

Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

1. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002, States agreed, in paragraph 36 (b) of the **Johannesburg Plan of Implementation**, to “establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments” (the “Regular Process”).
2. In accordance with paragraph 45 of its **resolution 57/141** of 12 December 2002, the General Assembly decided to endorse paragraph 36 (b) of the Plan of Implementation, and requested the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with Member States, relevant organizations and agencies and programmes of the United Nations system, to prepare proposals on modalities for a regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, drawing, inter alia, upon the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and taking into account the recently completed review by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), and to submit these proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session for its consideration and decision, including on the convening of a possible intergovernmental meeting.
3. A report was prepared by the Secretariat on proposals for modalities for the Regular Process focusing on steps to be taken for the establishment of this Process (A/58/423). In paragraph 64 (a) of its **resolution 58/240** of 23 December 2003, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene a group of experts of no more than 24 participants, comprising representatives of States, including all regional groups, and representatives from intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, including both scientists and policy makers, to produce a draft document with details on the scope, general framework and outline of the regular process, peer review, secretariat, capacity-building and funding. The Group of Experts was convened in New York from 23 to 26 March 2004, and recommended, inter alia, that an “Assessment of Assessments” be undertaken as part of the start-up phase of the Regular Process. The outcome of its discussions was submitted to an International Workshop held from 7-11 June 2004 in New York. A second International Workshop was held in New York from 13-15 June 2005 and considered a number of conclusions about the nature, aims and output of the “Assessment of Assessments”, and recommended an organizational structure.
4. Pursuant to **resolution 60/30** of 29 November 2005, the General Assembly launched the start-up phase to the Regular Process, called the “assessment of assessments”, and established organizational arrangements, which included an Ad Hoc Steering Group to oversee the execution of the “assessment of assessments”; two United

Nations agencies to co-lead the process, UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO and a Group of Experts to undertake the actual work of assessing the various assessments.

5. Following the completion of the work of the latter Group of Experts, the General Assembly, in **resolution 63/111, paragraph 157**, decided to establish an ad hoc working group of the whole to recommend a course of action to the General Assembly at its 64th session based on the outcomes of the fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group, and requested the Secretary-General to convene its informal meeting for one week not later than September 2009.

6. The meeting is scheduled to take place from 31 August to 4 September 2009. Information for participants is provided on the webpage of the [Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole](#).