



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Ad Hoc Steering Group for the
“Assessment of Assessments” of
the Regular Process for Global
Reporting and Assessment of
the State of the Marine
Environment, Including
Socio-Economic Aspects**



**Intergovernmental
Oceanographic
Commission
of United Nations
Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization**

UNGA 60/30- A of A -
AHSG/2

English only

**Regular process for global reporting and assessment
of the state of the marine environment, including
socio-economic aspects
Ad Hoc Steering Group for the “assessment of assessments”
Second meeting
New York, United States of America, 22 June 2007**

Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group for the “assessment of assessments” of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

Report of the Secretariat

Summary

The present report provides an account of the second meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group (AHSG) for the “assessment of assessments” of the Regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, held on 22 June 2007 at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York. The meeting was convened pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/30 XI, by which the Assembly established the Ad Hoc Steering Group to oversee the “Assessment of Assessments” and invited the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to jointly lead the process and, among others, to produce a report on the results of the “assessment of assessments” for the General Assembly.

The meeting was attended by members of the AHSG who discussed the report of the first meeting of the Group of Experts (the “GoE”) of the “assessment of assessments” held 29-30 March 2007 in Paris. The meeting agreed on the overall working approach as proposed by the GoE; the outline of the “assessment of assessments”; on a tentative basis, the regional breakdown of oceans and seas for the purpose of the “assessment of assessments”, consisting of 21 regions; and the timeline for implementation of the activities for the production of the “assessment of assessments” report, including the revised budget for the implementation of the “assessment of assessments”. A strategy for mobilisation of resources, key to the implementation of activities, was also discussed. The main decisions as well as key elements of the report of the second Ad Hoc Steering Group meeting will be presented to the eighth meeting of the United Nations Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea to be held from 25 to 29 June 2007 at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York.

I Agenda Item 1 – Opening and Organization of the meeting

A. Welcome and opening

1. The meeting was opened at 10.00 a.m. on Friday, 22 June 2007, by Mr. E. Salif Diop, Senior Programme Officer and Head of Ecosystems Section of the Assessment Branch in the Division of Early Warning and Assessment, UNEP. Mr. Diop welcomed the members of the Ad Hoc Steering Group to its second meeting on behalf of the lead agencies, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). He recalled that UNGA, at its 61st session, adopted resolution A/RES/61/222, on Oceans and Law of the Sea and that Member States renewed their commitment to the regular process. He also encouraged the AHSG to ensure that the start-up phase, the “assessment of assessments”, is completed within two years and urged governments and interested organizations to contribute financially for the implementation of the work in that time frame. The representative of IOC of UNESCO, Mr. Julian Barbière, Programme Specialist and Acting Head, Ocean Sciences, also made some remarks regarding the regular process.

B. Adoption of agenda

2. The draft agenda, as contained in document GRAME/AHSG.2/1, and as provided in Appendix I to this report, was adopted.

C. Attendance

3. The meeting was attended by 12 members of the Ad Hoc Steering Group. Eight were from the following countries: Australia, Iceland, Japan, Mozambique, Peru, Philippines, Spain and Uganda. Four members representing the following UN bodies, FAO, WMO, IOC of UNESCO and UNEP also attended, while UN-DOALOS and UN-DESA attended as observers. Two members of the Group of Experts (GoE) were also present as observers. Apologies from the following Member States and International Organization were received: Egypt, China, Mexico, Romania and Russian Federation and the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The overall list of participants, including the members of the Secretariat and observers present, is contained in Annex IV to this report.

II Considerations of the substantive items of the agenda

4. The Chair of the second AHSG, Dr. Peter Harris of Australia, invited participants of the meeting to introduce themselves.

