

## **Group of Experts of the Regular Process**

### *Note by the Group*

#### **PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE SECOND CYCLE OF THE REGULAR PROCESS FOR GLOBAL REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING SOCIOECONOMIC ASPECTS**

After consultation with the secretariat for the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (the “Regular Process”), and further discussion within the Group of Experts of the Regular Process, the Group of Experts proposed the following draft timetable and implementation plan for the second cycle of the Regular Process for submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole for its approval at its tenth meeting held in New York from 28 February to 1 March 2018. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole considered and took note of the preliminary timetable and implementation plan.

In addition to the face-to-face meetings of the Group of Experts listed in this timetable, there will be regular meetings by teleconference (approximately once a month). These will be used, *inter alia*, to review progress in implementing this implementation plan.

The programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process, endorsed by the General Assembly, foresees that key activities will be identified so as to support and interact with ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes, as appropriate. Outputs will be specifically tailored to the requests and needs of the processes. There is no provision in this implementation programme for such activities. The Group of Experts is ready and willing to undertake such activities – possibly in the form of providing briefings on issues covered by the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment (World Ocean Assessment I) and the work in producing the second world ocean assessment – but needs to point out that such activities will almost certainly need to be undertaken by teleconference and video links, in the absence of resources to cover travel costs.

**PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE  
SECOND CYCLE OF THE REGULAR PROCESS**

	<b>DATE</b>	<b>EVENT/PROCESS</b>	<b>COMMENTS</b>
	<b>2018</b>		
1	By February 6	States and Intergovernmental Organizations are invited to begin the process of populating further the Pool of Experts	As agreed at the meeting of the Bureau on 16 January 2018. Three months to be allowed for the process
2	By February 7	Group of Experts submits to the Bureau the first set of proposed designations of Lead Members (and Co-Lead Members) for chapters (subject to the approval of the Outline by Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (AHWG))	
3	February 28 – March 1	AHWG meeting to approve the outline of the second world ocean assessment and the preliminary timetable and implementation plan	
4	By March 8	Group of Experts submits any further proposed designations of Lead Members (and Co-Lead Members) for chapters	This allows for any changes as a result of any changes by the AHWG in the Outline and any further appointments of members of the Group.
5	By March 20	Bureau approves designation of Lead Members (and Co-Lead Members) for chapters	
6	By April 30	Deadline for the first round of nominations of members of the Pool of Experts	
7	As soon as possible after March 1 and by no later than May 31	Lead Members propose initial designations of convenors and members for the Writing Teams for agreement by the Group of Experts for submission to the Bureau. This process continues until satisfactory Writing Teams have been established for all chapters. Initial designations may be partial, when nominations to the Pool of Experts do not permit the designation of a properly balanced team.	
8	April 10	Bureau approves composition of the first set of Writing Teams, even if they are partial. The composition of both fuller Writing	

		Teams and further sets of Writing Teams is approved as soon as possible after they are submitted.	
9	By April 30	Group of Experts issues directions on formatting and the format of references to be followed by writing teams. Group of Experts set targets (numbers of pages or numbers of words) for the size of chapters.	The aim will be to keep the total to around 300 pages.
10	June onwards	Second round of Regional Workshops. Feasible slots for the workshops are: 25 – 29 June 2 – 27 July 30 July – 10 August 24 – 28 September 15 – 26 October 5 – 9 November 26 – 30 November States and intergovernmental organizations are invited to indicate their willingness to host a Workshop during one of these periods.	Within the available resources, the intention is that each Regional Workshop will involve the Joint Coordinators, the members of the Group of Experts from the region, experts nominated by States in the region and convenors and members of the writing team(s) for one or more chapters allocated for this purpose to the region.
11	July 31	Deadline for establishing all Writing Teams	
12	August 1	Deadline for Writing Teams to begin work on drafting chapters	
13	Between June and December	Meeting of Convenors of Writing Teams not allocated to a Regional Workshop with Joint Coordinators and Lead Members	This will depend on the availability of resources after providing for the attendance of members of writing teams at Regional Workshops
14	Between August 13 and 17	Virtual meetings of Group of Experts to review progress as a basis for a report to the AHWG	
15	August 23 – 24	Meeting of AHWG	The Group of Experts will present some proposals on issues to be considered at the multi-stakeholder event on capacity-building
16	Between December 3 and 7	Virtual meetings of the Group of Experts to review progress and report to Bureau	

