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## Soixante-treizième session

Point 78 a) de l'ordre du jour provisoire\*

**Les océans et le droit de la mer : Les océans et le droit de la mer**

### **Rapport sur les travaux du Groupe de travail spécial plénier sur le Mécanisme de notification et d'évaluation systématiques à l'échelle mondiale de l'état du milieu marin, y compris les aspects socioéconomiques**

#### **Lettre datée du 7 septembre 2018, adressée au Président de l'Assemblée générale par les Coprésidents du Groupe de travail spécial plénier**

Nous avons l'honneur de vous faire tenir ci-joint le rapport sur les travaux du Groupe de travail spécial plénier sur le Mécanisme de notification et d'évaluation systématiques à l'échelle mondiale de l'état du milieu marin, y compris les aspects socioéconomiques, qui s'est réuni au Siège de l'Organisation des Nations Unies les 23 et 24 août 2018, en application du paragraphe 330 de la résolution [72/73](#) de l'Assemblée générale. Les recommandations formulées par le Groupe pour examen par l'Assemblée générale à sa soixante-treizième-session figurent à la section III du rapport. La section IV contient des orientations concernant le deuxième cycle du Mécanisme, à l'intention du Bureau, du Groupe d'experts et du secrétariat du Mécanisme.

Nous vous serions reconnaissantes de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et du rapport comme document de l'Assemblée générale au titre du point de l'ordre du jour intitulé « Les océans et le droit de la mer ».

(Signé) Juliette **Babb-Riley**

(Signé) Carolyn **Schwalger**

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\* [A/73/150](#).



## **Report 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**

### **I. Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole**

1. The eleventh meeting 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 was convened pursuant to paragraph 330 of General Assembly resolution 72/73. The meeting of the Working Group was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 23 and 24 August 2018.

2. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Juliette Babb-Riley (Barbados) and Minna-Liina Lind (Estonia), opened the meeting. The Assistant Secretary-General for Legal Affairs delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Secretary-General. The meeting observed a minute of silence in honour of former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, who passed away on 18 August 2018.

3. Representatives of 59 Member States,<sup>1</sup> one non-member State,<sup>2</sup> four intergovernmental organizations and other bodies<sup>3</sup> and two non-governmental organizations<sup>4</sup> attended the meeting.

4. The following members of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process, established pursuant to paragraph 287 of General Assembly resolution 70/235, also attended the meeting: Anastasia Strati (Greece), Chul Park (Republic of Korea), Carlos García Soto (Slovakia) and Alan Simcock (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). Alan Simcock participated in his capacity as Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts.

5. The following supporting documentation was available to the meeting: a provisional agenda; an annotated provisional agenda; a format; a proposed organization of work; a note by the Joint Coordinators on the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second cycle of the Regular Process; a note by the Joint Coordinators on the annotated outline of the second world ocean assessment; and a draft agenda and draft concept note for the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event to be held in January 2019.

6. The Working Group adopted the agenda (see sect. II below) and agreed on the organization of work as proposed by the Co-Chairs.

7. Under agenda item 4, the Co-Chairs presented the report of the Bureau of the Working Group regarding developments in the implementation of the programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process since the previous meeting of the Working Group. Several delegations made general statements

<sup>1</sup> Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Czechia, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Palau, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Sao Tome and Principe, Serbia, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Ukraine, United States of America and Uruguay.

<sup>2</sup> Holy See.

<sup>3</sup> Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization, European Union, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Secretariat (Department of Economic and Social Affairs).

<sup>4</sup> International Ocean Institute and International Ship Managers' Association.

under the agenda item, welcoming the report and the intersessional work of the Bureau and expressing their appreciation for the work of the Co-Chairs, the Bureau, the Group of Experts and the secretariat during the intersessional period. A number of delegations highlighted the progress made in the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts, the approval by the Bureau of the list of lead and co-lead members for the second world ocean assessment, the addition of an expert to the Group of Experts, the operationalization of the second round of regional workshops and the successful launch of the new Regular Process website. A delegation highlighted the importance of a fully-constituted Group of Experts. Several delegations welcomed the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event to be held in January 2019, noting that it would, inter alia, provide a forum to identify the capacity-building needs of States in order to fulfil the objectives of the Regular Process. Some delegations provided information on their ongoing capacity-building activities. The Working Group took note of the report of the Bureau.