5. The AHSG undertook an in-depth review of the substantive items on the agenda *inter alia* on the basis of the introduction by the secretariat presenting the report of the first meeting of the GoE of the “A of A” held in Paris, 28-30 March 2007. This was followed by discussions of the following:

- Overall working approach

The overall approach, including the acronym “GRAME”, was discussed by the AHSG. In order to include both environmental and socio-economic aspects, the group agreed with the overall working approach and proposed that the acronym “GRAME” be replaced by “UNGA 60/30 Regular process” in all future documentation.

- Outline of the “assessment of assessments” (“A of A”)

The outline was discussed at length. After clarification by both representatives of the GoE, in particular making clear that the report will not provide any of the existing assessments, but rather will highlight the best practices in conducting assessments, the AHSG welcomed the outline of the “A of A”. The group noted that the approach adopted will include all themes (e.g. climate change, biodiversity, ocean processes, etc.) and different sectors (e.g. fisheries, petroleum, transport, tourism, etc.) in the process of the conducting the “A of A”.

- Regional breakdown of oceans and seas for the purpose of the “A of A”

This part of the report of the GoE generated substantive discussions, particularly the column heading “Suggested GRAME regions”. The AHSG recommended replacing the existing heading with “Suggested A of A regions”. It

was restated that the regional framework used for the purpose of the “A of A” does not predetermine any recommendations by the GoE regarding a regional framework for the future regular process. It was also suggested to review which LME should be in any particular “A of A” regions, noting that in some cases, LMEs may be in more than one region. Experts who were present at the meeting provided some background information on the identification of the “A of A” regions and pointed out that it was still work in progress. It was clarified, that the “leaders” under each region had volunteered to be so. Further consultations of the GoE will ensure that relevant expertise is sought out and made available for all regions.

- **Timeline**

The AHSG reviewed in detail the responsibilities of the GoE and the ASHG in light of UNGA resolution 60/30 in producing the “A of A”, noting that there will be two further meetings of AHSG and four more meetings of the GoE. Opportunities will be available for the AHSG to review drafts of the “A of A” report and monitor its progress, and further opportunities will also be available for Governments and other stakeholders to provide feedback to the GoE. The AHSG approved the timeline subject to the availability of funding.

- **Budget**

The revised tentative budget was discussed and agreed upon by the AHSG. The group welcomed the financial contributions already made by Belgium, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea and USA, as well as the in-kind contribution of UNEP and IOC of UNESCO, in implementing the “A of A”. The AHSG recommended that further efforts be made to encourage Governments in a position to do so financially support the “A of A”. The AHSG requested that the Secretariat produce a one-page flyer that outlines the aims of “A of A” and lists the financial status of the process as well as a list of countries who have already contributed funds.

The overall outcomes of the AHSG deliberations are reflected in the decisions reached by consensus, as presented in Annex II.

III Report to the eighth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP)

6. Participants agreed that the main outcomes of the second AHSG meeting will be reported during the ICP eighth session.

IV Closure of the meeting

7. The meeting was closed at 16.30 p.m. on Friday 22 June 2007 by Dr. Peter Harris, chair of AHSG. He thanked all participants for their excellent cooperation and contributions that led to a successful outcome of this second AHSG meeting.

Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group for the “assessment of assessments” of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

Draft agenda

1. Opening and welcome remarks
2. Adoption of agenda
3. Presentation of report of first meeting of Group of Experts of the assessment of assessments held in Paris 29-30 March 2007
4. Discussion of report
 - Overall working approach
 - Outline of the assessment of assessments
 - Regional breakdown of oceans and seas for the purpose of the “assessment of assessments”
 - Timeline
 - Budget
5. Discussion of resource mobilisation strategy
6. Report to eight ICP
7. Next meeting
8. Closure

Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group for the “assessment of assessments” of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

