

Original: English

**RESPONSE FROM THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE
FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONVENTION**



**Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations**

The Director-General

LEG-DG/16/ 1090

14. XI. 2016

Dear Mr Tsamenyi,

I refer to your letters of 27 September 2016 and 9 February 2016 concerning proposed amendments to the International Convention for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas ("the Convention").

We have carefully considered your letter and welcome the detailed elaboration of the issues at hand.

At the outset, I confirm that it is our view that, should they wish to do so, the members of ICCAT may decide to amend the Convention to transfer the Depositary functions so that they are no longer discharged by the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations ("FAO").

I assure you that, in the event that such an amendment to the Convention is adopted, FAO stands ready to hand over original instruments and related documents currently held by the Depositary in accordance with any arrangements that may be reached with a new Depositary.

You also raised the question of whether the transfer of Depositary functions would have any impact upon the relationship between ICCAT and its members with FAO in other areas. I am pleased to reassure you and the members of ICCAT that a change in the Depositary would not have any negative impact upon the collaborative relationship that exists between FAO and ICCAT.

Yours Sincerely,

José Graziano da Silva

Mr Martin Tsamenyi
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