of the resumed Review Conference and the officers for the Review Conference. Accordingly, on 25 May 2021, a note verbale was sent by the Secretariat transmitting, for the views of States Parties to the Agreement, a draft methodology for the possible outputs and the election of Officers of the resumed Review Conference.

On 23 July 2021, an email was sent to delegations regarding the next steps in the preparation of ICSP-15 in light of the untimely and unexpected passing of Professor Hazin on 7 June 2021. It attached the three responses received on the draft methodology prepared by the Chair and indicated that “While the responses received indicate agreement with the approach proposed by Prof. Hazin, the Secretariat is not in a position to take any decisions in this regard. Accordingly, a final decision will need to be taken by States at ICSP‐15, which is scheduled to meet in May 2022, taking into account the results of the consultation by correspondence.”

*Draft voluntary questionnaire*

In paragraph 60 of its resolution 76/71 of 9 December 2021, the General Assembly recalled its request, in paragraph 60 of resolution 74/18 of 10 December 2019, that the Secretary-General submit to the resumed Review Conference an updated report, prepared in cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and with the assistance of an expert consultant to be hired by the Division to provide information and analysis on relevant technical and scientific issues to be covered in the report, to assist the Review Conference in discharging its mandate under article 36, paragraph 2, of the Agreement, and in this regard also reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to develop and circulate to States and to regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements in a timely manner a voluntary questionnaire regarding the recommendations made by the Review Conference in 2016, taking into account the specific guidance to be proposed at the fifteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement in 2022.