



Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly

The Seventeenth Meeting

Provisional Agenda Item 4

Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole

Note by the Bureau

1. The General Assembly, in paragraph 319 of resolution 76/72, requested the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (the “Regular Process”) to continue to provide oversight of the delivery of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process.

2. Since the sixteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group held by correspondence between 21 March to 1 September 2022, the Bureau has conducted one meeting on 11 October 2022. The meeting considered, inter alia, the Guidelines for the Writing and Review Process of the Next Assessment(s) and the Guidelines for Nomination and Appointment of Experts to the Pool of Experts, Writing Teams and Peer Reviewers to Support the Works of the Third Cycle of the Regular Process, as well as other items covered in section XII of General Assembly resolution 76/72 relating to the Regular Process.

Dissemination of the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II)

3. The secretariat has established a partnership with a media company to disseminate the key findings from the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II). The outputs of this partnership resulted in the production of [three videos on WOA II](#).¹

Implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle

Activities related to the overall implementation of the third cycle

4. The Bureau agreed to continue its efforts aimed at ensuring the full nomination of candidates from their respective regional groups as soon as possible, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring adequate expertise and geographical distribution in the composition

¹ The videos are available on the Regular Process Instagram account @UNDOALOS

of the Group of Experts. As of 11 October 2022, the Group of Experts consists of 21 members out of the 25 positions available. The Bureau members from the Eastern European group, with three pending nominations, and the African group, with one pending nomination, will continue to follow up on this matter to achieve the full constitution of the Group of Experts.

Activities related to the achievement of output I: Assessment(s) of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects

5. The preparation of the next assessment(s) began with the scoping exercise to determine the scope of the assessment(s). The proposed scope and annotated outline(s) of the next assessment(s) will be developed taking into consideration the outcomes of the regional workshops held in 2022, which would also help identify the expertise needed to be part of the writing teams. In 2022, the Group of Experts, with the assistance of the secretariat, has planned and is in the process of implementing the following regional workshops to support the scoping exercise of the next assessment(s):

- Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania (25-27 July)
- Kingston, Jamaica (12-14 September)
- Buenos Aires, Argentina (28-30 September)
- The Hague, The Netherlands (28-30 November)
- Belitung, Indonesia (13-15 December)

The reports of the scoping workshops are available on the Regular Process website.²

6. In parallel with the scoping exercise, the Group of Experts has developed the Guidelines for the Writing and Review Process of the Next Assessment(s) and the Guidelines for the Nomination and Appointment of Experts to the Pool of Experts, Writing Teams, and Peer Reviewers.³ The initial list of writing teams is expected to be finalized for review by the Bureau and submitted for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in the 2023.

7. The secretariat sent a communication to the existing members of the Pool of Experts, from which the members of the writing teams will be drawn, to confirm their interest in participating in the third cycle and beyond. The Pool of Experts for the third cycle will consist of experts from all regional groups with expertise across multiple ocean disciplines. Efforts will be made to ensure adequate coverage of expertise and diversity in expertise and geographic representation, as well as gender considerations.

² <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/first-round-regional-workshops>

³ The documents are available on the Regular Process website at <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/seventeenth-meeting>

Activities related to the achievement of output II: Regular Process support for and interaction with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes

8. The four brief documents on WOA II, which covered the topics of Climate Change, Marine Biodiversity, UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and the Sustainable Development Goals, are being finalized and translated into all UN official languages and they are expected to be launched in the coming months.

9. In parallel with the activities related to the development of the next assessment(s), the Group of Experts also continues to provide support for and interact with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes, including by participating in meetings and delivering statements on behalf of the Regular Process. At the 2022 UN Ocean Conference, representatives of the Group of Experts joined the President of the BBNJ Intergovernmental Conference and a representative of the IOC-UNESCO in a discussion panel at a joint side event organized by the Regular Process and the IOC-UNESCO. Members of the Group of Experts also delivered statements in the Plenary session, as well as in the Interactive Dialogues 1 (Marine Pollution) and 6 (Increasing Scientific Knowledge). In July 2022, representatives of the Group of Experts and the secretariat also participated in the Ninth session of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-9).

Activities related to the achievement of output III: Capacity building

10. In accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle, the Group of Experts, with the assistance of the secretariat, has planned and is in the process of implementing the following regional workshops aimed at strengthening the science-policy interface, namely:

- Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania (25-27 July)
- Kingston, Jamaica (12-14 September)
- Lima, Peru (9-11 November)

The workshops in Dar es Salaam and Kingston were held back-to-back with the scoping workshops and conducted together with the workshops focused on ocean governance, which were being organized as part of the DOALOS Project “Programmes of Assistance to meet the Strategic Capacity Needs of Developing States in the Field of Ocean Governance and the Law of the Sea” (Programmes of Assistance on Ocean Governance).

Activities related to outreach and engagement

11. The secretariat has completed the development of the outreach and engagement strategy for the third cycle. As part of the strategy, the Regular Process Instagram⁴ and LinkedIn⁵ accounts were launched at the beginning of this year and since then have generated significant engagement with the relevant audience. The establishment of these accounts has helped in disseminating the key findings from WOA II and promoting the activities of the third cycle, including the regional workshops.

⁴ Regular Process Instagram account: @UNDOALOS

⁵ Regular Process LinkedIn account: “United Nations World Ocean Assessment”