

Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, adopted on 18 February 2011

The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends to the General Assembly that:

1. The Group of Experts, in consultation with the Secretariat of the Regular Process and the assistance of the members of UN-Oceans, explore means of leveraging existing systems to manage the information that comprise the foundation of the global marine assessment and report their findings by 30 May 2011 for the consideration of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its next meeting;
2. The Secretariat of the Regular Process be requested to continue to provide access to a secure website for the Members of the Group of Experts to communicate among themselves and with the Secretariat of the Regular Process;
3. The Secretary-General be requested to explore, in consultation with the Group of Experts, the establishment of appropriate means to address the communication requirements of the Regular Process, having in mind the need to avoid duplication of efforts and to report on the findings as soon as practicable for the consideration of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;
4. Workshops be recognized as a key mechanism by which the first global marine assessment will be accomplished and States can enhance their assessment capacity;
5. Workshops be organized under the auspices of the United Nations and in coordination with the Secretariat of the Regular Process and with the assistance of the members of the Group of Experts, and that they be organized and conducted following the objectives and guidelines to be adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, which will include a capacity-building component;
6. The Secretariat of the Regular Process be requested, with the assistance of the Group of Experts, to inventory, on a preliminary basis, capacity-building for assessments, types of experts for workshops and to report on these issues at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;
7. The constitution of a pool of experts to be appointed by States, through the regional groups, to support the work of the Group of Experts in the preparation of the first global marine assessment;

8. For that purpose, the Group of Experts provide a list of the areas of knowledge, including geographic coverage, that are needed in the pool of expertise for the first global marine assessment, recognizing that these needs will evolve throughout the process of the first assessment;

9. In order to ensure the credibility and legitimacy of the first integrated assessment, it will be essential for users of the assessment to be able to relate its conclusions to the supporting data and information;

10. Upon request of the Group of Experts and in line with paragraph 211 of resolution 65/37, Member States request the Secretary-General 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;

11. States be invited to provide comments on the “Possible Outline for the first Global Integrated Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, Including Socio-economic Aspects” (Annex C to the Set of Options), the “draft Criteria for the appointment of Experts” and the “draft Guidelines for Workshops” presented by the Group of Experts during the meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole,¹ by 30 April 2011. The Group of Experts provide the Secretariat of the Regular Process by 30 May 2011, revised versions of those drafts documents so as to reflect the comments of States, for further discussion and adoption at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

12. Consideration be started at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, on terms of reference and working methods for the Group of Experts, and provisions on communication with States on the basis of a draft to be produced by the Secretariat of the Regular Process, in consultation with the Group of Experts;

13. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole reconvene as soon as possible.

¹Reference to DOALOS web page.