



# General Assembly

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## United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea Twentieth meeting 10–14 June 2019

### Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. In accordance with resolution [54/33](#), in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two Co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will elaborate, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the Informal Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Informal Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods in resolutions [57/141](#) and [60/30](#), and for additional two-year periods in resolutions [63/111](#), [65/37 A](#), [67/78](#), [69/245](#), [71/257](#) and [73/124](#).
2. On the basis of consultations with delegations and an informal preparatory meeting held at United Nations Headquarters on 18 March 2019, the Co-Chairs, Pernelle Althea Beckles (Trinidad and Tobago) and Isabelle Picco (Monaco), have developed a format for the discussions at the twentieth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process (see annex I) and have proposed a provisional agenda for the meeting (see annex II).
3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the theme “Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development” are presented in annex III and are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider.
4. The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.



## Annex I

### **Format for the twentieth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

#### **Methods of work**

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [54/33](#), the twentieth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.
2. The plenary sessions and discussion panel will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of General Assembly resolution [54/33](#) and by representatives of major groups, as identified in section III of Agenda 21 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.
3. Within the constraints of the available space, such representatives of major groups and other observers will be free to attend the plenary sessions in accordance with established practice.

#### **Agenda**

4. The Co-Chairs will propose a provisional agenda setting out a programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The provisional agenda will take into account paragraphs 350 to 352 and 358 of General Assembly resolution [73/124](#). The twentieth meeting will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable accordingly.

#### **Discussion panel**

5. In paragraph 358 of its resolution [73/124](#), the General Assembly decided that the meeting would focus its discussions on the theme “Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”. On the basis of their consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs have proposed an outline for the theme to be considered by the discussion panel. The Co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant aspects.

#### **Outcome of the twentieth meeting**

6. The outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs’ summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. As in the past, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The advance and unedited text of the summary will be presented to the meeting. The summary will be for reference purposes only. The Co-Chairs will transmit the outcome of the meeting to the President of the General Assembly.

## Annex II

### **Annotated provisional agenda for the twentieth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

**Monday, 10 June 2019**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

#### **First plenary session**

##### *Item 1. Opening of the twentieth meeting*

1. The Co-Chairs will open the proceedings.
2. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, and the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, or their designated representatives, will make opening remarks.

##### *Item 2. Adoption of the agenda*

3. The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda of the twentieth meeting. The schedule of agenda items is only indicative; items may be advanced, depending on the progress made in the discussions.

##### *Item 3. General exchange of views*

4. It is suggested that, during the general exchange of views, delegations may wish to address in particular the theme of the twentieth meeting, “Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”.
5. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

**3–6 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

#### **Discussion panel**

#### **Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development**

6. On the basis of areas of concentration for the discussion panel set forth in annex III, it is proposed that the discussion panel segments be organized as set out below. It is proposed that each segment begin with panel presentations, followed by discussions among delegations and panellists.

##### *Segment 1*

##### *Scope and uses of, and gaps in, ocean science*

- (a) Panel presentations;
- (b) Discussion.

<sup>a</sup> All sessions will begin promptly.

**Tuesday, 11 June 2019**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

**Discussion panel**

*Segment 1 (continued)*

*Scope and uses of, and gaps in, ocean science*

- (a) Panel presentations;
- (b) Discussion.

**3 p.m.–6:00 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

*Segment 2*

*International cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean science and addressing related gaps*

- (a) Panel presentations;
- (b) Discussion.

**Wednesday, 12 June 2019**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

**Discussion panel**

*Segment 2 (continued)*

*International cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean science and addressing related gaps*

- (a) Panel presentations;
- (b) Discussion.

**3–6 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

*Segment 2 (continued)*

*International cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean science and addressing related gaps*

- (a) Panel presentations;
- (b) Discussion.

