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الدورة السابعة والسبعون

البند 72 (أ) من جدول الأعمال

المحيطات وقانون البحار: المحيطات وقانون البحار

التقرير المتعلق بأعمال الفريق العامل المخصص الجامع المعني بالعملية المنتظمة للإبلاغ عن حالة البيئة البحرية وتقييمها على الصعيد العالمي، بما في ذلك الجوانب الاجتماعية – الاقتصادية

رسالة مؤرخة 18 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر 2022 موجهة إلى رئيس الجمعية العامة من الرئيسين المشاركين للفريق العامل المخصص الجامع

نتشرف بأن نحيل إليكم التقرير* المتعلق بأعمال الفريق العامل المخصص الجامع المعني بالعملية المنتظمة للإبلاغ عن حالة البيئة البحرية وتقييمها على الصعيد العالمي، بما في ذلك الجوانب الاجتماعية – الاقتصادية، الذي عقد اجتماعه السابع عشر عملا بالفقرة 331 من قرار الجمعية العامة 72/76. وقد عُقد الاجتماع في 1 تشرين الثاني/نوفمبر 2022. وترد في الفرع الثالث من التقرير التوصيات المتفق عليها للفريق العامل المخصص المقدَّمة إلى الجمعية العامة في دورتها السابعة والسبعين بشأن جملة أمور منها المبادئ التوجيهية لعملية صياغة واستعراض التقييم (التقييمات) المقبل(ة) والمبادئ التوجيهية لترشيح وتعيين الخبراء في مجموعة الخبراء وأفرقة الصياغة والقائمين باستعراض الأقران لدعم أعمال الدورة الثالثة من العملية المنتظمة.

ونرجو تعميم هذه الرسالة والتقرير باعتبارهما وثيقة من وثائق الجمعية العامة في إطار البند 72 (أ) من جدول الأعمال.

(توقيع) يولاني **سيراتو**

(توقيع) مارك **زيلينراث**

* يُعمَّم باللغة التي قُدِّم بها فقط.

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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 seventeenth 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 331 of General Assembly resolution 76/72. The meeting of the Working Group was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 1 November 2022.

2. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Yolannie Cerrato (Honduras) and Mark Zellenrath (The Kingdom of Netherlands), opened the meeting. The Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel, Mr. Miguel de Serpa Soares, delivered opening remarks.

3. Representatives of 53 Member States[1] and one intergovernmental organization and other body[2] attended the meeting.

4. The following member of the Group of Experts, established pursuant to paragraph 315 of General Assembly resolution 75/239, also attended the meeting: Carlos Garcia-Soto (Spain). Carlos Garcia-Soto participated in his capacity as Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts.

5. The following supporting documentation was available to the meeting: the provisional agenda; the annotated provisional agenda; a format; a proposed organization of work; a note by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on its work since the sixteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group; draft guidelines for the writing and review process of the next assessment(s); draft guidelines for nomination and appointment of experts to the pool of experts, writing teams and peer reviewers to support the works of the third cycle of the regular process; and draft recommendations to the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, for consideration for submission under the agenda item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”, on the progress in the implementation of the third cycle of the Regular Process.[3]

6. Under agenda item 2 of the provisional agenda, the Working Group adopted the agenda (see section II) and, under agenda item 3, agreed on the organization of work as proposed by the Co-Chairs. Several delegations made general statements under agenda item 3, expressing their appreciation for the work of the Bureau, the Group of Experts, and the secretariat during the intersessional period. The progress made in the implementation of the programme of work for the period 2021-2025 was noted, including the successful ongoing implementation of the first round of regional workshops aimed at identifying regional priorities and discussing the scoping of the next assessment(s). The contributions of the Regular Process and its outputs towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular the

[1] Angola, Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, China, Comoros, Croatia, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, France, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Tanzania, Thailand, Türkiye, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, and Yemen.

[2] European Union.

[3] All listed documents are available at https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/seventeenth-meeting.

SDG 14 were also highlighted. A delegation observed that climate change and biodiversity loss were some of the great challenges facing the ocean, while noting the valuable input the Regular Process provided to other intergovernmental processes, including the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), the Intergovernmental Conference on 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, and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It was further noted that the Regular Process was recognized as the only global integrated marine assessment that could provide crucial contributions to the ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes. Underscoring the need for strengthening decision-making at all levels through outputs of the Regular Process, delegations stressed the need for enhancing interaction with other ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes, focusing on regional priorities identified through the scoping exercise. Some delegations also noted the importance of capacity-building activities and in this regard, expressed their support for the third cycle of the Regular Process which is providing opportunities for building knowledge and skills associated with strengthening the ocean science-policy interface.

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 2021-2025 for the third cycle of the Regular Process since the previous meeting of the Working Group. The Working Group took note of the report of the Bureau.

