



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

27 February 2015

Excellency,

Pursuant to paragraphs 199 and 200 of the General Assembly resolution 68/70, the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological resources beyond areas of national jurisdiction met in New York, from 20 to 23 January 2015.

The Co-Chairs of the Working Group, H.E. Mr. Palitha T.B. Kohona, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations and Ms. Liesbeth Lijnzaad of the Netherlands have informed me that the Working Group has fulfilled its mandate to provide recommendations to the General Assembly as requested in resolution 69/245 (para.214).

I would like to thank the Co-Chairs for their commitment and outstanding leadership throughout the process. I would also like to thank the Member States for their spirit of flexibility, which enabled the timely fulfilment of this important mandate.

The fulfilment of this mandate comes at a critical time, when UN Member States are elaborating a transformative post-2015 development agenda. In addition to the intergovernmental negotiations, the issue of oceans and sustainable development will be the focus of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process, whose sixteenth meeting will be held in New York on 6 – 10 April 2015.

Going forward, Member States would need to fulfil an important Rio + 20 Conference mandate, as provided in paragraph 162 of “The future we want”, namely to build “on the work of the ad hoc working group and before the end of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly to address, on urgent basis, the issue of conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including by taking a decision on the development of an international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”.

I welcome the interest expressed by many delegations to accomplish this important task and assure you of my support.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam K. Kutesa', written over a white background.

Sam K. Kutesa

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York