8. Under agenda item 5, the Working Group considered a note presented by the Joint Coordinator, Alan Simcock, on the implementation of the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second world ocean assessment (see annex I). A number of delegations expressed their appreciation for the progress made in the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process. Some delegations expressed concern regarding the delays in implementing the preliminary timetable and implementation plan, in particular in relation to the establishment of the writing teams for the chapters of the second world ocean assessment and the ability to keep to a number of timelines. Some delegations observed a need for more communication between the Group of Experts and members of the Pool of Experts, including with regard to their roles and expected functions. A delegation noted the important role of peer-reviewers in the preparation of the second world ocean assessment and a view was expressed that there was a need to accommodate nominations of experts as peer-reviewers even after the establishment of the writing teams.

9. The Joint Coordinator noted that the Group of Experts was working towards establishing all the writing teams and would then have a better understanding of the gaps in expertise and geographical representation. He noted that members of the Pool of Experts had been requested to indicate their preferred roles, either as writing team members or peer-reviewers, and that any shortages in peer-reviewers would be referred to national focal points for their assistance in identifying additional ones. Given that the aim was to have small writing teams, he also noted that more experts from the Pool of Experts could be involved as commentators to ensure that all members played a role in the preparation of the second world ocean assessment. Regarding the communications system between the Group of Experts and the Pool of Experts, the Joint Coordinator noted that a periodical newsletter could be developed to facilitate this.

10. The Working Group requested the Group of Experts to prepare a revised preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second world ocean assessment. It also requested its Bureau to consider and adopt the revised preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second world ocean assessment, keep it under review and oversee its implementation.

11. Under agenda item 6, and pursuant to a request made to the Group of Experts during its tenth meeting (see [A/73/74](#), para. 22 (a)), the Working Group considered a note by the Joint Coordinators of the Group of Experts providing an update on the development of the annotated outline for the second world ocean assessment (see annex II). This note, presented by the Joint Coordinator, Alan Simcock, set out the views of the Joint Coordinators with regard to the steps towards the development of the annotated outline. The Joint Coordinator noted that the annotated outline required

inputs from writing teams and could only be prepared once all the writing teams were approved. Given that most of the writing teams would likely be approved later in 2018, the Joint Coordinator considered that the annotated outline would likely be finalized in the forthcoming months. A delegation made proposals in relation to the outline contained in the note, which were accepted by the Joint Coordinator. In response to a query by a delegation regarding the gaps in expertise in the Pool of Experts, the Joint Coordinator noted that there was a need for more experts from the socioeconomic field and that there were gaps in regional representation that needed to be filled in order to effectively support the preparation of the second world ocean assessment.

12. The Working Group considered and took note of the progress made in the preparation of the annotated outline. The Working Group requested the Group of Experts to advise as soon as possible on the areas where the required expertise for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment might be lacking, and on the regions which to date had been underrepresented in the Pool of Experts. The Working Group also requested the secretariat to transmit a request to States to nominate, and to intergovernmental organizations to recommend, experts from the underrepresented regions and with the relevant expertise.

13. The Working Group further requested the Group of Experts to prepare, in the light of the comments received, the annotated outline for the second world ocean assessment, to be considered and adopted by the Bureau in the intersessional period. The Working Group requested its Bureau to continue to oversee the ongoing process of the constitution of writing teams for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment. In the light of the need to take into account nominations of experts by States other than their States of nationality, the Bureau was also requested to review the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process, developed by the Bureau of the Working Group in accordance with paragraph 311 of General Assembly resolution [71/257](#).

