



**United Nations  
Environment  
Programme**



UNEP (DEPI)/RS.13 /WP.8.RS

Original: ENGLISH

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13<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas  
Conventions and Action Plans  
Busan, Korea, 3 – 5 October 2011

**Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group  
of the Whole to the sixth-sixth session  
of the General Assembly on the Regular Process**

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**28 June 2011**

**Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to the  
sixth-sixth session of the General Assembly**

1. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly adopt:
  - (a) Criteria for the Appointment of Experts, attached as Annex I; and
  - (b) Guidelines for Workshops to Assist the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects, attached as Annex II.
2. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly take note of:
  - (a) Draft Terms of Reference and Working Methods for the Group of Experts 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 Socio-economic Aspects, attached as Annex III;
  - (b) Report on communication requirements and data and information management for the Regular Process, attached as Annex IV; and
  - (c) Report on preliminary inventory of capacity-building for assessments and types of experts for workshops, attached as Annex V.
3. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole takes note of the Possible outline for the First Global Integrated Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects, attached as Annex VI, and agrees on the need for it to be considered further with a view to its possible adoption at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.
4. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the Secretary-General bring the preliminary inventory of capacity-building for assessments to the attention of Member States, heads of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations engaged in activities relating to capacity-building for assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, as well as funding institutions, and invite their contribution to the preliminary inventory on existing opportunities and arrangements for capacity-building for assessments.

5. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that, pursuant to paragraph 216 of resolution 65/37 A, the General Assembly urge Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the trust funds established pursuant to paragraph 183 of resolution 64/71 and to make other contributions to the Regular Process.
6. Pursuant to paragraph 208 of resolution 65/37 A, the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole agrees to establish a bureau (“Bureau”) to put in practice the decisions and guidance of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole during the intersessional period such as approving the assignments of members of the pool of experts to work on drafting or to review drafts, and approving arrangements proposed by the Group of Experts for peer-review.
7. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole further recommends to the General Assembly: (a) that the Bureau be composed of 15 Member States (3 Member States from each regional group), and (b) that at least one Co-Chair and a quorum of five Member States, one per regional group, be considered as the minimum requirement for the Bureau to perform its functions.
8. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the President of the General Assembly re-appoint the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole so that they may attend meetings of the Bureau during the intersessional period.
9. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that workshops be organized at the earliest possible opportunity in order to inform the first cycle of the Regular Process.
10. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that its next meeting be convened in the first half of 2012.



## **ANNEX I**

### **Criteria for the Appointment of Experts**

1. There will be a pool of experts to be appointed by States, through the regional groups, to support the work of the Group of Experts in the preparation of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment.
2. Where the Group of Experts does not designate one of its own members to draft a Working Paper or Draft Chapter for the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment, it will invite selected members of the pool of experts to contribute to drafting Working Papers and Draft Chapters for the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment. Other members of the pool of experts with relevant expertise will be invited to comment on the draft Working Papers and Draft Chapters and may be invited to participate in drafting Working Papers and Draft Chapters.
3. When the draft of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment is submitted for review, a panel of peer reviewers will be appointed by States, through the regional groups, to review and comment on the draft. The members of the panel of peer reviewers should not previously have been involved in the preparation of Working Papers or Draft Chapters. The panel of peer reviewers will work in parallel with the review of the draft by States and intergovernmental organizations.
4. The following criteria should apply to all individuals nominated by States to the Group of Experts, the pool of experts or the panel of peer reviewers:
  - (a) Internationally recognized expertise. This may be demonstrated by one or more of the following:
    - (i) A record of scientific publications on the relevant issues, preferably in peer-reviewed publications;
    - (ii) Experience at a high level in global, regional or national assessments relating to the marine environment and other areas relevant to socio-economic aspects;
    - (iii) Experience at a high level in the design and management of other major global, regional or national initiatives in marine science, assessment, environmental protection, maritime transport, coastal management, fisheries management, or other similar functions related to the marine environment and other areas relevant to socio-economic aspects; and
    - (iv) For experts from regions where there is as yet a relative paucity of scientific observation and monitoring data, a recognized status in traditional knowledge of, or in observing, the marine environment of their area;
  - (b) Demonstrated effective participation in international processes relevant to the marine environment or integrated assessment and other areas relevant to socio-economic aspects; and
  - (c) The ability to serve in an independent, individual capacity.

5. In the allocation of members of the pool of experts to the various tasks, the following will be considered:

- (a) Those invited to contribute to drafting a Working Paper or Draft Chapter should have a demonstrated ability to write clearly and concisely on their subject; and
- (b) Material from those invited to contribute to drafting a Working Paper or Draft Chapter should be submitted in one of the United Nations' official languages.

In addition, members of the panel of peer reviewers will be responsible for working according to the needs of the Group of Experts.

6. The appointments to the pool of experts and the panel of peer reviewers and the allocation of tasks to members of the pool of experts should reflect the principle of adherence to equitable geographical representation, in all activities of the Regular Process, and have due regard to a desirable balance between the genders.

