



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-seventh session

Item 73 (a) of the provisional agenda\*

**Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea**

### **Report on the work 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**

#### **Letter dated 2 September 2022 from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

We have the honour to transmit to you the attached report\*\* on the work 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, which held its sixteenth meeting pursuant to paragraph 331 of General Assembly resolution [76/72](#). The meeting was held by correspondence from 21 March to 1 September 2022. Section III of the report sets out the agreed recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session on the four brief documents of the second World Ocean Assessment and the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021–2025).

We kindly request that the present letter and the report be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”.

(Signed) Yolannie Cerrato

(Signed) Mark Zellenrath

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\* [A/77/150](#).

\*\* Circulated in the language of submission only.



## **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 sixteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, was convened pursuant to paragraph 331 of General Assembly resolution 76/72. Owing to the constraints imposed on 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 sixteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group was held by correspondence<sup>1</sup> from 21 March to 1 September 2022.

2. On 21 March 2022, the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, 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.<sup>2</sup>

3. Information had been received from 24 Member States<sup>3</sup> and two intergovernmental organizations<sup>4</sup> concerning their representatives attending the sixteenth 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 fifteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group; a compilation of the responses from the Group of Experts to all written inputs received from Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group on the four brief documents of the second World Ocean Assessment; the four brief documents of the second World Ocean Assessment; and the draft preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021–2025).<sup>5</sup>

5. Under item 2 of the provisional agenda, the Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the agenda (see sect. II below) on 28 March 2022 by silence procedure.

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

7. Under agenda item 4, several delegations provided inputs on the four brief documents of the second World Ocean Assessment. Revised versions of the four briefs were circulated on 17 June 2022 and received further inputs from several delegations. The final versions of the four brief documents were circulated on 5 August 2022 and then endorsed under silence procedure on 12 August 2022. With regard to the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular

<sup>1</sup> See [www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/2\\_16ahwgw\\_notification\\_for\\_circulation.pdf](https://www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/2_16ahwgw_notification_for_circulation.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> See [www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/3\\_16ahwgw\\_co-chairs\\_letter\\_opening\\_the\\_meeting\\_to\\_web.pdf](https://www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/3_16ahwgw_co-chairs_letter_opening_the_meeting_to_web.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Austria, Canada, China, Colombia, Czechia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Japan, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Peru, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United Republic of Tanzania.

<sup>4</sup> International Seabed Authority and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

<sup>5</sup> All listed documents are available at <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/sixteenth-meeting-date-be-confirmed>.

Process (2021–2025), one delegation suggested to consider the format of the meeting in the form of a virtual meeting or a broadcast by means of online media to allow interested parties to have the opportunity to attend meetings, especially meetings that are not part of the schedule of any working groups.

#### **Adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session**

8. Under agenda item 5, on 31 August 2022, the Ad Hoc Working Group adopted by silence procedure the recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-seventh session (see sect. III below).

## **II. Agenda of the sixteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole**

9. On 28 March 2022, 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. Consideration of the four brief documents of the second World Ocean Assessment and the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021–2025).
5. Adoption of recommendations to the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly.

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

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

- (a) 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;
- (b) Endorse the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its sixteenth meeting on the four brief documents of the second World Ocean Assessment and the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process (2021–2025);
- (c) Take note of the four brief documents of the second World Ocean Assessment, on climate change, Sustainable Development Goal 14, the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and marine biodiversity;
- (d) Recognize with appreciation the work of the members of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process with respect to the preparation of the four brief documents;

(e) Recognize the need for early preparation of the regional workshops to be held in 2023, 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.

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