



IOC/INF-1317  
Paris, 20 June 2014  
English only

**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION**  
(of UNESCO)

**INFORMATION DOCUMENT**

**UPDATE ON IOC CONTRIBUTION TO UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVES (2014)**

Summary. This document provides a summary of the IOC contribution to various ocean-related UN inter-agency activities. These are: UN-Oceans, the Sustainable Development Goals process, the Small Islands Developing States process, the UN Ad Hoc Working Group on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, and the UN World Ocean Assessment. The document also contains in appendix the Terms of Reference of UN-Oceans adopted through UNGA resolution 68/70–Oceans and the law of the sea of 9 December 2013).

## Introduction

IOC continues to play its role as the focal point within the UN system for ocean sciences, observations, services, data and information exchange and capacity development. As such, it contributes to a number of UN processes, responds to the needs expressed by the UN General Assembly, and play an active role in UN inter-agency mechanisms and activities.

**UN-Oceans** is an inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the United Nations system working on ocean issues. UN-Oceans has been the subject of enhanced attention in the UN General Assembly through UNGA Resolution A/66/231 of December 2011 which requested UN-Oceans to prepare and submit new draft Terms of reference (ToRs) to be considered by the UN General Assembly at its 67<sup>th</sup> session, with a view to review its mandate and enhance transparency and reporting of its activities to Member States. After a two-year review process, including an independent review by the UN Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), new terms of reference prepared by UN Member States were finally endorsed by the UNGA through resolution 68/70 in December 2013. These are presented in Appendix of this document.

The term of reference's most salient points are as follows:

- UN Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) has been designated as the focal point for UN-Oceans and in that capacity will :
  - o Convene the meetings of UN-Oceans and organize those meetings;
  - o Facilitate communication among UN-Oceans participants;
  - o Maintain and update information about UN-Oceans activities; make this information available to UN-Oceans participants and United Nations Member States and make it publicly available through the UN-Oceans website: [www.unoceans.org](http://www.unoceans.org);
  - o Represent UN-Oceans at relevant meetings, including those under the General Assembly and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its High-level Committee on Programmes;
- UN-Oceans will hold a meeting at least once a year, preferably in the United Nations headquarters, and if possible during the United Nations Open-ended Consultative process on Ocean and Law of the Sea. Each of these meeting will be conducted by a chair, elected for that meeting among the UN-Oceans participants present.
- An annual activity report will be provided to the UN General Assembly.

IOC participated and chaired the first UN-Oceans meeting under its new terms of reference (5 February 2014) where a workplan for 2014 was agreed and which include the development of an online calendar of relevant intergovernmental meetings, conferences and expert workshop, which will be available through the UN-Oceans website, as well as an inventory of UN-Oceans members mandates and priorities in order to identify synergies and potential areas of collaboration amongst agencies.

In order to fulfill the revised terms of reference on participation in UN-Oceans, and taking into account the existing membership of UN-Oceans at the time, an invitation dated 20 December 2013, was circulated to United Nations system organizations with competence in activities related to ocean and coastal areas and the International Seabed Authority. As a result, the current membership of UN-Oceans includes 22 United Nations entities and the International Seabed Authority.

**Sustainable Development Goals as follow up to the Rio+20 Conference** — One of the main outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) Conference (2012) was the agreement by Member States to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the post-2015 development agenda. It was decided to establish an "inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly".

The same outcome document mandated the creation of an inter-governmental Open Working Group that submitted a report to the 68th session of the UN General Assembly containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action. The outcome document specifies that the process leading to the SDGs needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes considering the post-2015 development agenda and that initial input to the work of the Open Working Group will be provided by the UN Secretary General in consultation with national governments.

Building on the excellent collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in preparing (under IOC leadership) the UN publication, *A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability' in the context of UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)*, IOC is continuing its collaboration with these agencies as well as the Division on Sustainable Development (UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs / DESA) in the follow-up to Rio+20.

The IOC has also contributed to the preparation of an Ocean Policy Brief prepared by a UN Task Force in the context of the intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) tasked with the formulation of a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). A dedicated OWG meeting on ocean was held in February 2014 and was attended by the IOC Executive Secretary.

During that 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Open Working Group, the Pacific Small Island Developing States (PSIDS) and Timor-Leste, the Global Ocean Forum (GOF) and IOC, conducted a side event on the development of an SDG on Oceans and Seas. Entitled *Towards a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on Oceans and Seas: Healthy, Productive and Resilient Oceans and Seas—Prosperous and Resilient Peoples and Communities*, the event drew 125 participants from 50 Member States, 37 non-governmental organizations, and 9 intergovernmental organizations.

