

**Programme of work for the period 2021-2025 for the third cycle of the
Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the**

Whole to provide written input on lessons learned from the second cycle of the Regular Process. A list of relevant documents and questions for consideration was developed by the secretariat for Member States, observers and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to take into account in preparing their input.

5. Member States, intergovernmental organizations, the Group of Experts and the secretariat provided written input on lessons learned from the second cycle. A compilation of such input prepared by the secretariat as well as the full texts of all written input are available on the website of the Regular Process at <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/content/second-cycle-regular-process/lessons-learned>.

Draft programme of work

6.

Output II: Regular Process support for and interaction with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes

9. On the basis of the second world ocean assessment, key activities will be identified so as to support and interact with other ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes, as appropriate. Outputs will be specifically tailored to the requests and needs of the processes, including the following:

- (a) The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- (b) 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;
- (c) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;
- (d) The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- (e) The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea;
- (f) The United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030);
- (g) The United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030).

10. Relevant ocean-related intergovernmental processes will be consulted regarding the preparation of these outputs. These

(f) The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).

Output III: Capacity-building

12. Capacity-building is one of the core objectives of the Regular Process. During the third cycle, a coherent programme on capacity-building will be carried out. The aim of the programme would be to develop the capacities of States in strengthening the ocean science-policy interface at national, regional and global levels. In particular, it might relate to the co-production of knowledge through multi-stakeholder partnerships, translation of data into policy-relevant information and knowledge, the use of knowledge brokerage, the engagement of the scientific community and ocean users in policymaking processes, the links between the science-policy interface and the society, the role of citizen science, as well as integrating traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and science. Focus will also be given to institutional arrangements and legal frameworks that help ensure the integration of science and policy for ocean governance.

13. Through regional workshops, an international symposium, and other activities that might be developed, the capacity-building programme will provide opportunities for building knowledge and skills associated with strengthening the ocean science-policy interface, including its role in ocean governance. This may include identifying gaps and needs in the science-policy interface, as well as formulating measures to address the identified gaps and needs that are tailored to particular contexts, situations and regions, dependent on those participating in activities.

14. This capacity-building programme also aims to create a community of practice on the ocean science-policy interface across national, regional and global levels to foster partnerships, cultivate ocean literacy, discuss/develop best practices and share lessons learned, with a view to enabling continuous and collective learning beyond the third cycle. Furthermore, it aims to promote the adoption of an integrated approach to support efforts with regard to Sustainable Development Goal 14, as well as other ocean-related Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It also aligns with and supports the Decade.

15. This capacity-building programme will be overseen by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Office of Legal Affairs in its capacity as the secretariat of the Regular Process, and implemented in cooperation with the International Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC/UNESCO), other UN agencies, members of UN-Oceans and other partners as appropriate, including regional organizations or entities with competence in ocean science and in marine and coastal management, and other relevant stakeholders.

C. Activities in support of making the third cycle operational

Activities relating to the achievement of output I - Assessment(s)

16. Building on the practice from previous cycles, the Pool of Experts for the third cycle will consist of experts from all regional groups with expertise across multiple ocean disciplines. Efforts will be made to ensure adequate coverage of expertise and diversity in expertise and geographic representation, as well as gender considerations. The mechanism to establish the Pool of Experts for the second cycle, including the process to nominate and appoint experts to the Pool of Experts, will be reviewed at the beginning of the third cycle, with a view to strengthening the mechanism to establish the Pool of Experts for the third cycle.

17. The preparation of the assessment(s) will begin with a scoping exercise starting in 2021 to determine the focus of the assessment(s) taking into account the trends evaluated and gaps identified in the second world ocean assessment, regional priorities identified through regional workshops to support the third cycle, and input from other ocean-related intergovernmental processes. In parallel with the scoping exercise, the Group of Experts will develop the preliminary annotated outline(s) for the assessment(s) which would also list the specific expertise needed for each topic to be addressed in the assessment(s), to facilitate the identification of potential members of writing teams, including the nomination of additional experts to the Pool of Experts to fill the gaps in the needed expertise. The proposed scope of the assessment(s) and annotated outline(s) will be finalized with input from the regional workshops and potential members of writing teams and submitted for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in early 2023. The list of writing teams would be finalized for approval by the Bureau in the first half of 2023. In association with the outline, the Group of Experts will also develop guidelines for developing chapters and subchapters, which will also provide any limitations on chapter/sub-chapter content (e.g. scope, word limits, formats).

18. It is envisaged that the drafting of the assessment(s) will begin in the first half of 2023 and will be supported through regional workshops, in-person and web-based meetings of the writing teams and a common online collaboration platform. A zero draft(s) of the assessment(s) are expected to be completed for review by mid-2024. To fully realize the potential of regional workshops in, inter alia, sensitizing stakeholders to the Regular Process, collecting data and

made available in all six official languages of the United Nations. The assessment(s) will be published and disseminated mainly by electronic format with a limited number of printed copies.

21. The following activities will be undertaken during the third cycle:

(a) The enhancement of working methods and the communications and collaborative document management systems necessary;

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Activities related to the achievement of output II - Regular Process support for and interaction with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes

22. A series of brief documents will be developed by the Group of Experts outlining specific policy-relevant information from the second world ocean assessment as they may relate to and support other ocean-related intergovernmental processes. Relevant ocean-related intergovernmental processes will be consulted to ensure that the brief documents are tailored to the requests and needs of these processes. Briefings and side events will be held in the margins of the meetings of these processes to present the brief documents so as to support and interact with these processes.

