

Notification

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

Convening of the sixteenth meeting (by correspondence)

Pursuant to paragraph 331 of General Assembly resolution 76/72 of 9 December 2021 on “Oceans and the law of the sea”, the sixteenth meeting of the 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 (the “Regular Process”) will be convened on 21 March 2022.

Due to the constraints imposed on the conduct of in-person meetings at the United Nations Headquarters and further to the letter dated 7 March 2022 from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the proposed modalities of the sixteenth meeting of the Working Group, Member States, observers and other participants in the Ad Hoc Work Group of the Whole are hereby informed that the modalities of the sixteenth meeting will be set forth as follows:

- (i) The sixteenth meeting will be declared open on 21 March 2022 by a letter from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole. That letter will include the provisional agenda of the meeting and place a decision on the item “*Adoption of the agenda*” under a silence procedure **until 5 p.m. on 28 March 2022**.
- (ii) The draft preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025), and the four brief documents of the second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) have been made available on the website of the Regular Process (<https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/sixteenth-meeting-date-be-confirmed>). Comments on these documents should be submitted by email to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (doalos@un.org; temnova@un.org) **no later than 4 April 2022**. For the four brief documents on WOA II, comments should be provided using the template made available on the website of the Regular Process. The documents under consideration will be revised in light of the comments received and then placed under the silence procedure, together with the responses from the Group of Experts to all the comments received. The report by the Bureau will be made available on the same website in advance of the opening of the meeting.
- (iii) Taking into account any comments that may be received, draft recommendations to the General Assembly on the draft preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025), and the four brief documents of WOA II will be prepared by the Bureau and communicated in writing to the membership of the Working Group. The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole will then place a decision

of the sixteenth meeting on “*Adoption of the recommendations to the General Assembly*” under the silence procedure of at least 72 hours.

- (iv) An informal virtual meeting may be held through MS Teams platform to facilitate the informal exchange of views if necessary. No decisions will be taken as a result of the informal virtual meeting.

Documents

The draft preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025), and the four brief documents of the second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) have been made available on 7 March 2022 on the website of the Regular Process (<https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/sixteenth-meeting-date-be-confirmed>). As indicated in para (ii) above, any comments on these documents should be submitted by email to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (doalos@un.org; temnova@un.org) **no later than 4 April 2022**. For the four brief documents on WOA II, comments should be provided using the template made available on the website of the Regular Process. The rest of the documentation for this meeting will be circulated to delegations in advance of the opening of the meeting and will also be available at the website of the Regular Process (<https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/sixteenth-meeting-date-be-confirmed>).

Participants to the sixteenth meeting (by correspondence)

All Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations, specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council interested to join the informal virtual meeting are kindly requested to communicate to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (doalos@un.org; temnova@un.org) the names and email addresses of their representatives attending sixteenth meeting (by correspondence), with “the sixteenth AHWG meeting (by correspondence) of the Regular Process” in the subject line, **no later than 29 March 2022**.

Other non-governmental organizations, that is relevant scientific institutions and major groups identified in Agenda 21, wishing to attend the sixteenth meeting (by correspondence) should send a request for invitation to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (doalos@un.org; temnova@un.org), indicating the **names and email addresses** of their representatives who would attend the meeting, with “the sixteenth AHWG meeting (by correspondence) of the Regular Process” in the subject line, **no later than 29 March 2022**.