14. Under agenda item 7, the Working Group considered the second round of regional workshops held in accordance with the programme of work for the second cycle of the Regular Process, for the years 2017–2020. It was noted that following the formal offers to host regional workshops for the second round in 2018 received by the secretariat (see [A/73/74](#), para. 22 (e)), the Bureau had decided that there would be a total of seven regional workshops. The Working Group also considered and took note of the information provided by the Joint Coordinator, Alan Simcock, and by a member of the Group of Experts, Chul Park, regarding the first workshop of the second round of regional workshops, which was held in Koror, Palau, on 8 and 9 August 2018.

15. Under agenda item 8, the Working Group considered the draft concept note and draft agenda for the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event scheduled to be held in January 2019 at United Nations Headquarters in New York, prepared by the Bureau in consultation with the Group of Experts and the secretariat. It was noted that a delegation had submitted written comments on the drafts to the secretariat, which were made available to all delegations.

16. The Working Group requested its Bureau, in consultation with the Group of Experts and the secretariat, to finalize the concept note and draft agenda for the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event in the light of the comments received and discussions at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group requested the secretariat to invite States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event, including by nominating panellists, with due attention given to equitable geographical representation and gender balance in the selection of panellists. The Working Group

further requested its Bureau, in consultation with the Group of Experts and the secretariat, to draw up a list of panellists for the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event from representatives of States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

17. Under agenda item 9, the Working Group considered the draft recommendations and guidance to the Bureau, the Group of Experts and the secretariat. Under agenda item 10, the Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea reported on the status of the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of supporting the operations of the Regular Process and noted that, since the tenth meeting of the Working Group, the trust fund had received a contribution from New Zealand. Delegations were encouraged to continue to contribute to the trust fund and to make other contributions to the Regular Process pursuant to the appeal from the General Assembly in paragraph 329 of its resolution [72/73](#).

#### **Adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session**

18. The Working Group adopted by consensus the draft recommendations for the consideration of the General Assembly at its seventy-third session (see sect. III). The Working Group also adopted the guidance to the Bureau, the Group of Experts and the secretariat (see sect. IV).

## **II. Agenda of the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole**

19. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole adopted the agenda set out below.
  1. Opening of the meeting.
  2. Adoption of the agenda.
  3. Organization of work.
  4. Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.
  5. Information from the Group of Experts regarding implementation of the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second cycle of the Regular Process.
  6. Annotated outline for the second world ocean assessment.
  7. Second round of regional workshops.
  8. Multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event.
  9. Adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session.
  10. Other matters.
  11. Closure of the meeting.

### III. Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session

20. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends to the General Assembly that it:

(a) Reiterate the need to strengthen the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking;

(b) Reaffirm the principles guiding the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects and its objective and scope as agreed upon at the first meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in 2009;

(c) Recall that the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations, is accountable to the General Assembly and is an intergovernmental process guided by international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international instruments, and takes into account relevant Assembly resolutions;

(d) Reaffirm the importance of the first World Ocean Assessment as the outcome of the first cycle of the Regular Process;

(e) Reiterate its concern at the findings of the first World Ocean Assessment that the world's ocean is facing major pressures simultaneously with such great impacts that the limits of its carrying capacity are being, or, in some cases, have been reached, and that delays in implementing solutions to the problems that have already been identified as threatening to degrade the world's ocean will lead, unnecessarily, to incurring greater environmental, social and economic cost;

(f) Recall the importance of making Governments, United Nations system organizations, bodies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental organizations, the scientific community and the general public aware of the first World Ocean Assessment and the Regular Process, and recognize with appreciation the activities undertaken in this regard during various intergovernmental meetings;

(g) Also recall the technical abstracts of the first World Ocean Assessment on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction; the ocean and the Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the impacts of climate change and related changes in the atmosphere on the oceans, prepared in accordance with the programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

(h) Further recall that advance unedited copies of the technical abstracts were made available to the Preparatory Committee established by General Assembly resolution [69/292](#), the eighteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea and the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14;

(i) Recall the decision that, in the first cycle, the scope of the Regular Process focused on establishing a baseline, and that the scope of the second cycle would extend to evaluating trends and identifying gaps;

