



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

**19 April 2013**

**Fourth meeting of the  
Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole**

**22-26 April 2012**

**Report on the status of the Website of the Regular Process prepared by  
the secretariat of the Regular Process**

1. In paragraph 2 of resolution 65/37 B of 4 April 2011, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to explore, in consultation with the Group of Experts of the Regular Process, the establishment of appropriate means to address the communication requirements of the Regular Process, having in mind the need to avoid duplication of efforts.
2. In paragraph 4 of the same resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, upon the request of the Group of Experts and in line with paragraph 211 of resolution 65/37 A of 7 December 2010, to facilitate the use of appropriate data handling and information schemes within the United Nations system, drawing on the experiences, existing systems and support of other United Nations specialized agencies and programmes.
3. Paragraph 211 of resolution 65/37 A requested the Secretary-General to invite the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, among others, to provide technical and scientific support to the Regular Process. The invitation was repeated by the General Assembly in paragraph 213 of resolution 66/231 of 24 December 2011 and paragraph 237 of resolution 67/78 of 11 December 2012.
4. In paragraph 214 of resolution 65/37 A, paragraph 215 of resolution 66/231 and paragraph 239 of resolution 67/78, the General Assembly noted with appreciation the technical and logistical support of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission to the Regular Process.
5. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, acting in its capacity as the secretariat of the Regular Process, requested the Office of Information and Communications Technology (OICT) to review the communication and information and data management system requirements of the Regular Process. In June 2011, OICT indicated that it was not aware of existing systems in the Secretariat that would satisfy the requirements.
6. In August 2011, the United Nations Environment Programme and GRID-Arendal prepared a project proposal for the development of the Website of the Regular Process (the “Website”).

7. In November 2012, in accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 65/37 B, and on behalf of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process, the Joint Coordinators of the Group of Experts requested the secretariat of the Regular Process to facilitate the development of the Website of the Regular Process in accordance with the project proposal of August 2011.

8. Pursuant to this mandate, in November 2012, the United Nations, represented by the secretariat of the Regular Process, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with GRID-Arendal for the development, establishment and operation of the Website at GRID-Arendal in Arendal, Norway for the purpose of preparing the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process.

9. The MOU provides, inter alia, that: (a) the Website will be developed, established and operated under the auspices of the United Nations; (b) the Website will be financed through voluntary funding from the Member States and it shall be provided free-of-charge to the United Nations; (c) the United Nations will administer the Website and monitor the material and content that is to be posted on the Website; (d) GRID-Arendal will be responsible for the maintenance of the Website; (e) the parties will cooperate to ensure the uninterrupted operation of the Website; and (f) the United Nations shall hold full title and ownership rights to the Website and its contents.

10. The MOU also provides that any further development of the Website that is required in the course of the preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment will be subject to the availability of additional external financing.

11. In January 2013, the United Nations, represented by the secretariat of the Regular Process, also entered into an agreement with the Government of Norway concerning the status, privileges and immunities of the Website (the "Agreement").

12. The Agreement confirms, inter alia, that: (a) the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations shall be applicable with respect to the Website; (b) the Website and its contents shall enjoy immunity from every form of legal process in Norway; (c) the Website and its contents shall be immune from search, requisition, confiscation, expropriation and any other form of interference in Norway, whether by executive, administrative, judicial or legislative action; (d) the Website, and in particular its contents, shall be inviolable; and (e) all official communications related to the Website shall be immune from censorship and from any other form of interference.

13. GRID-Arendal developed the Website in accordance with the project proposal of August 2011 and the Website was launched in January 2013 (at: [www.worldoceanassessment.org](http://www.worldoceanassessment.org)). The Website contains general information on the Regular Process (e.g., experts, workshops, capacity building etc.) as well as specific information on the preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process (e.g., structure, process of drafting etc.). A video message from the Secretary-General can be found on the opening page to welcome experts from the Pool of Experts and the general public and to describe the work of the Regular Process.

14. In resolution 67/78, the General Assembly welcomed the development and operation of the Website of the Regular Process, under the auspices of the United Nations, addressing the communication requirements of the Regular Process and facilitating the use of appropriate data handling and information schemes for the work of the Group of Experts and the Pool of Experts.