8. Under agenda item 5, the Working Group considered the progress made in the implementation of the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process. The Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts, Mr. Garcia-Soto, presented on behalf of the Joint Coordinators an overview of several activities conducted by the group which covered key achievements made in the areas of developing guidance documents, engagement with ocean-related intergovernmental processes, and planning and organization of regional workshops. It was recalled that the four brief documents which present concise policy-relevant information from the second World Ocean Assessment on climate change, marine biodiversity, UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and the Sustainable Development Goals were in the process of being published. The Joint Coordinator noted that further information on developed guidelines would be provided under agenda items 6 and 7 (see paragraphs 9 and 10). Regarding the ongoing support to ocean-related intergovernmental processes, the Joint Coordinator reported on joint activities conducted at the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference held in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July, including the side event organized together with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, sharing best practices and lessons learned in strengthening the ocean science-policy interface. The Joint Coordinator concluded his presentation by underlining the critical importance of regional workshops which played a pivotal role in informing the scoping exercise for the next assessment(s). A delegation noted that these regional workshops managed to fulfill their objective of disseminating information on the Regular Process, while at the same time collating latest scientific information at the regional level. It was also noted that the third cycle of the Regular Process continued to enhance active engagement with the scientific community and ocean users in policymaking processes, with a view to ensuring further integration of science and policy for ocean governance. The Working Group took note of the information provided by the Joint Coordinator.

9. Under agenda item 6, the Working Group considered the draft Guidelines for the Writing and Review Process of the next Assessment(s) (see annex I). The Joint

Coordinator of the Group of Experts presented the document on behalf of the Joint Coordinators, outlining its role as an enhancement of a collaborative arrangement for preparing the next assessment(s) based on cooperation amongst a large number of experts across multiple ocean disciplines. It was underlined that the document establishes detailed modalities of the review process of the next assessment(s), aimed at ensuring the accuracy, legitimacy, and policy-relevance of outputs under the third cycle of the Regular Process, responding to policy needs at all levels for achieving ocean sustainability through provision of clarity in guidance for the conduct of the writing and review process. The Working Group approved the Guidelines presented by the Joint Coordinator.

10. Under agenda item 7, the Working Group considered the draft Guidelines for Nomination and Appointment of Experts to the Pool of Experts, Writing Teams and Peer Reviewers to Support the Works of the Third Cycle of the Regular Process (see annex II). The Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts, introduced key elements of the document on behalf of the Joint Coordinators, which sets out procedural guidance for expert nomination and appointment in operationalizing development of outputs of the next assessment(s), with additional guidance on the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts, identification and selection of writing teams and peer reviewers, and communicating decisions to the Pool of Experts. Noting the importance of advancing on the programme of work, including synthesizing regional workshop outcomes, under the guidance of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, its Bureau, with support from the Group of Experts and Pool of Experts, a delegation stressed the importance of the third cycle of the Regular Process to continue its effort in strengthening the application of an integrated approach to the science-policy interface. The Working Group approved the Guidelines presented by the joint coordinator.

11. Under agenda item 8, the communication consultant of the secretariat of the Regular Process, Ms. Anna Dukor, presented a five-phased outreach strategy of the third cycle, focusing on the Regular Process brand development and awareness raising campaign priority content areas based on the key findings of the second World Ocean Assessment, to be widely communicated through identified opportunities for stakeholder engagement at all levels. Responding to questions from some delegations on how to measure the outcomes and the achievement of the engagement strategy, Ms. Dukor noted that the increase in the number of followers and interaction with relevant stakeholders were some of the indicators used to measure the progress attained so far. Delegations underlined the importance of developing tailored messaging and communication materials, including integration of multilingualism, to disseminate technical outputs emanating from the Regular Process, and recommended a systematic tracking of impact metrics that demonstrate measurable success of the Regular Process outreach campaign, in close partnership with amplification partners and creators. The Working Group took note of the information provided by Ms. Dukor.

Adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at is seventy-seventh session

12. Under agenda item 9, the Working Group considered the draft recommendations to the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly which were then adopted by silence procedure on 8 November 2022 (see section III).

13. Some delegations requested additional time to consult with capitals regarding the draft recommendations from the 17th Meeting. The Co-Chairs noted that input from delegations will be received by 3 November 2022, after which the amended draft recommendations will be placed on a silence procedure by 8 November 2022.

14. A delegation proposed revising the paragraph on the Group of Experts designations, with a view to encouraging regional groups with remaining vacant seats in the Group of Experts to provide designations for full constitution of the Group of Experts. A draft text would be sent to the secretariat.

15. Regarding the nomenclature for stating the locations in which the regional workshops in 2022 were held, some delegations noted the need for consistency in stating the locations in the draft recommendations. In response, the secretariat noted that the nomenclature for stating the locations of the regional workshops in 2022 was done in accordance with the UN Secretariat practice, which stipulates that if an event is held in a capital of a country, only the city is mentioned and if the event is held in a city other than the capital, the city and the country are mentioned.

