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**Rapport sur les travaux du Groupe de travail spécial
plénier sur le Mécanisme de notification et d'évaluation
systématiques à l'échelle mondiale de l'état du milieu
marin, y compris les aspects socioéconomiques**

**Lettre datée du 1^{er} décembre 2025, adressée à la Présidente
de l'Assemblée générale par les Coprésidentes du Groupe
de travail spécial plénier**

Nous avons l'honneur de vous faire tenir ci-joint le rapport* sur les travaux du Groupe de travail spécial plénier sur le Mécanisme de notification et d'évaluation systématiques à l'échelle mondiale de l'état du milieu marin, y compris les aspects socioéconomiques. Le Groupe de travail spécial plénier a tenu sa vingt-troisième réunion le 6 novembre 2025, en application du paragraphe 337 de la résolution [79/144](#) de l'Assemblée générale.

Nous vous serions reconnaissantes de bien vouloir faire distribuer le texte de la présente lettre et du rapport comme document de l'Assemblée générale, au titre du point 75 de l'ordre du jour.

(Signé) Kimberly **Louis**

(Signé) Bahia **Tahzib-Lie**

* Le rapport est distribué uniquement dans la langue de l'original et n'a pas été revu par les services d'édition.



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 twenty-third 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 337 of General Assembly resolution 79/144. The meeting of the Working Group was held on 6 November 2025.

2. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group, Kimberly Louis (Saint Lucia) and Bahia Tahzib-Lie (Kingdom of the Netherlands), opened the meeting. The Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea delivered the opening remarks.

3. Representatives of 29 Member States¹ and two intergovernmental organisation and other bodies² attended the meeting.

4. The following documents were made available to the meeting: the provisional agenda; the annotated provisional agenda; a format; a proposed organisation of work; a report of the Group of Experts; the third World Ocean Assessment; Section 1 of the third World Ocean Assessment (Overall Summary); responses of the Group of Experts to the comments received on Draft 2 of the third World Ocean Assessment; and the draft recommendations to the eightieth session of the General Assembly, for consideration for submission under the agenda item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea.”³

5. Under agenda item 2, the Working Group adopted the agenda (see section II). Under agenda item 3, the Co-Chairs requested that delegations provide written submissions of their statements and interventions to the secretariat in a timely manner to ensure accurate record-keeping. The Working Group agreed to the organisation of work as proposed by the Co-Chair.

6. Under agenda item 4, the Working Group considered the report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole. The Co-Chairs delivered an oral report recalling paragraph 320 of General Assembly resolution 79/144, emphasising the Bureau’s role in overseeing the programme of work of the Regular Process. The Co-Chairs further noted that the Bureau had prepared draft recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its eightieth session under the agenda item “Oceans and the law of the sea.” The Working Group took note of the report of the Bureau.

7. Under agenda item 5, the Working Group considered information provided by the Group of Experts on the implementation of the preliminary timetable and plan for the third cycle. It was noted that the Group of Experts had reviewed more than 400 comments on the second draft of the third World Ocean Assessment and was concurrently in the process of finalizing two thematic summaries on WOA III on

¹ Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Cambodia, China, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Honduras, Iran, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Monaco, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Zambia.

² The European Union and the United Nations Environment Programme.

³ All listed documents are available at <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/events/twenty-third-meeting>.

Climate Change and on Marine Biodiversity. Delegations expressed appreciation for the work undertaken. One delegation sought clarification regarding the review process for the thematic summaries. The secretariat indicated that Member States would be given the opportunity to review the thematic summaries once they are submitted by the Group of Experts. The Working Group took note of the report of the Group of Experts.

8. Under agenda item 6, the Working Group considered the third World Ocean Assessment, including its summary. The secretariat provided an overview of the process undertaken by the Group of Experts to review all comments received on the second draft of the Assessment. The Joint Coordinator of the Group of Experts complemented this overview by noting that the Group endeavoured to maintain the scientific integrity of the text while incorporating comments to the extent possible. One delegation emphasised its national position regarding the exploration of hydrocarbons in the continental shelf surrounding the Falkland Islands (Malvinas),⁴ reaffirming that its delegation rejects such exploration without the corresponding authorisation of the Argentine Government. Another delegation rejected any attempt to extend dual nomenclature to sub-regions or geographical features, noting that such practice is inconsistent with United Nations policy and emphasising that deviations from the standard United Nations footnote on this issue are inappropriate. Several delegations intervened to outline, inter alia, specific changes they wished to see reflected in the Assessment, including the retention of previously agreed language contained in General Assembly's resolutions on Oceans and the law of the sea. One delegation stressed that the use of marine geoengineering techniques, whose effectiveness remains uncertain, should not be regarded as a substitute for climate change solutions. Another delegation sought clarification regarding the reference contained in a footnote relating to monitoring results of fishery products. Noting that many of its comments were not reflected in the revised text, one delegation underscored that the Assessment should remain focused on ocean science and avoid political considerations, and indicated that it is therefore not in a position to welcome the Assessment. Another delegation emphasised the importance of using geographical names consistent with the official nomenclature established by the United Nations. The Working Group agreed to submit all comments to the text of the Third World Ocean Assessment in writing by 7 November 2025. It took note of the information provided and agreed to proceed as outlined by the Co-Chairs, namely by submitting written comments within the agreed timeframe, after which the revised draft of the third World Ocean Assessment would be placed for approval under the silence procedure.

