الأمم المتحدة

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الجمعية العامة

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الدورة السادسة والسبعون

البند 78 (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 11 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2021 موجهة إلى رئيس الجمعية العامة من رئيسَيْ الفريق العامل المخصص الجامع

نتشرف بأن نحيل إليكم التقرير المرفق* عن أعمال 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 الخامس عشر عملا بالفقرة 324 من قرار الجمعية العامة 239/75. وقد عُقد الاجتماع بالتراسل خلال الفترة من 14 تموز/يوليه إلى 28 أيلول/سبتمبر 2021. وترد في الفرع الثالث من التقرير التوصيات المتفق عليها للفريق العامل المخصص المقدّمة إلى الجمعية العامة في دورتها السادسة والسبعين بشأن انطلاق التقييم العالمي الثاني للمحيطات والتقدم المحرز في تنفيذ برنامج عمل الدورة الثالثة للعملية المنتظمة.

ونرجو تعميم هذه الرسالة والتقرير باعتبارهما وثيقة من وثائق الجمعية العامة في إطار البند 78 (أ) من جدول الأعمال.

(توقيع) يولاني **سيراتو**

(توقيع) مارك **زيلينراث**

* يُعمَّم باللغة التي قُدِّم بها فقط.

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الرجاء إعادة استعمال الورق

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 15th 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 324 of General Assembly resolution 75/239. Owing to constraints relating to the conduct of in-person meetings at United Nations Headquarters, and in accordance with the outcomes of the consultations among the members of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group and concerned delegations on the modalities of the meeting, the meeting was held by correspondence[1] from 14 July to 28 September 2021.

2. On 14 July 2021, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Yolannie Cerrato (Honduras) and Mark Zellenrath (Netherlands), opened the meeting by way of a letter addressed to the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.[2]

3. Information had been received from 32 Member States[3] and three intergovernmental organizations[4] concerning their representatives attending the 15th meeting (by correspondence).

4. The following supporting documentation was available to the meeting participants: the provisional agenda; the annotated provisional agenda; a note by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on its work since the 14th meeting of the Working Group; the draft of the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process; the draft of the terms of reference and working methods of the Group of Experts of the third cycle of the Regular Process; the draft of the terms of reference for national focal points; and the terms of reference for focal points for intergovernmental entities.[5]

5. Under item 2 of the provisional agenda, the Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the agenda (see sect. II below) on 19 July 2021 by silence procedure.

6. Under agenda item 3, no written comments were submitted by delegations.

7. Under agenda item 4 (a), several delegations requested further consultations on amendments proposed by a delegation to the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process, in particular in relation to the process for recommendations of experts from relevant non-governmental organizations, members of the Group of Experts and interested individuals. On 23 August 2021, an informal virtual meeting was held to facilitate an exchange of

[1] See www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/notification_proposed_modalities_15_ahwgw.pdf.

[2] See www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/co-chairsletteropening15_ahwgwtodelegations.pdf.

[3] Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Morocco, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America and Zimbabwe.

[4] European Union, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

[5] All listed documents are available at www.un.org/regularprocess/events/fifteenth-meeting-correspondence.

delegations' views on the proposed amendments.[6] A revised draft and a further revised draft of the mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process were circulated on 5 August and 24 September 2021, respectively, then endorsed under silence procedure on 28 September 2021 (see annex).

8. Under agenda item 4 (b), several delegations proposed the removal of the provision ascribing the legal status of "experts on mission" to the members of the Group of Experts of the third cycle of the Regular Process. The revised draft of the terms of reference was circulated on 5 August 2021 then endorsed under silence procedure on 12 August 2021 (see annex).[7]

Adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session

9. Under agenda item 5, on 28 September 2021, the Working Group adopted by silence procedure the recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session (see sect. III below).

II. Agenda of the 15th meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole

10. On 19 July 2021, the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole adopted by silence procedure the agenda set out below.

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole
4. Implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle:
   (a) Mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process;
   (b) Terms of reference and working methods of the Group of Experts of the third cycle of the Regular Process;
   (c) Terms of reference for national focal points;
   (d) Terms of reference for focal points for intergovernmental entities.
5. Adoption of recommendations to the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly.

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

11. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly:

(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;

[6] Ibid.
[7] Ibid.

(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 and the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, 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) 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 of the Whole 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 15th meeting on the launch of the second *World Ocean Assessment* and progress in the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process;

(e) Recognize the importance of raising awareness of the second *World Ocean Assessment* and the Regular Process, and welcome the launch of the second *World Ocean Assessment* on 21 April 2021, as well as other activities undertaken to raise awareness of the second *World Ocean Assessment* and the Regular Process;

(f) 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;

(g) Take note of the terms of reference for national focal points and for focal points of intergovernmental entities developed by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process;

(h) 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) Invite the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions 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 21 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) Recall that the Group of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process shall comprise a maximum of 25 experts, with no more than five experts per regional group, and encourage regional groups that have appointed fewer than five experts to continue to appoint experts to the Group of Experts, taking into account the need to ensure adequate expertise, gender balance and geographical distribution;

(n) Note 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 third cycle of the Regular Process, developed by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process and revised during the 15th meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

(o) Take note of the mechanism to establish the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process, developed by the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process and revised during the 15th meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, 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;

(p) Recognize the need for early preparation of regional workshops, as outlined in the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process, and invite States to consider hosting such workshops and inform the secretariat of their intent as early as possible;

(q) 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;

(r) Request the Secretary-General to convene, in 2022, 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 2022 and another in the second half of 2022.