16. A delegation questioned the use of square brackets for the two regional workshops in the Netherlands and Indonesia. In response, the secretariat noted that the brackets were put in place to indicate that the workshops were still to be held. It was further noted that the text of the draft resolution would be submitted to the General Assembly at the end of November 2022 and would be considered in December 2022. It would be up to the Member States to include events conducted after the consideration of the resolution.

17. One delegation questioned the practice of including the request to convene a forthcoming Ad Hoc Working Group meetings in 2024. In response, the secretariat noted that due to various cost recovery measures being implemented by the UN Secretariat, the secretariat had to start planning for meetings to be held in 2024 ahead of time. The secretariat proposed to introduce this recommendation in the draft so as to ensure the inclusion of the relevant expenditures into the regular budget for meetings in 2024.

18. Under agenda item 10, the importance of the regional workshops for scoping the next assessment(s) and building ocean science capacity was noted. One delegation noted the intention of submitting an expression of interest to potentially host a regional workshop in 2023, and the commitment to support the coordination of the Regular Process with other UN processes, in particular the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration.

19. The Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea reported on the state of the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of supporting the operations of the Regular Process and noted that, since the last report made to the Working Group in 2019, the trust fund had received contributions from Ireland, New Zealand, and the Republic of Korea. It was also noted that no contributions had been received to the special scholarship fund to support training programmes for developing countries. Delegations were encouraged to continue to contribute to both trust funds and to make other contributions to the Regular Process pursuant to the appeal from the General Assembly in paragraph 330 of its resolution 76/72.

II. Agenda of the seventeenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole

20. 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 third cycle of the Regular Process.

6. Guidelines for the Writing and Review Process of the next Assessment(s).

7. Guidelines for Nomination and Appointment of Experts to the Pool of Experts, Writing Teams and Peer Reviewers to Support the Works of the Third Cycle of the Regular Process.

8. Updates on the Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II) social campaign and the wider awareness raising campaign of the Regular Process.

9. Adoption of recommendations to the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly.

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-seventh session

21. 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 and its objective and scope, recall the crucial importance of the Regular Process for ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes and its possible inputs, including for the 2030 Agenda, 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, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, and the preparation of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, among other relevant processes, and note the importance of continuing support and cooperation between the activities of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and those of the Regular Process;

(c) 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;

(d) Reaffirm that capacity-building is one of the core objectives of the Regular Process and that during the third cycle a coherent programme on capacity-building will be carried out with the aim to develop the capacities of States in strengthening the ocean science-policy interface at national, regional and global levels;

(e) Recall 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 third cycle as outlined in the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process, and endorse the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its seventeenth meeting on the progress in the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process;

(f) Recognize the importance of raising awareness of the second World Ocean Assessment and the Regular Process, and welcome the social media campaign on the Assessment and the wider awareness raising campaign of the Regular Process;

(g) Recognize with appreciation the role of the Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in putting into practice the decisions and guidance of the Ad Hoc Working Group during the intersessional period, request the Bureau to continue to provide oversight of the delivery of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process, and recognize the support provided by the secretariat in that regard;

(h) Welcome the designation by States of national focal points and invite States that have not yet done so to designate national focal points to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process and beyond;

(i) Welcome the designation of intergovernmental focal points and invite the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions that have not yet done so to designate focal points to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle and beyond;

(j) Invite the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 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 third cycle of the Regular Process;

(k) Invite relevant intergovernmental organizations to contribute, as appropriate, to the activities of the third cycle;

(l) Welcome the constitution of the Group of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process, which currently consists of 22 members, and note with appreciation the work being carried out by the members of the Group of Experts in the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process;

(m) Note the endorsement by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the Guidelines for the Writing and Review Process of the next Assessment(s) and the Guidelines for Nomination and Appointment of Experts to the Pool of Experts, Writing Teams and Peer Reviewers to Support the Works of the Third Cycle of the Regular Process developed by the Group of Experts in accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process;

(n) Encourage the appointment of experts to the Pool of Experts in accordance with the mechanism, and request the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to provide oversight of the establishment of the Pool of Experts;

(o) Welcome the regional workshops in support of the third cycle of the Regular Process, held in Dar es Salaam in July 2022, in Kingston in September 2022,

in Buenos Aires in September 2022, in The Hague, The Netherlands in November 2022, and in Belitung, Indonesia in December 2022, which informed the scoping exercise and the preparation of the annotated outline of the next assessment(s) to be produced during the third cycle of the Regular Process, and also built capacity aimed at strengthening the ocean science-policy interface;

(p) 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 and to make other contributions to the Regular Process;

(q) Also request the Secretary-General to convene, in 2023, up to two meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of no more than two days total duration for each meeting one in the first half of 2023 and another in the second half of 2023, and in 2024 up to two meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of no more than two days total duration for each meeting.

