

Informal Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Eighteenth round: “The thirtieth anniversary of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement: looking to the future”

New York, 14 to 16 May 2025, Conference Room 1

Information for participants

Background

Following the entry into force of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement on 11 December 2001, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/13 of 28 November 2001, the Secretary-General convened an Informal Meeting of the States Parties to the Agreement for the purposes and objectives of, inter alia, considering the regional, subregional and global implementation of the Agreement; making any appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly on the scope and content of the annual report of the Secretary-General relating to the Agreement; and preparing for the review conference to be convened by the Secretary-General pursuant to article 36 of the Agreement. From 2002 to 2024, seventeen rounds of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement were convened to address a variety of related topics.

In paragraph 71 of resolution 79/145, the General Assembly recalled the recommendation of the resumed Review Conference in 2016 that the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement be dedicated, on an annual basis, to the consideration of specific issues arising from the implementation of the Agreement, with a view to improving understanding, sharing experiences and identifying best practices for the consideration of States Parties, as well as the General Assembly and the Review Conference.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 79/145, adopted on 12 December 2024, the eighteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement will be held, as an in-person meeting, at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 14 to 16 May 2025. Pursuant to paragraph 73 of that resolution 79/145, the eighteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement (ICSP-18) will focus its discussions on the topic “**The thirtieth anniversary of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement: looking to the future**”.

ICSP-18 is an in person only meeting, with interpretation provided on an “as available” basis only.

In paragraph 75 of resolution 79/145, the General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General invite States parties to the Agreement and, as observers, States and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement not parties to the Agreement, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations, bodies, funds and programmes within the United Nations system, the secretariats of relevant organizations and conventions and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and bodies, in particular subregional and regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements and related regional intergovernmental marine science organizations, and relevant non-governmental organizations, in accordance with past practice, to attend ICSP-18, while relevant scientific institutions may request an invitation to participate in the consultations as observers.

Background material

Delegations invited to submit written contributions on the topic “The thirtieth anniversary of the 1995 United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement: looking to the future”, may do so by 11 April 2025 via email to doalos@un.org, with a copy to amerim@un.org. Contributions received pursuant to this request, as well as other information and documentation, are available on the DOALOS website at: <https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/content/unfsa-informal-consultations-states-parties>.

Side events

Requests to hold side events during the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement must be communicated in writing to the Secretariat no later than 17 April 2025. All requests should be addressed to the Secretary of the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement (doalos@un.org, with a copy to amerim@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: “ICSP-18 Side Event Request”. Side events are expected to be held each day during lunchtime. 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 date. 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.

Assistance Fund under Part VII

Information on the Part VII Assistance Fund is available at:
www.un.org/oceancapacity/UNFSAfund.

UN Grounds Passes

Intergovernmental organizations

Representatives from accredited intergovernmental organizations invited to attend the eighteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement should avail themselves of the procedures set out at <https://edelegate.un.int>. The names and contact details of representatives obtaining their ground passes through this procedure should also be communicated to the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, by email (doalos@un.org with a copy to amerim@un.org) by 1 May 2025.

In cases where intergovernmental organizations cannot avail themselves of the above-mentioned procedure, such organizations are invited to register using the following form (<https://forms.office.com/e/QMjT82z4Rd>). Requests for registration must be received by 1 May 2025. Please note that such participants must also send a formal letter signed by the head of their organization by email (doalos@un.org with a copy to amerim@un.org).

The Division will communicate directly to participants where and when to pick up UN grounds pass arranged by the Division. A government issued ID with photograph (e.g., passport) must be presented at the time of pickup.

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

Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations with consultative status with ECOSOC or on the roster of the Commission on Sustainable Development should avail themselves of the procedures set out at <http://csonet.org/?menu=86>. The names and contact details of the representatives obtaining their grounds passes through this procedure should also be communicated to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, by email (doalos@un.org, with a copy to amerim@un.org) by 1 May 2025.

Other non-governmental organizations invited to attend the seventeenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement, are requested to register using the following form (<https://forms.office.com/e/QMjT82z4Rd>). Requests for registration must be received by 1 May 2025. Please note that such participants must also send a formal letter signed by the head of their organization by email (doalos@un.org, with a copy to amerim@un.org).

The Division will communicate directly to participants where and when to pick up UN grounds passes arranged by the Division. A government issued ID with photograph (e.g., passport) must be presented at the time of pickup.

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 Consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.