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General Assembly

**Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State
of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects**

Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole

**United Nations Headquarters, New York
17 to 18 April 2017**

FORMAT

Methods of work

1. The eighth meeting of the General Assembly 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, is convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/257 of 23 December 2016 on “Oceans and the law of the sea”. In paragraph 317 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene, in 2017, two meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of no more than five days total duration, one from 17 and 18 April 2017 to consider the Technical Abstracts in accordance with the programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, and another from 6 to 8 September 2017.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 204 of General Assembly resolution 65/37 A of 7 December 2010 on “Oceans and the law of the sea”, the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole are open to Member States and Observers of the United Nations. In accordance with past practice of the United Nations, relevant intergovernmental organizations and nongovernmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will be invited to participate in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole. Relevant scientific institutions, and major groups identified in Agenda 21 may request an invitation to participate in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

3. The meeting will be coordinated by two Co-Chairs, Ms. Juliette Babb-Riley (Barbados) and Mrs. Carolyn Schwalger (New Zealand), representing, respectively, developing and developed countries, appointed by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with regional groups.



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4. Pursuant to paragraphs 205 and 206 of resolution 66/231, paragraph 229 of resolution 67/78 and paragraph 305 of resolution 71/257, the Co-Chairs will be assisted by the members of the Bureau who have been appointed by their respective regional groups.

Agenda

5. The Co-Chairs will propose a provisional agenda, a provisional annotated agenda and an organization of work, including a timetable, for the meeting.

Outcome

6. In accordance with the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole as set out in paragraph 317 of resolution 71/257, the Co-Chairs will propose that the outcome of the meeting consist of a set of recommendations to the General Assembly.

7. The Co-Chairs, in consultation with the Bureau, will prepare draft recommendations for consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole. The recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole will be transmitted by the Co-Chairs to the President of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, together with the recommendations of the ninth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to be held from 6 to 8 September 2017, by the seventy-second session of the General Assembly, for consideration.