Annex I

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

Mechanism for the establishment of the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process

In its resolution 75/239, the General Assembly requested the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process to review and update the mechanism to establish the Pool of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process and to provide oversight of the establishment of the Pool of Experts, including by inviting individuals who served in the Pool of Experts during the second cycle of the Regular Process to indicate to the secretariat of the Regular Process whether they would be interested in serving in the Pool of Experts for the third cycle and beyond.

Bearing in mind the lessons learned from the second cycle and the programme of work for the third cycle, and under the oversight of the Bureau with a view to ensuring its balanced composition and effective functioning, taking full consideration of relevant elements, including adequate coverage of expertise and diversity in expertise, geographic representation and gender considerations, the Pool of Experts for the third cycle will be established as shown below.

Step 1: invite experts from the Pool of Experts for the second cycle

The secretariat will write to all members of the Pool of Experts of the second cycle in the second and third quarter of 2021, requesting them to indicate whether they would be interested in serving in the Pool of Experts for the third cycle and beyond.

Interested experts will be invited to provide an up-to-date curriculum vitae in English and an up-to-date personal history form and to update their entry in the database on the Regular Process website. Once complete, the secretariat will issue a letter confirming the expert's appointment to the Pool of Experts.

Step 2: invite nominations and recommendations of additional experts to the Pool of Experts for the third cycle

Identify expertise needed for the assessments(s) of the third cycle

In parallel with the scoping exercise for the assessment(s) to be conducted under the third cycle, the Group of Experts will develop the preliminary annotated outline(s) for the assessment(s), which will also list the specific expertise needed for each topic to be addressed in the assessment(s). The first draft of the preliminary annotated outline(s) is expected to be completed in early 2022, upon which nominations and recommendations of additional experts to the Pool of Experts will be invited.

Invitations to nominate experts

The secretariat will write to all Permanent and Observer Missions to the United Nations and the national focal points, inviting them to nominate experts for appointment to the Pool of Experts. States will then send the names of their nominated experts, along with an up-to-date curriculum vitae and completed personal history form for each expert. Once received, nominations will be processed by the secretariat and an account will be created for each expert on the Regular Process website. The experts will be asked to complete their entry in the database on the Regular Process

website. Once complete, the secretariat will issue a letter confirming the expert's appointment to the Pool of Experts.

Invitations to recommend experts for nomination

The secretariat will also invite intergovernmental organizations, the funds, bodies and programmes of the United Nations and the secretariats of relevant conventions and intergovernmental processes to recommend experts for nomination to the Pool of Experts. A general invitation to recommend experts for nomination will be placed on the Regular Process website, for use by non-governmental organizations and other interested parties. All recommendations will need to include an up-to-date curriculum vitae in English for the expert(s) nominated, as well as a completed personal history form.

Recommendations for nomination can be submitted by:

– States (if they are not the State of nationality of the expert)

– Intergovernmental organizations, the funds, bodies and programmes of the United Nations and the secretariats of relevant global and regional conventions and intergovernmental processes

– Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council

– Members of the Group of Experts

– Interested individuals with the expertise needed for the assessments(s) of the third cycle, including scientists and holders of traditional, indigenous or local knowledge

Consent procedures related to recommendations from States and intergovernmental organizations

Recommendations received from States (if they are not the State of nationality of the expert) and intergovernmental organizations will be forwarded to the State of nationality of the expert for consideration and to the Bureau. If the State confirms the nomination of the expert, the secretariat will, under the oversight of the Bureau, process the nomination as listed in the above section on nominations and confirm the expert's appointment to the Pool of Experts. If the State expressly objects to the nomination of the expert, the expert will not be nominated. If no response is received within one month of the initial transmission, the nomination will be processed by the Bureau in accordance with the procedure for implied consent, given below.

Procedures related to other recommendations

Recommendations received from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, from members of the Group of Experts and from interested individuals as outlined above will be forwarded to the State of nationality of the expert for consideration and to the Bureau. If the State confirms the nomination of the expert, the secretariat will, under the oversight of the Bureau, process the nomination as listed in the above section on nominations and confirm the expert's appointment to the Pool of Experts. If the State expressly objects to the nomination of the expert, the expert will not be nominated. If no response is received within one month of the initial transmission, the nomination will be processed by the Bureau in accordance with the procedure for implied consent, given below.

Implied consent

When a recommendation of an expert is received from States (if they are not the State of nationality of the expert) or intergovernmental organizations, the secretariat will forward the name of the expert, along with their curriculum vitae and completed personal history form, to the expert's State of nationality. If no response is received within one month of the initial transmission, the Bureau will decide whether or not to nominate the expert to the Pool of Experts on behalf of the State. Once the nomination is confirmed by the Bureau, the expert's information will be processed by the secretariat and an account will be created for the expert on the Regular Process website. The expert will be asked to fill out their entry in the database on the Regular Process website. Once complete, the secretariat will issue a letter confirming the expert's appointment to the Pool of Experts for the third cycle.