23. The Regular Process will continue to support ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes and other activities to be developed, which may include outreach and awareness-raising activities. Joint activities will be identified and implemented together with IOC-UNESCO with a view to ensuring synergies between the third cycle of the Regular Process and the Decade. Coordination and cooperation with the secretariats of other ocean-related intergovernmental processes will be strengthened and maintained on a regular basis, including through the UN-Oceans.

24. The following activities will be undertaken during the third cycle:

- (a) The enhancement of working methods and the communications and collaborative document management systems necessary;
- (b) The preparation of the outline(s) of the brief documents;
- (c) The review and approval of the outline(s);
- (d) The preparation of the brief documents, including an editing and review process, among other things, to ensure the securing of copyright and conformity with United Nations standards, including determining the need for and/or responding to requests for disclaimers;
- (e) The consideration and finalization of the brief documents;
- (f) The translation, digital and print publication and dissemination of the brief document(s).
- (g) The preparation and holding of briefings or presentations to be held in the margins of events of other ocean-related intergovernmental processes.
- (h) The preparation of outreach and awareness-raising material on the Regular Process to be shared with stakeholders of other ocean-related intergovernmental processes.
- (i) The participation by members of the Group of Experts, of the Bureau or the secretariat of the Regular Process in that capacity in meetings and proceedings of other ocean-related intergovernmental processes;
- (j) The establishment of mechanisms to strengthen and maintain on a regular basis coordination and cooperation with the secretariats of other ocean-related intergovernmental processes, including through the UN-Oceans;

(k) The identification and implementation of other activities to support and interact with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes.

Activities related to the achievement of output III - Capacity-building

25. To deliver understanding and skills training on the science-policy interface, five regional workshops will be held from 2022 to 2023, with one each for the following regions: the North Pacific; the South Pacific; the Indian Ocean (including the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal), the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and the ROPME/RECOFI area¹; the North Atlantic, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea; and the South Atlantic (between the African and American coasts) and the wider Caribbean². Some of these three-day regional workshops might be held back-to-back with the regional workshops in support of the implementation of the third cycle of the Regular Process if it is so agreed with the host Governments. Participants to these workshops will include representatives of the scientific community, the policy community (policymakers, managers, etc.) and stakeholders representing ocean users, at regional and national levels.

26. Specific workshop objectives and desired outcomes will be developed according to regional needs in consultation with the relevant organizations. Workshop agendas will generally include, inter alia, presentations by partners on: theory and practice related to the ocean science-policy interface; the interrelation between ocean governance and the ocean science-policy interface; the application of an integrated approach in the science-policy interface; the links between the science-policy interface and the society including ocean users; the role of citizen science and traditional, indigenous and local knowledge

upon the outcomes of the regional workshops and identifying future needs and directions for further building of capacity relating to the science-policy interface. Participants will include representatives of scientific and policy communities at all levels, including States and intergovernmental organizations with competence in the ocean science-policy interface, as well as relevant non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders. The event will provide opportunity to share lessons learned on the strengthening of the science-policy interface for ocean governance at the global level, on the empowerment of data value chain, the links between the science-policy interface and society including ocean users, the role of citizen science and traditional, indigenous and local knowledge, as well as identifying common approaches, priorities and potential avenues of collaboration. In this regard, the symposium will provide a unique opportunity for the sharing of information between scientific platforms operating at all levels, thereby fostering a common understanding of approaches and priorities, a reduction in the duplication of efforts, and will reinforce collaboration. A summary will be produced at the end of the international symposium with highlights of the discussions. The proceedings of the international symposium, papers submitted by panellists on their presentations, will be made available to the public through the website of the Regular Process.

28. As part of the capacity-building programme, activities will also be carried out to raise awareness of the importance of the science-policy interface for integrated ocean governance and the capacity imperatives of the science-policy interface. Using platforms such as the website of the Regular Process, presentations by DOALOS and relevant partners, and public communication tools, these activities will facilitate continuous exchange of information and knowledge among the multiple stakeholders of the community of practice. Particular attention will be placed on sharing information regarding capacity-building needs and opportunities on strengthening the ocean science-policy interface, including best practices and lessons learned. These initiatives will reflect the information collected through the regional workshops and other activities undertaken under the Regular Process, as well as those provided by the States and stakeholders. It will also keep the general public informed of the progress and outputs of the capacity-building programme, and how these can be used to reinforce the science-policy interface.

29. The following activities will be undertaken during the third cycle:

- (a) The planning and organization of regional workshops on capacity-building, and the preparation of summaries of discussions;
- (b) The dissemination of information collected through the regional workshops, including the summaries of discussions, presentations and other resource

stakeholders of the community of practice and of the Regular Process, as well as to promote ocean literacy;

(f) The planning and implementation of public engagement activities on capacity-building.

community of practice

potential members, and the evaluation, enhancement and maintenance of the database of the Pool of Experts.

(ii) Providing support to the Group of Experts related to the scoping exercise

- (i) Developing and implementing the capacity-building programme, in collaboration with Member States, IGOs and other stakeholders, including planning, coordination, the further development of activities, and evaluation of the programme;
- (ii) Planning, organizing and substantively servicing the capacity-building workshops, including by preparing relevant documents and negotiating agreements, providing travel support, preparing reports and conducting necessary follow-up and disseminating information collected.
- (iii) Planning, organizing and substantively servicing the international symposium, including by providing travel support, preparing reports and disseminating information collected;
- (iv) Providing support for the establishment of the community of practice, including related to working methods, collaboration platforms and the development of systems for continuous exchange of knowledge and information;
- (v) Implementing other ongoing capacity-building activities to support the Regular Process, including public engagement activities, the compilation and maintenance of the capacity-building inventory, fundraising for the Regular Process special scholarship fund and the development and implementation of the special scholarship programme;