



WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION  
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DU COMMERCE  
ORGANIZACIÓN MUNDIAL DEL COMERCIO

12-00252  
17

Direct line: (+41 22) 739 5903  
Direct fax: (+41 22) 739 5505  
Email: johann.human@wto.org

Mr. Sergei Tarassenko  
Director  
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Room DC2-0450  
United Nations  
New York, NY 10017  
USA

RECEIVED

Div. Reference:  
Reg. Reference:

JAN 27 2012

13 January 2012

DIVISION FOR OCEAN AFFAIRS  
AND THE LAW OF THE SEA

Dear Mr. Tarassenko,

The Director-General has asked me to reply to your letter of 29 December 2011, requesting a written contribution from the WTO in connection with the UN Secretary-General's forthcoming report to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly, on developments sustainable fisheries.

As you are no doubt aware, sustainability considerations are at the centre of the mandate pursuant to which the WTO Doha Development Agenda fisheries subsidies negotiations, referred to in paragraph 77 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/68, are being conducted. In particular, the Negotiating Group on Rules has received and considered many proposals in which fisheries management systems and measures would form part of eventual new disciplines on fisheries subsidies, including as a possible condition under new disciplines for the provision of subsidies that otherwise would be prohibited. Related to this are discussions as to how to ensure that developing Members receive adequate assistance to effectively implement eventual new disciplines, including management systems and measures. Differences remain, however, as to the exact nature and scope of new disciplines on fisheries subsidies, and the precise role that would be played in that context by fisheries management systems and measures, and sustainability considerations in general. These issues will only be fully clarified when the Doha Round reaches a conclusion.

Yours sincerely,

Johann Human  
Director  
Rules Division

- J. A. Baez  
- M. Shew'Chuk  
  
27.01.12