Draft recommendations to the eightieth session of the General Assembly for consideration for submission under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea", on the Regular Process and its Third World Ocean Assessment

9. Under agenda item 7, the Working Group considered the draft recommendations to the eightieth session of the General Assembly for consideration for submission under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea," on the Regular Process and its third World Ocean Assessment. Several delegations provided comments and proposed textual amendments. The Co-Chairs informed the Working Group that written submissions of proposed amendments would be collected and processed under a silence procedure, consistent with the approach applied to the revised draft of the

⁴ A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas).

third World Ocean Assessment. The Working Group agreed to the proposed way forward. Section III of the present report contains the draft recommendations circulated under the silence procedure.

10. Under agenda item 8, a delegation raised a query regarding the timeline for reviewing the thematic summaries and expressed interest in reviewing the draft prior to publication. The secretariat noted that the review schedule would depend on the date of submission by the Group of Experts and acknowledged the interest of Member States to conduct such a review. Another delegation emphasised the importance of ensuring a structured process and a harmonised methodological framework for the fourth cycle of the Regular Process, including enhanced integration of scientific data and scenario-based approaches to strengthen the provision of actionable and policy-relevant knowledge. The delegation further suggested that the forthcoming thematic summaries provide a coherent narrative on ocean change, qualitatively comparable to reports prepared by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. The delegation further proposed that the thematic summaries be presented in accessible formats, including multimedia and innovative digital interfaces, to promote wider outreach and deliver targeted messaging for policymakers.

II. Agenda of the twenty-third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole

11. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole adopted the agenda set out below.
 1. Opening of the meeting.
 2. Adoption of the agenda.
 3. Organisation of work.
 4. Report of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.
 5. Information from the Group of Experts regarding implementation of the preliminary timetable and implementation plan for the third cycle of the Regular Process.
 6. The third World Ocean Assessment, including its summary.
 7. Draft recommendations to the eightieth session of the General Assembly for consideration for submission under the agenda item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”, on the Regular Process and its Third World Ocean Assessment.
 8. Other matters.
 9. Closure of the meeting.

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

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

Recalls its previous decisions regarding the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations and accountable to the General Assembly;

Reiterates the need to strengthen the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking;

Reaffirms the principles guiding the Regular Process and its objective and scope, recalls the crucial importance of the Regular Process and its possible inputs for ongoing ocean related intergovernmental processes, including for the 2030 Agenda, the Agreement 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, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Informal Consultative Process, and the development of an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, among other relevant processes, and notes the importance of continuing support and cooperation between the activities of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and those of the Regular Process, and the development of a regulatory regime to organize and control all activities of exploration for, and exploitation of, the resources of the seabed and ocean floor and subsoil thereof beyond the limits of national jurisdiction by the International Seabed Authority;

Recalls that the Political Declaration from the third United Nations Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development held in June 2025 recognizes the Regular Process as one of the tools to further improve the scientific understanding of the ocean and supporting sustainable science- and knowledge-based measures, exchanges and collaboration to accelerate action.

Recalls its decision contained in Resolution [79/144](#) to launch the fourth cycle of the Regular Process from 2026 to 2030, and endorses the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its twenty-second meeting on the programme of work and resource requirements for the fourth cycle of the Regular Process;

Endorses also the recommendations adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its twenty-third meeting on the third world ocean assessment (World Ocean Assessment III);

Welcomes the third world ocean assessment, and approves its summary;

Recognizes with appreciation the work of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process during the third cycle, in particular with respect to the preparation of the third world ocean assessment, and the work of the members of the Pool of Experts who contributed to its preparation;

Also recognizes with appreciation the important role and guidance of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole during the third cycle and the support provided by the Secretariat of the Regular Process;

Welcomes the early constitution of the Group of Experts for the fourth cycle of the Regular Process, which currently consists of 19 members;

Recalls that the Group of Experts for the fourth cycle of the Regular Process shall comprise a maximum of 25 experts, with no more than five experts per regional group, and encourages regional groups that have appointed fewer than five experts to continue to appoint experts to the Group of Experts, taking into account the desirability of some degree of continuity as well as the need to ensure adequate expertise, gender balance and geographical distribution;

Invites States that have not yet done so to designate national focal points to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work for the fourth cycle of the Regular Process and beyond;

Also invites the secretariats of relevant United Nations specialized agencies, programmes, funds and bodies and the secretariats of related organizations and conventions that have not yet done so to designate focal points to facilitate the implementation of the programme of work for the fourth cycle and beyond;

Invites the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Meteorological Organization and relevant United Nations system organizations, bodies, funds and programmes, as appropriate, to assist in the implementation of the fourth cycle of the Regular Process;

Invites relevant intergovernmental organizations to contribute, as appropriate, to the activities of the fourth cycle;

Reaffirms the importance of ensuring that assessments, such as those included in the Global Sustainable Development Report and those prepared under the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services[, the newly adopted Intergovernmental Science-Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution] and the Regular Process, support one another and avoid unnecessary duplication, and also recalls the importance of compatibility and synergies between such assessments and assessments at the regional level;

Recognizes the need for early preparation for regional workshops as outlined in the programme of work for the fourth cycle of the Regular Process, and invites States to consider hosting such workshops and inform the secretariat of their intent as early as possible;

Requests the Secretary-General to secure the necessary resources, from the regular budget of the Organization, for the programme of work for the fourth cycle of the Regular Process, as adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, in accordance with established procedures and within the respective purview of relevant bodies;

Urges States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to the voluntary trust fund and to make other contributions to the Regular Process;

Also requests the Secretary-General to convene, in 2026, up to two meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of no more than two days total duration for each meeting, one in the first half of 2026 and another in the second half of 2026.
