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## **General Assembly**

### **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**

**United Nations Headquarters, New York**

**27 to 28 March 2023**

#### **FORMAT**

#### **Methods of work**

1. The eighteenth meeting of the General Assembly 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, is convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/248 of 30 December 2022 on “Oceans and the law of the sea”. In paragraph 352 of the resolution, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene, in 2023, up to two meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of no more than two days of total duration each, one in the first half of 2023 and another in the second half, and, in 2024, up to two meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of no more than two days of total duration each. The eighteenth meeting on 27 and 28 March 2023 will be held with a view to, inter alia, consider: (i) the proposed scope of the next World Ocean Assessment(s); (ii) the comprehensive annotated outline of the World Ocean Assessment(s) containing a summary of content and format; (iii) the list of expertise needed for the writing teams; and (iv) the assessment of potential gaps and overlaps in expertise and the way to manage them. The General Assembly encourages the widest possible attendance of participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group.

2. Pursuant to paragraph 204 of General Assembly resolution 65/37 A of 7 December 2010 on “Oceans and the law of the sea”, the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole are open to Member States and observers of the United Nations. In accordance with past practice of the United Nations, relevant intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council will be invited to participate in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole. Relevant scientific institutions, and major groups identified in Agenda 21 may request an invitation to participate in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.



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3. The meeting will be coordinated by the Co-Chairs, Ms. Kimberly Louis (Saint Lucia) and Mr. Mark Zellenrath (Netherlands) representing developing and developed countries respectively, appointed by the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with regional groups.

#### **Agenda**

5. The Co-Chairs will propose a provisional agenda, a provisional annotated agenda and an organization of work, including a timetable, for the meeting.

#### **Outcome**

6. In accordance with the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, a report of the eighteenth meeting will be prepared and issued by the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group which will reflect the decisions made during the meeting. Based on the outcomes of the eighteenth meeting and the nineteenth meeting, currently scheduled to be held in September 2023, the Co-Chairs, in consultation with the Bureau, will prepare draft recommendations for inclusion in the annual General Assembly Resolution on Oceans and the Law of the Sea. These recommendations will be considered by the nineteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.