SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

PO Box 240, Apia, Samoa
E: sprep@sprep.org
T: +685 21929
F: +685 20231
W: www.sprep.org

The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Natural Solutions for Island Resilience

CIRCULAR

FILE: AP 1/1 **TO:** SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 29 March 2016

CIRCULAR: 16/15

SUBJECT: **Development of an International Legally Binding Instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction", 28 March to 8 April 2016, UN Headquarters, New York**

Dear Pacific Island Country Members,

On 19 June 2015, the UN General Assembly decided to develop an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction.

To this end, it decided to establish, prior to holding an intergovernmental conference, a Preparatory Committee, to make substantive recommendations to the Assembly on the elements of a draft text of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS, taking into account the various reports of the Co-Chairs over the preceding 3 meetings of the "Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction".

The Preparatory Committee will start its work in 2016 and, by the end of 2017, report to the Assembly on its progress. The first session of the Preparatory Committee will take place in New York, from 28 March to 8 April 2016.

Please find attached a copy of the Provisional Programme of Work.

We appreciate if you could inform us who will be attending on behalf of your country, particularly from the environment sector. Please provide this information to Warren Lee Long (warren@sprep.org).

Mr. Jope Davetanivalu will be attending the meeting on behalf of SPREP and will be part of a CROP team coordinated by the Office of the Pacific Oceans Commissioner based at PIFS. We look forward, through Jope, to providing assistance to your delegation.

For any questions, please contact Warren.

Yours sincerely,



Kosi Latu
Director General

KL/WL/rmg