A number of ideas were presented during the event, including goals, targets, and indicators put forward by PSIDS, IOC, the Global Ocean Forum, and ICSU, which made references to proposals previously submitted through the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. The following are the salient points that came out of the meeting:

- (i) The interconnectedness of the ocean is the underlying reason for an SDG on Oceans and Seas, as global problems and actions will have a direct impact on local responses and practices, and vice-versa.
- (ii) Discussion must move as whether oceans and seas should be a part of the SDG and the post-2015 development agenda, and focus on how the goals, targets, and indicators will be written; how to measure and ensure the health of the ocean; and how to ensure that oceans and seas remain a viable long-term resource for present and future generations.
- (iii) The sustainable development agenda must move away from approaching the issues as different “silos” and move toward an integrated, ecosystem-based approach, which was a recurring theme at the event and at the morning and afternoon plenary discussions on oceans and seas at the 8<sup>th</sup> session of the Open Working Group (February 2014).
- (iv) Although climate change and biodiversity issues are addressed in other global fora, an SDG on Oceans and Seas should be formulated in the context of climate change and

biodiversity issues, building on and strengthening existing targets and goals, such as the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 on establishing marine protected areas.

- (v) Equity and genuine partnership should be the cornerstone for shaping an SDG on Oceans and Seas, and should be rooted in the Law of the Sea Convention, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*.
- (vi) A stand-alone goal on oceans and seas should incorporate observation, understanding, and protection of oceans and seas, while addressing the social and economic aspects that encourage equitable benefit-sharing and cooperation from civil society to develop a healthy and productive ocean.
- (vii) Targets should include the application of integrated ecosystem-based management tools and approaches, including marine spatial planning, that would require a better understanding of issues at hand and the application of appropriate tools.
- (viii) Recognizing that effective governance at all levels involving all stakeholders, especially women and youth, is critical for advancing the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, an integrated approach that links key issues and challenges across jurisdictional and political boundaries is critical.
- (ix) While it is the sole responsibility of Member States to develop and agree on an SDG on oceans and seas, the role of IGOs/NGOs in providing the contextual knowledge and support in the process is important.
- (x) It is important to develop the public's capacity to exercise ocean stewardship by improving awareness, ocean literacy, and opportunities for action regarding critical ocean issues.
- (xi) Building the capacity of nations to sustainably and equitably manage the oceans and coasts under national jurisdiction is key, especially of least developed countries, African countries, and Small Island Developing States, including capacity in marine management and marine natural and social sciences, and through technology transfer using traditional and non-traditional tools and approaches.

The IOC is also one of the three UN co-lead agencies facilitating the UN Technical Support Team (TST) on Ocean, tasked with the compilation of existing ocean commitments, provision of suggestions for potential goals, targets and indicators for consideration by UN Member States negotiating through the Open Working Group.

The latest draft of the goals and targets document negotiated by Member States (Version of 2 June) includes a standalone Ocean SDG, in the form of the proposed goal 14: “**Attain conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas**” with the following targets:

- By 2030, reduce by x% marine pollution of all kinds, including from land-based activities;
- By 2020, sustainably manage, restore and protect marine ecosystems from destruction, including by strengthening their resilience, and support relevant scientific research;
- Address and prevent further ocean acidification;
- Ensure the full implementation of existing regional and international regimes for managing oceans and seas by their State parties;
- By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, including through establishing effectively managed marine protected areas, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information;
- By 2030, increase the economic returns to SIDS and LDCs from the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources from within their jurisdictions;

- Implement integrated and participatory coastal management to increase resilience of coastal ecosystems.

A complete list of all the focus areas and their content can be found here:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4044140602workingdocument.pdf>

Through UNESCO, IOC has also continued to raise awareness of UN Member States on the ocean dimension of sustainable development with the hope that ocean will be considered as part of the proposed SDGs, and more generally in the Post-2015 UN development agenda. **In particular, IOC has raised awareness of Member States on the need to:**

- Ensure adequate marine science and observation capacity for Member States to sustainably use and manage ocean and coastal ecosystems;**
- Build our scientific understanding on ocean acidification and potential socio-economic impacts;**
- Ensure that sea-level related hazard mitigation and preparedness are incorporated in the socio-economic dimension of a possible ocean goal;**
- Promote the development of ecosystem-based management frameworks such as marine spatial planning and integrated coastal management.**

**The 3rd UN Conference on Small Developing Islands States (SIDS)** will be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa, to be preceded by activities related to the conference from 28 to 30 August 2014, also in Apia, Samoa. It will focus the world's attention on a group of countries that remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities.

