



**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 Nineteenth Meeting (by correspondence)

Provisional Agenda Item 3

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 eighteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group held on 27 March 2023, the Bureau has conducted one meeting on 25 July 2023 to consider, among others, the progress in the implementation of the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025), as well as other items covered in section XIII of General Assembly resolution 77/248 relating to the Regular Process.

Implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle

Activities related to the overall implementation of the third cycle

3. The Bureau was informed that there are still pending nominations for the Group of Experts. Currently, the Group of Experts has 21 members out of the 25 positions available. One member from the African group, Mr. Renison Kahindi Ruwa from Kenya, has resigned from his position. The Bureau members from the African group, with one pending nomination, and the Eastern European group, with three pending nominations, will continue to follow up on this matter trying to achieve the full constitution of the Group of Experts as soon as possible.
4. Under the outreach and engagement strategy for the third cycle, the secretariat developed a QR code-based promotional material of the second World Ocean Assessment for dissemination at the second part of the thirty-second session of the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), held in Paris from 21 to 30 June 2023. This outreach campaign strengthened the ongoing awareness raising efforts of the Regular Process as part of the overall strategy to improve communication with stakeholders during the third cycle.

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

5. In accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle, the Group of Experts laid a strong foundation to develop the third World Ocean Assessment by developing roles and responsibilities of lead and co-lead for the respective chapters, subchapters, and sections pursuant to the approved annotated outline of the third World Ocean Assessment. Based on the finalized plan of assignment of roles, the Group of Experts will move on to providing concrete guidance to lead authors who will be invited to attend an in person lead authors meeting that will take place in the margin of the regional workshop in Singapore in November 2023, with a view to producing the zero draft of the third World Ocean Assessment in 2024.
6. The Group of Experts is also in the process of leading and guiding regional workshops designed for developing detailed input and regional level data to support the drafting of the third World Ocean Assessment. Three regional workshops in support of the third cycle of the Regular Process were held in Santos, Brazil, in May 2023, in Kingston in June 2023, in Mahe, Seychelles in July-August 2023. Two regional workshops are planned to be held in Lisbon in September 2023, and in Singapore in November 2023.

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

7. The Group of Experts undertook concrete efforts towards strengthening cooperation and coordination with IOC-UNESCO secretariat, by presenting the latest ocean science information at the Thirty-second session of the Assembly of the IOC-UNESCO. Representatives of the Group of Experts provided updates on the third cycle of the Regular Process and underscored the importance of ensuring compatibility and synergies between ocean-related assessments and assessments at the regional level.
8. The Regular Process explored further avenues for providing ocean-based climate solutions and latest information on decarbonising ocean activities by engaging in an informal dialogue with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). This meeting identified upcoming avenues for further collaboration under the seventh assessment cycle of the IPCC from the Regular Process perspective, drawing upon the already established observer status of DOALOS as a UN body to provide input at IPCC official proceedings, including its plenary meetings, to emphasize the need for concerted efforts to scale up sustainable ocean and coastal climate action, including restoration of blue carbon ecosystems.
9. The Regular Process plans to continue its efforts on supporting ocean-related intergovernmental processes, including by providing support for and delivering a statement at the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Activities related to the achievement of output III: Capacity building

10. In conjunction with the five regional workshops on supporting the development of the third World Ocean Assessment, the Group of Experts, with the assistance of the secretariat, will also provide input on capacity building for strengthening the ocean science-policy interface, with the aim, inter alia, to create a community of practice on the ocean science-policy interface across national, regional and global levels. The capacity-building symposium to be held in Paris from 12 to 13 December 2023 will be designed by building upon the best practice and region-specific input gathered from the four capacity building workshops, held in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania, in July 2022, in Kingston in September 2022, in Santos, Brazil, in May 2023, and in Kingston in June 2023, to support enhancing of ocean knowledge and capacity for strengthening the scientific basis for policymaking.
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