17	<b>2019</b>		
18	January	Multi-stakeholder event on capacity-building for Regular Process	
19	At some point in first quarter	Meeting of AHWGW	The AHWGW could usefully at this stage consider what should be the follow-up to the multi-stakeholder event on capacity building. At some point during the year it would be helpful if the AHWGW indicated the activities for which resources might be provided in the UN Regular Budget for the biennium 2020-2021.
20	April 1 - 5	Virtual meetings of the Group of Experts to review progress and report to Bureau	
21	By June 30	Lead Members propose peer reviewers from the Pool of Experts for agreement by the Group of Experts for submission to the Bureau	The intention is that 3 – 5 peer reviewers should be designated for each chapter or section of a chapter for which a separate writing team is designated.
22	By June 30	Writing Teams complete draft chapters	
23	July	Group of Experts review the draft chapters	
24	August 5 – 9	Group of Experts meets to review draft chapters and agree first draft of second world ocean assessment (Draft 1)	
25	August 12 – 23	Secretariat format Draft 1 and send it for peer review	
26	IN PARALLEL		
27	During September – November	Secretariat review Draft 1	
28	August 26 – October 4	Peer reviewers review Draft 1 and submit comments	Maximum of six weeks
29	As they are received, and by no later than November 8	Writing teams consider peer reviewers' comments and produce proposed responses	Minimum of four weeks
30	As they are received but no later than November 29	Lead Members review comments and proposed responses	Three weeks

31	December 2 – 6	Group of Experts meet to revise Draft 1 in the light of comments from the peer reviewers	
32	December 9 until January 5, 2020	Secretariat produce clean version [Draft 2] for sending to States.	
33	<b>2020</b>		
34	January 6	Deadline for secretariat to send Draft 2 to States	
35	January 7 – February 14	States review completed Draft 2	Five-and-a-half weeks
35	February 16 - 27	Secretariat consolidates States' comments	Two weeks (experience with the 5,000 comments on World Ocean Assessment I suggests that this period is essential. Less time might be needed if States do not invite all those in any country who are interested to submit comments to them.)
36	February 29 – March 20	Writing Teams review States' comments and produce proposed responses	Minimum of three weeks
37	March 23 – March 27	Lead Members review comments and proposed responses to States' comments	
38	March 30 – April 3	Group of Experts meet to finalize the text of the second world ocean assessment and present it to the Bureau	
39	April 6 - 14	Secretariat formats finalized text	
40	April 15	Finalized text is sent to the Bureau	
41	April 15	Copies of the responses to their comments are sent to States	
42	IN PARALLEL		
43	April 15 – May 13	Copy-editing	A consultant copy-editor is likely to be needed.
44	April 15 - May 13	Exchanges between Bureau and Group of Experts on questions arising from the second world ocean assessment	Four weeks
45	April 15 – May 13	Period for States to review responses to their comments and raise questions with the Group of Experts	Four weeks
46	May 15 - 19	Period to resolve outstanding issues and to complete copy-editing of any changes	

47	May 22 (at the latest)	Bureau approves the second world ocean assessment for submission to AHWGW. Text of Summary of the second world ocean assessment sent for translation into other UN languages	Eight weeks for translation. (Translation of the Summary is proposed at this stage because of complaints at the AHWGW in 2015 about the impossibility of getting comments from capitals on a text solely in English).
48	July 17 (at the latest)	Completion of translation of Summary into other UN languages Summary in all UN languages and English text of the remainder is sent to UN Member States	
49	July 17 – August 14	Period for UN Member States to prepare for AHWGW meeting	Minimum of four weeks
50	August/September	Meeting of AHWGW to authorize submission of the second world ocean assessment to the General Assembly	
51	October/November	Informal negotiations on the Ocean Omnibus resolution	
52	December	General Assembly adopts Ocean Omnibus resolution, completing the second cycle of the Regular Process	
53	After December	If resources permit, translation of the remainder of the second world ocean assessment Publication of the assessment	