Annex I

Guidelines for the Writing and Review Process of the Assessment(s) of the Third Cycle

Introduction

1. This document sets out working arrangements and guidance for those contributing to the writing processes and review processes of the third cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (the "Regular Process"). The Regular Process is an intergovernmental process, accountable to the General Assembly and guided by international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other applicable international instruments.

2. The guidance is intended for:

(a) Members of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process;

(b) Members of the Pool of Experts appointed to assist the Group of Experts of the Regular Process, including those in the writing teams; and

(c) Peer-reviewers, Member State reviewers and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations reviewers who are invited to review material under arrangements approved by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Group of the Whole.

3. The outputs of the third cycle will be the product of cooperation among a large number of experts in many different fields in various different roles. The vision for the third cycle is "*for the World Ocean Assessment to become the key instrument to build environmental, economic and social resilience by informing decision makers of the challenges and opportunities for achieving a healthy ocean environment that supports sustainable development"*. Its mission is "*to provide the best available, scientifically informed review of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, on a continual and systematic basis, through the development of regular targeted outputs that respond to policy needs, and by building capacity to support decision making at all levels*".

4. To organize tasks associated with writing processes and review processes, various actors and parties connected to the Regular Process may assume different roles and perform tasks as contributors, institutional reviewers or as an integral part of their participation in the Regular Process.

5. The contributors of each chapter or other output of the assessment(s) of the third cycle, such as briefs (hereafter, output) are:

(a) Group of Experts – A Group of Experts has been established with the general task of carrying out assessments under the Regular Process. It consists of up to 25 experts, representing five regional groups. They structure outputs and ensure that they are delivered on time following the available guidance and the highest standards;

(b) Writing Teams – Members of the writing teams of each of the various outputs – members of the writing teams will be drawn from the Pool of Experts and are responsible for writing the draft of the outputs;

(c) Lead Members – Members of the Group of Experts designated for each output and responsible for ensuring that the preparation of that output follows this Guidance and otherwise achieves the necessary high standards. Members of the Group of Experts may also be designated to take the lead on groups of outputs, in order to ensure that they are properly coordinated;

(d) Co-Lead Members – Members of the Group of Experts that act jointly with the Lead Member and review the material for the output they have been designated to.

(e) Coordinating Author – The Coordinating Author of the writing team for an output will have general responsibility for the writing of the output. The Coordinating Author will be drawn from the Pool of Experts but can also be drawn from the Group of Experts if relevant expertise is unavailable in the Pool of Experts.

(f) Peer-reviewers – Peer-reviewers for an output are drawn from the Pool of Experts and have the responsibility of providing an independent review of that output.

6. Member States and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations will be provided with the opportunity to review outputs with those comments addressed by writing teams and finalised by the Group of Experts.

7. Other elements of the structure of the Regular Process play important roles in the writing processes and review processes of the third cycle:

(a) Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole – The Regular Process is overseen and guided by an Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly (the "Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole"), including representatives of all Member States of the United Nations, and chaired by two Co-Chairs (one from a developing country and one from a developed country) appointed by the President of the General Assembly.

(b) Bureau – Between sessions of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, a Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole ("the Bureau") ensures the implementation of the decisions of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole. The Bureau consists of the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and fifteen Member States – three appointed by each of the five regional groups in the General Assembly (Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Europe and Other).

(c) Pool of Experts – A Pool of Experts to assist the Group of Experts is constituted under the Mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process, developed by the Bureau in accordance with resolution 75/239. Without detracting from the other principles which the General Assembly has endorsed, the allocation of tasks to members of the Pool of Experts must reflect the principle of adherence to equitable geographical representation in all activities of the Regular Process, and have due regard to a desirable balance between the genders.

(d) DOALOS – The Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat of the United Nations has been designated as the secretariat of the Regular Process.

Status of contributors

8. When contributing to the Regular Process, contributors are expected to act in their personal capacity as independent experts, and not as representatives of any Government or any other authority or organization. They should neither seek nor accept instructions from outside the Regular Process regarding their work on the Regular Process, although they are free to consult widely with other experts and with government officials, in order to ensure that their contributions are credible, legitimate and relevant. Contributors are also expected to disclose to the secretariat of the Regular Process any conflicts of interest, or the possibility of any perception of a conflict of interest, both before they accept their appointment and after

appointment, when any potential conflict may arise and to confirm this commitment in a response to the secretariat of the Regular Process.

9. The input of contributors is fundamental to the success of the Regular Process, and will be fully acknowledged in the text. Accordingly, the names of those that contributed to the writing of each output will be shown prominently at the head of each output. Each output will be capable of being cited separately. Appropriate acknowledgements will likewise be made for the work of peer-reviewers.

Ethics in authoring and evaluating material for the Regular Process

10. It is expected that contributors will follow established protocols for ethics in scientific reporting. In particular, contributors are responsible for:

(a) Correctly citing the published work of others;

(b) Accurately representing the conclusions of cited work; and

(c) Disclosing any conflict of interest.

