



**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 Sixteenth 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 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 fifteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group held by correspondence from 14 July to 28 September 2021, the Bureau held two virtual meetings on 25 October 2021 and 3 March 2022, respectively, to consider, among others, the four brief documents on the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II), and the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025), as well as other items covered in section XII of General Assembly resolution 76/72 relating to the Regular Process. Following that meeting, the Bureau continued to work by correspondence to oversee the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle.

Dissemination of the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II)

3. During the intersessional period, significant progress has been made in the dissemination of the key findings from the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II), in particular, through social media campaigns, involving several organizations including, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The secretariat shared social media assets, including a [promotional video on WOA II](#), with the secretariats of these organizations.

4. Taking into account the lessons learned from the second cycle on the importance of awareness-raising and effective communication, the secretariat established a partnership with a media company to produce a series of videos to disseminate the key findings from WOA II. These videos will be distributed through the company and the Regular Process/UN secretariat channels, such as websites and social accounts.

Implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle

Activities related to the overall implementation of the third cycle

5. 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. 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 trying to achieve the full constitution of the Group of Experts as soon as possible.

6. In accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process, the Bureau developed, with the support of the Group of Experts and the secretariat, a preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021-2025). Considering the lessons learned from the second cycle, member States highlighted the need to have a comprehensive timeline on all the activities planned for the entire cycle. The preliminary timetable will continue to be updated throughout the third cycle. This document is available on the website of the Regular Process.¹

7. To support the implementation of the third cycle, the secretariat sent a note verbale to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations inviting them to designate focal points and provide updated name and contact information for their designated National Focal Points (NFPs). In addition to NFPs, the Regular Process, for the first time, invited relevant intergovernmental organisations to designate Intergovernmental Focal Points (IFPs). A note verbale was sent to relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and secretariats of related organizations and conventions inviting them to designate their focal points. The list of NFPs and IFPs is available on the website of the Regular Process.²

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

8. In accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle, the Group of Experts is in the process of developing a concept note of the next assessment(s) as part of the preparation for the scoping exercise. The concept note will be used to guide the process of gathering feedback during the regional workshops on the scoping of the next assessment(s) to be held in 2022.

9. The Group of Experts is also in the process of developing a draft agenda for the five regional workshops on the scoping of the next assessment(s) to be held in 2022. The scope of these regional workshops will be to inform the scoping exercise and the development of annotated outline(s), collect regional-level data, raise awareness and provide information on the Regular Process, and generate interest from the scientific community in contributing to the drafting of the next assessment(s). The secretariat sent a

¹ <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/sixteenth-meeting-date-be-confirmed>.

² <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/content/national-focal-points-and-intergovernmental-focal-points>.

note verbale to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations containing detailed information on the regional workshops, inviting them to become a host or co-host for these workshops.

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

10. In accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle, the Group of Experts developed brief documents of WOA II on four topics, namely Climate Change, Marine Biodiversity, UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, and Sustainable Development Goal 14. Several intergovernmental processes and UN bodies were involved in the development of the brief documents, including CBD, FAO, IOC-UNESCO, IUCN and UNEP. The 16th meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole is invited to consider the brief documents. The review process of the brief documents will follow a similar structure to the review process adopted for WOA II.

11. The Group of Experts also continues to provide support for and interact with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes, including by attending and delivering a statement at the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Activities related to the achievement of output III: Capacity building

12. In conjunction with the five regional workshops on the scoping of the next assessment(s) to be held in 2022, the Group of Experts, with the assistance of the secretariat, will also conduct three regional workshops 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. In the same note verbale for the regional workshops on the scoping of the next assessment(s) to be held in 2022, the secretariat also invited all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations to become a host or co-host for the three regional workshops on capacity building to be held in 2022.

Activities related to outreach and engagement

13. In accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle, the secretariat, with the assistance of a consultant, is developing an outreach and engagement strategy for the third cycle. As part of the overall strategy to improve communication with stakeholders, the secretariat has launched social accounts for the Regular Process on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#) and will soon establish YouTube and Twitter accounts.