Step 3: additional calls for nominations and recommendations of experts

Identify gaps in expertise needed for the assessments(s) of the third cycle

The Group of Experts, in revising the outline(s) for identifying potential members of writing teams and in the preparation of the assessment(s) of the third cycle, will identify and inform the secretariat of gaps in needed expertise on topic(s) or region(s).

Additional calls for nominations and recommendations

As needed, the secretariat will send out additional calls for nominations and recommendations of experts to the Pool of Experts for the third cycle, in order to fill gaps in expertise identified by the Group of Experts, as well as to promote geographical distribution and gender balance in the Pool of Experts.

Figures

Figure I
Nomination of experts by their State of nationality

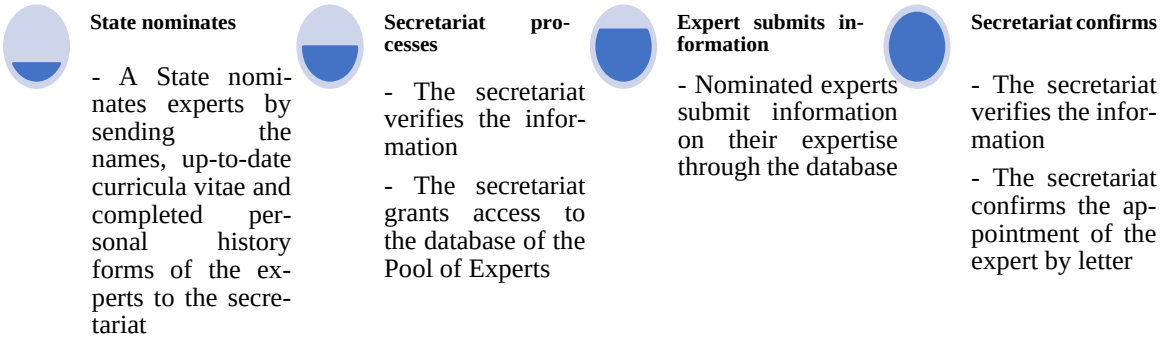


Figure II

Recommendation from States and intergovernmental organizations

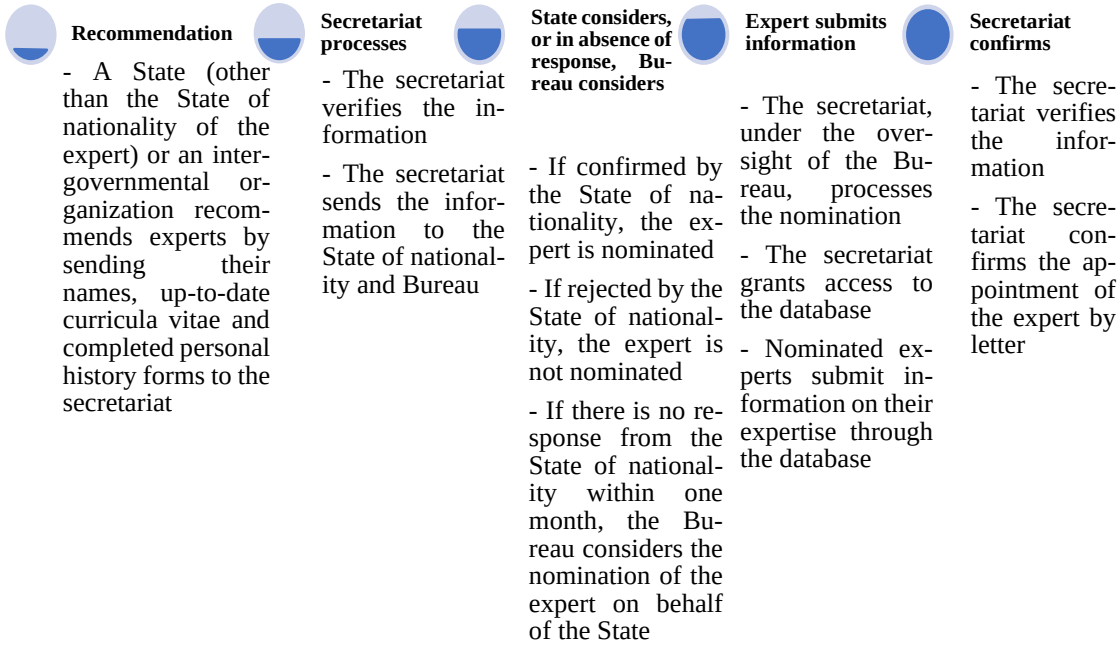
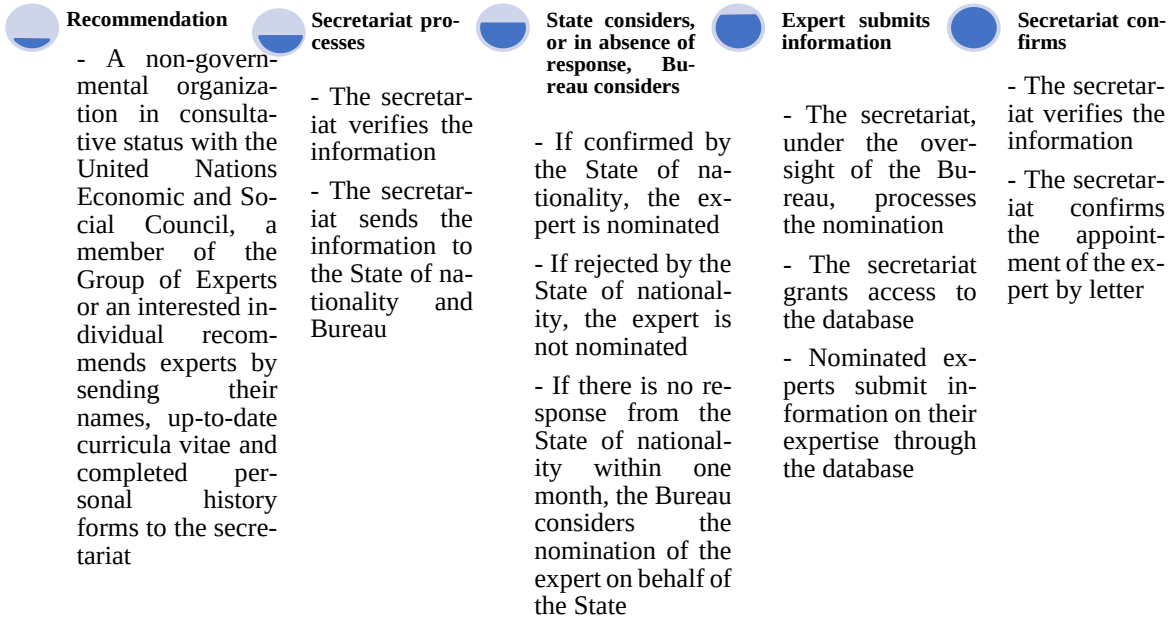


