



**Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects**

**Workshop under the auspices of the United Nations, in support of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects**

Valletta, Malta, 27 to 28 August 2018

**Information for participants**

**Note by the secretariat**

**I. Background**

1. The programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, developed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole during its seventh meeting held in New York from 3 to 9 August 2017 and endorsed by the General Assembly later that year, includes in the activities for 2018 the holding of a second round of regional workshops, which are to begin in 2018. The workshops are intended to support the development of the second world ocean assessment by enabling the collection of regional-level data and enabling relevant members of writing teams to meet.
2. In accordance with the guidance to the Bureau adopted by the tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on 1 March 2018, the Bureau has finalized Guidelines for the second round of Workshops in 2018 to Assist the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (the “Guidelines”). Pursuant to the Guidelines, workshops are organized under the auspices of the United Nations, in coordination with the secretariat of the Regular Process, represented by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations (the “Division”) and with the assistance of members of the Group of Experts and Pool of Experts, as appropriate.
3. According to the Guidelines, the objectives of the workshops are to:
  - (a) Support the development of the second world ocean assessment by enabling the collection of regional-level information and data for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment and to enable relevant members of writing teams for specified chapters<sup>4</sup> to meet, and to interact with experts from the region in the fields covered by those chapters;

- (b) Enable the regional experts to understand better the approaches of the Regular Process and to develop their skills in integrated assessment, covering environmental, social and economic aspects;
- (c) Enable the writing teams for the chapters selected for the workshop, with the help of the Joint Coordinators and the members of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process (“the Group of Experts”) who are present, to discuss the structure of their chapter, its relationship with the other chapters of the Outline for the second world ocean assessment (“the Outline”) and responsibilities for developing the chapter text;
- (d) Provide opportunities for the members of the Group of Experts present to highlight important issues within the Outline other than those of the selected chapters, in order to broaden understanding of the full range of the Regular Process;
- (e) Consider what learning points / needs and resources may be relevant to the inventory of capacity-building inventory of needs and opportunities relevant for the Regular Process being compiled and maintained by the secretariat, and to the multi-stakeholder dialogue (case studies of good practices) and capacity-building partnership event, to be held in early 2019.
- (f) Consider what capacity-building steps might be taken, both at global and regional levels, in relation to the issues covered by the selected chapters.

## **II. Host, venue and date of the Workshop**

- 4. The Government of Malta offered to host a Workshop in support of the Regular Process, from 27 to 28 August 2018. It will cover the North Atlantic, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. The Workshop will be held under the auspices of the United Nations and is organized by the Government of Malta.
- 5. The Workshop will take place at the University of Malta Valletta Campus in St Paul’s Street, Valletta, Malta. It will start at 9:00 am on 27 August 2018 and end at 5:30 pm on 28 August.

University of Malta Valletta Campus  
 Address: Valletta Campus St Paul Street  
 Valletta. VLT 1216  
 MALTA  
 Telephone: +356 2340 7513/6  
 Website: <https://www.um.edu.mt/conferenceunit/about/howtoreachus>

## **III. Chair(s) and secretariat support**

- 6. Pursuant to the Guidelines, the host will designate a Chair (or Co-Chairs) of the Workshop. The Government of Malta may consider inviting a member of the Group of Experts and, as appropriate of the Pool of Experts, to be the Chair, or a

Co-Chair, of the Workshop. The host may provide guidance, where needed, on what the priorities for the region are, as well as on potential participants and other modalities for the Workshop.

#### **IV. Agenda and activities of the Workshop**

7. The provisional agenda of the Workshop, together with relevant documentation, will be posted prior to the Workshop on the website of the Division:  
<http://www.un.org/Depts/los/rp>.
8. Capacity-building is one of the core objectives of the Regular Process. Pursuant to the Guidelines, an important part of the Workshop will be the consideration of what learning points/needs and resources may be relevant to the inventory of capacity-building opportunities relevant for the Regular Process being compiled and maintained by the secretariat, and to the multi-stakeholder dialogue (case studies of good practices) and capacity-building partnership event, to be held in early 2019.

#### **V. Interpretation**

9. The Workshop will be conducted in English.
10. Any participant may make a statement in a language other than English. In that case, the participant must provide either interpretation services or a written text of the statement in English. The interpreted version of the statement or the translated version of the written text submitted in English will be considered to be the official text of the statement.

#### **VI. Preliminary information and output of the Workshop**

11. The official documentation of the Workshop will be issued in English.
13. The output of the Workshop will take the form of notes by the writing teams on the issues discussed in relation to each of the chapters selected for the workshop. To deliver these, each writing team will be asked to designate one of its members to take responsibility for the production of these notes.