The overarching theme of the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States is "The sustainable development of Small Island Developing States through genuine and durable partnerships".

The Conference will include six multi-stakeholder partnership dialogues, held in parallel with the plenary meetings.

The Conference will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation;
- Seek a renewed political commitment by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for further implementation;
- Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them; and
- Identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda

This conference is of special interest to the IOC as SIDS are stewards of vast ocean resources and play a key role in efforts to their sustainable management. However because of their close relation to the ocean, they are often the first victims of ocean-related hazards such as **sea-level rise, tsunamis** and a new threat that has now arisen: **ocean acidification**.

The IOC has taken part in reviewing and providing input to the zero draft of the outcome document, specifically the parts regarding Climate Change, Disaster preparedness, Oceans and

Seas and Biodiversity, since the very beginning of the preparatory process. This zero draft and its latter versions can be found here: <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1537><sup>1</sup>

As part of the conference, IOC submitted an official side event proposal entitled: “Coping with and adapting to ocean threats for resilient SIDS communities”. The objective of the side event is to address:

- How to increase SIDS participation in existing sea-level and related ocean observation networks and access to related data products to support decision-making;
- How to translate sea-level data and information into the development of coastal adaptation measures with an emphasis on the capacity development that SIDS require;
- The particular challenges for SIDS to effectively manage and mitigate the impacts of tsunamis;
- The efforts and activities of both the national and regional levels, to address these challenges, and point out the way forward for a better safety;
- How to develop an Ocean Acidification Observing Network strategy for the Pacific and possibly for other SIDS region;
- Strategies for building capacity of SIDS scientists in conducting research on ocean acidification and related ecosystem impact studies and awareness of public and decision makers.

#### **Conservation and sustainable use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ)**

– For nearly a decade, governments have been discussing the need to improve efforts to conserve and sustainably use marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). Support for a new international agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) –an Implementing Agreement– on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ has been growing. In June 2012, at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, States agreed to take a decision on the development of an international instrument under UNCLOS before the end of the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), which runs from September 2014 to August 2015. In follow-up to this commitment, it was agreed to consider the “scope, parameters and feasibility” of this instrument.

In 2011, UN Member States through the work of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, identified key elements as priorities: marine genetic resources, including the sharing of benefits, area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, environmental impact assessments, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

In resolution 68/70, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene three meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, to take place from 1 to 4 April and 16 to 19 June 2014 and from 20 to 23 January 2015, in order to come up with recommendations on the **scope, parameters and feasibility of a new legal instrument**.

As it did in 2013, IOC is following up closely the debate in New York related to ABNJ and recently took part in the two Ad Hoc Working Group meetings held in 2014. As there is a clear recognition of the need for capacity building and technology transfer on conservation and

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<sup>1</sup> The final outcome document will be available on the same website.



sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ, especially in developing States, IOC may have a specific role to play in this process.

In this respect, the *IOC Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology (TMT)* that were adopted by the IOC Assembly at its 22<sup>nd</sup> session in 2003 could be relevant. These were drawn up by the Advisory body of Experts on the Law of the Sea following the mandate established in Article 271 of UNCLOS. Their guiding principle is that the transfer of marine technology must always be conducted on fair and reasonable terms and conditions and should enable all parties concerned to benefit, on an equitable basis, from developments in marine science related activities, particularly those aiming at stimulating the social and economic contexts in developing countries.

Furthermore, UN Member states, as they define what capacity development and TMT mechanism they would like to see in support of an ABNJ Implementing Agreement, could consider the inclusion of specific provisions on the promotion of research and training, for example through the development of a dedicated programme for cooperation on marine scientific research (including MGRs), including the exchange of data and information. In this respect, making use of existing global mechanisms, the IOC is necessary.

Several UNGA resolutions, 56/12 (Par. 23, 25), 57/141 (par. 25), and 59/24, to name a few, have consistently called for IOC to take a leading role in TMT through the development, dissemination, and implementation of criteria and guidelines for appropriate interactions between relevant UN bodies, Member States, and relevant regional environmental, scientific, and fisheries organizations in the field of marine science and technology. These continuous calls imply a basic duty for the IOC for giving impulse to the implementation and effective use of Part XIV of UNCLOS by the States Members of the Commission.

