

Guidelines for the first round of Workshops in 2017 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 Whole¹ and endorsed by the General Assembly,² includes in the activities for 2017 the holding of regional workshops, which are to begin in the second half of 2017, to build capacity, support the development of assessment(s) and facilitate outreach and awareness-raising.³ These Guidelines apply only to the first round of regional workshops and are intended to give guidance to the arrangements for such workshops.
2. The objectives of each of these workshops should therefore be to:
 - (a) Provide an opportunity to present the main conclusions of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment – World Ocean Assessment I;
 - (b) Enable participants to put forward their views on the scope and structure that should be adopted for the assessment or assessments to be prepared in the second cycle of the Regular Process, which is/are to be completed by the end of 2020. Given that the General Assembly decided that the first cycle of the Regular Process should focus on establishing a baseline, and that subsequent cycles should extend to establishing trends,⁴ the workshops should in particular aim to conclude:
 - (i) What aspects of the ocean are most relevant to include in the assessment(s) to be made in the second cycle, and the extent to which it is possible to establish trends in relation to them;
 - (ii) How the establishment of such trends can most effectively be done in the different oceanic regions in a standard manner;
 - (iii) How the existence of trends can in future be evaluated;
 - (iv) How risks in relation to the various aspects of the ocean can be evaluated, taking into account regional interests and differences;
 - (v) What regional priorities should be addressed in the preparation of the assessment(s) of the second cycle, bearing in mind the global ocean policy agenda;

¹ See the attachment to A/71/362.

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

See paragraph 8 (h) of the Programme of Work 2017-2020, attachment to A/71/362.

⁴ See General Assembly resolution 65/37A, paragraph 201, re-affirming the principles guiding the Regular Process and the objectives and scope of its first cycle in A/64/347, annexes.

- (c) Promote capacity-building within the region for which each workshop is held, so as to assist in creating the abilities to contribute from the region to the production of the assessment(s). In particular, the workshops should consider what steps might be taken to improve abilities to carry out integrated assessments within the region;
- (d) Explore what increased cooperation or coordination between processes already under way in the region could assist in providing the information required for the assessment(s);
- (e) Consider how assessments produced by the Regular Process can be structured so as to help policy-makers most effectively with their tasks;
- (f) Consider how to improve arrangements for networking between experts and organizations taking part in each workshop, and the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, the Group of Experts, the Pool of Experts, the National Focal Points and the secretariat of the Regular Process.

3. This list of objectives and the outline agenda in the Appendix will constitute the terms of reference of the workshops. In addition to the World Ocean Assessment I and, in particular, the Summary approved by the General Assembly,⁵ the workshops should also take account of:

- (a) The abstract of views on lessons learned from the first cycle of the Regular Process, prepared by the secretariat of the Regular Process and presented to the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (3 - 9 August 2016);
- (b) The outputs of the high-level 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 (“Ocean Conference”, (5 – 9 June 2017), as well as the views expressed on the role of the Regular Process in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and links to the agreed indicators for that Agenda;
- (c) Information on developments in relation to other relevant United Nations’ processes, such as
 - (i) The work under General Assembly resolution 69/292: Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;
 - (ii) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
 - (iii) The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.
- (e) Information to be provided by the participants in the workshop on on-going and planned assessments at regional and national levels that will be relevant to the assessment(s) to be produced during the second cycle of the Regular Process. This information should preferably be provided in written form in advance of the workshop;
- (f) Material provided by the Group of Experts of the Regular Process and/or the Ad Hoc

⁵ World Ocean Assessment I is available at http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/WOA_RegProcess.htm. The Summary (approved by the General Assembly in resolution 70/235, paragraph 266) is document A/70/112.

Working Group of the Whole on a possible framework for the assessment(s) of the second cycle of the Regular Process.

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 for the following:

- (a) The North Pacific;
- (b) The South Pacific;
- (c) The Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and the ROPME/RECOFI area;⁶
- (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, the relevant international bodies and forums for those areas (in particular, the Antarctic Treaty System and the Arctic Council) will be invited to consider, and to contribute to, their views on the issues proposed for the workshops as they affect these regions. If requested, members of the Group of Experts and Pool of Experts will make themselves available for consultation.

Timing

6. The intention is that the five workshops should be held before the end of 2017.

Activities of workshops

7. The agenda of a workshop to support the Regular Process should, as far as possible, include the elements set out in the Appendix to these guidelines. 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 2016,⁷ and the various recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

8. An important part of each workshop will be making a start on capacity-building on how to carry out integrated assessments, so that the workshop participants can better understand, and contribute to, the work of the Regular Process.

Hosts

9. 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,⁸ 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

⁶ 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.

