



**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 Eighteenth 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 337 of resolution 77/248, 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 seventeenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group held from 1 to 2 November 2022, the Bureau has conducted two meetings on 24 January and 17 March 2023. The meetings considered, inter alia, the scope and format of the third World Ocean Assessment(s) and the annotated outline for the third World Ocean Assessment(s), as well as other items covered in section XIII of General Assembly resolution 77/248 relating to the Regular Process.
3. The Bureau has appointed a new Co-Chair, Ms. Kimberly Louis from Saint Lucia replacing Ms. Yolannie Cerrato from Honduras.

Implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle

Activities related to the overall implementation of the third cycle

4. One position for the African group in the Group of Experts has been filled, while the three nominations from the Eastern European group are still pending. Ms. Felicia Chinwe Mogo from Nigeria has been appointed to fill in the vacant position in the African group. In addition, one member from the Western European and Other States group, Mr. Alan Deidun from Malta, has resigned from his position and has been replaced by Ms. Carmen Mifsud from Malta. 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 of the Group of Experts. As of 17 March 2023, the Group of Experts consists of 22 members out of the 25 positions available. The Bureau members

from the Eastern European group, with three pending nominations, will continue to follow up on this matter to try to achieve the full constitution of the Group of Experts.

5. The Group of Experts has selected new joint coordinators, Ms. Karen Evans from Australia and Mr. Roberto De Pinho from Brazil, replacing Mr. Carlos Garcia-Soto and Mr. Enrique Marschoff. In addition, Mr. Garcia-Soto from Spain has resigned from the Group of Experts and has been replaced by Mr. Rafael González-Quirós from Spain.

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

6. The proposed scope and draft annotated outline for the third World Ocean Assessment(s) were completed by the Group of Experts and submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole for its consideration at the 18th meeting. In developing the two documents, the Group of Experts conducted several brainstorming sessions, including a meeting with IOC-UNESCO in February 2023, to discuss the findings and input from the scoping workshops conducted in 2022 and from other sources. The scope and draft annotated outline for the third World Ocean Assessment(s) are available on the Regular Process website.¹

7. Based on the draft annotated outline, the Group of Experts assessed the potential gaps and overlaps of expertise in the current Pool of Experts and produced a list of expertise needed for writing teams of the third World Ocean Assessment(s). The official call-for-nomination to join the Pool of Experts in the third cycle is planned to be circulated in April 2023. The documents containing the gaps and overlaps assessment and the list of required expertise are available on the Regular Process website.²

8. In 2023, the Regular Process will conduct five workshops to support the development of the third World Ocean Assessment(s) and two workshops on capacity-building on strengthening the science-policy interface. The five regional workshops will focus on thematic elements of the assessment(s) contained in the draft annotated outline for the third World Ocean Assessment(s), namely (i) the cross-cutting themes of equity, gender and Indigenous, Traditional, and Local Knowledge, and (ii) the sustainability pathways of the chapters in the section on sustainable and inclusive ocean economies. Currently, there are three confirmed expressions of interest to host the workshops in 2023 received from Brazil (Santos, 10-17 May), United States of America (Honolulu, 12-16 June), and Singapore (end November or early December). A potential co-hosting of a workshop in the African region is being discussed with UNEP and could be held in the third quarter of 2023.

¹ <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/eighteenth-meeting>

² <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/eighteenth-meeting>

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

9. 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, were launched in February 2023. The briefs are available in all UN official languages on the Regular Process website.³

10. The Regular Process and its Group of Experts continue to provide support for and interact with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes. In addition to the meeting between the Group of Experts and IOC-UNESCO, the Regular Process also plan to hold a capacity-building symposium at the IOC-UNESCO Headquarters in Paris in December 2023 to present, inter alia, the findings and input from the capacity-building workshops conducted in 2023.

Activities related to the achievement of output III: Capacity building

11. In accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle, the secretariat of the Regular Process, with support from the Group of Experts, is planning two regional workshops aimed at strengthening the science-policy interface in Santos, Brazil (10-12 May) and Honolulu, United States of America (12-14 June). These capacity-building workshops will be held back-to-back with the workshops for supporting the development of the third World Ocean Assessment(s).

³ <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/woa2-policybriefs>