

Preliminary Agenda and Timetable

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Workshop on capacity-building for strengthening the ocean science-policy interface and on the scoping of the Fourth World Ocean Assessment (WOA IV)

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (28 September to 2 October 2026)

Monday “Ocean governance, Science-Policy and the Regular Process”

Time	Topic	Presenter/Coordinator
09:00 – 09:30	Registration	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)
09:30 – 09:45	Welcoming remarks	Francois Bailet, Head of Capacity-Building and Trust Funds and Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS Jared Bosire, Head and Executive Secretary of the UNEP Nairobi Convention Secretariat Magdalena Gerald Ngotolainyo, Acting Director for Blue Economy Development and Coordination in the Vice President’s Office of the United Republic of Tanzania, and National Focal Point to the Nairobi Convention Professor Amel Hamza-Chaffai, Full Professor of Marine Ecotoxicology at the University of Sfax, Director of the Marine Ecotoxicology Research Unit, Vice-Chair of the IOC-UNESCO Africa Task Force under the UN Ocean Decade, and Permanent Member of the Tunisian Academy of Sciences, Letters and

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		Arts, and Member of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process. Valentina Germani, Programme Advisor and Senior Legal Officer, DOALOS
9:45-11:00	Tour de Table	Valentina Germani, DOALOS All Participants
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break (+ group picture)	
11:30 - 12:00	The Regular Process on Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects and the World Ocean Assessments Introduction: Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea at the UN Regular Process and its World Ocean Assessments (WOAs) – process and outputs Logistics	Francois Bailet, DOALOS Amel Hamza-Chaffai, Member of the Group of Experts Francois Bailet, DOALOS
12:00 - 13.00	Presentations on the science-policy interface within ocean governance frameworks and lessons learned from national and regional approaches: “Setting-the-scene” Participants’ short presentations on national science-policy processes and outputs and how these could be considered by the WOA	Moderators: Francois Bailet, DOALOS Valentina Germani, DOALOS All Participants
13:00– 14:30	Lunch	
14:30-16:30	Cont’d	
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30 – 17:30	Cont’d	

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Tuesday “Science-Policy: Integrating Knowledge”

Time	Topic	Presenter/Coordinator
9.30 – 11:00	Round Table on World Ocean Assessment Topics Gender and Ocean 1) What mechanisms/approaches/processes can the Regular Process incorporate to ensure that gender perspectives and gender-disaggregated knowledge are systematically reflected in ocean assessment(s)? 2) How can outputs of the fourth cycle be co-designed and co-delivered to ensure more gender inclusive and equitable ocean knowledge and to advance gender-responsive ocean governance across sectors and regions?	Moderators: Valentina Germani, DOALOS Amel Hamza-Chaffai, Member of the Group of Experts Shashika Amali Samaranayake (Sri Lanka) Munyaradzi Mpofu (Zimbabwe)
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 – 13:00	Round Table on World Ocean Assessment Topics Traditional, Local and Indigenous Knowledge 1) What might be the mechanisms/processes the Regular Process can incorporate for supporting recognition and integration of Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge in assessment(s)? 2) How can outputs from the fourth cycle be best co-designed and co-delivered with custodians of Indigenous, traditional, and local knowledge?	Moderator: Professor Kwasi Appeaning Addo, Professor of Coastal Processes at the University of Ghana and Joint Coordinator of the Fourth Cycle of the United Nations Regular Process for the World Ocean Assessment Mohd Rasool Qtaishat (Jordan) Razieh Ghayoumi (Iran (Islamic Republic of)
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch Break	
14.30 – 16:00	Round Table on World Ocean Assessment Topics Ocean-based Economies and Finance 1) What are the current blue economy and finance priority topics for your countries and regions? 2) What types of outputs of the fourth cycle could support your national and regional blue economy and finance initiatives?	Moderator: Francois Bailet, DOALOS Jean Edmond Randrianantenaina (Madagascar) Kusala Seneviratne Mahalekama (Sri Lanka)

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		Nahid Adbedrahim Osman Hassan (Sudan) Muhammad Zarar (Pakistan) Punyasloke Bhadury (India) Vinesh Emrith (Mauritius)
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30-17:30	Discussions	Moderators: Francois Bailet, DOALOS Amel Hamza-Chaffai, Member of the Group of Experts Kwasi Appeaning, Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts All Participants

Wednesday “WOA IV scoping workshop”

Time	Topic	Presenter/Coordinator
9:30-10:00	Introduction to the scoping workshop	Kwasi Appeaning, Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts
10:00 – 11:00	Background and results from the pre-workshop survey	Amel Hamza-Chaffai, Member of the Group of Experts Kwasi Appeaning, Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30-13:00	Consideration of focus of the assessment, and the regional processes and intergovernmental organizations that could contribute to the assessment(s) of the fourth cycle.	Participants will be divided into breakout groups, moderated by representatives of the