Figure III

Recommendation from non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, members of the Group of Experts and interested individuals



Sample curriculum vitae

[Name of expert]
[email address]

Summary

- [Essential information regarding skills or experience]
- [Essential information regarding skills or experience]
- [Essential information regarding skills or experience]

Current position

[Institution/organization/agency, city, country] [start date – current]

Education

[Institution, city, country] [start date – end date]
[Institution, city, country] [start date – end date]
[Institution, city, country] [start date – end date]

Relevant research experience

[Institution, city, country] [start date – end date]
[Position]
[Brief description of the research]
[Link to paper(s)]

[Institution, city, country] [start date – end date]
[Position]
[Brief description of the research]
[Link to paper(s)]

[Institution, city, country] [start date – end date]
[Position]
[Brief description of the research]
[Link to paper(s)]

Relevant professional experience

[Institution, city, country] [start date – end date]
[Position]
[Brief description of the work]

Publications

[Author(s), title, journal details, link (if available)]
[Author(s), title, journal details, link (if available)]
[Author(s), title, journal details, link (if available)]

Annex II

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

Terms of reference and working methods of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process

Note by the Joint Coordinators

1. In paragraph 315 of its resolution 75/239 of 31 December 2020, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the Chairs of the regional groups to constitute a group of experts, ensuring adequate expertise and geographical distribution, comprising a maximum of 25 experts, with no more than five experts per regional group, for the duration of the third cycle of the Regular Process, taking into account the desirability of some degree of continuity.

2. In the light of the above-mentioned request, the Group of Experts for the third cycle of the Regular Process is established, currently consisting of the following 21 members:

Kwasi Appeaning ADDO (Ghana)
Maria João da Anunciação Franco BEBIANNO (Portugal)
Donovan CAMPBELL (Jamaica)
Alan DEIDUN (Malta)
Roberto DE PINHO (Brazil)
Karen EVANS (Australia)
Jingfeng FAN (China)
Mauricio GÁLVEZ LARACH (Chile)
Carlos GARCIA-SOTO (Spain)
Mehdi GHODRATI SHOJAEI (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Slimane MALIKI (Morocco)
Enrique MARSCHOFF (Argentina)
Yutaka MICHIDA (Japan)
Essam Yassin MOHAMMED (Eritrea)
Maria Amalia RODRÍGUEZ CHAVES (Costa Rica)
Renison Kahindi RUWA (Kenya)
Jörn SCHMIDT (Germany)
Vasily SMOLYANITSKY (Russian Federation)
Karenne TUN (Singapore)
Katarina VIIK (Estonia)
Chang-Ik ZHANG (Republic of Korea)

3. Considering that the third cycle of the Regular Process started in January 2021, with a view to avoiding further delays in implementing the programme of work for the third cycle, the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole decided, under a silence procedure ending on 28 April 2021, that the Group of Experts would start its work, in accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process, with its partial composition on a provisional basis. Meanwhile, it was also decided that members of the Bureau would continue their efforts aimed at ensuring the full nomination of candidates (five) from their respective regional groups as soon as possible, bearing in mind the importance of ensuring adequate expertise and geographical distribution in the composition of the Group of Experts.

