

Group of Experts of the Regular Process

FURTHER REVISED TIMETABLE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The following table sets out the progress that has been made in the preparation of the second world ocean assessment up to 31 October 2019. Changes have been proposed to the main target dates in 2019 and 2020.

- A revised preliminary timetable and implementation plan was considered by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process at its twelfth meeting held from 29 to 30 July 2019 (January 2018 version). That timetable reflected the estimated time to complete the second world ocean assessment, taking into account the delays that had already been incurred at that stage. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole then requested the Group of Experts to produce a further revised timetable and implementation plan for approval by the Bureau. This was agreed by the Group of Experts at its meeting from 5 to 9 August 2019 and circulated to the Bureau in August 2019 (August 2019 version of the timetable).
- According to that revised timetable, the deadline for submitting the first drafts of all chapters of the second world ocean assessment for peer-review was 23 September 2019. As of 31 October 2019, 27 of the 59 chapters and subchapters have been submitted to peer-reviewers.
- Due to these further delays in the preparation of the second world ocean assessment, and taking into account other constraints related to scheduling of intergovernmental meetings during the General Assembly, the Group of Experts considers that it is no longer feasible to finalize the second world ocean assessment by the end of 2020.
- Therefore, the Group of Experts considers it necessary to submit a further revised timetable and implementation plan for consideration by the Bureau.
- The further revised timetable and implementation plan (October 2019 version) set out below has been drafted to ensure that sufficient time is allocated to ensure that a complete, quality assessment can be produced within the time available. It also takes into account input from the secretariat of the Regular Process regarding constraints related to scheduling of the Ad hoc Working Group of the Whole during the third quarter of 2019. It envisages that the remaining work related to the second world ocean assessment be conducted in the following manner:
 - For chapters that were submitted to peer-reviewers in September and October 2019, the existing review and revision processes are currently ongoing, and are aimed to be completed in accordance with the August 2019 version of the timetable.
 - For the remaining chapters that have yet to be submitted to peer-reviewers, or have yet to be drafted, and writing teams to be established,

an additional six weeks have been allocated in order for these drafts to be finalized for peer-review. An additional period during which the peer-reviewers, Group of Experts, and the secretariat will be reviewing the chapters in parallel, has been set up, and the follow-up actions remain similar to the August 2019 version of the timetable.

- It is envisaged that a consolidated, edited version of the draft second world ocean assessment, including all chapters and subchapters, will be sent for review by States on 27 April 2020 (scheduled for 23 January 2020 in the August 2019 version), resulting in an approximate delay of about three months. The follow-up actions to the State review remain similar to the August 2019 version of the timetable, leading to a proposed meeting date for the fourteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in December 2019, to be confirmed once the calendar of meetings for the 75th session of the General Assembly is approved.

**FURTHER REVISED TIMETABLE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE
SECOND CYCLE OF THE REGULAR PROCESS**

DATE		EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
	2018		
1	In February 2018	States and Intergovernmental Organizations were invited to begin the process of populating further the Pool of Experts.	Another “Call for experts” will be sent by the secretariat at the end of 2018 to fill in identified gaps.
2	In February 2018	Group of Experts submitted to the Bureau the first set of proposed designations of Lead Members and Co-Lead Members for chapters.	
3	February 28 to March 1, 2018	AHWGW meeting approved the outline for the second world ocean assessment (World Ocean Assessment II or WOA II) and the preliminary timetable and implementation plan.	
4	In May 2018	Group of Experts submitted further proposed designations of Lead Members and Co-Lead Members for chapters.	
5	In June 2018	Bureau approved designation of Lead Members and Co-Lead Members for chapters.	
6	Throughout June, July, August, September, October and November 2018	Lead Members for chapters have proposed initial designations of convenors and members for the writing teams for agreement by the Group of Experts for submission to the Bureau. This process will continue until satisfactory complete writing teams have been established for all chapters. Initial designations may be partial, when nominations to the Pool of Experts do not permit the designation of a properly balanced team. No satisfactory lists for convenors and/or writing teams were received by the Bureau.	