IOC bears a number of capacity development and data exchange programmes that can provide building blocks for a potential clearing-house focused on technology transfer and capacity-building in ABNJ. For example, technical experts at the UN BBNJ workshop in May 2013 identified the IOC's Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS) as an appropriate mechanism for data sharing, hereby contributing to capacity building, benefit sharing and transfer of marine technology. OBIS is also quite unique because it holds data from all marine species including non-commercial, non-target fishing species, which allows a holistic (ecosystem based) approach to measure impacts of activities in ABNJ. Recently the Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative (DOSI), over 85 scientists and 14 international initiatives, called for an international field programme and coordinated data repository to be developed in conjunction with e.g. the International Seabed Authority and IOC-UNESCO's Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). Support from the Member States who share their data with OBIS is highly appreciated.

In relation to Capacity Development, through substantial funding from Belgium, IOC has developed OceanTeacher (OT), which is a training system for ocean data managers (working in ocean data centres), marine information managers (marine librarians) as well as for marine researchers who wish to acquire knowledge on data and/or information for planning and management. Since 2005, more than a thousand students from over a hundred countries attended courses at the IOC Project Office for IODE, based in Ostend, Belgium, and in the context of regional projects. IOC is now developing a "Global Academy" component of OT (OTGA) which seeks to expand the programme into a worldwide training facility, with training courses related to multiple IOC fields (from ICAM to Tsunami Alert Systems) in various Regional Training Centres (RTCs), all of them connected in real time via the OceanTeacher Learning Management System, and using a multilingual approach to scientific training. Most interestingly, OTGA will change training from a "north to south" culture to a north-south, south-south, and south-north model by promoting the expertise available in developing countries.

**Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects – World Ocean Assessment** – The task of the first cycle of the Regular Process (2010 to 2014) will be to produce the first [World Ocean Assessment](#). To this end, the UN General Assembly has created an Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to oversee and guide the Regular Process, and a Group of Experts to carry out the assessments within the framework of the Regular Process. In addition, a much larger pool of experts has been created to assist the Group of Experts in conducting the assessments and to provide effective peer-review to ensure the high quality of the outputs. Since the Working Group meets once a year, a Bureau consisting of 15 Member States<sup>2</sup>, representing the regional groups of the United Nations, was established for the intersessional periods of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

Following the adoption in 2012 of the Terms of Reference and Methods of Work for the Group of Experts as well as the Outline of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment (World Ocean Assessment, WOA-I), the Group of Experts supported by the Pool of Experts have engaged in the drafting of the WOA chapters with the aim to deliver these for peer-review in the summer of 2014.

In line with resolution A/RES/68/70 of 9 December 2013 on Oceans and the law of the sea, inviting IOC and other agencies to provide technical and scientific support to the Regular Process, IOC has continued to engage in the World Ocean Assessment in the following manner:

**In the area of Communication:** With initial letters of support and funds in cooperation with UNEP/GRID-Arendal, a communication portal and a dedicated website has been developed for use by the Group of Experts and contributors to the report. Between 2012 and 2014, financial support has been provided by the IOC to an amount of USD 30,000 thanks to contributions from France and Belgium (Government of Flanders).

**In the area of Assessments:** IOC is leading a number of marine assessment products and databases that are available to the Group of Experts and will be integrated into the World Ocean Assessment. In particular, the contribution of the GEF Transboundary Water Assessment Programme (TWAP) implemented by UNEP and IOC, to prepare an indicator-based assessment of the world's Large Marine Ecosystems and Open Ocean areas. This project which will deliver this year its results in the form of technical reports and a web-based portal, has been implemented in close coordination with the WOA Group of Experts with a view to make this information available to writers and contributors.

**In the area of Capacity building:** UNEP and IOC have continued to support Member States in the organization/facilitation of workshops. Technical and financial support has been provided to Member States for the organization of workshops, held in accordance with the Guidelines for Workshops adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 66/231 of 24 December 2011. These workshops were hosted by the Governments of Chile, China, Belgium, the United States of America, Mozambique, Australia, Côte d'Ivoire and most recently India.

Following the needs identified during these workshops some Regional Scientific and Technical Capacity Building Training Seminar were held in Bangkok, Thailand, 17–19 September 2012 and Maputo 17 to 19 April, 2013 for the COBSEA/NOWPAP/WESTPAC regions as well as the Nairobi Conventions respectively.