(j) Also recall the decision that the Regular Process shall be overseen and guided by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and that the Ad Hoc Working Group shall facilitate the delivery of the outputs of the second cycle as outlined in the

programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

(k) Recognize with appreciation the important role of the Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in providing guidance during the intersessional periods, including in operationalizing the second cycle of the Regular Process;

(l) Welcome the holding of the tenth and eleventh meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, on 28 February and 1 March 2018 and on 23 and 24 August 2018, respectively, in accordance with paragraph 330 of General Assembly resolution [72/73](#);

(m) Take note of the recommendations and guidance adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its tenth meeting,<sup>5</sup> and endorse the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group at its eleventh meeting;

(n) Reaffirm its decision that in the elaboration of an outline, the Group of Experts of the Regular Process should proceed on the basis of the preparation of a single comprehensive assessment, and note the approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the outline for the second world ocean assessment<sup>6</sup> in accordance with paragraph 330 of resolution [72/73](#);

(o) Take note of the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second world ocean assessment prepared by the Group of Experts in consultation with the secretariat of the Regular Process;

(p) Recall the endorsement by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the terms of reference and working methods of the Group of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process, prepared in accordance with paragraph 310 of resolution [71/257](#),<sup>7</sup> and take note of the guidance for contributors, part II, prepared by the Group of Experts pursuant to paragraph 310 of resolution [71/257](#),<sup>8</sup>

(q) Note the appointment of an additional expert to the Group of Experts in accordance with paragraph 287 of General Assembly resolution [70/235](#), and urge regional groups that have not yet done so to appoint experts to the Group of Experts, taking into account the need to ensure geographical distribution and adequate expertise in socioeconomic disciplines;

(r) Welcome the expressions of interest of individuals who served in the Pool of Experts during the first cycle of the Regular Process to serve in the Pool of Experts for the second cycle;

(s) Also welcome the appointment of additional experts to the Pool of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process by States and through recommendations from relevant intergovernmental organizations, in accordance with the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process,<sup>9</sup> and encourage the further appointment of experts to the Pool of Experts;

(t) Recognize with appreciation the continued work of the members of the Group of Experts and that of the Pool of Experts of the Regular Process in the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process;

<sup>5</sup> See [A/73/74](#).

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., annex I.

<sup>7</sup> [A/72/89](#), annex.

<sup>8</sup> See [A/73/74](#), annex II. For part I of the guidance for contributors, see [A/72/494](#), annex IV.

<sup>9</sup> [A/72/494](#), annex I.



(u) Welcome the designation by States of national focal points pursuant to paragraph 315 of resolution 72/73, and urge States that have not yet done so to designate their national focal points as soon as possible;

(v) Note the finalization and adoption by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of guidelines to assist the second round of workshops of the second cycle of the Regular Process,<sup>10</sup> prepared by the Group of Experts in consultation with the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group and the secretariat of the Regular Process;

(w) Take note of the summaries of the first round of regional workshops in support of the second cycle of the Regular Process, held in Lisbon in September 2017, in Auckland, New Zealand, in October 2017, in Camboriú, Brazil, in November 2017, in Bangkok in November 2017 and in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, in December 2017, which informed the preparation of the outline for the second world ocean assessment and will assist in the identification of additional experts for the Pool of Experts and the identification of issues for consideration at the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event;

(x) Take note of the offers to host regional workshops for the second round of regional workshops in 2018 in support of the second cycle of the Regular Process;

(y) Recall the crucial importance of the Regular Process for ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes and its possible inputs, including for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the development of an international legally binding instrument, under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Informal Consultative Process, as outlined in the programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

(z) Also recall the importance of ensuring that assessments, such as those included in the Global Sustainable Development Report and those prepared under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and the Regular Process, support one another and avoid unnecessary duplication, and also recall the importance of compatibility and synergies between such assessments and assessments at the regional level;

(aa) Request intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide information on recent and ongoing assessments and other processes at the regional and global levels relevant to the Regular Process in order for the secretariat to update the inventory of recent and ongoing assessments and other processes at the regional and global levels relevant to the Regular Process;