DATE		EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
7	In June 2018	The Group of Experts submitted names for the first set of writing teams for approval by the Bureau. The Bureau requested the Group of Experts to submit abbreviated biographical information for each member of the writing teams.	
8	In August 2018	Group of Experts agreed an initial version of the template for chapters, including targets (numbers of pages or numbers of words) for the size of chapters. This was presented to the AHWGW at its August 2018 meeting.	The aim will be to keep the total to around 300 pages.
9	August 2018 onwards	Second round of Regional Workshops:	Within the available resources, the intention is that each Regional Workshop will involve the Joint Coordinators, the members of the Group of Experts from the region, experts nominated by States in the Region and convenors and members of the writing team(s) for one or more chapters allocated for this purpose to the Region.
		Koror, Palau (North Pacific) (8/9 August)	
		Valetta, Malta (North Atlantic) (27/28 August)	
		Odessa, The Ukraine (North Atlantic) (17/18 October)	
		Bali, Indonesia (Indian Ocean) (8/9 November)	
		Doha, Qatar (Indian Ocean) (28/29 November)	
		Accra, Ghana (South Atlantic) (3/4 December)	
		Guayaquil, Ecuador (South Pacific) (17/18 December)	
10	July 31, 2018	Original target for initial establishment of writing teams.	Establishment of writing teams will be an ongoing process.
11	August 1, 2018	Initial start for writing teams' work on drafting chapters.	Work began during the second round of regional workshops on the chapters discussed at those Workshops.

DATE		EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
12	July 30 and August 14, 2018	Virtual meetings of Group of Experts held to review progress as a basis for a report to the AHWGW for its August 2018 meeting.	
13	August 23 to 24, 2018	Meeting of AHWGW held.	
14	During August, September and October 2018	Virtual meetings of the Group of Experts to review progress and report to Bureau.	
15	By November 29, 2018	Preparation of reports to Bureau on progress with the second round of Regional Workshops and the constitution of writing teams	
16	December 4, 2018	Meeting of the Bureau to consider progress.	
2019			
17	January 24 to 25, 2019	Multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event for the Regular Process.	
18	15 to 16 May and 16 to 17 May, 2019	Meetings of writing teams with Lead Members.	
19	By June 30, 2019	Original deadline for Writing Teams to complete draft chapters for the first draft of World Ocean Assessment II.	Some draft chapters were received. A new deadline for chapter submission was set.
20	August 5 to 9, 2019	Group of Experts meets to review draft chapters and agree first draft of WOA II.	Group of Experts agreed the structure for Chapter 1 (Summary) and how to develop it. Group of Experts review available chapters, in particular with regard to length.
21	19 August, 2019	Exchanges between the members of the Group of Experts to agree the initial list of peer-reviewers.	

DATE		EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
22	Before August 21, 2019	Lead members write to proposed peer-reviewers to confirm their participation.	Lead members send lists of confirmed peer-reviewers to the Secretariat, indicating which would need to be nominated to the Pool of Experts.
23	By August 21, 2019	Lead Members propose peer-reviewers from the Pool of Experts for agreement by the Group of Experts for submission to the Bureau.	The intention is that 2 - 5 peer-reviewers should be designated for each chapter or section of a chapter for which a separate writing team is designated.
24	By August 22, 2019	An initial list of peer-reviewers will be submitted to the Bureau for its approval.	For approval by silence procedure.
25	August 29, 2019	Teleconference of the entire Group of Experts.	To decide which chapters should be sent for peer-review.
26	September 2, 2019 onwards	Secretariat starts sending the first drafts of chapters to those peer-reviewers that have been approved by the Bureau.	No chapters were submitted by this date.
27	September 6, 2019	Final list of peer-reviewers is submitted to the Bureau.	For approval by silence procedure.
28	September 13, 2019	Revised deadline to submit the first draft of all chapters.	
29	September 18, 2019	Teleconference of the entire Group of Experts.	To discuss the draft chapters.