⁷ See A/64/347, annex, and paragraph 285 of General Assembly resolution 71/257.

⁸ Such workshops will require the conclusion of a host conference agreement, where necessary.

regions, hosts may request the cooperation of relevant regional intergovernmental organizations and/or that of relevant national scientific institutions.

Participation

10. 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.

11. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council or with Convention secretariats, relevant non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development or participating in the 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. 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.

12. 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 of the workshops. If possible, all members of the Group of Experts from States in the area covered by the workshop should participate. Members of the Group of Experts from outside that area could be invited by the secretariat of the Regular Process to participate as well. 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 will be supported within the provision made in the regular budget of the United Nations for 2017.

13. 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 scoping process, preparation and review of the outcome of the workshops.

Chair and Secretariat

14. 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.

15. 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

16. The output of the workshop should take the form of a summary of the discussions prepared by the chair or co-chairs, with the help of the member(s) of the Group of Experts, of the Pool of Experts, as appropriate, and the secretariat of the Regular Process. 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. Where a State or intergovernmental organization not participating in the workshop conducted or was responsible for assessments, institutions, networks or other arrangements which have been identified as relevant, that State or intergovernmental organization should be invited and/or requested to review and comment on what is said about any such matter.

17. 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.

18. Those functions would include capturing the relevant information presented (directly and indirectly) during the workshops. Such information may include comments on the first cycle of the Regular Process and the content of World Ocean Assessment I, relevant scientific processes, institutions and experts at regional and/or national level; and regional/national informational needs with respect to the Regular Process and its outputs (including through National Focal points). The secretariat may also assist in identifying (together with the Joint Coordinators and hosts) the learning points / needs and resources which may be relevant to the database and Capacity-Building Partnership Event and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (to be held in late 2017). Information relevant to the scoping process will also be captured in collaboration with the Joint Coordinators and members of the Group of Experts and of the Pool of Experts, as appropriate.

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

20. 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

21. The final version of the output of the workshops should be made publicly available on the Regular Process website.

22. 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.

23. As a follow-up to the workshops, the secretariat would also continue to liaise with the relevant participants (see paragraphs 10, 11, 12 and 13 above) , following consultation with the Bureau, as well as with any other intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations identified during the workshops to ensure clear and open lines of communication and flow of information, including with respect to the establishment and interaction with the Pool of Experts.

24. The databases maintained by the secretariat will also be updated according to the information collected during the workshops, including through follow-up with the relevant participants (see paragraphs 10, 11, 12 and 13 above) and intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations.

Appendix

Elements for the agenda of a workshop to support the Regular Process

1. Presentation by a representative of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process or the secretariat of the Regular Process of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment – World Ocean Assessment I, and discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the Assessment.
2. Presentation by a representative of the secretariat of the Regular Process on current developments in global ocean policies.
3. Consideration by the workshop of the possible structure of the assessment or assessments to be prepared under the Regular Process in the second cycle, running until the end of 2020.
4. Consideration of what are the regional priorities for the assessment(s) in the second cycle. This should include consideration of how such assessment(s) could best help policy-makers in the region with their tasks, including implementing the 2030 Agenda.
5. Review of assessments that have been carried out in the region since 2012 and that are proposed to be carried out within the region in the period 2017 – 2020, in order to identify how the assessment(s) under the Regular Process can best build on them.
6. Consideration of what steps might be taken within the region in the period 2017 – 2020 to support contributions to the assessment(s) under the Regular Process in the second cycle. This should include consideration of:
 - (a) What increased cooperation or coordination between processes already under way in the region could assist in providing the information required for such assessment(s);
 - (b) What can be done in relation to issues on which relevant data and/or information is known to be available for the region or parts of it, but where it has not been fed into any assessment;
 - (c) What can be done to provide data and/or information by 2020 on issues relevant to the region where data and/or information is currently lacking;
 - (d) How to improve arrangements for networking between experts and organizations taking part in each workshop, and the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process.
7. Consideration of capacity-building in the region relevant to the Regular Process, including
 - (a) What capacity-building might be undertaken in the period 2017 – 2020 to support the ability of States to undertake assessments and to contribute to and make use of the Outputs of the Regular Process;
 - (b) What gaps exist in longer-term capacity-building in the region to support future assessments, at either global or regional level. Consideration of this question should start from the general identification of capacity-building gaps in World Ocean Assessment I;
 - (c) Information and material relevant to the database on capacity-building needs and opportunities and to the Capacity-Building Partnership Event and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (to be held later in 2017), as well as the identification of best practices and the role of the workshops and participants therein in awareness-raising and outreach.

8. Harmonization of workshop agendas: the Bureau of the Regular Process should have the opportunity to provide guidance on the draft agenda of each workshop.