The output will also take the form of a summary of other discussions and presentations taking place in the workshop. The member(s) of the Group of Experts, of the Pool of Experts, as appropriate, and the secretariat of the Regular Process will help to produce this summary. Provision will be made for participants to comment on a draft of the summary and for the final version to be revised by the chair(s) and representative(s) of the Group of Experts and of the Pool of Experts, as appropriate, in the light of such comments.

14. The secretariat of the Regular Process will play an important role in ensuring that the output of each workshop is captured and presented in a way which will support the work of the second cycle of the Regular Process.
15. The final version of the summary of discussions, which could include (subject to the discretion of the relevant writing team) the notes on specific chapters, will be made publicly available on the Regular Process website.

## **VII. List of participants**

16. The secretariat of the Regular Process, with the support of the Government of Malta, will publish a list of participants to the Workshop.

## **VIII. Visa requirements**

18. It is the responsibility of participants to establish visa requirements for the host country and any transit countries as may be necessary, including the securing of such visas.

## **IX. Arrival in Valletta, Malta and local transportation**

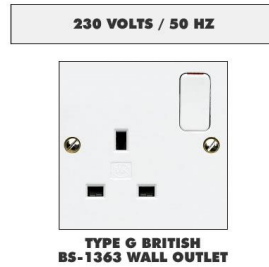
19. Many transport options are available for getting from Malta International Airport to the University of Malta Valletta Campus. There are also a number of bus, shuttle and taxi services which can be utilized. More information is available on the Malta International Airport website: <https://www.maltairport.com/>.

## **X. Climate and clothing**

21. The average daily temperature for the third quarter of the year in Valletta is a high of 29 and a low of 20 Degrees Celsius. When visiting Valletta, it's a good idea to pack light clothing. Natural fabrics such as cotton and linen are recommended in view of the warm temperatures and humidity that is typical at this time of the year.

## **XI. Voltage**

22. Electricity throughout Malta is supplied at a nominal voltage of 230 **volts**. The frequency of the supply is 50 hertz. The three-pin rectangular plug system is used, as in Britain. It is recommended that participants bring their own adapters.



## **XII. Currency**

23. The official currency of Malta is the Euro.

All major credit cards and traveller's cheques are widely accepted at banks, hotels, restaurants and shopping centres. Exchange bureaux at the Malta International Airport are open 24 hours a day. Banks, Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and exchange bureaux can be found all over the Islands. Banks are normally open until early afternoon from Monday to Friday, and until midday on Saturday. Some banks/branches work longer hours. Summer and winter opening hours may differ.

## **XIII. Hotel accommodation**

24. Participants may find a vast selection of hotels on the Maltese Islands, ranging from the larger internationally-branded resorts to the small family-run boutique hotels; from coastal establishments located within walking distance from the beach to city hotels. Hotels are classified in four categories, ranging from 5-Star down to 2-Star. Further information may be found on the following website: <https://www.visitmalta.com/en/hotels>.

Participants are kindly requested to make their own hotel reservations directly with a hotel.

## **XIV. Health**

26. All participants are required to obtain medical insurance for the duration of the Workshop.

Medical care in Malta is available through both public and private hospitals and the quality of medical care in Malta is excellent. Travellers do not normally require certificates of vaccination or immunisation to enter the Maltese Islands. Visitors from EU member states should make sure that they have a European Health Insurance card. Malta has reciprocal health agreements with Australia and the United Kingdom. Nationals of these countries visiting the Islands for no longer than one month, are entitled to free medical and hospital care in both Malta

and Gozo. Visitors receiving special medical treatment should bring a medical prescription or a letter of introduction from their family doctor, in case they need to purchase particular medicines.

**Public General Hospitals**

Mater Dei Hospital  
B'Kara By-pass  
B'Kara MSD 2090  
Tel: 356 25450000  
Email: [mdh@gov.mt](mailto:mdh@gov.mt)

**Gozo General Hospital**

Victoria.  
Tel: 356 21561600

**Pharmacies**

Pharmacies are found throughout the Maltese Islands and are **open during normal shopping hours**. On Sundays, chemists open on a roster from 09.00 until 12.30 in Malta and from 07.30 until 11.00 in Gozo.

**XV. Additional information**

27. Information on the Workshop can be accessed through the Internet at the following website: <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/rp>.
28. For participants whose travel is being funded by the United Nations, additional information regarding travel arrangements will be communicated directly to them by the secretariat.