Australia's contribution to additional relevant information requested by paragraph 88 of resolution 61/222 of the UNGA

namely information regarding "the available assistance to and measures that may be taken by developing States, in particular the least developed States and small island developing States, as well as coastal African States, to realize the benefits of sustainable and effective development of marine resources and uses of the oceans within the limits of national jurisdiction."

The following information outlines and briefly explains the assistance contributed by Australia relevant to paragraph 88 of resolution 61/222 of UNGA:

1. Framework document *Valuing Pacific Fish*, which sets out an approach to the development of sustainable coastal and oceanic fisheries in the Pacific.

   - In November 2007, at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Conference in Apia, Samoa, the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) released the document *Valuing Pacific Fish – a framework for fisheries-related development assistance in the Pacific.* The framework recognises that sustainable oceanic and coastal aquaculture:

     o are very important components of the formal and informal economies of Pacific island countries;

     o are important to regional growth and food security; and

     o are a factor in regional stability and security.

   - The framework sets out a series of thematic priorities, including improved governance and capacity building in the public sector, the industry and the wider community in implementing ecologically-sustainable fisheries and improving the flow of benefits from fisheries to Pacific island peoples.

2. Assistance to fisheries-related regional organisations in the Pacific.

   - Pacific island countries vary significantly in their capacity to implement domestic legislation and measures to meet the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and to meet measures under regional fisheries management arrangements including the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The development of strong regional cooperation and regional agencies which are able to meet national needs have made important contributions to the region.

   - The two agencies in the region with primary fisheries-related responsibilities are:

     o the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA), which has primary responsibility for oceanic fisheries such as tuna and tuna-like species. It provides support for its members to participate in negotiations of the WCPFC and to strengthen national fisheries management capacity and tuna industry development. It also provides support to accelerate the development of regional fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance capacity, recognising the significant regional threat of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

- o the Marine Resources Division of the Secretariat to the Pacific Community (SPC), which provides complementary capacity in scientific assessments of stock structure and status to the FFA and to the WCPFC, and in coastal fisheries and aquaculture.

  Australia will continue to support the two agencies with current funding levels of AU$4-6m annually in program-based and extra-budgetary support.

3. Provision of Pacific Patrol Boats.

   - The Australian Government Department of Defence manages the development and implementation of the Pacific Patrol Boat (PPB) Program. The PPB Program has been operating in the South Pacific since May 1987 when the first boat was delivered to Papua New Guinea. The full complement of 22 vessels was achieved with a boat delivered to the Federated States of Micronesia in May 1997. The Program includes access to some 30 Navy Maritime Surveillance Advisers and Technical Advisers seconded to PPB countries, with ongoing training, maintenance and operating support.

   - The boats provide South Pacific countries with a credible maritime surveillance capability that has enhanced the capacity of these countries to protect their maritime resources. The boats have also been used for purposes such as quarantine, search and rescue, disaster relief, medical evacuation and general policing work, and have thereby made a contribution to nation building.

4. Bilateral assistance.

   - AusAID has funded fisheries-related programs in Papua New Guinea (strengthening of Kavieng Fisheries College); Samoa (Capacity building in the fisheries ministry and development of community-based management programs); and most recently in Tonga.

   - Institutional strengthening programs are currently being developed in the small fisheries-dependent States in the central Pacific, initially in Nauru and Kiribati, with a focus on the capacities of marine resource management agencies and other departments with fisheries-related responsibilities. A component of that is the strengthening of national monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) capacities, and improvements in the performance of the Pacific Patrol Boat Program, a major contribution through the Defence Cooperation Program to regional maritime security capacity.

5. Support for development of submissions to the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on Extended Continental Shelf (ECS) boundaries.

   - Again, recognising the limited capacity in the region, and the importance of the preparation of submissions by May 2009 to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on Extended Continental Shelf claims, AusAID has been supporting the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) in its program of technical support for the preparation of submissions by Pacific island countries. AusAID has also provided assistance to Geoscience Australia in a

cooperative program to support that process through training and assistance in technical components of the work.

- There are continuing concerns that additional support will be required if some potential claimants are to develop and lodge submissions in time.

6. Continuing discussions with SOPAC on economic exclusive zone (EEZ) boundary mapping in the Pacific.

- All of the 22 Pacific island countries have shared EEZ boundaries as well as components that border the high seas. While some have agreed fisheries management boundaries under national legislation, and almost all the necessary baselines have been determined with SOPAC assistance, a minority of the shared EEZ lines are formally delimited and agreed.

- There is a need to assist also in the development of formal EEZ boundaries and settlement of outstanding EEZ disputes, including France/Vanuatu, Tonga/Fiji and others. AusAID is continuing discussions on potential mechanisms to accelerate the delineation and publication of agreed EEZ boundaries in the region.

7. Preliminary discussions on the development of a joint program with the United States, New Zealand, France and Australia and Pacific island countries on deep seabed and seamount mapping in the region.

- Discussions have also been started with SOPAC and others on the development of a joint proposal for a cooperative program of seabed mapping, using multi-beam swath technology, to increase coverage of seamounts and other seabed structures in the region for use in fisheries and resource management, recognising that the capacity for infrastructure and seabed surveys in the region is limited.

8. Training on port State measures and fisheries monitoring.

- Australia provided training and advice to Malaysian authorities on enforcement and compliance techniques for domestic and international port State functions, including on the monitoring of seafood products and fishing vessels accessing Malaysian ports.

9. Provision of scientific research and advice.

- The Bureau of Rural Sciences (BRS) is involved in the scientific committees of Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to which Australia is a member. BRS input helps to strengthen the fisheries science and management capacity of developing coastal states of the Pacific and Indian Oceans. BRS recently collaborated in a project with the Secretariat of the South Pacific Community to assess the status of the south-western Pacific striped marlin.