



General Assembly

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Agenda item 76 (a)*

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 23 November 2020 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 fourteenth meeting pursuant to paragraph 327 of General Assembly resolution [74/19](#). The meeting was held by correspondence from 6 to 23 November 2020. Section III of the report sets out the agreed recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session on the second world ocean assessment.

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) Juliette **Babb-Riley**

(Signed) Gert **Auväärt**

* [A/75/251](#).

** 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 fourteenth 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 327 of General Assembly resolution 74/19. Due 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 fourteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group was held by correspondence¹ from 6 to 23 November 2020.

2. On 6 November 2020, the Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Juliette Babb-Riley (Barbados) and Gert Auväärt (Estonia), opened the meeting by way of a letter addressed to the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.²

3. Information had been received from 27 Member States³ and one intergovernmental organization⁴ concerning their representatives attending the fourteenth 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 thirteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole; a compilation of the responses from the Group of Experts to all written input received from Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the third draft of the second world ocean assessment; and the final draft of the second world ocean assessment.⁵

5. Under item 2 of the provisional agenda, the Ad Hoc Working Group adopted the agenda (see sect. II below) on 11 November 2020 by silence procedure.

6. Under agenda item 3, several delegations provided written comments on the third draft of the second world ocean assessment. The responses from the Group of Experts to those comments, as well as the final draft of the second world ocean assessment, have been made available to the members of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.⁶ Under agenda item 4, no written comments were submitted by delegations.

¹ See www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/ahwgw14_notification_for_circulation.pdf.

² See www.un.org/regularprocess/sites/www.un.org.regularprocess/files/14ahwgw_cochairletteropenmeeting_for_circulation.pdf.

³ Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Japan, Kiribati, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain and Viet Nam.

⁴ International Maritime Organization.

⁵ All listed documents are available at www.un.org/regularprocess/events/fourteenth-meeting.

⁶ See www.un.org/regularprocess/content/comments-received-states-third-draft.

Adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session

7. Under agenda item 4, on 23 November 2020, the Working Group adopted by silence procedure the recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session (see sect. III below).

II. Agenda of the fourteenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole

8. On 11 November 2020, 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. Consideration of the second world ocean assessment, including its summary.
4. Adoption of recommendations to the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

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

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

(a) Endorse the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its fourteenth meeting on the second world ocean assessment (World Ocean Assessment II);

(b) Welcome the second world ocean assessment and approve its summary;

(c) Recognize with appreciation the work of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process during the second cycle, in particular with respect to the preparation of the second world ocean assessment, and the work of the members of the Pool of Experts who contributed to its preparation;

(d) Recognize also with appreciation the important role and guidance of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole during the second cycle and the support provided by the secretariat of the Regular Process.
