



General Assembly

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United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea Twenty-fourth meeting New York, 18–21 June 2024

Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. In accordance with resolution [54/33](#), by which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two Co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will elaborate, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions of the Informal Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Informal Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods in resolutions [57/141](#) and [60/30](#), for additional two-year periods in resolutions [63/111](#), [65/37 A](#), [67/78](#), [69/245](#), [71/257](#) and [73/124](#), for one year in resolution [75/239](#), for two years in resolution [76/72](#) and for four further years in resolution [78/69](#).
2. On the basis of consultations with delegations, Elina Kalkku (Finland) and Viliami Va'inga Tōnē (Tonga), who were reappointed by the President of the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly as Co-Chairs of the Informal Consultative Process, have developed a format and an annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process (see annexes I and II, respectively). The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and adopt the provisional agenda.
3. The areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the theme “The ocean as a source of sustainable food” are intended to identify important issues that the discussion panel may wish to consider. They are reflected in annex III.



Annex I

Format for the twenty-fourth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

Methods of work

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

Agenda

4. The Co-Chairs will propose a provisional agenda setting out a programme of work for the meeting and a timetable for the plenary sessions and the discussion panel. The draft agenda will take into account paragraphs 353 to 355 and 361 of General Assembly resolution [78/69](#). The Informal Consultative Process will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable accordingly at its twenty-fourth meeting.

Discussion panel

5. In paragraph 361 of resolution [78/69](#), the General Assembly decided that the Informal Consultative Process would focus its discussions at its twenty-fourth meeting on the theme “The ocean as a source of sustainable food”. On the basis of consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs have proposed an outline for the topic to be considered by the discussion panel. The Co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant aspects.

Outcome of the twenty-fourth meeting

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

Annex II

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

Tuesday, 18 June 2024

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

First plenary session

Item 1. Opening of the twenty-fourth meeting

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

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

3. The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda of the twenty-fourth meeting.

Item 3. General exchange of views

4. It is suggested that, during the general exchange of views, delegations may wish to address in particular the theme of the twenty-fourth meeting, “The ocean as a source of sustainable food”.
5. Owing to time constraints and the potential number of speakers, delegations are kindly requested to limit their interventions to no more than five minutes.

Discussion panel

The ocean as a source of sustainable food

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

3–6 p.m.

Discussion panel

Segment 1

The role of the ocean as a source of sustainable food, and the contribution of sustainable food from the oceans to the three pillars of sustainable development

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

* All sessions will begin promptly at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Wednesday, 19 June 2024

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Discussion panel

Segment 1 (continued)

The role of the ocean as a source of sustainable food, and the contribution of sustainable food from the oceans to the three pillars of sustainable development

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

3–6 p.m.

Discussion panel

Segment 1 (continued)

The role of the ocean as a source of sustainable food, and the contribution of sustainable food from the oceans to the three pillars of sustainable development

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

Thursday, 20 June 2024

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Segment 2

Maintaining and strengthening the role of the ocean as a source of sustainable food, including through enhanced international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities

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

3–6 p.m.

Discussion panel

Segment 2 (continued)

Maintaining and strengthening the role of the ocean as a source of sustainable food, including through enhanced international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities

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

Friday, 21 June 2024

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Second plenary session

Item 4. Inter-agency cooperation and coordination

7. In accordance with the terms of reference for UN-Oceans adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [68/70](#), the United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as the UN-Oceans focal point, represents UN-Oceans at relevant meetings, including those under the Assembly. To ensure transparency and accountability, UN-Oceans, upon request from the Assembly,

reports to Member States in the context of the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. In that regard, and pending such request, the UN-Oceans focal point will be invited to submit a brief statement on the activities of UN-Oceans for comments by delegations in writing.

3 p.m.–6 p.m.

Third plenary session

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

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

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

9. The Informal Consultative Process will be presented in writing with a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly, prepared by the Co-Chairs on the basis of the relevant section of the reports on the work of the Informal Consultative Process from its fourth to twenty-third meetings ([A/58/95](#), [A/59/122](#), [A/60/99](#), [A/61/156](#), [A/62/169](#), [A/63/174](#), [A/63/174/Corr.1](#), [A/64/131](#), [A/65/164](#), [A/66/186](#), [A/67/120](#), [A/68/159](#), [A/69/90](#), [A/70/78](#), [A/71/204](#), [A/72/95](#), [A/73/124](#), [A/74/119](#), [A/76/171](#), [A/77/119](#) and [A/78/129](#)). The Co-Chairs will inform the Informal Consultative Process of the additional issues that will have been suggested by delegations in writing during the twenty-fourth meeting for inclusion in the list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the Assembly.

Item 7. Closing of the meeting

10. The Co-Chairs will close the meeting.

Annex III

Proposed areas of concentration for the discussion panel on the theme “The ocean as a source of sustainable food”

Information contained in the report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly decided in its resolution 78/69 that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea would focus its discussions at its twenty-fourth meeting on the theme “The ocean as a source of sustainable food”. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has made available on its website (www.un.org/Depts/los) advance and unedited reporting material on oceans and the law of the sea for the seventy-ninth session of the Assembly, relating to the topic of focus of the twenty-fourth meeting.

Discussion panel segments

2. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the topic of focus, it may be recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 54/33, consistent with the framework provided by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and chapter 17 of Agenda 21, established the Informal Consultative Process to facilitate its annual review, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced. Furthermore, the Assembly, in its resolution 78/69, recognized the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics. It also recognized the primary role of the Informal Consultative Process in integrating knowledge, the exchange of opinions among multiple stakeholders and coordination among competent agencies, and enhancing awareness of topics, including emerging issues, while promoting the three pillars of sustainable development.

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

(a) The role of the ocean as a source of sustainable food, and the contribution of sustainable food from the oceans to the three pillars of sustainable development

4. The discussion panel segment could provide an overview of the capacity of the ocean to sustainably yield sources of food and the different types of food that could be sustainably sourced from the ocean (flora and fauna). It could consider how such food contributes to global, regional and national food security and the three pillars of sustainable development. It could explore some of the challenges to the sustainability of food sourced from the ocean and opportunities for addressing them. Such challenges could include the threats to the capacity of the ocean to serve as a source of food posed by stressors such as marine pollution, climate change, ocean acidification and ocean deoxygenation. Opportunities could include the promotion of healthy food and the protection of the right to adequate food through the establishment of sustainable food systems, including in relation to the sustainable

management of fisheries and the further development of aquaculture and other forms of ocean food cultivation, including of algae.

(b) Maintaining and strengthening the role of the ocean as a source of sustainable food, including through enhanced international cooperation and coordination: challenges and opportunities

5. The discussion panel segment could address challenges and opportunities for maintaining and strengthening the role of the ocean as a source of sustainable food, including through enhanced cooperation and coordination. It could explore opportunities for advancing international cooperation and coordination to promote the sustainable use of the ocean as a source of food, including in the context of global and regional cooperation on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture and initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development, addressing climate change, strengthening food security and reinforcing environmental and social standards in fisheries and aquaculture. In this context, it could consider existing frameworks, partnerships and practices, the operationalization of capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology for the conservation and sustainable use of marine living resources, as well as gaps in capacity. This could include considerations relating to enhancing cooperation and coordination and exploring synergies at all levels, as well as engaging with all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector and underrepresented groups and communities, such as women, local communities and Indigenous Peoples. It could consider opportunities for mobilizing funding for projects related to the ocean as a source of sustainable food through enhanced cooperation and coordination.