4. The Group of Experts for the third cycle held meetings virtually on 11 and 14 May 2021. Following consultations, the Group of Experts approved by consensus, under a silence procedure ending on 17 May 2021, the appointment of Carlos Garcia-Soto (Spain) and Enrique Marschoff (Argentina) as Joint Coordinators and Jörn Schmidt (Germany) as Deputy Coordinator. It was noted that at least one or two additional members of the Group of Experts could consider servicing as Deputy Coordinators, taking into consideration gender balance and geographical distribution.

5. In accordance with the programme of work for the period 2021–2025 for the third cycle of the Regular Process,[1] the Group of Experts, once established, will develop its terms of reference and working methods. The attached draft terms of reference and working methods are developed by the Group of Experts, with the assistance of the secretariat, following a review of the terms of reference and working methods of the Group of Experts for the first and second cycles, and taking into account the programme of work for the third cycle, the resources requirement for the third cycle and lessons learned from the second cycle.

6. The Bureau is invited to consider the present draft for submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its 15th meeting.

[1] A/75/362, annex.

Terms of reference and working methods for the Group of Experts of the third cycle of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

General tasks

1. The general task of the Group of Experts shall be to carry out or coordinate any outputs, including assessments, within the framework of the Regular Process at the request of the General Assembly[2] under the supervision of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and its Bureau. In particular, the tasks of the Group of Experts shall be:

(a) To draft an implementation plan and timetable for the implementation of the third cycle of the Regular Process, for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its Bureau, and, if necessary, to propose amendments to that plan and timetable for approval in the same way;

(b) To carry out implementation plans in accordance with their timetables and any such general guidance;

(c) To develop a series brief documents outlining specific policy-relevant information from the second *World Ocean Assessment* as they may relate to and support other ocean-related intergovernmental processes;

(d) To oversee the preparation of assessment(s) of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, as outlined in the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process, with the final goal of strengthening the decision-making at all levels;

(e) To provide specifications of the types of additional expertise that the Group of Experts will need to carry out any assessment(s), as a basis for appointments, through the regional groups, of members of the pool of experts;

(f) To designate from among its members a lead member and, as appropriate, other members to take responsibility, under the overall responsibility of the Group of Experts, for each part, section or chapter of any assessment(s) or other output, subject to the approval of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its Bureau;

(g) To propose assignments for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its Bureau of members of the pool of experts:

(i) To work with the designated lead member of the Group of Experts in drafting working papers and/or draft chapters of any assessment(s) and/or other output;

(ii) To review and comment on material produced for any assignment;

(h) To propose general guidance to all those involved in producing any assessment(s) or other outputs, based on the principles and documents approved by the General Assembly, for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its Bureau, and taking into account lessons learned from the first and second cycles;

(i) To review all material produced for any assessment(s) or other output, to take such steps as it considers necessary to assure the quality of data and information used in such material, and to take any further steps necessary to bring the assessment or other output to a satisfactory conclusion, subject to the approval of the Bureau if any such action would require expenditure from the trust fund for the Regular Process;

[2] It is understood that to carry out any assessment the approval of the General Assembly is required.

(j) To propose arrangements for approval by the Bureau for the peer review of the draft of any assessment(s) or other output;

(k) In the light of the comments from the peer review, to agree on a final text of any assessment(s) or other output for submission through its Bureau to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and to present that text to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

(l) To provide input with regard to other activities taking place during the third cycle of the Regular Process, including the development and implementation of the capacity-building programme and the outreach and engagement strategy, as appropriate;

(m) To promote engagement among bodies which can contribute to marine assessment, including United Nations agencies, bodies, funds and programmes, other intergovernmental organizations, relevant non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, private-sector bodies and philanthropic organizations, as appropriate;

(n) To perform any other tasks assigned to it by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

Composition and appointment

2. The Group of Experts shall be composed as follows:

(a) The Group of Experts shall be composed of a maximum of 25 experts and no more than 5 experts per regional group. Its composition shall reflect geographical distribution and gender balance;

(b) The composition shall ensure a mix of disciplinary expertise and involve participants from all regions in order to take into account different regional circumstances and experience. All of the main disciplines in the social, economic and environmental sciences should be considered for inclusion;

(c) The experts may be drawn from any type of affiliation (e.g., a Government, a non-governmental organization, an intergovernmental organization, the private sector, academic and research institutions, holders of traditional knowledge[3]);

(d) The experts shall have recognized excellence in their field or fields of expertise;

(e) The experts shall have demonstrated high-level participation in processes relevant to the marine environment.

3. Members shall be in a position to devote substantial amounts of time to the work of the Regular Process.

4. Members shall participate in the Group of Experts in their personal capacity and not as a representative of a Government or of any authority external to the United Nations.

5. If a member of the Group of Experts for any cause can no longer perform their duties (including where this is owing to pressure of other commitments) or wishes to resign, they shall immediately inform the Joint Coordinators and, through them, the secretariat of the situation. In that case, or if it becomes obvious that the member cannot deliver the assigned tasks within the timetable set out under the approved work plan, the Joint Coordinators can propose to the Group of Experts to reassign the tasks to other members of the Group of Experts to ensure delivery within the approved

[3] See resolutions 66/231, 65/37 A and 64/71.

timetable, or another member appointed from the same regional group shall serve for the remainder of the predecessor's term.

