

# **Guidelines for the second round of Workshops in 2018 to Assist the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects**

## **Purpose and objectives**

1. The programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, developed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects,<sup>1</sup> and endorsed by the General Assembly,<sup>2</sup> includes in the activities for 2018 the holding of a second round of regional workshops to, *inter alia*, inform the collection of regional-level information and data for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment, to build capacity and to facilitate outreach and awareness-raising.<sup>3</sup> These Guidelines apply to the second round of regional workshops and are intended to give guidance for the arrangements for such workshops.
2. The objectives of each of these workshops should therefore be to:
  - (a) Support the development of the second world ocean assessment by enabling the collection of regional-level information and data for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment and to enable relevant members of writing teams for specified chapters<sup>4</sup> to meet, and to interact with experts from the region in the fields covered by those chapters;
  - (b) Enable the regional experts to understand better the approaches of the Regular Process and to develop their skills in integrated assessment, covering environmental, social and economic aspects;
  - (c) Enable the writing teams for the chapters selected for the workshop, with the help of the Joint Coordinators and the members of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process (“the Group of Experts”) who are present, to discuss the structure of their chapter, its relationship with the other chapters of the Outline for the second world ocean assessment (“the Outline”) and responsibilities for developing the chapter text;
  - (d) Provide opportunities for the members of the Group of Experts present to highlight important issues within the Outline other than those of the selected chapters, in order to broaden understanding of the full range of the Regular Process;
  - (e) Consider what learning points / needs and resources may be relevant to the inventory of capacity-building inventory of needs and opportunities relevant for the Regular Process being compiled and maintained by the secretariat, and to the multi-stakeholder dialogue (case studies of good practices) and capacity-building partnership event, to be held in early 2019.
  - (f) Consider what capacity-building steps might be taken, both at global and regional levels, in relation to the issues covered by the selected chapters.
3. The Group of Experts will inform the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (“the Bureau”), for its consideration, of the chapters which will be the focus of each regional workshop.

## **Number and locations**

4. States, relevant organizations, bodies, funds or programmes within the United Nations system and intergovernmental regional organizations are invited to offer to host workshops in 2018 for the following ocean

---

<sup>1</sup> See the attachment to A/71/362.

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly resolution 71/257, paragraph 299.

<sup>3</sup> See, *inter alia*, paragraphs 9 (c) and 13 (b) of the Programme of Work 2017-2020, attachment to A/71/362.

<sup>4</sup> Where a separate writing team is established for a section of a chapter, this section may be treated as a chapter for the purpose of these guidelines.

areas:

- (a) The North Pacific;
- (b) The South Pacific;
- (c) The Indian Ocean (including the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal), the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and the ROPME/RECOFI area;<sup>5</sup>
- (d) The North Atlantic, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea; and
- (e) The South Atlantic (between the African and American coasts) and the wider Caribbean.

5. Separate workshops will not be held for the Arctic Ocean or the Southern Ocean. Instead, correspondence which was initiated during the first round of regional workshops in 2017, will continue between the relevant international bodies and forums for those areas (in particular, the Antarctic Treaty System and the Arctic Council) and the Group of Experts of the Regular Process to enable those bodies and forums to contribute their views on the issues relevant to the workshops. If requested, members of the Group of Experts and Pool of Experts will make themselves available for consultation.

6. To the extent that resources permit, one or two further meetings of writing teams may be held during the first half of 2019 where the Bureau considers it desirable to do so. The themes of such meetings will be determined by the Bureau on the basis of recommendations from the Group of Experts.

### **Timing**

7. Seven possible time-slots have been identified for workshops to be held between June and December 2018:

- (a) 25 – 29 June, 2018;
- (b) 2 – 27 July, 2018;
- (c) 30 July – 10 August, 2018;
- (d) 24 – 28 September, 2018;
- (e) 15 – 26 October, 2018;
- (f) 5 – 9 November, 2018;
- (g) 26 – 30 November, 2018.

These Guidelines will be supplemented by details regarding the format of the workshops and the proposed composition and structure of the meetings of the writing teams.

8. Potential hosts are invited to indicate within which of these time periods they would wish to host a workshop.

### **Activities of workshops**

9. The agenda of a workshop to support the Regular Process should reflect the objectives set out in paragraph 2 above. The activities of a workshop should take full account of the principles for the Regular Process recommended by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2009 and reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly in 2016,<sup>6</sup> and the various recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

---

<sup>5</sup> Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) Members: Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Regional Commission for Fisheries (RECOFI) Members: Bahrain, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.

<sup>6</sup> See A/64/347, annex, and paragraph 285 of General Assembly resolution 71/257.

## **Hosts**

10. Workshops are to be hosted by Member States, members of United Nations specialized agencies and relevant organizations, bodies, funds or programmes within the United Nations system. They are to be organized under the auspices of the United Nations,<sup>7</sup> in coordination with the secretariat of the Regular Process and with the assistance of members of the Group of Experts and Pool of Experts, as appropriate. For the organization of such workshops, as they affect these regions, hosts may request the cooperation of relevant regional intergovernmental organizations and/or that of relevant national scientific institutions.