**Thursday, 13 June 2019**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

**Second plenary session**

*Item 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination*

7. In accordance with the terms of reference for UN-Oceans adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/70, the United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as the UN-Oceans focal point, represents UN-Oceans at relevant meetings, including those under the Assembly. To ensure transparency and accountability, UN-Oceans, upon request from the Assembly, reports to Member States in the context of the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. In that regard, and pending such request, the UN-Oceans focal point will be invited to make a brief statement on the activities of UN-Oceans.

8. In addition, the methodology proposed by UN-Oceans for the indicator of target 14.c of Sustainable Development Goal 14 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be presented to the Informal Consultative Process. That methodology requires intergovernmental vetting and the undertaking of a pilot testing phase before submission to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators for approval. Approval of the methodology by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group will enable States to start collecting data regarding the indicator for target 14.c.

*Item 5. Process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly*

9. The Informal Consultative Process will consider the recommendation of the General Assembly in paragraph 352 of resolution 73/124 that the “Informal Consultative Process devise a transparent, objective and inclusive process for the selection of topics and panellists so as to facilitate the work of the General Assembly during informal consultations concerning the annual resolution on oceans and the law of the sea”. Delegations will be invited to make general statements and be given the opportunity to present specific proposals in that regard.

*Item 6. Issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea*

10. The Informal Consultative Process will be presented with a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly, prepared by the Co-Chairs on the basis of the relevant section of the reports on the work of the Informal Consultative Process from its fourth to nineteenth meetings (A/58/95, A/59/122, A/60/99, A/61/156, A/62/169, A/63/174 and A/63/174/Corr.1, A/64/131, A/65/164, A/66/186, A/67/120, A/68/159, A/69/90, A/70/78, A/71/204, A/72/95 and A/73/124). The Co-Chairs will inform the Informal Consultative Process of the additional issues that will have been suggested by delegations during the twentieth meeting for inclusion in the list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the Assembly.

**3–6 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

*[Reserved]*

**Friday, 14 June 2019**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

**Third plenary session**

*Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting*

11. The Informal Consultative Process will be provided with an opportunity to consider the outcome of the meeting. In accordance with the format for the meeting (see annex I), the outcome will consist of a Co-Chairs’ summary of issues and ideas raised and discussed during the plenary sessions. It will also reflect issues and ideas raised during the discussion panel. In addition, the outcome will include issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea. The summary will be for reference purposes only.

**3–6 p.m.<sup>a</sup>**

**Fourth plenary session**

*Item 7. Consideration of the outcome of the meeting (continued)*

## Annex III

### **Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the topic “Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”**

#### **Information contained in the report of the Secretary-General**

1. The General Assembly decided in its resolution [73/124](#) that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the twentieth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea would focus its discussions on the topic “Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development”. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has made available on its website ([http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative\\_process/consultative\\_process.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm)) advance and unedited reporting material relating to this theme.

#### **Discussion panel segments**

2. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the topic of focus, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution [54/33](#), consistent with the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, established the Informal Consultative Process to facilitate its annual review, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced. Furthermore, the Assembly, in its resolution [73/124](#), recognized the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics. It also recognized the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development.

3. In considering the topic of focus, it is proposed that the respective panel segments concentrate their discussions on the following areas:

(a) *Scope and uses of, and gaps in, ocean science*

4. The panel segment could provide an overview of the scope, uses and important role of ocean science, including for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14, and other instruments. It could also highlight the current state of knowledge on the oceans. Throughout the panel segment, areas where information, capacity and other gaps exist could be highlighted.

(b) *International cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean science and addressing related gaps*

5. The panel segment could focus on current activities being undertaken at the global, regional and national levels to advance ocean science and address challenges

and related gaps. Opportunities for enhancing cooperation and coordination at all levels, including in relation to technology and data infrastructure and integration of traditional knowledge, and for strengthening the science-policy interface, could also be explored, with a particular focus on the role of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Issues relating to capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology would be integrated throughout. The supportive role of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other instruments in advancing ocean science could also be considered.

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