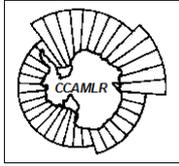


**The CCAMLR Secretariat’s response to the invitation to contribute to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, pursuant to General Assembly draft resolution A/69/L.29, entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”, paragraph 298 and the sixteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, scheduled to be held in New York from 6 to 10 April 2015, which will focus its discussions on the topic entitled “Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic”<sup>1</sup>**

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) was established by international treaty in 1981 for the purpose of conserving Antarctic marine living resources where conservation includes rational use. Since 1992, CCAMLR’s 25 members and 11 Acceding States have made progress both collectively as a Commission and individually in several key areas identified for priority attention at major global summits on sustainable development. Issues relating to the social pillar of sustainable development within the Antarctic environment are minimal due to the absence of permanent communities; however, the Antarctic marine environment remains exposed to significant environmental risks, principally those related to climate change and associated processes such as ocean acidification and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing. The rational use of Antarctic marine living resources has been applied by CCAMLR through the principles of decision-making based on the best available science, precautionary catch limits for target stocks and management of fishing operations in respect of conserving ecological relationships. CCAMLR has successfully addressed a range of by-catch threats including the development and implementation of globally recognised best-practice measures for the reduction of seabird by-catch, which subsequently led to near-zero levels of seabird by-catch in CCAMLR managed fisheries. In 2005, CCAMLR Members commenced a significant and comprehensive scientifically-based process to support the establishment of a representative system of marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean, to be implemented by the June 2012 deadline outlined in the WSSD. In 2009, the first component of this system was established by the Commission: a high-seas marine protected area covering 94,000 km<sup>2</sup> near the South Orkney islands. CCAMLR has also implemented a series of precautionary measures to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from adverse impacts of bottom fishing. In addition, as a member of the Antarctic Treaty family, CCAMLR Members actively participate in the 1998 Committee for Environmental Protection (the ‘Madrid’ Protocol) which is responsible for the harmonisation and designation of provisions relating to the protection of the Antarctic environment, such as implementation of environmental principles for all activities conducted

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<sup>1</sup> Submitted by the CCAMLR Secretariat without prejudice to the individual views of CCAMLR Members: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, People’s Republic of China, Chile, European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Namibia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay.



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in the area. Efforts to document the enormous diversity of marine life in the Antarctic continue to be supported by CCAMLR Members and other partners and include the International Polar Year 5-year Initiative to undertake a Census of Antarctic Marine Life (CAML) and the affiliated SCAR Marine Biodiversity Information Network (MarBIN).