(bb) Take note with appreciation of the work undertaken thus far by the secretariat in compiling a capacity-building inventory of needs and opportunities relevant for the Regular Process, in accordance with the programme of work, based on information contributed by relevant United Nations system organizations, bodies, funds and programmes and by relevant intergovernmental organizations;

(cc) Invite States and non-governmental organizations, as well as intergovernmental organizations that have not already done so, to provide relevant information for inclusion in the capacity-building inventory of needs and

<sup>10</sup> The guidelines to assist the second round of workshops of the second cycle of the Regular Process are available from [http://www.un.org/depts/los/global\\_reporting/10th\\_adhoc\\_2018/Elements.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/global_reporting/10th_adhoc_2018/Elements.pdf)



opportunities relevant for the Regular Process being compiled and maintained by the secretariat;

(dd) Take note of the endorsement by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the agenda for the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event to be held in 2019, and note that the Ad Hoc Working Group will consider the outcome of the dialogue and event at its twelfth meeting;

(ee) Recall its invitation, in paragraph 326 of resolution [72/73](#), to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization and relevant United Nations system organizations, bodies, funds and programmes, as appropriate, to assist in the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process with regard to the following activities: awareness-raising, the identification of experts for the Pool of Experts, technical and scientific support for the Bureau and the Group of Experts, hosting meetings of the writing teams and capacity-building;

(ff) Also recall the adoption by the Assembly of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission at its twenty-ninth session, from 21 to 29 June 2017, of decision IOC-XXIX/8.2, in particular regarding the provision of technical and scientific support to the second cycle of the Regular Process in accordance with the guidance of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

(gg) Further recall its invitation, in paragraph 328 of resolution [72/73](#), to relevant intergovernmental organizations to contribute, as appropriate, to the activities of the second cycle;

(hh) Urge States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund<sup>11</sup> and to make other contributions to the Regular Process;

(ii) Request the Bureau to continue to implement the decisions and guidance of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole during the intersessional period, including by providing oversight of the delivery of the programme of work for the period 2017–2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process;

(jj) Request the Secretary-General to convene, in 2019, the twelfth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole from [...] to [...], with a view to providing recommendations to the General Assembly on progress in the implementation of the second cycle, and encourages the widest possible attendance of participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group.

#### **IV. Guidance for the Bureau, the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process concerning the implementation of the second cycle of the Regular Process**

21. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole decides to:

(a) Request the Group of Experts to prepare a revised preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second world ocean assessment;

(b) Also request the Group of Experts to advise as soon as possible on the areas in which the required expertise for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment may be lacking and on the regions which to date have been

<sup>11</sup> See resolution [69/245](#), para. 277.

underrepresented in the Pool of Experts, and request the secretariat to transmit a request to States to nominate, and to intergovernmental organizations to recommend, experts from the underrepresented regions and with the relevant expertise;

(c) Further request the Group of Experts to prepare, in the light of the comments received at the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, the annotated outline for the second world ocean assessment;

(d) Request its Bureau to consider and adopt the revised preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second world ocean assessment, keep it under review and oversee its implementation;

(e) Also request its Bureau to consider and adopt the annotated outline for the second world ocean assessment;

(f) Further request its Bureau to review the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process, developed by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in accordance with paragraph 311 of General Assembly resolution [71/257](#);

(g) Request its Bureau to continue to oversee the ongoing process of the constitution of writing teams for the preparation of the second world ocean assessment;

(h) Also request its Bureau, in consultation with the Group of Experts and the secretariat, to finalize the concept note and draft agenda for the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event in the light of the comments received and discussions at the eleventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

(i) Request the secretariat to invite States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event, including by nominating panellists, with due attention given to equitable geographical representation and gender balance in the selection of panellists;

(j) Request its Bureau, in consultation with the Group of Experts and the secretariat, to draw up a list of panellists for the multi-stakeholder dialogue and capacity-building partnership event from representatives of States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

## Annex I

### **Report on the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects**

#### **Note by the Joint Coordinators**

1. The present note reports on progress in the implementation of the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the second cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, which was presented to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process at its tenth meeting, held on 28 February and 1 March 2018. The Working Group took note of the preliminary timetable and implementation plan and requested the Bureau to oversee its implementation.