7. The selection of members of the pool of experts to draft, or to comment on, an issue should ensure that all disciplines relevant to an integrated assessment of that issue are included.

8. Experts should be enabled to have sufficient time to make the contributions to the Regular Process that their roles will require.



## **ANNEX II**

### **Guidelines for Workshops to Assist the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects**

#### **Purpose and objectives**

1. As recommended by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in February 2011,<sup>1</sup> workshops are recognized as a key mechanism by which the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment will be accomplished and States can enhance their assessment capacity. Workshops will facilitate dialogue between the Group of Experts of the Regular Process (“Group of Experts”) and representatives and experts from States and competent intergovernmental organizations. These guidelines are intended to make clear how a set of workshops should be organized in support of the first phase of the first cycle of the Regular Process. The following guidelines will help ensure the credibility and legitimacy of the output of each workshop, and thus of the Regular Process in general.
2. The objectives of each of the set of workshops should be to:
  - a. Review and evaluate all assessments considered by the participants to be relevant to the sea area under consideration and, on the basis of those evaluations, compile an inventory of assessments likely to be useful for the Regular Process. The assessments to be considered should be both those related to environmental issues and those related to socio-economic issues. If necessary, arrangements should be initiated for access to those assessments by the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process;
  - b. Start building a network between experts and organizations taking part in each workshop, and the Group of Experts and the secretariat of the Regular Process;
  - c. Identify the capacity-building needs of States taking part in the workshop needed to allow them to contribute more fully to, and benefit more fully from, the Regular Process, including identification of priorities, and identify steps that those States could usefully take to build the capacities of competent intergovernmental organizations (if any) through which the States collaborate;
  - d. Start building capacity for integrated assessment, which could include discussing and developing:
    - (i) Common information content for assessments at various scales and common approaches towards assessment methodologies;

- (ii) Approaches for scaling up assessments (national, subregional, regional, global – that is, establishing how far assessments at one level can be used at other levels); and
    - (iii) reporting forms to assist the integration process, with the aim of securing coherence, consistency and comparability as far as possible);
  - e. Consider the linkages between driving factors and the state of the marine environment as reflected in assessment.
3. This list of objectives, the preparatory work set out in Appendix I and the outline agenda at Appendix II will constitute the terms of reference of the workshops.

### **Number and locations**

4. States are invited to offer to host workshops for the following:
- a. The North Pacific;
  - b. The South Pacific, (southeast Pacific and southwest Pacific)
  - c. The eastern and south-eastern Asian Seas;
  - d. The northern Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden and the ROPME/RECOFI area;
  - e. The southern and western Indian Ocean;
  - f. The North Atlantic, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea; and
  - g. The South Atlantic (between the African and American coasts) and the wider Caribbean.
5. Separate workshops may not be needed for the Arctic and Antarctic. However, the relevant international bodies and fora with regard to those areas (in particular, the Antarctic Treaty System and the Arctic Council) could be invited to consider, and to contribute to, the issues proposed for the workshops. If requested, members of the Group of Experts could be available for consultation.
6. Such offers should be made to the secretariat of the Regular Process which, with the help of the Group of Experts, will seek to negotiate arrangements which will avoid overlap of coverage or clash of dates. The secretariat of the Regular Process will notify all States of workshops which are to be held as soon as arrangements have been agreed.

### **Timing**

7. The Group of Experts will need to reach conclusions in April 2012 on some of the issues suggested for consideration by the workshops. It will therefore be best if workshops are held in time for their output to reach the Group of Experts by the end of March 2012.

## **Hosts**

8. Workshops are to be hosted by Member States and organized under the auspices of the United Nations,<sup>2</sup> in coordination with the secretariat of the Regular Process and with the assistance of members of the Group of Experts. For the organization of such workshops, Member States may request the cooperation of competent intergovernmental organizations and/or that of relevant national scientific institutions.

## **Participation**

9. Member States of the United Nations, observers and competent intergovernmental organizations shall be entitled to participate in any workshop that they consider relevant to them, up to the number of available places. Competent intergovernmental organizations in the region are encouraged to participate. For practical reasons, the logistics and the size and number of delegations will need to be managed by the host in consultation with the secretariat of the Regular Process.

10. Non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, relevant scientific institutions and organizations representing major groups as defined in Agenda 21 may request invitations to participate. Hosts may reserve a number of places in the workshop to be filled by such invitations.

11. Each workshop should include at least one member of the Group of Experts and one member of the secretariat of the Regular Process, which will be coordinated with the secretariat of the Regular Process, taking into account its exigencies of work at Headquarters. If possible, all members of the Group of Experts from States in the area covered by the workshop should participate. Members of the Group of Experts from outside that area could be invited by the secretariat of the Regular Process to participate, and it would be desirable if at least one such member participates. Where necessary, such participation of the members of the Group of Experts may be supported by the trust fund for the Regular Process as referenced in paragraph 183 of resolution 64/71.

## **Chair and Secretariat**

12. Hosts should designate a chair (or co-chairs) of the workshop, who will be expected to take responsibility for summarizing the outcomes of the workshop with the aid of the workshop support staff and members of the Group of Experts. Hosts may consider inviting a member of the

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