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14 July 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

We wish to refer to the Notification concerning the convening of the fifteenth meeting (by correspondence) 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) which was circulated to Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on 7 July 2021.

In accordance with the modalities of the fifteenth meeting as outlined in the above-mentioned Notification, we hereby declare, in our capacities as the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process, the fifteenth meeting (by correspondence) of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole open as of today.

We would like to express our appreciation to all delegations for participating in this meeting amid challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Adoption of the agenda

Regarding the adoption of the agenda, we note that the provisional agenda and the annotated provisional agenda of the fifteenth meeting (by correspondence) of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole have been posted on the website of the Regular Process at: https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/fifteenth-meeting-correspondence. The provisional agenda is also annexed to this letter.

We propose that the fifteenth meeting of Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole decides to adopt the provisional agenda as contained in the Annex to this letter. This proposal is hereby placed under a silence procedure until 5.00 p.m. (New York time) on Monday, 19 July 2021.

Any objection to the above-mentioned proposal should be transmitted in a letter or a note verbale sent by email to the secretariat of the Regular Process (<u>doalos@un.org</u>; <u>temnova@un.org</u>).

In accordance with the modalities of the meeting as outlined in the Notification concerning the convening of the fifteenth meeting (by correspondence), and subject to the adoption of the agenda, we would also like to invite Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of Whole:

- (a) To provide any views on the note by the Bureau to be considered under the provisional agenda item 3 (Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole); and
- (b) To provide any comments on the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process, the Terms of Reference and Working Methods of the Group of Experts of the third cycle of the Regular Process, and the Terms of Reference for National Focal Points and Focal Points for Intergovernmental Entities, to be considered under the provisional agenda item 4 (Implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle).

The above-mentioned documents have been made available at: https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/fifteenth-meeting-correspondence.

It would be appreciated if such views or comments could be sent by email to the secretariat of the Regular Process (doalos@un.org; temnova@un.org) no later than midnight (New York time) on Wednesday, 21 July 2021. All views or comments received will be circulated to Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yolannie Cerrato

Mark Zellenrath

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Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly

The Fifteenth Meeting (by correspondence)

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 1. Opening of the meeting.
- 2. Adoption of the agenda.
- 3. Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole
- 4. Implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle:
 - a. Mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process;
 - b. Terms of Reference and Working Methods of the Group of Experts of the third cycle of the Regular Process;
 - c. Terms of Reference for National Focal Points; and
 - d. Terms of Reference for Focal Points for Intergovernmental Entities.
- 5. Adoption of recommendations to the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly