



Sixteenth meeting of UN-Oceans
10-11 April 2017
International Seabed Authority, Kingston, Jamaica

Summary report (DRAFT)

1. UN-Oceans held its sixteenth face-to-face meeting from 10-11 April 2017, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, at the headquarters of the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in Kingston, Jamaica. In accordance with the terms of reference of UN-Oceans, the meeting was convened and organized by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS/OLA).
2. The following representatives of UN-Oceans members participated in person in the meeting: Ms. Irena Zubcevic (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, DESA); Mr. David Osborn (International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA); Ms. Kirsten Isensee (Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, IOC); Mr. Michael Lodge, Mr. Alfonso Ascensio-Herrera and Ms. Marie Bourrel (International Seabed Authority, ISA); Ms. Shifaana Thowfeequ (United Nations Office for the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, OHRLS); and Ms. Lorna Inniss (United Nations Environment, UNEP). The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS/OLA) as convener of the meeting was represented by Ms. Gabriele Goetsche-Wanli, Ms. Alice Hicuburundi and Ms. Charlotte Salpin. The following representatives participated by telephone in the meeting, either in full or part: Mr. Joseph Appiott (the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CBD Secretariat); Mr. Clovis Freire, Mr. Sai Navoti, Ms. Federica Pietracci, Ms. Julie Powell, Ms. Stephanie Rambler, Mr. Friedrich Soltau and Ms. Ling Wang (DESA); Mr. Francois Bailet, Mr. Yoshinobu Takei and Mr. Stefan Kuuskne (DOALOS/OLA); Mr. Marco Boccia (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FAO); Mr. Brandt Wagner (International Labour Organization, ILO); Mr. Michele Cavinato (Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR); Mr. Andrew Hudson (United Nations Development Programme, UNDP); and Mr. Edgard Cabrera, Mr. Stefano Belfiore and Ms. Sara Grimes (World Meteorological Organization, WMO).

Opening of the meeting, welcome and opening remarks

3. Ms. Gabriele Goetsche-Wanli, Director, DOALOS/OLA, opened the meeting, welcomed the participants, and thanked ISA for having offered to host the meeting of UN-Oceans at its headquarters. She noted the importance of the meeting in light of the contributions that UN-Oceans could make in the context of various ocean-related processes, including the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (Ocean Conference) to be held in June 2017.

Adoption of the draft agenda and election of the Chair

4. The following agenda was adopted without amendments:

1. Opening of the meeting
 2. Welcome and opening remarks
 3. Adoption of the draft agenda
 4. Election of the Chair
 5. Programme of work
 6. Preparations for the Ocean Conference (5-9 June)
 7. Preparations for the eighteen meeting of the UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP-18) (15-19 May)
 8. UN-Oceans website and UN-Oceans inventory
 9. Progress in identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy, including identification of areas of inter-agency cooperation as well as other substantive aspects relating to the achievement of the UN-Oceans' mandate.
 10. HLPF 2017 and UN-Oceans
 11. Methodology for SDG Indicator 14.c.1, including the reporting format
 12. Other matters
5. In accordance with the terms of reference of UN-Oceans, Mr. Michael Lodge, Secretary-General of ISA, was elected Chair of the sixteenth meeting of UN-Oceans.

Programme of Work

6. UN-Oceans members approved the draft programme of work for the meeting. The Chair noted that agenda items may be advanced or delayed depending on how the discussions proceed.

Preparations for the Ocean Conference (5-9 June)

Sharing of information on the Voluntary Commitments/partnerships

7. DESA provided information regarding voluntary commitments for the Ocean Conference. It was noted that, to date, 37 commitments had been registered and that guidance regarding registration of voluntary commitments is available on the Ocean Conference website. It was also noted that the deadline for registering commitments was **15 June 2017** and that announcements of voluntary commitments can be made at the partnership dialogues to be held during the Ocean Conference. DESA also indicated that registration to speak at the dialogues must be submitted by **19 May 2017** to Ms. Federica Pietracci of DESA, with an indication of the level of participation/representation. DESA stated that entities that register voluntary commitments will be given priority to speak at the partnership dialogues.

8. In response to questions, DESA and UNDP clarified that any partnerships and voluntary commitments made within the framework of the 2030 Agenda targeting SDG 14 could be registered as voluntary commitments for The Ocean Conference, provided that they qualified under the available "Guidance for Voluntary Commitments" including the SMART criteria (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resource based, with Time-based deliverables).

9. DESA further suggested that in addition to Member States and other stakeholders, intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) could also engage in commitments in accordance with their mandate. DESA clarified that the partnership dialogues were meant to be interactive and would focus on presenting solutions to various challenges. The list of speakers at the partnership dialogues would also

be representative of the various stakeholders invited at the Conference, including intergovernmental organizations.

10. UNDP noted that on the voluntary commitments webpage, some analytical statistics were available on already registered commitments. However, a larger volume of registered commitments was needed for a fuller picture of the scope and breadth of voluntary commitments to emerge.

11. DOALOS/OLA proposed that UN-Oceans consider the possibility of registering a voluntary commitment which would focus on the organization of thematic awareness-raising briefings on relevant legal and policy developments within the governing bodies of the members of UN-Oceans, as well as of the activities of the secretariats in support of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) and other ocean-related goals (see also paras. 57-58).

12. UN-Oceans members agreed that DOALOS/OLA would circulate for further discussion a paper detailing a proposed voluntary commitment focused on awareness-raising by **24 April 2017**. Comments on the paper would be welcome until **28 April 2017**.

Sharing of information on the draft concept papers for the Ocean Conference

13. DESA and DOALOS/OLA provided an overview of the current status of preparations of the concept papers for the partnership dialogues. DESA recalled that there will be seven concept papers, one for each theme of the partnership dialogues, based on input from Member States, IGOs, UN entities and other stakeholders, as per the modalities resolution for the Conference (A/RES/70/303). These inputs can be found on the Ocean Conference website. DOALOS/OLA highlighted in particular, that in the comments received CARICOM had addressed the work of UN-Oceans.

14. DOALOS/OLA recalled that three draft papers had been circulated to UN-Oceans for comments. Brief presentations were made on the approach and content of these papers. DESA noted that the remaining papers would be circulated to UN-Oceans by **14 April 2017** and that comments could be provided until **19 April 2017**. DESA noted that the draft concept papers must be completed by **1 May 2017** to allow sufficient time for editing and translation after which they advance unedited copies will be posted on the Ocean Conference website.

15. UN-Oceans members exchanged views on the importance of including in the concept papers a limited number of focused questions to underpin the discussions during the partnership dialogues. The need to not only focus on identifying new partnerships, but also on updating and strengthening existing ones (such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP-GPA)) was underlined, as was the importance of establishing an effective mechanism for following-up on and evaluating all partnerships. IAEA noted that the concept papers should not be seen as mutually exclusive and that drafters should look for ways to highlight interlinkages and include cross references.

16. The Chair concluded that, based on the information provided by DESA and OLA/DOALOS, UN-Oceans members were urged to provide their comments on all draft concept papers in a timely manner taking into the deadline for such comments and with a focus on guiding questions for the partnership dialogues and identification of relevant partnerships.

Discussion on a UN-Oceans statement during the plenary of the Ocean Conference

17. UN-Oceans members agreed that there is merit in a UN-Oceans statement during the plenary at the Ocean Conference. With respect to the content of the statement, UN-Oceans members agreed that the statement could provide an opportunity to convey that UN-Oceans is a partnership and is well placed to support the implementation of SDG 14, as well as other ocean-related goals in the 2030 Agenda. IAEA highlighted in particular that UN-Oceans could play an important role in developing collaborative programmes that pragmatically address the nexus between climate change and oceans and ocean acidification. However, the point should also be made that UN-Oceans could carry out such enhanced role only if provided with the necessary resources and in accordance with strengthened terms of reference. UN-Water was referred to as a good example in that regard. UNEP suggested that the statement could also highlight tangible demonstrations of the added-value of UN-Oceans. DESA noted that it would also be helpful to include the announcement of the voluntary commitment (see para. 11) in the statement.

18. It was agreed that DOALOS/OLA would prepare a draft for UN-Oceans members to comment on in the period between the 18th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP-18) and the Ocean Conference. DOALOS agreed to circulate a draft UN-Oceans statement by **23 May 2017**. The deadline for comments on this draft would be **26 May 2017**.

UN-Oceans side events at the Ocean Conference

19. DESA noted that the application period for side events at the Ocean Conference had closed and that over 200 applications were being reviewed. The date for concluding the review process was **1 May 2017**. If there were similarly themed events from multiple applicants, applicants would be contacted before **1 May 2017** with a view to combining events.

20. DOALOS/OLA provided an overview of the proposed UN-Oceans side event at the Ocean Conference. It proposed that the thematic focus of the event could be how UN-Oceans can support the implementation of SDG 14. This would also provide an opportunity to showcase the inventory of mandates and activities of UN-Oceans members (see also paras. 50-53), as well as examples of partnerships in addressing targets under SDG 14 and other relevant goals under the 2030 Agenda. The proposed format would be a roundtable discussion with short interventions by UN-Oceans members to be followed by interaction with the audience. DOALOS suggested that the heads of organizations and bodies that are members of UN-Oceans should be encouraged to participate. In view of the deadline for the application of side events at the Conference, DOALOS/OLA had submitted a place-holder application and identified preferred dates as 5, 6 or 7 June 2017.

21. UNEP suggested that the side event could provide a useful platform to discuss issues of leadership for SDG 14 and how UN-Oceans could play a role as a “harbour” for SDG 14. Highlighting the added-value of UN-Oceans would also be important. This could lead into a discussion around the UN-Oceans terms of reference, which given the importance of this discussion for the future work of UN-Oceans, taking into account the review of the terms of reference by the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, should be an encouragement for all UN-Oceans members to participate in the side event, including at the high level.

22. The Chair noted the need for the side event to be an outward facing discussion to avoid an internal discussion among UN-Oceans members. He further highlighted the need to carefully consider the level of participation to ensure that the message that will be conveyed is heard.

23. UN-Oceans members agreed that the side event should be forward looking and should involve the widest possible audience. UN-Oceans members also agreed that the title for the side event would need to capture the attention of the widest possible audience.

24. It was agreed that a concept note, prepared by DOALOS/OLA and UNEP, would be circulated to the membership for comments. The circulation of the draft UN-Oceans side event concept note would occur by **10 May 2017**. The deadline for comments on the draft concept note would be **12 May 2017**.

25. It was also agreed that a “leaflet” with background information on UN-Oceans could be developed for the side event. DESA, IAEA, ISA and UNEP expressed their willingness to contribute to its design and printing. DOALOS agreed to circulate a draft leaflet by **10 May 2017**. The deadline for comments on the draft leaflet would be **12 May 2017**.

26. DESA indicated its readiness to assist in designing the leaflet for the side event with IAEA and ISA agreeing to assist with funding for printing. The leaflet for the side event would be produced by **31 May 2017**.

Joint UN-Oceans/UN-Water side event at the Ocean Conference

27. DOALOS/OLA provided an overview of the status of developing a joint UN-Oceans/UN-Water side event at the Ocean Conference. DOALOS/OLA recalled that UN-Water had contacted it, as focal point for UN-Oceans, with a proposal to hold a joint UN-Water/UN-Oceans side event and that following tacit agreement from UN-Oceans members, DOALOS/OLA had confirmed that UN-Oceans was pleased to cooperate towards such a joint side event. The side event is tentatively entitled *“Joining hands to help achieve SDGs 6 and 14 - a win-win for freshwater and oceans.”* DOALOS/OLA had suggested the Coordinator of the UNEP-GPA, Mr. Habib El-Habr, as the UN-Oceans speaker given the particular relevance of the work of the GPA.

