

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

### Information for participants

**Nineteenth meeting: "Anthropogenic underwater noise"**

**New York, 18 to 22 June 2018  
Conference Room 1 (CB)**

### *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 339 of its resolution 71/257 of 23 December 2016, as recalled in paragraph 354 of its resolution 72/73 of 5 December 2017, 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 nineteenth meeting on "Anthropogenic underwater noise". The nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 22 June 2018.

### *Co-Chairs*

The President of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly in consultation with Member States, and taking into account the need for representation from developed and developing countries, has 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 **His Excellency Mr. Kornelios Korneliou**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations, as Co-Chairs of the nineteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process.

### *Format and annotated provisional agenda*

An advance, unedited version of the format and annotated provisional agenda for the nineteenth 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](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 nineteenth 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](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 21 May 2018. 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](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](mailto: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.

Pursuant to paragraph 353 of resolution 72/73, priority consideration in the disbursement of funds from the 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.

The attention of delegations is drawn once again to the fact that, other than to support the participation of a limited number of panellists, the Voluntary Trust Fund is not in a position to provide assistance to delegates.

Application packages will be provided to those panelists who are invited by the

Co- Chairs, in consultation with Governments, to make presentations during the meeting. The completed applications 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 4 May 2018**, and proof of relevant visas must be provided to the Division by 18 May 2018.

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 **4 June 2018**, 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 non-governmental organizations with consultative status with ECOSOC, please visit <http://csonet.org/?menu=86> for the issuance of grounds passes. 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](mailto:doalos@un.org)) by **4 June 2018** for issuance of 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.