#### *Main tasks*

2. For the period from 1 January to 23 August 2018 (the date of the opening of the eleventh meeting of the Working Group), the timetable and implementation plan foresaw seven main activities:

(a) The population of the Pool of Experts on the basis of the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the second cycle of the Regular Process adopted by the Bureau;

(b) The development and approval of the outline for the second world ocean assessment;

(c) The designation of lead members and co-lead members for the various chapters of the approved outline from among the Group of Experts of the Regular Process;

(d) The formation of writing teams for the various chapters of the approved outline;

(e) The development of guidance on formatting and size of the various chapters of the approved outline;

(f) The commencement of the second round of regional workshops in support of the second cycle of the Regular Process;

(g) Virtual meetings of the Group of Experts to prepare a report for the eleventh meeting of the Working Group.

#### *Website and communications*

3. The fundamental tools for the work of the Group of Experts were expected to be a new website, which would provide a secure and accessible base for documents and information for the Group, and a secure communications system for the exchange of ideas and documents within the Group.

4. Unfortunately, those tools only became available in July and August 2018. The new website became operational on 25 July 2018, but still does not contain the full database on the members of the Pool of Experts, although this is expected to be achieved soon. Access for the Group of Experts to the Unite Connections system (which had provided a secure document store and means of communication) was withdrawn owing to reasons beyond the secretariat's control. Happily, access for the Group is due to be restored soon.

5. The secretariat has been very proactive in devising means of working around the lack of these facilities, a lack owing to causes entirely outside its control. In particular, the secretariat has been able to provide to the Group of Experts, upon request, information from the personal history forms of members of the Pool of Experts so as to help to identify candidate experts for specific writing teams. Although very helpful, even this workaround suffers from the problem that electronic versions of personal history forms are not available for all members of the Pool of Experts (owing to non-submission by the experts themselves), especially those who were members of the Pool of Experts during the first cycle of the Regular Process and who were invited to continue to support the Regular Process. Even when the database for the Pool of Experts is operational, it may take time to get all the members of the Pool to complete and update their entries. This may therefore continue to constrain progress. It has also been possible to devise other workarounds. For example, some information has been stored on a Dropbox site. Unfortunately, the information technology systems of institutions and/or countries in which some members of the Group of Experts work do not allow access to that website, and so material has had to be communicated by email, further constraining progress.

6. In relation to the Unite Connections system, at the start of the second cycle, the Group of Experts used the system to communicate and upload documents. Increasingly, during 2017, some members of the Group of Experts found the system difficult to use, while others had difficulties in accessing the system because of incompatibilities with their national or local information technology systems. This led to a drop in usage and increased use of email communication. As a result of this drop, the Unite Connections service was withdrawn in 2018. A new Unite Connections communication system will soon be activated, and the secretariat has helpfully offered to assist in overcoming the problems that had earlier caused difficulties.

#### *Population of the Pool of Experts*

7. Good progress has been made in populating the Pool of Experts. A number of members of the Pool of Experts from the first cycle have agreed to continue. Further nominations in accordance with the mechanisms have been made, bringing the total as at 27 June 2018 to 531. Broken down by the regional groupings in the General Assembly, the number of experts is as follows:

<i>Regional group</i>	<i>Number of experts</i>
African States	43
Asia-Pacific States	91
Eastern European States	6
Latin American and Caribbean States	119
Western European and other States	272
<b>Total</b>	<b>531</b>

8. However, there remain a number of fields of expertise where coverage is thin, particularly in relation to some geographical areas.

#### *Outline*

9. The outline for the second world ocean assessment was approved at the tenth meeting of the Working Group, held on 28 February and 1 March 2018.

