

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Information for participants

Sixteenth meeting: "Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic"

**New York, 6 to 10 April 2015
Conference Room 1 (CB)**

Background

In 1999, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process) in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea by considering the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced (resolution 54/33).

In paragraph 298 of its resolution 69/245, the General Assembly decided that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the Informal Consultative Process would focus its discussions at its sixteenth meeting on "Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic". The sixteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 6 to 10 April 2015.

Co-Chairs

The President of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States, and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries, has appointed **His Excellency Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations and **His Excellency Ambassador Don MacKay of New Zealand** Co-Chairs of the sixteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process.

Format and annotated provisional agenda

An advance, unedited version of the Format and annotated provisional agenda for the sixteenth meeting are available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, pending issuance in all official languages in due course.

Report of the Secretary-General

Prior to the meeting, the advance and unedited reporting material on the topic of focus of the sixteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process will be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm).

Side events

Requests to hold side events during the Informal Consultative Process must be communicated in writing to the Secretariat no later than **16 March 2015**. All requests should be made by filling in the dedicated request form available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm), and should be addressed to the Secretary of the Informal Consultative Process (doalos@un.org, with a copy to salpin@un.org and takei@un.org) with an indication of the title, organizing institution(s) and preferred date for the event.

The subject of the message should specify the following: “Request for side event: Informal Consultative Process”. Side events are expected to be held each day, during lunch time, from 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm. Owing to the limited number of time slots available, the Division may not be able to accommodate all requests for side events or preferred dates. It therefore reserves the right to suggest the organization of joint side events should competing requests be received for the same day. Should the number of requests exceed the number of available days, the Division may also exercise its discretion in selecting side events with a view to ensuring variety in the topics covered by the side events.

Trust Fund

A voluntary trust fund was established under General Assembly resolution 55/7 to assist delegates and panellists of developing States, in particular least developed States, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, to defray certain costs in connection with their participation in the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process.

States may designate only one individual, either as a panellist or a delegate, to benefit from the Trust Fund. Furthermore, pursuant to paragraph 297 of resolution 69/245, representatives from developing countries who are invited by the Co-Chairs, in consultation with Governments, to make presentations during the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process shall receive priority consideration in the disbursement of funds from the Trust Fund. Once this priority has been met, applications will be considered on a ‘first come first served’ basis for delegates. Panellists from developing countries shall also be eligible to receive daily subsistence allowance subject to the availability of funds after the travel costs of all other eligible participants, including eligible delegates, are covered.

Applications for assistance must be in accordance with the procedure outlined in the invitation letter to the meeting. Please note that a formal request, accompanied by the

application form duly completed and signed by the individual for whom assistance is sought, must be received by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, **no later than 2 March 2015**, and proof of relevant visas must be provided to the Division three weeks before the meeting by 16 March 2015.

Completed applications and supporting documentation must be submitted by e-mail (doalos@un.org, with a copy to hicuburundi@un.org and baillet@un.org). The United Nations does not arrange accommodation or visas for participants to the Informal Consultative Process.

UN Grounds Passes

Intergovernmental organizations

Representatives from intergovernmental organizations invited to attend the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process should communicate their intention to attend the meeting directly to the Protocol and Liaison Service **by 23 March 2015**, copy to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, for issuance of grounds passes, which allow access to the United Nations premises where the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process are held. The procedure for such request is outlined in the invitation letter to the meeting. The representatives of intergovernmental organizations having a Liaison Office in New York must get their pass from their respective Liaison Office.

Non-governmental organizations

The names and contact details of representatives of non-governmental organizations invited to attend the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process should be communicated to the Division (doalos@un.org, with a copy to salpin@un.org and takei@un.org) for issuance of grounds passes, **by 23 March 2015** to allow access to the United Nations premises where the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process are held. The Division will communicate directly to the non-governmental organization representatives the venue, date and time for pick-up of their UN grounds pass.

Secretariat

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, carries out the secretariat functions for the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process.