11. By its very nature, the Regular Process requires contributors to review and synthesize numerous large bodies of work, and to distil out the salient points of numerous studies into consolidated statements. Throughout this process, it is important that the synthesis produced does not lose or misrepresent the essential conclusions, meaning and intent of the original works. Contributors are responsible for ensuring that such misrepresentation does not occur.

12. The nature of the Regular Process demands that contributors pay special attention to issues of independence and bias to maintain the integrity of, and public confidence in, the results.

World and regions

13. The prime audiences for the outputs from the third cycle are the policy makers at national, regional and global levels. The focus of draft outputs must therefore be to provide assessment(s) that will be useful to such policy makers. The aim is not to duplicate or re-interpret regional or thematic assessments, but to put trends and data gaps into context – showing both commonalities at the global scale and regional differences. Existing regional, sub-regional and thematic assessments should be identified and used where available and relevant. It will therefore be important for writing teams to strike the right balance between aggregating material to the global level and providing detail at regional and national levels. Any outputs must aim to provide a balanced view of the world's ocean as a whole, and not provide unduly focus on those regions for which there may be abundant and / or readily available information only.

Handling the full range of views

14. Any outputs produced under the third cycle are intended to provide an unbiased and objective judgment of a topic that avoids the prescription of policy. The writing teams should be composed of multi-disciplinary, geographically and gender balanced contributors as a first step towards ensuring that a diverse range of perspectives and information sources are considered. The writing teams should be fair and objective in their consideration of the information available for assessment.

15. It is important to avoid "confirmation bias", that is, the tendency of authors to place too much weight on their own views relative to other views. Writing teams should explicitly document a wide range of scientific viewpoints, and ensure that due consideration was given to properly documented alternative views.

16. There can be multiple interpretations of the available body of information, each with support from some portions of the scientifically sound information, but inconsistent with other portions. Policymakers are often best served by being informed of the nature of the discrepancies in the scientific and technical information, the range of interpretations that cannot be rejected, and the implications, including risks, of each interpretation. Any assessment should ensure that these nuances are brought out.

Uncertainty

17. Some of the conclusions of the outputs produced by the third cycle of the Regular Process may be controversial. This may result in scrutiny by stakeholders. All contributions to any outputs must be as accurate as possible since an error in any part can undermine the credibility of the output. To this end, contributors must exercise caution and discipline in describing the uncertainty associated with any statements made in their outputs.

18. Contributors should avoid reporting conclusions for which there is little evidence, and should always seek clarity when making definitive statements. All conclusions should be able to withstand scrutiny and be supported sufficiently by the available information cited in any outputs. In reviewing draft outputs, the Group of Experts will consider such conclusions and related supporting information, and ensure that the same standards are applied throughout any outputs.

Attribution

19. The sources of all information that contributes to outputs of the third cycle should be documented and given proper attribution.

20. Writing teams must ensure that copyright permissions for all diagrams, figures and tables are obtained and fully documented. The Coordinating Author, in collaboration with the Lead Member (if separate), will be responsible for ensuring that each contributor complies with these requirements. The writing teams will be requested to replace any text where such problems arise, with revised text that avoids any ongoing issues with attribution and/or copyright. In the course of the review of the draft outputs, attention will be paid to ensuring that attribution and copyright requirements are complied with to the same standard through the assessment.

Tasks to be undertaken and who will do them

General outline of work to produce the outputs of the third cycle of the Regular Process

21. The framework for delivery of the outputs of the third cycle of the Regular Process is established by the Terms of Reference and Methods of Work for the Group of Experts endorsed by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and subsequently noted by the General Assembly. Within this framework, this guidance provides more detail on how the delivery of outputs will be achieved. There are six main tasks foreseen for contributors to the third cycle:

(a) Establishing the scope and structure of the outputs to be produced in the third cycle of the Regular Process, together with the timetable and implementation plan;

(b) Writing the draft outputs ;

(c) Producing a complete draft of the outputs;

(d) Carrying out a review by independent peer-reviewers of the outputs;

(e) Submitting the draft, revised in the light of the peer-review, to the Member States of the United Nations and to Relevant Global Processes and Organizations for review and comment; and

(f) Finalizing the text of the outputs.

22. When the Group of Experts has finalized the text of any output, it will be submitted, with the approval of the Bureau, for consideration to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and for final approval by the General Assembly. A note showing the comments received from peer reviewers, States and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations and the responses to each comment from the writing teams will also be submitted to the Bureau.

Review process

23. The review process encompasses the review of drafts, in this order, by (i) the Lead and co-Lead members (ii) independent peer-reviewers, (iii) the Group of Experts, (iv) Member States and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations and (v) final review by the Group of Experts;

24. The draft output of the writing teams will be reviewed by the Lead and co-Lead members, and appropriate adjustments made by the writing team in the light of these comments, before finalization of the draft of that output for review by the peer-reviewers and then review by Member States and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations.