6. An appointment to fill a vacancy occurring during a cycle may be made at any time.

7. Membership shall be renewed at the start of each cycle of the Regular Process. Existing members of the Group of Experts may be reappointed, taking into account the desirability of some degree of continuity.

Rules and regulations

8. Members shall serve in their personal capacity and not as representative of a Government or of any authority external to the United Nations. In addition, members shall neither seek nor accept instructions regarding their service for the United Nations from any Government or from any authority external to the United Nations. Members cannot represent the Group of Experts at any meetings or conferences for which they are acting as representatives of a Government or any authority external to the United Nations.

9. Members, during the period of their service with the United Nations, may not engage in any activity that is incompatible with the discharge of their duties with the United Nations. Members are required to exercise the utmost discretion in all matters of official business of the United Nations. Members may not communicate at any time to any other person, Government or authority external to the United Nations any information known to them by reason of their association with the United Nations that has not been made public, except in the course of their duties or by authorization of the Secretary-General or his/her designate, nor shall they at any time use such information to private advantage. These obligations do not lapse upon cessation of their service with the United Nations.

Proprietary rights

10. The United Nations shall be entitled to all proprietary rights, including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks, with regard to material which bears a direct relation to, or is made in consequence of, the services provided to the Organization by members of the Group of Experts.

Compensation

11. Members of the Group of Experts shall not receive any honorarium, fee or other remuneration from the United Nations for their participation in the Group of Experts.

12. Members from developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, will, subject to the availability of resources, receive travel assistance to participate in the meetings to be convened by the United Nations in conjunction with the work of the Group of Experts.

13. A limited amount of funds will be made available to cover the travel-related cost of members from developed countries to participate in the meetings to be convened by the United Nations in conjunction with the work of the Group of Experts.

Working methods

14. The working methods of the Group of Experts shall be as follows:

(a) The Group of Experts may operate even if there are vacancies in its composition;

(b) The Group of Experts shall designate two coordinators from among its members: one from a developed country and one from a developing country. The task of the coordinators shall be to take such actions as they jointly consider will facilitate the discharge by the Group of Experts of the tasks which it has been given. The Group of Experts may change the designation of the coordinators at any time;

(c) The Group of Experts shall also designate deputy coordinators to support the work of the coordinators, taking into account gender balance and geographical distribution among the coordinators and deputy coordinators. The task of the deputy coordinators shall be to assist the coordinators in performing their coordinating functions, including the assistance to coordinating meetings, as well as, in the absence of the coordinators, perform the functions of the coordinators, including for regional workshops and meetings of the Group of Experts. The Group of Experts may change the designation of the deputy coordinators at any time;

(d) Communications between the Group of Experts, the secretariat of the Regular Process and States shall be made preferably through a secure website or, if need be, other means, as appropriate;

(e) The Group of Experts shall communicate with the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and its Bureau through the secretariat of the Regular Process and through meetings convened by the secretariat of the Regular Process, within available resources;

(f) When needed, and within available resources, the Group of Experts may meet to discuss areas of work which cannot be dealt with through electronic meetings or other forms of electronic communication;

(g) The Group of Experts shall aim to work by consensus. Where consensus cannot be achieved, the Group of Experts shall ensure that all divergent opinions are appropriately reported in any document produced by the Group of Experts or the secretariat.

Secretariat

15. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as part of its functions as secretariat of the Regular Process, shall serve as the secretariat of the Group of Experts and provide advice to the Group of Experts when appropriate.

Annex III

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

Terms of reference for national focal points

Background

National focal points were established with a view to improving the connection between the Regular Process and States, as well as the scientific community and other stakeholders at the national level. In the second cycle of the Regular Process, national focal points were particularly important for the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts and for sharing information regarding workshops and other activities undertaken in the context of the Regular Process. In accordance with the programme of work for the period 2021–2025 for the third cycle, starting from the third cycle, the designated national focal points will serve on a continuous basis rather than for a specific cycle.

Objectives

National focal points will work to strengthen the connection between the Regular Process at the global level and government agencies, scientific institutions, individual experts and other stakeholders at the national level. They will also work to coordinate the efforts taking place at the national level relevant to the Regular Process and act as an information link between the Regular Process and the national level. The specific tasks of national focal points are given below.

Criteria

Given the importance of establishing a clear, single focal point for each State taking part in the Regular Process, the national focal points should work in an appropriate national authority or institution, or at a Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York. States may wish to consider professionals working in any of the main disciplines in the social, economic, and environmental sciences, in particular those with experience related to the science-policy interface in ocean affairs. Nominations of national focal points should be made in writing to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations, which serves as the secretariat of the Regular Process, at doalos@un.org. The notification should include the full name, position and department/institution of the nominated national focal points and their email address. This information will be published on the Regular Process website in the list of focal points.

Mandate

National focal points will, inter alia, facilitate the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts, promote the exchange and dissemination of information, raise awareness regarding matters relevant to the Regular Process, provide assistance to the organization of workshops and other activities in support of the Regular Process, and contribute to the overall functioning of the Regular Process. National focal points may collaborate among themselves, and with the focal points of intergovernmental entities, as appropriate.

