



DOALOS/UNITAR Briefing 2007

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The General Assembly

In its resolution 49/28 of 6 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that it was the global institution with the competence to undertake an annual review of the overall developments relating to the law of the sea



The Consultative Process

In 1999, the General Assembly established the Consultative Process by resolution 54/33 for an initial period of three years in order to facilitate the annual review by the Assembly of developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea by considering the Secretary-General's report 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.

Participation

Open to all UN Member States, States members of the specialized agencies, all parties to UNCLOS, entities that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the Assembly, intergovernmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs and representatives of major groups as identified in Agenda 21

Organization

Meetings are coordinated by two Co-Chairpersons who elaborate a format for the discussions in consultation with delegations

Format:

- Plenary sessions
- Discussion panels for the areas of focus

Outcome

- At past meetings the Consultative Process has proposed elements for the consideration of the General Assembly, including, as appropriate, in relation to Assembly resolutions under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".
- The elements, a summary of the discussions, and a list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly are included in the report of the meeting and submitted to the Assembly

Future of the Consultative Process

- **Discussions during the ninth meeting of the Consultative Process in June 2008**
- **Review by the General Assembly at its sixty third session**

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK (continued)

Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction

Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction

- Organizational matters
 - **Participation in the meeting of Working Group**
 - **Chairing of the Working Group**
 - **Conduct of the meeting of the Working Group**
- Outcome of the first meeting of the Working Group
 - **A report: document A/61/65**
 - **A Co-chair summary of discussions**
 - **A Summary of trends prepared by the co-chairs**
 - **A list of specific studies suggested by delegations**

Thank you!

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and the Law of the Sea**