25. The independent peer-reviewers are at least two members, selected from the Pool of Experts and should have, the expertise to review the different aspects or subjects of the output being reviewed. Their comments are to be addressed by the writing teams, working with the Group of Experts and the Secretariat;

26. After the review of the draft output by States and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations, the writing team with the assistance of the Lead and co-Lead members will address each comment made by Member States and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations and revise the output(s). They will also prepare documents showing their responses to those comments.

27. The Group of Experts will then collectively undertake a final revision of all components of any assessment(s) and responses to comments made by Member States and relevant Global Processes and Organizations before finalizing any assessment(s) and submitting these to the Bureau.

Tasks of the Group of Experts

28. The Group of Experts will be responsible collectively for:

(a) Developing proposals for the scope and structure of the outputs to be produced during the third cycle, together with a proposed timetable and implementation plan for each output in cooperation with the secretariat of the Regular Process. These proposals will be submitted through the Bureau to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole for its consideration and recommended by it to the General Assembly for its approval;

(b) Selecting, subject to the approval of the Bureau, the Lead Member from within the Group of Experts and the Coordinating Author of the writing team from the Group of Experts or the Pool of Experts.

(c) Following the Guidelines for the composition of the writing teams for each output of the third cycle, while ensuring that the writing teams have adequate qualifications and represent equitable geographic and gender distribution.

Additionally, the Group of Experts will ensure adequate representation of experts from relevant disciplines, especially those disciplines outside of the natural sciences;

(d) Reviewing the draft outputs produced by the writing teams, paying special attention to the consistency between different outputs, and to avoiding unnecessary duplication and overlap between them.

(e) Agreeing on the draft text of the outputs.

(f) Proposing arrangements for peer-review of each of the draft outputs to the Bureau and ensuring, in collaboration with the writing teams and in consultation with the secretariat, the revision of the text of the outputs in the light of the peer-reviewers' comments;

(g) Agreeing a complete text of each of the outputs and submitting them, through the secretariat of the Regular Process, to States and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations for comment; and

(h) In the light of comments from States and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations, and in collaboration with the writing teams, revising and finalizing the text of the outputs and preparing a note for the Bureau that details the responses to comments from peer-reviewers, States and Relevant Global Processes and Organizations.

(i) Maintain a controlled vocabulary, providing definitions and usage guidance for the writing and review processes to ensure that consistent language and associated definitions are used throughout the outputs of the third cycle and that the language used is that generally recognised in the scientific literature.

Lead Members, Co-Lead Members and their tasks

29. In order to ensure that there is a person clearly identifiable as responsible for ensuring that the preparation of each output follows this Guidance and achieves the necessary high standards, the Group of Experts will designate one of its members as the Lead Member for each output produced by the third cycle of the Regular Process (except those summarizing Parts of the assessment(s), where paragraph 39 makes parallel arrangements). To ensure adequate sharing of tasks at least one Co-Lead Member will be assigned from the Group of Experts. The designation of Lead and Co-Lead Members will be subject to the approval of the Bureau.

30. The Lead member takes primary responsibility for the progress of the output and has to ensure that the Co-lead member participates and is informed of the work being conducted.

31. The Lead Member and Co-Lead Member for each output in particular will:

(a) Coordinate, guide and review the drafting of the output produced by the writing team, in order to ensure that the data and information used is recognised, relevant and represents the latest available scientific findings and that interpretations and conclusions are sound and well-supported;

(b) Present the draft output developed by the writing team to the Group of Experts for review and approval to proceed through the various steps of development. Coordinate the review process (peer-review, Member state and Relevant Global Processes and Organization review) and assist the Coordinating author and the writing team with this process, particularly in guiding the writing team with the way in which the responses to review comments are proposed to be reflected;

(c) Present, with the help of the Coordinating Author of the writing team, to the Group of Experts, for its agreement and submission to the Bureau, a list of experts

from the Pool of Experts to serve as members of the writing team and peer-reviewers for approval by the Bureau;

(d) Ensure that the writing team is provided with sufficient guidance on the output being produced and delivers a draft of any outputs as per the timetable for outputs and any content and formatting requirements set by the Group of Experts;

(e) Ensure that the writing team has addressed comments from peer-reviewers on the output, made appropriate adjustments to the text and that explanations are recorded of how each comment has been reflected in the final version of the output;

(f) Liaise with the writing team on how comments from States and from Relevant Global Processes and Organizations are to be dealt with, ensure that these have been addressed, appropriate adjustments to the output have been made and that explanations are recorded of how each comment has been reflected in the final version; and

(g) Present the revised draft of the output to the Group of Experts and assist in finalizing the complete draft and copy-editing the text of each of the output;

32. The purpose of the collaboration of the Lead Member, Co-Lead Members(s) and the Coordinating Author of the writing team is to ensure the integration, consistency and quality of the various outputs of the assessment(s), and to make sure that this Guidance is followed. It is not to "second-guess" the writing team.