### *Designation of lead and co-lead members of the Group of Experts*

10. Lead and co-lead members have been designated for all the chapters. For chapter 1 (summary), the Joint Coordinators have been designated as lead members, and all the other members of the Group of Experts as co-lead members. For all of the other chapters, a single member has been designated as lead member, with responsibility for ensuring the production of the chapter, with one or more co-lead members to assist. A table setting out the allocations is contained in enclosure II to the note on the annotated outline (annex II).

### *Formation of writing teams*

11. The formation of writing teams has been hampered by the lack of suitable information technology support. As explained above, there have been problems in accessing information about the expertise of members of the Pool of Experts to identify who would be appropriate for specific writing teams. This is a particular difficulty where there is a wide range of issues to be covered within a field of expertise. The work carried out by the secretariat in providing access to information from personal history forms (as described above) has been helpful and has assisted in identifying members for some writing teams. As and when the database on the Pool of Experts is made available, this task will be simplified, although the problems of the absence of electronic personal history forms for some experts will remain until they have entered their details in the database.

12. Nevertheless, invitations have been issued in relation to 29 writing teams. None have yet been submitted for approval, since a large number of invitations are still pending, and in a number of cases the available contact information is incorrect and action will need to be taken to find a usable means of contact. The enclosure to the present note contains a table showing the status of each chapter with regard to the formation of the writing teams (or section of a chapter where a separate writing team appears to be likely to be needed).

### *Guidance on formatting and size*

13. A template has been developed to give guidance on these issues (see annex II, enclosure I). This will be a “living document” and will be amended from time to time.

### *Second round of regional workshops*

14. The original plan was that there would be five regional workshops in the second round: for the North Atlantic and adjacent seas, for the South Atlantic, for the North Pacific, for the South Pacific and for the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. Regional issues relating to the Arctic and Southern Oceans are intended to be pursued through correspondence with the organizations of the Antarctic Treaty System and the Arctic Council.

15. The secretariat invited offers to host the workshops. In relation to the North Atlantic and adjacent seas and the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas, offers were received from two States from each region to act as hosts: Malta and Ukraine for the North Atlantic and adjacent seas, and Indonesia and Qatar for the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas. The Bureau considered those offers and agreed that both offers should be accepted, with the result that there will be two workshops for each of the two regions. Palau hosted the regional workshop for the North Pacific in Koror on 8 and 9 August 2018. One State has put forward an offer to host a workshop for the South Atlantic, but has yet to confirm it formally. The Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, supported by the Government of Ecuador, has recently confirmed its intention to host the regional workshop for the ocean region of the South Pacific.

16. It was intended that the focus of each workshop should be a selection of chapters (or sections of chapters), and that efforts should be made to arrange the attendance of members of writing teams for those chapters (or sections of chapters). The challenges in allocating members of the Pool of Experts to writing teams made it difficult to fulfil this approach. Instead, the focuses of (at least the earlier) workshops have been placed on chapters for which members of the Group of Experts who would be attending the workshop are lead members, and are therefore well placed to lead the discussion.

17. The workshop for the North Atlantic and adjacent seas to be held in Malta had been planned for late July 2018. The original intention for the second round of regional workshops was that they should focus on selected chapters, and that steps should be taken to ensure the attendance of members of the writing teams for those chapters. Because of the difficulties in creating writing teams, it proved impossible to select chapters and construct a workable agenda on that basis in time for the original proposed date to be achieved, and the workshop had to be postponed. A different approach has therefore been adopted for the earlier workshops, under which the chapters of focus of the workshops were selected on the basis of the availability of the lead members of the Group of Experts from the region in question, who could be expected to attend to lead the discussions on those chapters. It is hoped that later workshops can be organized so as to maximize attendance from members of writing teams.

18. The first workshop for the North Atlantic and adjacent seas is now due to be held in Malta on 27 and 28 August. The second workshop for the North Atlantic and adjacent seas is planned to be held in Odessa, Ukraine, on 17 and 18 October 2018. The workshops for the Indian Ocean and adjacent seas in Indonesia and Qatar are planned for November 2018, but precise dates have not yet been confirmed.