New York, 22 June 2007

Decisions

The Ad Hoc Steering Group of the “assessment of assessments”,

1. *Recognising* UNGA Resolution 60/30, paragraph 93 and 94, as pertaining to the functions of the Steering Group and to the activities to be carried out by the lead agencies;
2. *Reiterating* the importance of establishing the Regular Process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects (“the Regular Process”);
3. *Stressing* the urgency of completing the “assessment of assessments” as a preparatory stage towards the establishment of the Regular Process;
4. *Recognising* UNGA Resolution 61/222, paragraph 115, urging the Ad Hoc Steering Group to complete the “assessment of assessments” within two years, as provided for in resolution 60/30;
5. *Also recognising* UNGA Resolution 61/222, paragraph 117, inviting Member States, the Global Environment Facility and other interested parties to contribute financially to the “assessment of assessments”, taking into account the work plan and budget approved by the Ad Hoc Steering Group, in order to complete the “assessment of assessments” within the specified period;
6. *Also recognising* UNGA Resolution 61/222 paragraph 116, *welcoming with appreciation* the support of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for the “assessment of assessments” in providing secretariat services to the Ad Hoc Steering Group and establishing the Group of Experts, as approved by the Ad Hoc Steering Group as well as their in-kind and cash contribution;

The Ad Hoc Steering Group of the “assessment of assessments”

7. *Welcomes* the report of the first meeting of the Group of Experts in particular the overall working approach, outline of the “assessment of assessments”, and regional breakdown of oceans and seas;
8. *Endorses* the timeline and revised budget proposed by the Group of Experts for implementation of the work plan of the “assessment of assessments” subject to the availability of the funding as identified in Annex III to the present decision;
9. *Welcomes* the financial contributions already made by Belgium, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, and USA for the implementation of the “assessment of assessments”;
10. *Supports* the initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to invite Governments to contribute financially to the “assessment of assessments”;

11. *Calls* on Governments to contribute urgently to the trust funds of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization for the funding of the “*assessment of assessments*”;

12. *Agrees* that members of the Ad Hoc Steering Group shall collaborate closely with the lead agencies to pursue possible funding opportunities;

13. *Welcomes* the offer of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) to provide its scientific advice to the “*assessment of assessments*” of the regular process by making selected experts from the Joint Group available according to the need of this process and continue to support the implementation of the “*assessment of assessments*” process;

14. *Invites* relevant United Nations bodies, organisations and programmes and related international organizations to actively contribute scientifically to the activities of the “*assessment of assessments*” as well as to its completion by 2009;

15. *Requests* the lead agencies to ensure an opportunity for governments, in accordance with Para 93(c) of UNGA resolution 60/30, to comment during 2008 on the development of the “*assessment of assessments*”, including considering the possibility of doing so within the framework of the ICP-9.

Budget for the “Assessment of Assessments” of the regular process (in United States dollars)

