

Group of Experts of the Regular Process - Meeting 15-19 January 2018

Note by the Group

PRELIMINARY TIMETABLE AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The following table sets out the progress that has been made in implementing the second cycle of the Regular Process up to 28 November, and shows (as tracked changes) the adjustments to the approved initial timetable which are necessary in the light of tasks which have not yet been able to be completed. No changes are proposed to the main target dates in 2019, since there should be sufficient time for the necessary tasks to be completed. Some further work on constituting writing teams is still needed, and this may need to be continued into 2019.

The Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole is invited to approve the revised preliminary timetable and implementation plan.

REVISED PRELIMINARY 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 - March 1	AHWGW meeting approved the outline for the second world ocean assessment (World Ocean Assessment 2 or WOA2) 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.	

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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.	
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 onwards	<p>Second round of Regional Workshops:</p> <p>Koror, Palau (North Pacific) (8/9 August)</p> <p>Valetta, Malta (North Atlantic) (27/28 August)</p> <p>Odessa, The Ukraine (North Atlantic) (17/18 October)</p> <p>Bali, Indonesia (Indian Ocean) (8/9 November)</p>	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

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		Doha, Qatar (Indian Ocean) (28/29 November)	Region.
		Accra, Ghana (South Atlantic) (3/4 December)	
		Guayaquil, Ecuador (South Pacific) (17/18 December)	
10	July 31	Original target for initial establishment of writing teams. Establishment of writing teams will be an ongoing process.	
11	August 1	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.	
12	July 30 and August 14	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 – 24	Meeting of AHWGW held.	
14	During August, September and October	Virtual meetings of the Group of Experts to review progress and report to Bureau.	
15	By November 29, preparation of reports to Bureau on progress with the second round of Regional Workshops and the constitution of writing teams		
16	December 4	Meeting of the Bureau to consider progress.	
	2019		
17	January 23/24	Multi-stakeholder event on capacity-building for the Regular Process.	
18	Possibly in early 2019 (originally aimed to be held in the second half of 2018)	Meeting of members of Writing Teams not allocated to a Regional Workshop with Joint Coordinators and Lead Members.	

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19	April 1 – 5	Virtual meetings of the Group of Experts to review progress.	
20	By June 30	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 3 - 5 peer reviewers should be designated for each chapter or section of a chapter for which a separate writing team is designated.
21	By June 30	Writing Teams complete draft chapters for the first draft of World Ocean Assessment 2.	
22	By July 31	Group of Experts develop the draft of Chapter 1 (Summary) and complete review of the draft chapters.	
23	August 5 -9	Group of Experts meets to review draft chapters and agree first draft of WOA2 (Draft 1).	
24	August 12 – 23	Secretariat format Draft 1 and send it for peer review.	
IN PARALLEL			
25	During September November	Secretariat review Draft 1.	
26	August 26 - October 4	Peer reviewers review Draft 1 and submit comments	Maximum of six weeks.
27	As they are received, and by no later than November 8	Writing teams consider peer reviewers' comments and produce proposed responses.	Minimum of four weeks.
28	As they are received but no later than November 29	Lead Members review comments and proposed responses.	Three weeks.
29	December 2-6	Group of Experts meet to revise Draft 1 in the light of comments from the peer reviewers and the proposed responses from writing teams (Draft 2).	
30	December 9 until January 5, 2020	Secretariat produces a clean version of Draft 2 for sending to States.	

	DATE	EVENT/PROCESS	Comments
	2020		
31	January 6	Deadline for Secretariat to send Draft 2 to States.	
32	January 7 - February 14	States review completed Draft 2.	Five-and-a-half weeks.
33	February 16 – 27	Secretariat consolidates States' comments.	Two weeks (experience with the 5,000 comments on World Ocean Assessment I suggests that this period is essential. Less time might be needed if States do not invite all those in any country who are interested to submit comments to them.)
34	February 29 - March 20	Writing Teams review States' comments and produce proposed responses.	Minimum of three weeks.
35	March 23 -March 27	Lead Members review comments and proposed responses to States' comments.	
36	March 30 - April 3	Group of Experts meets to finalize the text of WOA2 in the light of comments from the States and proposed responses from writing teams and presents it to the Bureau.	
37	April 6 – 14	Secretariat formats the finalized text.	
38	April 15	The finalized text is sent to the Bureau.	
39	April 15	Copies of the responses agreed by the Group of Experts to the comments from States are sent to States.	
	IN PARALLEL		
40	April 15 - May 13	Copy-editing of the finalized text.	A consultant copy-editor is likely to be needed.
41	April 15 - May 13	Exchanges between Bureau and Group of Experts on questions arising from WOA2.	Four weeks.

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42	April 15 - May 13	Period for States to review responses to their comments and raise any questions in light of the responses with the Group of Experts.	Four weeks.
43	May 15 – 19	Period to resolve outstanding issues through exchanges between States' representatives and the Group of Experts. and to complete incorporation of copy editing.	
44	May 22 (at the latest)	Bureau approves WOA2 for submission to AHWGW. The text of the summary of WOA2 sent for translation into other UN languages.	Eight weeks for translation. (Translation of the Summary is proposed at this stage because of complaints at the AHWGW in 2015 about the impossibility of getting comments from capitals on a text solely in English).
45	July 17 (at the latest)	Completion of the translation of the summary of WOA2 into other UN languages. The summary in all UN languages and English text of the remainder is sent to UN Member States.	
46	July 17 - August 14	Period for UN Member States to prepare for AHWGW meeting.	Minimum of four weeks.
47	August/September	Meeting of AHWGW to authorize submission of WOA2 to the General Assembly.	
48	October/November	Informal negotiations on the Ocean Omnibus resolution.	
49	December	General Assembly adopts Ocean Omnibus resolution, completing the second cycle of the Regular Process.	
50	After December	If resources permit, translation of the full text of the remainder of WOA2 into the other UN languages. Publication of the WOA2.	