28. UN-Oceans members expressed support for Mr. Habib El-Habr as the UN-Oceans speaker and requested that the presentation should be shared with UN-Oceans members before the event in order to allow for input to the presentation from all relevant UN-Oceans members.

29. DESA recalled that in 2018, the HLPF will discuss SDG 6 (Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all), and noted that DESA is also the secretariat for the High-Level Panel on Water and of UN-Water.

30. UNEP noted that the third session of the United Nations Environment Assembly would focus on marine pollution and that the intergovernmental review of the GPA would take place in December 2017, underlining the importance of cooperation with UN-Water.

Side event on the blue economy

31. DESA provided an overview of a side event on the blue economy that it was planning to organize with the World Bank and other partners, including a number of UN-Oceans members. The concept for such a side event stemmed from a paper on the “blue economy” prepared under the leadership of DESA and the World Bank and soon to be published by the latter. DESA noted that indications for interest to participate in the side event and circulation of the concept note by DESA to the identified participating organizations that have not yet commented would occur by **14 April 2017**.

32. DOALOS, ILO, ISA and UNEP expressed interest in contributing to this side event. Noting that the concept paper for the event had already been distributed, DESA noted that nevertheless, the concept note would also be sent to those members that expressed interest in contributing to the side event.

World Oceans Day

33. DOALOS/OLA provided an overview of the proposed draft programme for the World Oceans Day celebration to take place in the General Assembly Hall in the morning of 8 June 2017 as part of the Ocean Conference. DOALOS/OLA noted that this session was designed to cater to the general public. UN-Oceans members who wished to contribute to the World Oceans Day programme were invited to contact Mr. Francois Bailet of DOALOS/OLA regarding potential contributions by **14 April 2017**. Such contributions could be in-kind or financial.

34. IAEA recalled that World Oceans Day is a media exercise and, therefore, the celebration should include media representatives. IAEA noted that the World Oceans Day celebration provided an opportunity to highlight cultural and regional diversity. The Chair added that it also provided an opportunity to feature the balance between conservation and sustainable use. He also suggested that it would be useful to share key messages through various media platforms.

35. OHRLS noted that it could include a link to the photo contest to take place as part of the World Oceans Day celebration on the OHRLS platform. DESA also suggested that such a link could be included on the Ocean Hub platform and on the Ocean Conference website.

36. UNEP informed the meeting that it was planning for a major World Ocean Day celebration in Costa Rica with involvement from Heads of State and key private sector organizations of the region.

37. IOC provided an overview of the development of the World Oceans Day portal. Developed in conjunction with DOALOS/OLA, the World Oceans Day portal is a new platform for UN agencies to highlight their initiatives and on-going activities around World Oceans Day. The website for the portal would also be linked to the UN-Oceans website. IOC noted that contributions from UN-Oceans members are welcome and that a forthcoming message will be sent to partners, inviting their contributions. Discussions were on-going regarding the launch of the portal including potentially having an interactive kiosk with the portal available for use as part of an IOC exhibit at the Ocean Conference. IAEA suggested that the current URL name, www.unoceansday.org, could be revisited in order to avoid confusion with the UN-Oceans name.

International Decade for Ocean Science and Development

38. The IOC provided an overview of its proposed International Decade for Ocean Science and Development project. This project would serve to build an inventory of marine resources and identify opportunities to manage these resources in a sustainable manner, gain a better quantitative knowledge of the ocean bottom and water column ecosystems, understand the impacts of cumulative stressors on the ocean and recommend specific actions to obtain more benefit from the ocean and share knowledge and enhance capacities through the transfer of marine technology, leading to economic benefits for SIDS and least developed countries.

39. DESA noted that the Decade had gotten traction at the preparatory meeting for the Ocean Conference. It suggested that cooperation could be established with the 2030 Agenda technology facilitation mechanism, including its interagency task team. DOALOS/OLA noted that the project, if agreed to by Member States, could be useful in underpinning the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects.