Tasks for writing teams and their Coordinating Authors

33. Initially, the proposed writing teams and their Coordinating Authors will be identified from the Pool of Experts by the Group of Experts, applying the principles for the Regular Process approved by the General Assembly. When suitable members for the team have been identified, the Group of Experts will submit the names for approval by the Bureau. The expert assigned the Coordinating Author role should be particularly well qualified to act as Coordinating Author of the writing team and should be able to demonstrate expert experience and a record of publication on the output topic. The Coordinating Author and the Lead Member of a writing team shall be assumed by different experts.

34. The Coordinating Author of the writing team will have general responsibility for the writing of the output. In particular, the Coordinating Author of the writing team, in collaboration with the Lead and Co-lead members will:

(a) Together with the Lead and Co-Lead, identify candidate members of the writing team for the output;

(b) Agree on the division of work in preparing, and revising, the draft output with other members of the writing team for the output, and ensure that the team as a whole delivers them in accordance with the timetable and implementation plan;

(c) Maintain contact with the members of the writing team and monitor their progress. Should the Coordinating Author encounter problems communicating with members of the writing team, they may be assisted by the Secretariat in contacting the member of the writing team and assuring that the member is still committed to the tasks assigned to them;

(d) Ensure that the draft output reflects the agreed scope and structure of any output, the Guidelines for the writing processes and review processes, that it is based on the best available data and information and that the conclusions in the output are sound and well-supported;

(e) Ensure that comments from the Group of Experts and reviewers are considered by the writing team, that appropriate adjustments are made to the drafts in the light of those comments and that explanations are recorded of the response made to each comment in the manner described in paragraph 38;

(f) Prepare, in collaboration with the Lead Member and Co-Lead Member, the draft output for submission to the Group of Experts for approval to proceed through the various review stages; and

(g) Address the comments of peer-reviewers, Member States and of Relevant Global Processes and Organizations, enlisting the help of other members of the writing team where appropriate, and ensuring that explanations are recorded that detail how each comment has been reflected in the final version of the output.

35. The amount of work to be undertaken by each member of the writing team may vary and must be agreed upon. Members of the writing team must keep regular communication with their Coordinating Author, respond to queries from their Coordinating Author, Lead Member, Co-Lead Member, Group of Experts or the Secretariat in a timely manner and inform their Coordinating Author when they are unable to fulfill their commitments. Unresponsive members might be removed from writing teams by the Group of Experts, following the advice of the Coordinating Author, Lead and Co-lead Members or the Secretariat.

36. All members of the writing team for each output are expected to take an interest in the overall balance of the draft output and to ensure that, as far as they are able, the output is based on the best available data and information and that conclusions in them are sound and well-supported.

37. As part of the finalisation of the output, each member of the writing team is expected to provide an assessment of their contribution and express their agreement with the finalised product. If one or more members of a writing team for an output express their disagreement with the version of that output approved by the Group of Experts as part of the finalization process, they are entitled to have a footnote inserted briefly identifying their disagreement and the associated reasons.

38. For any summaries produced from outputs, the Joint Coordinators of the Group of Experts will arrange, in collaboration with the Lead and Co-lead Members and the Coordinating Authors of the relevant writing teams for the production of the initial drafts, on the basis of the draft outputs as reviewed by the Group of Experts. Where appropriate, the Joint Coordinators will also take such initiatives as needed to enable other tasks to be completed effectively and in accordance with the timetable.

Peer reviewers and their tasks

39. Peer-reviewers, acting in an independent capacity as experts, are expected to review the relevant output in a fashion similar to any other form of peer review. This should consider whether the best available data and information have been used and attributed appropriately, whether the conclusions are sound and well- supported, and whether the output meets the scope set including global and regional balance.

40. Reviewers, through the peer review process are expected to assist in the development of outputs by:

(a) Where appropriate, identifying additional information and/or data where it might be missing;

(b) Identifying where overall balance could be improved; and

(c) Considering whether the data and information used are recognised, relevant and represent the latest available scientific findings, and whether the interpretations and conclusions are sound and well-supported.

41. Reviewers are expected to record their comments in the manner indicated by the Secretariat and to submit them in good time in accordance with the timetable set by the Group of Experts and approved by the General Assembly.

Style and modalities

42. The outputs produced by the third cycle of the Regular Process are intended to be read by policy-makers and the general public, and must be written in a manner that will enable broad understanding. This requirement implies that technical terms not in common use in general writing should be explained on their first appearance, and that abbreviations and acronyms should likewise first appear in the full form. Account must also be paid to the requirement that the outputs are to be policy-relevant but are not policy-prescriptive.

43. Technical terms and key concepts should be consistent across outputs produced in the third cycle of the Regular Process. A controlled vocabulary will be provided (link) and will continue to be developed throughout the third cycle to ensure consistency of language and associated definitions in any outputs produced. The provided definitions and usage guidance given in that document must be followed. If there is a need to refer to a term conveying a meaning that is different to that present in the controlled vocabulary, this must be explicitly made clear where the term is being used and the justification for the use of the term discussed with the lead and co-lead members and agreed upon.