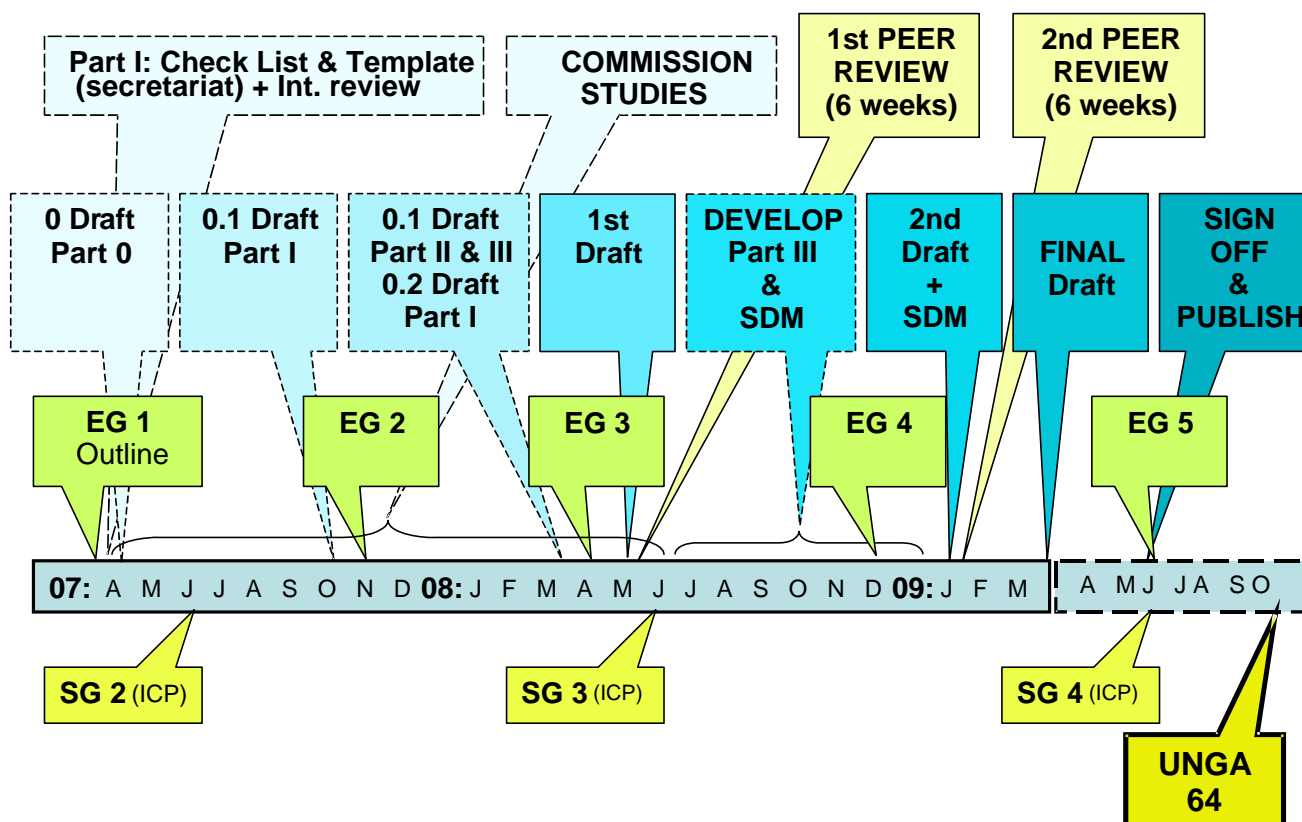
Activities	2007	2008	2009
Expert Group Meetings (5 meetings @ 100,000 each) (expert travel, per diem and meeting support)	200,000	200,000	100,000
Preparation of necessary inputs to meetings of the group of experts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial support to individual experts - Support for additional expertise - Fellowships (students) - Commissioned studies 	100,000	100,000	50,000
Ad Hoc Steering Group meetings (support for developing country participation)	75,000	75,000	75,000
Peer review		25,000	25,000
Two temporary positions located at UNEP and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO at G-4/G-5 and P-3/P-4 levels, to provide support for the overall Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-Economic Aspects process**		200,000	200,000
Publications & Lay out Translation Editing (science writer)			100,000 200,000 40,000
Communication, Data and Information management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -virtual repository/library - virtual workspace - further development of database 	50,000	20,000	20,000
Outreach <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Brochures - Launch event/Seminars - Media packages 	10,000	40,000	60,000
<i>In-kind contribution by lead agencies in preparation for the Ad Hoc Steering Group and the group of experts (staff time, travel, consultants and survey)</i>	<i>150,000</i>	<i>150,000</i>	<i>150,000</i>
YEARLY TOTAL (without in-kind contributions from Lead Agencies)	435,000	660,000	870,000
TOTAL TO BE MOBILISED		1,965,000	

** For the two year start-up phase of the “assessment of assessments” a secretariat and two fixed-term appointments at P3/P4 located at UNEP, Nairobi, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, Paris, will be required to support the overall process.

Draft Timeline of the A of A (subject to available funding)

Note: EG = Group of Experts, SG = Ad Hoc Steering Group, SDM = Summary for Decision Makers

Draft Timeline of the AofA



Second meeting of the Ad Hoc Steering Group for the “assessment of assessments” of the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects

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