

Translated from Arabic

No.: 97/2008/PRCL

The Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea within the Office of Legal Affairs in New York and, with reference to memorandum DOALOS-08-00075 dated 29 January 2008, has the honour to include below the remarks of the Iraqi Government on “the assistance available to and measures that may be taken by developing 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 Public Authority for the Development of Fisheries in Iraq is one of the sectoral authorities responsible for fisheries activities within the Ministry of Agriculture. It has not engaged in marine fishing and has no fishing fleet in territorial waters. However, private fishing boats operate.
- No regulatory mechanism for fishing or monitoring sustainable or migratory fish stocks exists and it is difficult to evaluate production quantity and fish varieties. The territorial waters of the Arabian Gulf are bordered by a number of neighbouring States and contain numerous species of sustainable fish with a high commercial value. Moreover, they are a breeding ground for numerous species of fish which migrate to the region from the Arabian Sea and the Western Indian Ocean.

In view of the above, the proposals submitted for inclusion in the study of the Secretary-General to be presented at the sixty-third session of the General Assembly are as follows:

1. A joint working mechanism should be established, based on the legal instruments and agreements which deal with the maintenance of these fisheries. In addition, all States bordering the Arabian Gulf, including the Republic of Iraq, should assume their responsibility, contribute actively and adhere to marine fisheries law;
2. Those using these waters should regulate fishing and ensure that they do not encroach upon the territorial waters of others;
3. The types of nets used should be controlled, in accordance with marine life protection law;
4. Environmental pollution by military vessels and oil tankers should be controlled and monitored;
5. The current plans of the General Authority for the Development of Fisheries include the preparation of studies on the establishment of a fishing port. It also plans to encourage the States, institutions and governmental organizations concerned to offer technical support and guidance, in order to enable Iraq to make a palpable contribution to the implementation of the recommendations and resolutions of the General Assembly.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

9 April 2008