44. All outputs and responses to the peer review process are to be drafted in English. Once finalised, they may be translated into the official languages of the United Nations.

45. Templates will be provided to the writing teams, including, where appropriate, primary headers (sections) that needed to be addressed in each output. They will also provide instructions on any formatting of key components such as figures, tables, citations and footnotes.

Annex II

Guidelines for the Nomination and Appointment of Experts to the Pool of Experts, Writing Teams and Peer Reviewers to Support the Works of the Third Cycle of the Regular Process

Introduction

1. This document outlines guidelines for the Nomination and Appointment of Experts for the following processes, in support of the preparation of chapters or other outputs of the assessment(s) of the third cycle (hereafter, outputs) of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (the "Regular Process"):

   a. Additional guidance for the nomination of experts to the pool of experts (PoE)

   b. Identification and selection of writing teams (WTs)

   c. Identification and selection of peer reviewers (PRs)

   d. Communicating decisions to the PoE

2. The guidance is intended for:

   a. Members of the Group of Experts (GoE); and

   b. Members of the PoE appointed to assist the GoE, to prepare the outputs of the third cycle of the Regular Process.

3. The Guidance shall be used in conjunction with other Guidance documents developed for the third cycle of the Regular Process, and in particular:

   a. Mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process;

   b. Guidelines for the writing processes and review processes (draft); and

   c. Personal History Form for the nomination by United Nations Member States of national experts to serve in the Pool of Experts of the Regular Process.

Additional guidance for the nomination of experts to the pool of experts (PoE)

4. Further to the steps and procedures outlined in the document "Mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process", the following additional guidance is provided to guide the recommendations of experts to the PoE for the third cycle, to reflect the principle of equitable representation of the required expertise in all activities of the Regular Process and afford due consideration to the following:

   a. Regional balance;

   b. Gender balance;

   c. Early career professionals;

   d. Traditional knowledge holders; and

   e. Non-academic stakeholders.

5. To build on the already existing static database of the PoE and facilitate seamless and timely access to information on the PoE, the Secretariat, with guidance from the GoE will facilitate the development of an online database that can allow for

the online submission of relevant information from nominated experts, can be updated in real time and can be easily queried at any time by the GoE to identify relevant expertise.

Identification and selection of writing team members for the preparation outputs for the third cycle of the regular process

6. In the selection and allocation of members from the PoE to the WTs for drafting the outputs of the third cycle of the Regular Process, the Lead and Co-Lead Members together with the Coordinating Author shall take reference from the Personal History Form of nominated experts selected to serve in the PoE of the Regular Process, and ensure that selected members:

a. are subject matter experts covering the topics/areas for the outputs identified during the scoping workshops for the third cycle of the Regular Process;

b. have a demonstrated ability to write clearly and concisely on the subject; and

c. can dedicate sufficient time to undertake their assigned tasks for each output.

7. WTs, once established as per the "Guidelines for writing processes and review processes" shall take guidance from this document in ensuring all outputs developed by WTs are delivered with the highest standards and in a timely manner. To this effect, new members might be added to the WT at any moment, once proposed candidates are submitted by the GoE to the Bureau, and then approved by the Bureau.

8. The nominated WT members shall complete and sign a nomination form to confirm that they can meet the requirements and fulfil their commitments.

Identification and selection of peer reviewers

9. To optimise timelines between the finalisation of drafts and reviews of the outputs of the third cycle, the Lead and Co-leads shall identify and nominate members from the PoE to serve as peer reviewers as early as practicable and while WTs are drafting the outputs.

10. The Lead and Co-lead will assess and recommend the appropriate number of peer reviewers for each output, taking into consideration the scope and requirements of the outputs, for approval by the Secretariat and endorsement by the Bureau.

11. Peer reviewers shall take guidance from the (draft) "Guidelines for writing processes and review processes" in undertaking their tasks.

12. In the selection of members from the PoE to be peer reviewers, the following should be considered:

a. Members should be subject matter experts covering the topics/areas identified during the scoping workshops for the third cycle of the Regular Process;

b. Members should have demonstrated previous experience in undertaking peer reviews of scientific publications; and

c. Members should be given sufficient time to undertake their assignments.

13. The nominated peer-reviewers shall complete and sign a nomination form to confirm that they can meet the requirements and fulfil their commitments.

Communicating decisions to the PoE

14. Not all members appointed to be on the PoE for the third cycle of the Regular Process will be nominated and appointed to be a coordinating author, WT member or peer reviewer for one or more outputs of the third cycle.

15. The Secretariat should maintain regular communication with the PoE to update on decisions related to the nomination and appointment of both the selected and non-selected members, in a timely and consistent manner.

16. To ensure consistent communication of decisions, the Secretariat shall also update WTs on all decisions made by the GoE and provide them with the relevant materials concurrently.