The tasks of national focal points include:

(a) To facilitate the process of nominating experts to the Pool of Experts, including by:

(i) Reaching out to relevant government agencies, national scientific institutions, and other organizations working in ocean-related topics to secure qualified experts to contribute to the preparation of the assessments under the Regular Process, with due regard for gender balance;

(ii) Identifying potential experts to fill identified gaps in expertise and reaching out to secure their nominations;

(iii) Working to simplify and streamline nomination procedures at the national level in order to reduce delays in nominating experts;

(iv) Receiving recommendations of national experts from intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and others, via the secretariat, for consideration of nomination, and responding in due time;

(b) To ensure that their contact details and those of the experts nominated by their State to the Pool of Experts are kept up-to-date in the databases maintained by the secretariat of the Regular Process

(c) To promote the exchange and dissemination of information between the Regular Process and stakeholders at the national level, including by:

(i) Sharing information received regarding the activities of the Regular Process with stakeholders at the national level;

(ii) Sharing information from the national level relevant to the Regular Process (e.g. national and regional assessments related to the marine environment, scientific papers, information regarding relevant activities taking place) with the secretariat of the Regular Process;

(iii) Contributing to the identification and sharing of information on capacity-building needs and/or opportunities;

(iv) Contributing to the development of an outreach and engagement strategy for the Regular Process, by providing input upon request regarding national needs and experiences;

(d) To raise awareness regarding the Regular Process and promote its outputs at the national level, including by:

(i) Sharing information products (e.g., brochures, documents, infographics, posters, videos) related to the Regular Process and its outputs with stakeholders at the national level;

(ii) Holding presentations on the Regular Process to stakeholders at the national level, using materials prepared by the secretariat of the Regular Process;

(iii) Promoting the World Ocean Assessments at the national level;

(iv) Answering questions regarding the Regular Process from stakeholders at the national level and sharing the nature of requests for information with the secretariat of the Regular Process, to aid in the development of standard responses;

(v) Providing support to the implementation of the outreach and engagement strategy, upon request and as appropriate, at the national level;

(e) To provide assistance in the organization of workshops and other activities in support of the Regular Process, including by:

(i) Sharing information regarding the holding of workshops and other activities with stakeholders at the national level;

(ii) Nominating experts for participation in workshops and other activities, with due regard for gender balance;

(iii) Assisting in the organization of regional workshops, as required;

(iv) Disseminating information regarding the outcomes of workshops and other activities at the national level;

(v) Providing input for the development and implementation of the capacity-building programme, upon request;

(f) To contribute to the overall functioning of the Regular Process, including by:

(i) Providing feedback regarding the processes in place;

(ii) Providing input for the development of mechanisms, strategies, processes and templates, upon request;

(iii) Coordinating participation by stakeholders at the national level in processes and activities conducted in relation to the Regular Process, as appropriate;

(iv) Sharing lessons learned and best practices relevant to the Regular Process;

(g) To collaborate with other national focal points and focal points of intergovernmental entities, as appropriate, including by:

(i) Developing regional or subregional networks of focal points;

(ii) Jointly developing information materials in other languages for dissemination at the national levels;

(iii) Maintaining exchanges and cooperating with national focal points to other organizations and processes that may have useful insights or experiences that might benefit the Regular Process.

Tasks of the secretariat

The contact point for all focal points (national focal points and focal points of intergovernmental entities) will be the secretariat of the Regular Process. The secretariat will:

(a) Share information with focal points at regular intervals regarding the Regular Process and the progress of the activities of the third cycle, including the delivery of the outputs of the programme of work;

(b) Share data regarding how national experts are contributing to the Regular Process;

(c) Share information materials and other tools produced by the secretariat of the Regular Process;

(d) Hold virtual meetings with focal points, at intervals to be determined in consultation with nominated focal points;

(e) Communicate with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York regarding the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts, copying the relevant national focal point;

(f) Collect and process information from national focal points relevant to the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts;

(g) Collect relevant information from national focal points (e.g., national and regional assessments related to the marine environment, scientific papers, information regarding relevant activities taking place) and share it with the Group of Experts, the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, the Bureau and/or on the Regular Process website;

(h) Provide a centralized source of information on the Regular Process targeted to the focal points.

Annex IV

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

Terms of reference for focal points for intergovernmental entities[1]

Background

In the second cycle of the Regular Process, national focal points were established with a view to improving the connection between the Regular Process and States, as well as the scientific community and other stakeholders at the national level. The national focal points were particularly important for the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts and for sharing information regarding workshops and other activities undertaken in the context of the Regular Process.

The lessons learned from the second cycle of the Regular Process include that intergovernmental organizations had not been invited to designate focal points, in spite of their important role in facilitating communication with many experts, disseminating information and awareness-raising. In accordance with the programme of work for the period 2021–2025 for the third cycle, the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions will be invited to designate focal points. Such focal points will serve on a continuous basis.

Objectives

Focal points for the above-mentioned intergovernmental entities will work to strengthen the connection between the Regular Process and the entities' own processes, procedures and networks at the global and regional levels, and collaborate with national focal points, as appropriate, in their areas of operation. Focal points for intergovernmental entities will further act as an information link between the entities and the Regular Process. The specific tasks of these focal points are given below.