DATE		EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
30	September 23, 2019	Revised deadline for sending all first drafts of chapters for peer-review.	As of 31 October 2019, 27 of 59 chapters and subchapters have been submitted to peer-reviewers, where a writing team and set of peer-reviewers has been approved by the Bureau. As of 31 October 2019, an approved list of peer reviewers is still missing for 14 chapters or subchapters. 10 chapters or subchapters do not yet have an approved writing team.
IN PARALLEL			
31	From August 13 to October 21, 2019	Group of Experts review chapters and provide comments on gaps and overlaps.	This was delayed due to the high number of missing chapters.
32	September 25, 2019	Teleconference of the entire Group of Experts.	Group of Experts decided to have a face-to-face meeting in December 2019.
33	September 23 to October 21, 2019	Secretariat reviews the first draft of the chapters and submits comments.	Secretariat review is now ongoing, as more chapters are coming in.
34	September 23 to October 21, 2019	Peer-reviewers review the first draft of the chapters and submit comments	Peer-review is now ongoing, as more chapters are coming in.
35	October 23, 2019	Teleconference of the entire Group of Experts.	
36	October 28, 2019	Teleconference of the entire Group of Experts	To assess progress on chapters of WOA II and discuss report to the Bureau.
37	October 31, 2019	Teleconference of the entire Group of Experts	To agree on the report to the Bureau and the final timetable for the production of WOA II.

DATE		EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
38	November 4, 2019	Meeting of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole	<i>Inter alia</i> to consider and agree on the October 2019 version of the timetable and implementation plan for WOA II and any necessary follow-up actions, and consider implications for the third cycle.
39	November 4 to November 8, 2019	Follow-up work from the meeting of the Bureau. Secretariat to provide any logistical assistance needed for the work of the writing teams for all remaining chapters to progress.	
40	November 6, 2019	Teleconference of the entire Group of Experts	To discuss the way forward after the Bureau meeting.
41	November 11 to December 20, 2019	Time allocated to finalize all remaining chapters of WOA II.	All chapters must be approved by the lead member of the chapter to be ready for peer-review by December 20.
42	Late November, 2019	Second round of the informal consultations on the annual resolution of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea.	Resolution to be adopted in December 2019.
43	As they are received, with a target deadline of November 22, 2019	Writing teams consider peer-reviewers' comments, comments by the Group of Experts on gaps and overlaps and comments by the Secretariat and produce proposed responses to the chapters submitted to peer-reviewers in September.	
44	November 25, 2019	Teleconference of the entire Group of Experts.	To consider the status of drafting of WOA II ahead of the meeting of the Group of Experts and agree actions needed to progress the any remaining chapters to be considered at that meeting.

DATE		EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
45	As they are received, but no later than December 2, 2019	Lead Members review comments and proposed responses from the writing teams on the chapters submitted to peer-reviewers in September, and send them to the Group of Experts.	
46	December 9 to 13, 2019	Group of Experts meets to revise draft chapters in the light of comments from the peer-reviewers and the proposed responses from writing teams	
47	December 18, 2019	Group of Experts to submit all chapters revised to the secretariat for copy-editing.	
48	December 19, 2019	Secretariat to send chapters for copy-editing.	Copy-editing to last one month.
49	December 20, 2019	Deadline for lead members to submit the peer-review ready version of the remaining chapters to the secretariat.	
50	December 23, 2019	Deadline for the secretariat to send the first drafts of all remaining chapters for peer-review.	
2020			
IN PARALLEL			
51	December 23, 2019 to January 24, 2020	Peer-reviewers review the remaining chapters.	Five weeks.
52	December 23, 2019 to January 24, 2020	Secretariat reviews remaining chapters	Five weeks.
53	December 23, 2019 to January 24, 2020	Group of Experts considers gaps and overlaps for <u>all</u> chapters.	Five weeks.
54	January 27 to February 21, 2020	Writing teams consider peer-reviewers' comments, comments by the Group of Experts on gaps and overlaps and comments by the Secretariat, revise the chapter and produce proposed responses to review.	Four weeks.

