

**United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans
and the Law of the Sea**

Twentieth meeting

**" Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable
Development"**

**New York, 10 to 14 June 2019
Conference Room 1**

Information for participants

Background

In 1999, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process) in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea by considering the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced (resolution 54/33).

In paragraph 358 of General Assembly resolution 73/124 of 11 December 2018, the General Assembly decided that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the Informal Consultative Process would focus its discussions at its twentieth meeting on "Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development".

The twentieth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 14 June 2019.

Co-Chairs

The President of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries, appointed **Her Excellency Ms. Pennelope Althea Beckles**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, and **Her Excellency Ms. Isabelle F. Picco**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Principality of Monaco to the United Nations, as Co-Chairs of the twentieth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process.

Format and annotated provisional agenda

An advance and unedited version of the format and annotated provisional agenda for the

twentieth meeting is available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs

(http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm), pending issuance in all official languages in due course.

Report of the Secretary-General

The advance and unedited reporting material on the topic of focus of the twentieth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, which will be issued as the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea in all official languages, has also been made available in English only, on the website of the Division. The Secretariat also posted the full text of the contributions to the report it received, whenever such posting was agreed to by the contributor concerned (http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm).

Side events

Requests to hold side events during the Informal Consultative Process must be communicated in writing to the Secretariat **no later than 1 May 2019**. All requests should be made by filling in the dedicated request form available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs

(http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm), and should be addressed to the Secretary of the Informal Consultative Process (doalos@un.org) with an indication of the title, organizing institution(s) and preferred date for the event.

The subject of the message should specify the following: “Request for side event: Informal Consultative Process”. Side events are expected to be held each day, during lunch time, from 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm. Owing to the limited number of time slots available, the Division may not be able to accommodate all requests for side events or preferred dates. It, therefore, reserves the right to suggest the organization of joint side events should competing requests be received for the same day. Should the number of requests exceed the number of available days, the Division may also exercise its discretion in selecting side events with a view to ensuring variety in the topics covered by the side events.

Trust Fund

A voluntary trust fund was established under General Assembly resolution 55/7 to assist delegates and panellists of developing States, in particular least developed States, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, to defray certain costs in connection with their participation in the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process.

Attention is drawn to the fact that the Trust Fund has very limited capacity to provide assistance to representatives from developing countries in addition to supporting the participation of panelists from developing countries. Pursuant to paragraph 356 of General Assembly resolution 73/124, States that are in a position to do so are urged to consider making contributions to the Voluntary Trust Fund.

Pursuant to paragraph 357 of resolution 73/124, priority consideration in the disbursement of funds from Voluntary Trust Fund will be given to panellists from developing countries who are invited by the Co-Chairs, in consultation with Governments, to make presentations during the

meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. Subject to the availability of funds and the number of complete and on time applications received, the Trust Fund may also be able to defray the travel costs of a limited number of participants from developing countries, other than the panelists from developing countries. In this regard, consistent with resolution 55/7, preference will be given to processing applications received from least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States.

Application packages are available at http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm. The completed applications (including all necessary and valid visas) must be transmitted to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (Office of Legal Affairs) through the nominating State's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York **no later than 3 May 2019**.

Please note that the United Nations does not arrange accommodation or visas for participants to the Informal Consultative Process.

UN Grounds Passes

Intergovernmental organizations

Representatives from intergovernmental organizations invited to attend the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process should communicate their intention to attend the meeting directly to the Protocol and Liaison Service by **24 May 2019**, with a copy to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, for issuance of grounds passes, which allow access to the United Nations premises where the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process are held. The procedure for such requests is outlined in the invitation letter to the meeting.

The representatives of intergovernmental organizations having a Liaison Office in New York must get their pass from their respective Liaison Office.

Non-governmental organizations

For the issuance of grounds passes for the representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC, please visit <http://csonet.org/?menu=86>.

For other non-governmental organizations invited to attend the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process, the names and contact details of representatives should be communicated to the Division (doalos@un.org) by **24 May 2019** for issuance of temporary grounds passes, to allow access to the United Nations premises where the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process are held. The Division will communicate directly to the non-governmental organization representatives the venue, date and time for pick-up of their UN grounds pass. An official document (e.g., passport) identifying the representative should be presented at the time of pick-up of the grounds pass.

Secretariat

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, carries out the secretariat functions for the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process.