



# General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
9 March 2022

Original: English

---

## United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea Twenty-second meeting 6–10 June 2022

### Format and annotated provisional agenda

1. In accordance with resolution [54/33](#), in which the General Assembly established the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, the two Co-Chairs appointed by the President of the Assembly will elaborate, in consultation with delegations, a format for the discussions at the Informal Consultative Process that best facilitates its work, in accordance with the rules of procedure and practices of the Assembly. It is recalled that the mandate of the Informal Consultative Process was extended by the Assembly for three-year periods in resolutions [57/141](#) and [60/30](#), 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](#), and for two further years in resolution [76/72](#).
2. On the basis of consultations with delegations, Isabelle Picco (Monaco) and Viliami Va'inga Tone (Tonga), who were reappointed by the President of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly as Co-Chairs of the Informal Consultative Process, developed a format and annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-second meeting of the Informal Consultative Process (see annexes I and II). 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 "Ocean observing" 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-second meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

#### **Methods of work**

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [54/33](#), the twenty-second meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea will work through plenary sessions and a discussion panel.
2. The plenary sessions and discussion panel will be open to participation by all those listed in paragraph 3 (a) of 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 provisional agenda will take into account paragraphs 348 to 350 and 356 of General Assembly resolution [76/72](#). The Informal Consultative Process will consider and adopt its agenda and timetable accordingly at its twenty-second meeting.

#### **Discussion panel**

5. In paragraph 356 of its resolution [76/72](#), the General Assembly decided that the Informal Consultative Process would focus its discussions at its twenty-second meeting on the theme “Ocean observing”. On the basis of consultations with delegations, the Co-Chairs have proposed an outline for the theme to be considered by the discussion panel. The Co-Chairs intend to invite a limited number of panellists to launch the discussions by making short presentations on relevant aspects.

#### **Outcome of the twenty-second 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 comments of a technical nature. 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-second meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea\***

**Monday, 6 June 2022**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

#### **First plenary session**

##### *Item 1. Opening of the twenty-second meeting*

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

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

3. The Informal Consultative Process is invited to consider and, as appropriate, to adopt the agenda of the twenty-second 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-second meeting, “Ocean observing”.
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**

##### **Ocean observing**

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

**3–6 p.m.**

#### **Discussion panel**

##### *Segment 1*

*Ocean observation: tools, contributions to science-based decision-making in support of sustainable development, and challenges relating to gaps in observational data*

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

---

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

**Tuesday, 7 June 2022**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

**Discussion panel**

*Segment 1 (continued)*

*Ocean observation: tools, contributions to science-based decision-making in support of sustainable development, and challenges relating to gaps in observational data*

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

**3–6 p.m.**

**Discussion panel**

*Segment 2*

*International cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean observing and addressing related challenges*

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

**Wednesday, 8 June 2022**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

[Reserved]

**3–6 p.m.**

**Discussion panel**

*Segment 2 (continued)*

*International cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean observing and addressing related challenges*

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

**Thursday, 9 June 2022**

**10 a.m.–1 p.m.**

**Discussion panel**

*Segment 2 (continued)*

*International cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean observing and addressing related challenges*

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

**3–6 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 Under-Secretary-General for Legal

Affairs, 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. In accordance with Assembly resolution [73/124](#), and as recalled in resolution [76/72](#), the review of the terms of reference of UN-Oceans was deferred to the seventy-seventh session of the Assembly.

**Friday, 10 June 2022**

**10 a.m.–1 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 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-first 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](#) and [A/76/171](#)). 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-second 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 “Ocean observing”

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

1. The General Assembly decided, in its resolution 76/72, 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-second meeting on the theme “Ocean observing”. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea has made available on its website ([www.un.org/Depts/los/index.html](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/index.html)), advance and unedited reporting material on oceans and the law of the sea relating to this theme, for consideration by the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.

#### Discussion panel segments

2. In considering the possible approaches for structuring the discussion panel segments in relation to the theme, 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 76/72, 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 theme, it is proposed that the respective panel segments concentrate their discussions on the following areas:

- (a) *Ocean observation: tools, contributions to science-based decision-making in support of sustainable development, and challenges relating to gaps in observational data*

4. The discussion panel segment could begin by providing a brief overview of the tools used for conducting ocean observations and the data collected; existing frameworks for conducting ocean observations, including at the international and regional levels; and stakeholders conducting or contributing to ocean observations and the analysis of data. The discussion panel segment could then focus on how the data, analyses and products produced by those tools contribute to understanding, modelling and forecasting across disciplines, as well as more generally to informing science-based decision-making for sustainable development, including through assessments conducted under relevant intergovernmental processes. In respect of the latter, there could be a particular focus on the role of ocean observation data in sustainable development, notably in addressing environmental risks and challenges in coastal zones and the attendant societal impacts; securing the long-term

sustainability and resilience of fisheries; supporting safety at sea, maritime transport and trade, conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, protection and restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems and biodiversity, and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems; assisting in understanding the role of the ocean in climate and climate change processes; and enhancing resilience and disaster risk reduction. The discussion panel segment could also address challenges in meeting increasing societal demands in terms of quantitative and qualitative gaps in observational data.

(b) *International cooperation and coordination in advancing ocean observing and addressing related challenges*

5. The discussion panel segment could address opportunities to advance ocean observing by strengthening and developing the existing global ocean observing network and addressing related challenges, including those related to cooperation and coordination, gaps in capacity, and challenges relating to data storage, assimilation, compatibility, interoperability and full and open access to data. This could include considerations with regard to enhancing cooperation and coordination and exploring synergies at all levels; engaging with the private sector, underrepresented groups and communities, such as women, indigenous peoples and local communities; developing and strengthening observation, measurement and utilization capabilities; improving data sharing and processing infrastructure; promoting innovation and the development of advanced technologies for low-cost, large-scale automated multidisciplinary observations; utilizing best practices in the collection and use of data; identifying and leveraging opportunities within and between the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration; and supporting capacity-building, information-sharing and technology transfer, particularly for developing States.

---