DATE		EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
55	February 24 to February 28, 2020	Lead Members review comments and proposed responses from the writing teams.	One week.
56	March 2 to March 13, 2020	Group of Experts reviews the revised chapters and the comments from writing teams in preparation for the meeting of the Group of Experts.	Two weeks.
57	March 16 to March 20, 2020	Group of Experts meets to revise the draft chapters considering the comments from writing teams. All chapters of World Ocean Assessment II are revised by March 20.	
58	March 23 until April 24, 2020	Copy-editing of the draft text of WOA II, in particular of the chapters that had not yet been copy-edited. Secretariat consolidates the chapters into a single document and formats the document, producing a clean version of the World Ocean Assessment II for transmission to States.	At least one consultant copy-editor will be needed. The Lead Members should be consulted during the copy-editing process.
59	April 27, 2020	Deadline for Secretariat to send the consolidated, edited draft of World Ocean Assessment II to States.	
60	April 27 to 5 June, 2020	States review the completed draft of WOA II.	Five and a half weeks.
61	June 8 to June 26, 2020	Secretariat consolidates States' comments and sends the comments to the writing teams.	Three weeks.
62	June 29 to July 17, 2020	Writing Teams review States' comments and produce proposed responses.	Three weeks.
63	July 20 to July 31, 2020	Lead Members review comments and proposed responses to States' comments. Lead Members secure relevant copyright permissions for figures, tables, graphs, etc.	Two weeks. Where permission to use figures was not obtained, chapters will need to be revised accordingly by July 31.

DATE		EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
64	August 3 to August 7, 2020	Group of Experts meets to finalize the text of WOA II in the light of comments from the States and proposed responses from writing teams and presents it to the Bureau.	
65	August 7, 2020	Bureau meeting to coincide with the last day of the meeting of the Group of Experts.	The Group of Experts presents WOA II orally to the Bureau.
66	August 10 to August 14, 2020	Secretariat formats the finalized text.	One week.
67	August 17, 2020	The finalized text is sent to the Bureau.	
68	August 17, 2020	Copies of the responses agreed by the Group of Experts to the comments from States are sent to States.	
69	August 17 to September 2, 2020	Exchanges between Bureau and Group of Experts on questions arising from WOA II.	Two and a half weeks.
70	August 17 to September 2, 2020	Period for States to review responses to their comments and raise any questions in light of the responses with the Group of Experts.	Two and a half weeks.
71	September 3 to 4, 2020	Period to resolve outstanding issues through exchanges between States' representatives and the Group of Experts.	
72	September 7, 2020	Group of Experts reports to Bureau regarding changes made to the draft as a result of the review by and exchanges with States.	
73	September 8, 2020	Bureau approves the submission of WOA II to AHWGW. The text of the summary of WOA II is sent for translation into other UN languages.	
74	September 9 and 10, 2020	Thirteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process.	To provide recommendations to the General Assembly on the draft programme of work and resource requirements for the third cycle.
75	September 14, 2020	World Ocean Assessment II and its summary are sent for translation.	

	DATE	EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
76	September 14 to November 20, 2020	Translation of the summary of WOA II.	Ten weeks needed for translation of a summary of approximately 20 pages.
77	September 14, 2020 to 2021 (date TBD)	Translation of the entire World Ocean Assessment II.	Completion date to be determined once the final word count of WOA II is available.
78	October/November, 2020	First and second rounds of informal consultations on the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea of the General Assembly.	Resolution to be adopted in December 2020.
79	November 23, 2020	Summary of WOA II in all six languages is sent to States, along with the advance, unedited version of WOA II in English only.	
80	November 23, 2020 to week of January 11, 2021	Period for participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to prepare for AHWG meeting.	Seven weeks.
81	December 2020 or beginning of January 2021 (TBC once the calendar of meetings for the 75 th session of the General Assembly is approved)	Fourteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process to consider WOA II and its submission to the General Assembly.	
	2021		
82	2021	Issuance of the full text of the entire WOA II in all official languages. Publication of WOA II.	