Criteria

Given the importance of establishing a clear, single focal point for each entity taking part in the Regular Process, each entity should nominate only one focal point to the Regular Process. Focal points for intergovernmental entities should work in an appropriate body or department, preferably one dealing with ocean-related issues. Entities may wish to consider professionals working in any of the main disciplines in the social, economic and environmental sciences, in particular those with experience related to the science-policy interface in ocean affairs.

Nominations of focal points for intergovernmental entities should be made in writing to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations, which serves as the secretariat of the Regular Process, at doalos@un.org. The notification should include the full name, position and department/institution of the nominated focal points and their email address. This information will be published on the Regular Process website in the list of focal points.

[1] Secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions.

Mandate

Focal points for intergovernmental entities will, inter alia, recommend experts to the Pool of Experts, promote the exchange and dissemination of information, raise awareness regarding matters relevant to the Regular Process, provide assistance to the organization of workshops and other activities in support of the Regular Process, and contribute to the overall functioning of the Regular Process. They may collaborate among themselves and with the national focal points, as appropriate.

The tasks of focal points for intergovernmental entities include:

(a) To assist in the process of nominating experts to the Pool of Experts, including by:

(i) Recommending qualified experts from within their networks for nomination to the Pool of Experts, with due regard for gender balance and geographical distribution;

(ii) Reaching out to relevant associates working in ocean-related fields to identify qualified experts to recommend for nomination to the Pool of Experts, with due regard for gender balance and geographical distribution;

(iii) Identifying potential experts to fill identified gaps in expertise and reaching out to the experts to ascertain their interest in participating;

(iv) Responding to requests from the secretariat of the Regular Process seeking recommendations of experts within specific fields;

(b) To promote the exchange and dissemination of information between the Regular Process and their entity, including by:

(i) Sharing information received regarding the activities of the Regular Process with stakeholders within their networks;

(ii) Sharing information from within their networks relevant to the Regular Process (e.g., assessments related to the marine environment, scientific papers, information regarding relevant activities taking place) with the secretariat;

(iii) Contributing to the identification and sharing of information on capacity-building needs and/or opportunities;

(iv) Providing input for the development of an outreach and engagement strategy for the Regular Process, upon request;

(c) To raise awareness regarding the Regular Process, and promote its outputs within their networks, including by:

(i) Sharing information products (e.g., brochures, documents, infographics, posters, videos) related to the Regular Process and its outputs within their networks;

(ii) Holding presentations on the Regular Process to stakeholders within their networks, using materials prepared by the secretariat of the Regular Process;

(iii) Promoting the World Ocean Assessments within their networks and with relevant partners at the national, regional and global levels;

(iv) Answering questions regarding the Regular Process from actors within their networks and sharing the nature of requests for information with the secretariat of the Regular Process to aid in the development of standard responses;

(v) Providing support to the implementation of the outreach and engagement strategy for the Regular Process, upon request and as appropriate;

(d) To provide assistance in the organization of workshops and other activities in support of the Regular Process, including by:

(i) Sharing information regarding the holding of workshops and other activities with their networks;

(ii) Nominating experts for participation in workshops and other activities, with due regard for gender balance and geographical distribution;

(iii) Assisting in the organization of regional workshops, as required;

(iv) Disseminating information regarding the outcomes of workshops and other activities within their networks;

(v) Providing input for the development and implementation of the capacity-building programme, upon request;

(e) To contribute to the overall functioning of the Regular Process, including by:

(i) Providing feedback regarding the processes in place;

(ii) Providing input for the development of mechanisms, strategies, processes, and templates, upon request;

(iii) Participating in inter-agency meetings and processes aimed at promoting the coordination and cooperation between the Regular Process and other ocean related intergovernmental processes;

(iv) Sharing the lessons learned and best practices relevant to the Regular Process;

(f) To collaborate with other focal points for intergovernmental entities and national focal points, as appropriate, including by:

(i) Developing regional or subregional networks of focal points;

(ii) Jointly developing information materials in other languages for dissemination;

(iii) Maintaining exchanges and cooperating with focal points to other organizations and processes that may have useful insights or experiences that might benefit the Regular Process.

Tasks of the secretariat

The contact point for all focal points (national focal points and focal points for intergovernmental entities) will be the secretariat of the Regular Process. The secretariat will:

(a) Share information with focal points at regular intervals regarding the Regular Process and the progress of the activities of the third cycle, including the delivery of the outputs of the programme of work;

(b) Share data regarding how national experts are contributing to the Regular Process;

(c) Share information materials and other tools produced by the secretariat of the Regular Process;

(d) Hold virtual meetings with focal points, at intervals to be determined in consultation with nominated focal points;

(e) Collect and process information from focal points for intergovernmental entities relevant to the nomination of experts to the Pool of Experts;

(f) Collect relevant information from focal points for intergovernmental entities (e.g., assessments related to the marine environment, scientific papers, information regarding relevant activities taking place) and share it with the Group of Experts, the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, the Bureau and/or on the Regular Process website;

(g) Provide a centralized source of information on the Regular Process targeted to the focal points.