

1. The general task of the Group of Experts shall be to carry out or coordinate any outputs, including assessments, within the framework of the Regular Process at the request of the General Assembly² under the supervision of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and its Bureau. In particular, the tasks of the Group of Experts shall be:

(a) To draft an implementation plan and timetable for the implementation of the third cycle of the Regular Process, for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its Bureau, and, if necessary, to propose amendments to that plan and timetable for approval in the same way;

(b) To carry out implementation plans in accordance with their timetables and any such general guidance;

(c) To develop a series brief documents outlining specific policy-relevant information from the second *World Ocean Assessment* as they may relate to and support other ocean-related intergovernmental processes;

(d) To oversee the preparation of assessment(s) of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, as outlined in the programme of work for the third cycle of the Regular Process, with the final goal of strengthening the decision-making at all levels;

(e) To provide specifications of the types of additional expertise that the Group of Experts will need to carry out any assessment(s), as a basis for appointments, through the regional groups, of members of the pool of experts;

(f) To designate from among its members a lead member and, as appropriate, other members to take responsibility, under the overall responsibility of the Group of Experts, for each part, section or chapter of any assessment(s) or other output, subject to the approval of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its Bureau;

(g) To propose assignments for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its Bureau of members of the pool of experts:

(i) To work with the designated lead member of the Group of Experts in drafting working papers and/or draft chapters of any assessment(s) and/or other output;

(ii) To review and comment on material produced for any assignment;

(h) To propose general guidance to all those involved in producing any assessment(s) or other outputs, based on the principles and documents approved by the General Assembly, for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its Bureau, and taking into account lessons learned from the first and second cycles;

(i) To review all material produced for any assessment(s) or other output, to take such steps as it considers necessary to assure the quality of data and information used in such material, and to take any further steps necessary to bring the assessment or other output to a satisfactory conclusion, subject to the approval of the Bureau if any such action would require expenditure from the trust fund for the Regular Process;

² It is understood that to carry out any assessment the approval of the General Assembly is required.

(j) To propose arrangements for approval by the Bureau for the peer review of the draft of any assessment(s) or other output;

(k) In the light of the comments from the peer review, to agree on a final text of any assessment(s) or other output for submission through its Bureau to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and to present that text to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

(l) To provide input with regard to other activities taking place during the third cycle of the Regular Process, including the development and implementation of the capacity-building programme and the outreach and engagement strategy, as appropriate;

(m) To promote engagement among bodies which can contribute to marine assessment, including United Nations agencies, bodies, funds and programmes, other intergovernmental organizations, relevant non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, private-sector bodies and philanthropic organizations, as appropriate;

(n) To perform any other tasks assigned to it by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

2. The Group of Experts shall be composed as follows:

(a) The Group of Experts shall be composed of a maximum of 25 experts and no more than 5 experts per regional group. Its composition shall reflect geographical distribution and gender balance;

(b) The composition shall ensure a mix of disciplinary expertise and involve participants from all regions in order to take into account different regional circumstances and experience. All of the main disciplines in the social, economic and environmental sciences should be considered for inclusion;

(c) The experts may be drawn from any type of affiliation (e.g., a Government, a non-governmental organization, an intergovernmental organization, the private sector, academic and research institutions, holders of traditional knowledge³);

(d) The experts shall have recognized excellence in their field or fields of expertise;

(e) The experts shall have demonstrated high-level participation in processes relevant to the marine environment.

3. Members shall be in a position to devote [] of their time to the work of the Group of Experts.

