

31 March, 2016

Excellency,

As you will recall, on 23 December 2015, the General Assembly adopted resolution 70/235 on "Oceans and the law of the sea". In particular, I wish to draw your attention to paragraph 281 of that resolution, which launches the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects ("Regular Process"), as well as paragraph 283, which requests the Secretary-General to convene the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process ("Working Group"), from 3 to 9 August 2016.

By paragraph 284 of the same resolution, the General Assembly also decided that the Working Group shall continue to be coordinated by two co-chairs representing developing and developed countries, respectively, to be appointed by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with regional groups, for the duration of the second cycle.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that after consultations with the Regional Groups I have decided to appoint Her Excellency Mrs. Carolyn Schwalger, Deputy Permanent Representative of New Zealand, and Ms. Juliette Rosita Riley, Deputy Permanent Representative of Barbados as co-chairs for the duration of the second cycle of the Regular Process.

I trust you will accord to the new co-chairs all the support in the exercise of their important responsibility.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mogens Lykketoft

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