UNEP and IOC are also committed to assist the Group of Experts of the Regular Process (GOERP) in finalising production of the report of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment with the technical editing of the publication among others. IOC is providing support to DOALOS to hire an editor for the whole WOA report.

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<sup>2</sup> African States: Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania; Asia-Pacific States : China, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka; Eastern European States: Bulgaria, Estonia, Ukraine; GRULAC: Argentina, Chile, Ecuador; Western European and other States: Greece, Spain, USA (at the date of 26/03/2013)



As the draft chapters become available, a peer-review process will take place based on a two track approach:

- UN Member States and relevant technical agencies such as IOC will be invited to provide comments on the draft chapters; and in parallel
- A technical review conducted by experts (from the pool of experts) nominated by the Group of Experts (GOERP).

On 6 February 2014, a letter was sent by Mr Miguel de Serpa Soares, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and United Nations Legal Counsel to Wendy Watson Wright, IOC Executive Secretary, acknowledging support of IOC to the process over the past years.

## APPENDIX

**Terms of Reference of UN-Oceans (from UNGA resolution 68/70)****A. Scope and objectives**

1. UN-Oceans is an inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority, within existing resources, in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the respective competences of each of its participating organizations and the mandates and priorities approved by their respective governing bodies.

**B. Mandate**

2. UN-Oceans will:

- a) Strengthen and promote coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to ocean and coastal areas;
- b) Regularly share ongoing and planned activities of participating organizations within the framework of relevant United Nations and other mandates with a view to identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy;
- c) Facilitate, as appropriate, inputs by its participating organizations to the annual reports of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries to be submitted to the Secretariat;
- d) Facilitate inter-agency information exchange, including sharing of experiences, best practices, tools and methodologies and lessons learned in ocean related matters.

**C. Modalities of work****Participation**

3. In order to fulfil its mandate on ensuring United Nations system coherence on issues related to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, participation in UN-Oceans is open to United Nations system organizations with competence in activities related to ocean and coastal areas and the International Seabed Authority.

**Focal point**

4. The Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea will be the focal point of UN-Oceans. In that capacity, it will:

- a) Convene the meetings of UN-Oceans and organize those meetings, including by preparing and disseminating meeting minutes, reports and background documents;
- b) Facilitate communication among UN-Oceans participants;
- c) Maintain and update information about UN-Oceans activities, make this information available to UN-Oceans participants and United Nations Member States and make it publicly available through the UN-Oceans website ([www.unoceans.org](http://www.unoceans.org));
- d) Represent UN-Oceans at relevant meetings, including those under the General Assembly and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its High-level Committee on Programmes.

## Meetings

5. UN-Oceans will hold at least one face-to-face meeting per year, supplemented as needed by virtual (teleconference, videoconference) meetings.
6. As far as practicable, UN-Oceans will hold its face-to-face meetings at United Nations Headquarters, preferably in conjunction with the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.
7. Each meeting will be conducted by a Chair, elected for that meeting among UN-Oceans participants present at the meeting. The Chair of a given UN-Oceans meeting cannot be elected to chair the immediately subsequent meeting.
8. UN-Oceans will endeavour to make maximum use of electronic communication and information management and will conduct intersessional work by electronic means such as teleconferences and videoconferences.
9. UN-Oceans will work on the basis of consensus.
10. UN-Water and UN-Energy may participate in UN-Oceans meetings as invited observers, as appropriate and necessary.

## Work programme

11. UN-Oceans will regularly prepare a work programme allowing it to effectively coordinate the response of its participating organizations to the mandates approved by their governing bodies.
12. In support of its mandate and work, UN-Oceans may set up time-bound ad hoc assignments to facilitate coordination on specific issues, open to all participating organizations of UN-Oceans.

## Reporting

13. To ensure transparency and accountability:
  - a) The Secretary-General will report annually on the activities and work programmes of UN-Oceans through his report to the General Assembly on developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea;
  - b) UN-Oceans, upon request from the General Assembly, will also report to Member States in the context of the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process;
  - c) Upon request from the General Assembly, feedback and consultation sessions with UN-Oceans may be held in the context of the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process or at any other time deemed necessary by Member States;
  - d) UN-Oceans will also annually brief the High-Level Committee on Programmes on its activities and work programmes;
  - e) UN-Oceans will systematically post all of its meeting reports, assignment reports, annual reports to the Informal Consultative Process, and other relevant documents on the UN-Oceans website ([www.unoceans.org](http://www.unoceans.org)).