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21 March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to refer to the Notification concerning the convening of the sixteenth meeting (by correspondence) 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), which was circulated to Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on 15 March 2022.

In accordance with the modalities of the sixteenth meeting as outlined in the abovementioned Notification, we hereby declare, in our capacities as the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process, the sixteenth meeting (by correspondence) of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole open as of today.

Adoption of the agenda

Regarding the adoption of the agenda, we note that the provisional agenda and the annotated provisional agenda of the sixteenth meeting (by correspondence) of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole have been posted on the website of the Regular Process at: https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/sixteenth-meeting-date-be-confirmed. The provisional agenda is also annexed to this letter.

It is further noted that a note by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to be considered under the provisional agenda item 3 (Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working the Whole) available Group of has been made at: https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/sixteenth-meeting-date-be-confirmed. 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) to be considered under the provisional agenda item 4 (Consideration of the four brief documents of the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) and the draft preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025)), have been circulated to Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on 15 March they can be retrieved from the website of the Regular Process at: https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/sixteenth-meeting-date-be-confirmed.

We propose that the sixteenth meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole decides to adopt the provisional agenda as contained in the Annex to this letter. This proposal is hereby placed under a silence procedure until 5.00 p.m. (New York time) on Monday, 28 March 2022.

Any objection to the above-mentioned proposal should be transmitted in a letter or a note verbale addressed to us. Such correspondence should be sent by email to the secretariat of the Regular Process (doalos@un.org; temnova@un.org).

Invitation for views or comments on documents to be considered

In accordance with the modalities of the sixteenth meeting as outlined in the Notification concerning the convening of the sixteenth meeting (by correspondence), and subject to the adoption of the agenda, we would also like to invite Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of Whole:

- (i) To provide any views on the note by the Bureau to be considered under the provisional agenda item 3 (Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole); and
- (ii) To provide any comments on 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) to be considered under the provisional agenda items 4 (Consideration of the four brief documents of the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) and the draft preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025)). For the four brief documents on WOA II, comments should be provided using the template made available on the website of the Regular Process.

It would be appreciated if such views or comments could be sent by email to the secretariat of the Regular Process (doalos@un.org; temnova@un.org) no later than midnight (New York time) on Monday, 4 April 2022. 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 on the brief documents. All views and comments received will be made available on the website of the Regular Process and circulated to Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yolannie Cerrato

Mark Zellenrath

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Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly

The Sixteenth Meeting (by correspondence)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the meeting
- 2. Adoption of the agenda
- 3. Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole
- 4. Consideration of the four brief documents of the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) and the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025)
- 5. Adoption of recommendations to the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly