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The Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority presents his compliments to the members of the Authority and has the honour to inform member States that, following consultations with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management of the United Nations, the dates for the fifteenth session of the Authority will be 25 May 2009 to 5 June 2009. The Legal and Technical Commission will commence its meetings on 18 May 2009.

It is regretted that these dates overlap in part with the Review Conference on Fish Stocks, to be convened in New York from 1 to 5 June 2009. It is further regretted that, at this stage, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management has indicated that it has no capacity to provide interpretation for the meeting of the Legal and Technical Commission during the period 18 to 23 May 2009. Unfortunately, despite intensive consultations with the relevant departments of the United Nations, it would appear that all other possibilities as to dates have been exhausted and there are no other alternatives given the limited capacity of the United Nations to service meetings away from headquarters. The Secretary-General regrets this situation and will continue to explore other alternatives for interpretation service for the meeting of the Legal and Technical Commission as well as for more convenient dates for the sixteenth session of the Authority in 2010.

The Secretary-General of the International Seabed Authority avails himself of this opportunity to renew to the members of the Authority the assurances of his highest consideration.

2 July 2008

All Member of the Authority