#### *Virtual meetings of the Group of Experts*

19. Virtual meetings of the Group of Experts have been held as and when necessary. Because of the dispersal of the members of the Group around the world, it has been necessary to hold such meetings in two stages, basically one for east longitudes and one for west longitudes, with one or both Joint Coordinators taking part in both and thus ensuring consistency and coherence.

20. The meeting scheduled in the timetable for 13–17 August 2018 was advanced to 30 July–1 August in order to permit a draft of the present note to be presented to the Bureau on 14 August before being submitted to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

## Enclosure

### Status of each chapter with regard to formation of writing teams

<i>Chapter or section</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Writing team invited</i>	<i>Response pending</i>	<i>Accepted or refused</i>	<i>Submit to Bureau</i>	<i>Agreed</i>
1	Summary	Group of Experts of the Regular Process collectively				
2	Approach to the assessment	Lead and co-lead members				
3	Scientific understanding					
4	Drivers					
5	Physical and chemical state of the ocean					
6	Biota biodiversity	Overview by lead and co-lead members				
6A	Plankton	Yes		Yes		
6B	Invertebrates	Yes		Yes		
6C	Fish	Yes		Yes		
6D	Marine mammals	Partly		Partly		
6E	Marine reptiles	Yes		Yes		
6F	Seabirds	Yes	Yes			
6G and 6H	Marine plants and macroalgae	Partly	Yes			
7	Habitat biodiversity	Overview by lead and co-lead members				
7A	Sand and mud substrates					
7B	Rocky substrates and reefs					
7C	Intertidal zone					
7D	Atoll and tidal lagoons					
7E	Tropical and subtropical coral reefs					
7F	Cold water corals	Yes	Partly	Partly		
7G	Estuaries and deltas	Yes				
7H	Kelp forests and algal beds	Partly	Yes			
7I	Seagrass meadows	Partly	Yes			
7J	Mangroves	Partly	Yes			
7K	Salt marshes	Partly	Yes			
7L	Submarine canyons					
7M	High-latitude ice	Yes	Yes			
7N	Seamounts and pinnacles	Partly	Yes			



<i>Chapter or section</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Writing team invited</i>	<i>Response pending</i>	<i>Accepted or refused</i>	<i>Submit to Bureau</i>	<i>Agreed</i>
7O	Abyssal plains					
7P	Open ocean					
7Q	Ridges, plateaus and trenches					
7R	Hydrothermal vents and cold seeps	Yes	Yes			
7S	Sargasso Sea	Yes	Yes			
8	Human society	Overview by lead and co-lead members				
8A	Coastal communities					
8B	Human health					
8C	Maritime industries					
8D	Maritime culture					
9	Climate pressures	Overview by lead and co-lead members				
9A	Ocean physics	Yes	Yes			
9B	Ocean chemistry	Partly	Yes			
9C	Extreme climate events	Partly	Yes			
10	Nutrient inputs	Yes	Yes			
11	Other inputs	Overview by lead and co-lead members				
11A	Persistent organic pollutants					
11B	Metals					
11C	Radioactive substances					
11D	Pharmaceuticals					
11E	Atmospheric inputs					
11F	Hydrocarbons					
11G	Offshore inputs					
11H	Contaminant concentrations					
12	Solid waste					
13	Erosion and sedimentation					
14	Infrastructure					
15	Capture fisheries	Yes		Yes		
16	Aquaculture					
17	Seaweed	Partly				
18	Desalinization and salt					

<i>Chapter or section</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Writing team invited</i>	<i>Response pending</i>	<i>Accepted or refused</i>	<i>Submit to Bureau</i>	<i>Agreed</i>
19	Seabed mining					
20	Offshore hydrocarbons					
21	Noise	Yes		Yes		
22	Renewable energy	Yes		Yes		
23	Marine transport					
24	Tourism and recreation					
25	Invasive species	Yes		Yes		
26	Marine genetic resources	Yes	Yes			
27	Marine hydrates					
28	Cumulative impacts					
29	Marine spatial planning	Partly				
30	Management approaches	Yes	Yes			
31	Overall benefits					