## **Participation**

11. Member States of the United Nations, members of United Nations specialized agencies and relevant organizations, bodies, funds or programmes within the United Nations system, shall be entitled to participate in any workshop that they consider relevant to them, up to the number of available places. Relevant regional intergovernmental organizations in the region are encouraged to participate, including regional seas organizations, regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, relevant regional intergovernmental marine science organizations and intergovernmental organizations and arrangements undertaking work in relation to large marine ecosystems. For practical reasons, the logistics and the number of invitees will need to be managed by the host in consultation with the secretariat of the Regular Process, as well as in consultation with the Bureau, as appropriate. Member States should consider arranging for their National Focal Points for the Regular Process to assist with identification of participants for regional workshops and the organization of such workshops as required, and where possible, to participate in relevant workshops.

12. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or with Convention secretariats, relevant non-governmental organizations which accredited to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio + 20”) or which participated in the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (“United Nations Oceans Conference”) in accordance with General Assembly resolution 70/303: Modalities for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, relevant scientific institutions and organizations representing major groups as defined in Agenda 21 may request invitations to participate in the workshops. Relevant regional marine science institutions and organizations and relevant regional arrangements undertaking work in relation to large marine ecosystems are particularly encouraged to participate. The organizations, arrangements and institutions referred to in this paragraph should be those active in ocean affairs and marine science whose participation can help advance the work and objectives of the Regular Process. Hosts may reserve a number of places in the workshop to be filled by such invitations.

13. Each workshop should include at least one member of the Group of Experts, one member of the Pool of Experts, as appropriate, and one member of the secretariat of the Regular Process, which will be coordinated with the secretariat of the Regular Process. The Joint Coordinators of the Group of Experts will be invited to participate in all the workshops. If possible, all members of the Group of Experts from States in the area covered by the workshop should participate. The Lead Members from the Group of Experts for the chapters selected for the workshop as well as relevant members of the writing teams should also be invited to participate. The participation of the members of the Group of Experts and of the Pool of Experts, as appropriate, from developing countries from the region and the Joint Coordinator from the developing country, as well as that of the relevant members of the writing teams, will be supported within the provision made in the regular budget of the United Nations for 2018/2019.

14. Hosts may, as appropriate, encourage the participation of relevant members of the Pool of Experts, including their attendance in the regional workshops and seeking their input on organization, networking, and substantive input to the preparation and review of the outcome of the workshops. Preference should be given to experts in the fields covered by chapters selected for the workshop.

---

<sup>7</sup> Such workshops will require the conclusion of a host country agreement.

### **Chair and secretariat**

15. Hosts should designate a chair (or co-chairs) of the workshop, who will be expected to take responsibility for summarizing the outcomes of the workshop with the aid of the workshop support staff and members of the Group of Experts. Hosts may consider inviting a member of the Group of Experts and, as appropriate of the Pool of Experts, to be the chair, or a co-chair, of the workshop. Hosts may provide guidance, where needed, on what the priorities for the region are, as well as on potential participants and other modalities for the workshops.

16. Hosts should provide support staff to organize proceedings in consultation with the secretariat of the Regular Process and the members of the Group of Experts and, as appropriate, of the Pool of Experts, who are taking part, and to help the chair(s), the member(s) of the Group of Experts and the secretariat to provide a summary of the outcome.

### **Output of workshops**

17. The output of the workshop should take the form of:

- (a) Notes by the writing teams on the issues discussed in relation to each of the chapters selected for the workshop. To deliver these, each writing team should be asked to designate one of its members to take responsibility for the production of these notes;
- (b) A summary of other discussions and presentations taking place in the workshop. The member(s) of the Group of Experts, of the Pool of Experts, as appropriate, and the secretariat of the Regular Process will help to produce this summary. Provision should be made for the participants to comment on a draft of the summary and for the final version to be revised by the chair(s) and representative(s) of the Group of Experts and of the Pool of Experts, as appropriate, in the light of such comments.

18. The secretariat of the Regular Process will play an important role in ensuring that the output of each workshop is captured and presented in a way which will support the work of the second cycle of the Regular Process.

19. Those functions would include capturing the relevant information presented (directly and indirectly) during the workshops, including regional/national informational needs with respect to the Regular Process and its outputs.

20. The secretariat would also assist in the preparation of the summary of discussions. It would also be responsible for the development and adaptation of the outreach materials relevant to the Regular Process and its outputs.

21. The division of work in preparing the written output of each workshop should be agreed between the host and the secretariat of the Regular Process, in consultation with the member(s) of the Group of Experts and of the Pool of Experts, as appropriate.

### **Follow-up to the workshops**

22. The final version of the summary of discussions, which could include (subject to the discretion of the relevant writing team) the notes on specific chapters, should be made publicly available on the Regular Process website.

23. The secretariat of the Regular Process should ensure that liaison continues after the workshop with bodies that have contributed to it and with National Focal Points in the region. In particular, the secretariat should seek to facilitate follow-up on capacity-building possibilities identified by the workshop both with respect to the further clarification of needs as well as the identification of best practices.