



# General Assembly

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**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**  
New York, 20-23 January 2015

## **Format and annotated provisional agenda and organization of work**

### **I. Format**

1. The meeting 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 is convened pursuant to paragraphs 199 and 200 of General Assembly resolution 68/70, within its mandate established by resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78.
2. In resolution 68/70, paragraph 200, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene three meetings of the Working Group, to take place from 1 to 4 April and 16 to 19 June 2014 and from 20 to 23 January 2015.

### **Chairmanship, participation and methods of work**

3. The meeting will be co-chaired by the Permanent Representative of Sri Lanka to the United Nations, Palitha T. B. Kohona, and the Legal Adviser of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, Liesbeth Lijnzaad. Both were appointed by the President of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries.
4. As decided by the General Assembly in paragraph 79 of its resolution 60/30, the meeting of the Working Group shall be open to all States Members of the United Nations and all parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with others invited as observers in accordance with past practice of the United Nations, and may be conducted in closed sessions, as appropriate.
5. The Co-Chairs have prepared the present format to facilitate the work of the Working Group.



## **Agenda and annotated agenda**

6. The Co-Chairs have prepared a provisional agenda for the meeting ([A/AC.276/L.15](#)). To assist delegations in their preparations, the Co-Chairs have also compiled an annotated provisional agenda and organization of work (see sect. II).

## **Outcome of the meeting of the Working Group**

7. In paragraph 198 of its resolution 68/70, the General Assembly requested the Working Group, within its mandate established by resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78, and in order to prepare for the decision to be taken at the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, to make recommendations to the Assembly on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention. To that end, the Assembly decided that the Working Group should meet for three meetings of four days each, with the possibility of the Assembly deciding that additional meetings would be held, if needed, within existing resources.

8. At the meeting of the Working Group held from 16 to 19 June 2014, the Co-Chairs were requested by the Working Group to prepare a draft document containing elements of recommendations to the General Assembly for circulation to Member States in advance of the meeting to be held in January 2015. Member States were invited to provide suggestions on possible elements of recommendations (see [A/69/177](#), paras. 82-84). The Co-Chairs will therefore present draft elements of recommendations for the consideration of the Working Group. Delegations will have an opportunity to propose amendments to the draft recommendations prior to their adoption. The recommendations adopted by the Working Group will be made available to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session as part of the report on the meeting, which will also include a Co-Chairs' summary of the discussions. The report will be transmitted by the Co-Chairs to the President of the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly.

## **II. Annotated provisional agenda and organization of work**

**Tuesday, 20 January 2015**

**10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

*Item 1. Opening of the meeting*

9. The meeting of the Working Group will be opened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations or his representative.

10. The Co-Chairs will make opening remarks.

*Item 2. Adoption of the agenda*

11. The Working Group will be invited to consider and adopt the agenda of the meeting, as contained in document [A/AC.276/L.15](#).

*Item 3. Organization of work*

12. The Working Group will be invited to consider the organization of work of the meeting, as contained in the present document.

13. The schedule of agenda items is indicative and may change depending on the progress made in the discussions.

*Item 4. General statements*

14. Delegations will have an opportunity to deliver statements of a general nature concerning the issues under consideration by the Working Group. Owing to time constraints and bearing in mind the opportunity for delegations to make more detailed comments under subsequent agenda items, delegations are invited to limit their general statements to five minutes and to make them available in writing to facilitate the work of the interpreters.

**3-6 p.m.**

*Item 5. Consideration, in order to prepare for the decision to be taken at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, of the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, within the mandate established by the Assembly in its resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78, with a view to making recommendations to the Assembly*

15. Under this item, delegations will be invited to consider, in order to prepare for the decision to be taken at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention, within the mandate established by the Assembly in its resolution 66/231 and in the light of resolution 67/78, with a view to making recommendations to the Assembly.

16. In accordance with paragraph 201 of resolution 68/70, in order to inform the deliberations of the Working Group, Member States were invited, by a letter dated 8 July 2014, to submit their views by 31 October 2014 on the scope, parameters and feasibility of an international instrument under the Convention, in order to update the informal working document and its addendum dated 11 March 2014 and 27 May 2014 respectively, and for circulation by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to Member States as an additional compilation of the views of Member States, no later than three weeks before the third meeting of the Working Group.

**Wednesday, 21 January 2015****10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

*Item 6. Consideration and adoption of draft recommendations to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly*

17. In the letter of the Co-Chairs dated 8 July 2014, with reference to the request made by delegations at the meeting of the Working Group held from 16 to 19 June 2014, for the Co-Chairs to prepare draft elements of recommendations to the General Assembly to facilitate discussions at the meeting of the Working Group in January 2015 (see [A/69/177](#), paras. 82-84), the Co-Chairs invited suggestions from Member States to assist the preparation of such draft elements.

18. Under item 6, in order to facilitate the deliberations of the Working Group, the Co-Chairs will present draft elements of recommendations to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly. Delegations will have an opportunity to consider those draft elements before finalizing and adopting the draft recommendations to be transmitted to the Assembly pursuant to paragraph 198 of its resolution 68/70.

**3-6 p.m.**

*Item 6. (continued)*

19. Delegations will continue their deliberations on item 6 on draft recommendations to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

**Thursday, 22 January 2015**

**10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

*Item 6. (continued)*

20. Delegations will continue their deliberations on item 6 on draft recommendations to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

**3-6 p.m.**

*Item 6. (continued)*

21. Delegations will continue their deliberations on item 6 on draft recommendations to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

**Friday, 23 January 2015**

**10 a.m.-1 p.m.**

*Item 6. (continued)*

22. Delegations will continue their deliberations on item 6 on draft recommendations to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

**3-6 p.m.**

*Item 6. (concluded)*

23. Delegations will conclude their deliberations on item 6 and adopt recommendations to the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly.

*Item 7. Other matters*

24. The Working Group will consider any other matters that delegations may wish to discuss.

*Item 8. Closure of the meeting*

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