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	Part 1: Break-out groups will meet to discuss the following: - Desired focus for chapters / examples (from WOA III or elsewhere) to be followed / avoided? - Potential formats or products that would improve the relevance and utility of the assessment of the fourth cycle to policymakers in the region (e.g. technical abstracts, summary documents, regional relevant documents). - Any additional products from the fourth cycle to those identified so far that might assist policymakers in progressing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and reporting against the Agenda.	Group of Experts and the Secretariat of the Regular Process.
13:00-14:30	Lunch	
14:30 – 16:00	Part 1 (Con't)	
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break	
16:30 – 17:30	Part 2: Report-back session for the break-out groups and discussion of their conclusions	Rapporteurs for each group will report back to the plenary

Thursday “WOA IV scoping workshop”

Time	Topic	Presenter/Coordinator
9:30-11:00	Consideration of what steps might be taken within the region in the period 2026 – 2030 to support contributions to the assessment under the Regular Process in the fourth cycle. Part 1 - Break-out groups will meet to discuss the following questions: <u>General format and content</u> (a) Where does the Regular Process need to produce original work, and where can we refer to existing assessments? (b) Should the next assessment be more focused on future scenarios and associated likelihoods rather than focusing on changes that have already occurred? (b1) In association, should the next assessment be focused on responses or solutions that could be utilized to address changes observed?	Participants will be divided into break out groups, moderated by representatives of the Group of Experts and the Secretariat of the Regular Process. Participants in the workshop are invited to take account of the information gaps identified in World Ocean Assessment III in formulating ideas on these questions.

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	(c) How can we identify cross-cutting issues: e.g. science policy interface, with a view to making the linkages between data and policy robust (e.g., defined language, uncertainties, etc.); major environmental aspects, build a strong evidence base, and design effective environmental management activities while ensuring cross-cutting topics are integrated, so that we can better understand and address region-specific needs? <u>Regional cooperation, data, and contributions</u> (e) How might the cooperation/coordination of existing regional organizations/processes be enhanced to ensure they can provide information that is relevant to the assessments of the Regular Process? (f) How might other relevant processes and activities, such as the Ocean Decade, IPBES and the IPCC be leveraged to support the Regular Process, particularly in bringing information from outside traditional research areas into the assessment (e.g., socio-economic information, indigenous and traditional owner knowledge and perspectives)? (f1) In association, how might the next assessment produced during the fourth cycle better incorporate national progress against the 2030 Agenda? (g) What can be done in relation to supporting the availability of relevant data and/or information that is known for the region or parts of it (including historical information, projections / scenarios / forecast / early warning), but where it has not been provided to any formal and publicly available process? (h) Which are the key indicators that could be highlighted in the assessment? Is the development of specific indicators that are region-specific, or application specific (e.g., adaptation, etc.), with a view to assessing or developing adequate methodologies something to be pursued? (i) What can be done to increase and strengthen the Pool of Experts, including building capacity, and improve networking and collaboration between experts and organizations taking part in the Regular Process, including with the Groups of Experts and the Secretariat?	
11:00-11:30	Coffee break	

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11:30-13:00	Part 1 (con't)	
13:00-14:30	Lunch	
14:30-16:00	Part 1 (con't)	
16:00-16:30	Coffee break	
16:30-17:30	Part 2 - Report-back session for the break-out groups and discussions of their conclusions	Rapporteurs for each group will report back to the plenary

Friday “WOA IV Scoping workshop”

Time	Topic	Presenter/Coordinator
9:30-11:00	Oral presentation by the Group of Experts of the main elements that have emerged from the Workshop (including the Round Tables on World the Ocean Assessment Topics) Feedback from participants	Kwasi Appeaning, Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts Amel Hamza-Chaffai, Member of the Group of Experts All participants
11:00-11.30	Coffee break	
11:30-13:00	Presentation of preliminary ideas for the structure/content of WOA IV Feedback from participants How to Join the Pool of Experts and how to become a National Focal Point DOALOS capacity-building and Trust Funds United Nations Nippon Foundation Fellowships	Kwasi Appeaning, Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts Amel Hamza-Chaffai, Member of the Group of Experts All participants Francois Bailet, DOALOS Valentina Germani, DOALOS
13:00-14:30	Lunch	
14:30-15:00	Closing of the Workshop	Ms. Emelia Susan Ngongi Namondo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in the United Republic of Tanzania

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		Kwasi Appeaning, Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts Amel Hamza-Chaffai, Member of the Group of Experts Magdalena Gerald Ngotolainyo, Acting Director for Blue Economy Development and Coordination in the Vice President's Office of the United Republic of Tanzania, and National Focal Point to the Nairobi Convention Valentina Germani, DOALOS
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