

**CONTRIBUTION OF THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION TO THE
REPORT OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA
PURSUANT TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 72/72 OF 5 DECEMBER 2017
ENTITLED "OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA"**

Since the last reporting period, there have been developments at the World Trade Organization (WTO) relevant to section IX of the resolution, "Marine Environment and Marine Resources". In particular, at the WTO's 11th Ministerial Conference held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in December 2017, Ministers adopted a decision on fisheries subsidies (document WT/MIN(17)/64) that calls on Members to engage constructively in the WTO's ongoing fisheries subsidies negotiations, with a view to adopting by 2019 an agreement on comprehensive and effective disciplines that prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies that contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, and eliminate subsidies that contribute to IUU-fishing recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing country Members and least developed country Members should be an integral part of these negotiations. The language of this Decision thus parallels that of SDG Target 14.6, on fisheries subsidies. On the basis of the Decision, WTO Members are engaged in an intensive negotiating process aimed at reaching the mandated outcome.