40. UN-Oceans members agreed that the proposed International Decade for Ocean Science and Development was a good initiative.

Preparations for the 18th meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (15-19 May)

Discussion of elements to be included in the UN-Oceans statement at ICP-18, including views of members regarding the terms of reference of UN-Oceans, to be reviewed at the 72nd session of the General Assembly

41. DOALOS/OLA provided an overview of the preparations for ICP-18, which will take place from 15-19 May 2017 on the theme "The effects of climate change on oceans". It recalled that the General Assembly would review the terms of reference of UN-Oceans at its seventy-second session in accordance with its resolution 68/71, and therefore suggested that UN-Oceans members may wish to consider referring to the review in the UN-Oceans statement during ICP-18.

42. In the context of the review of the terms of reference, UN-Oceans members noted that valuable work had been carried out by UN-Oceans, including the preparation and launch of the inventory; ensuring coordination and broad-based participation in common events (UN-Oceans side events); coordinated inputs into UN-Oceans statements at various events (e.g., the Third International Conference on SIDS, the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Advice); and effective coordination in relation to SDG 14, including coordinated development of the indicator for 14.c.

43. IAEA noted that the topic of the ICP-18 also provided a good opportunity to demonstrate the cross-cutting nature of UN-Oceans members' mandates and the added-value of UN-Oceans.

44. UN-Oceans members agreed that UN-Oceans would deliver a statement at ICP-18, which would include the views of members regarding the experience with the current terms of reference and opportunities that could emerge if UN-Oceans were afforded more flexibility and resources, similar to UN-Water and UN-Energy, which include project-based approaches in their work. IAEA recalled UNEP's proposal regarding the notion of UN-Oceans acting as a "harbour" for progress on SDG 14 (see para. 21). The role and added-value of UN-Oceans in relation to climate change and oceans was also underscored

as an area to highlight. In that regard, attention was drawn to the important progress that had been made by UN-Oceans in bridging various legal frameworks and sectoral areas, such as climate change. Those activities had greatly contributed to UN-Oceans' ability to assist Member States in capacity-building. In this regard, UN-Oceans members expressed interest in inviting UNFCCC to UN-Oceans meetings with a view to increasing collaboration. DOALOS agreed to circulate a draft UN-Oceans statement by **9 May 2017**. Comments on the draft statement would be welcome by UN-Oceans members until **11 May 2017**.

45. UN-Oceans members agreed that members of UN-Oceans would provide their views regarding the terms of reference in writing to DOALOS/OLA and that the main ideas expressed would constitute an input for the UN-Oceans statement to ICP-18. UN-Oceans members agreed that they would address, in particular, the value-added of UN-Oceans and concrete areas and ways in which cooperation and coordination could be further strengthened.

46. UN-Oceans members also agreed to complete the inventory of the mandates of UN-Oceans members and priorities approved by the respective governing bodies of the participating organizations of UN-Oceans by providing their relevant and up-to-date information with a view to presenting the inventory at the Ocean Conference (see also paras. 50-53.).

47. UN-Oceans members agreed to provide written feedback regarding the terms of reference and suggestions for the draft statement by **28 April 2017**.

48. As indicated in paragraph 61 below, it was also agreed to include in the statement to the ICP areas for possible collaboration and synergies.

49. DOALOS/OLA noted that UN-Oceans members interested in making suggestions for panellists for the ICP discussion panel on "The effects of climate change on oceans" were invited to do so as soon as possible and before **12 April 2017**.

UN-Oceans website and UN-Oceans inventory

50. FAO provided an update on the transition to a new website for the UN-Oceans inventory. It was recalled that the inventory of the mandates of UN-Oceans members and priorities approved by the respective governing bodies of the participating organizations of UN-Oceans was launched at the seventeenth meeting of the ICP in June last year.

51. DOALOS/OLA reminded UN-Oceans members to submit information to the inventory in order to prepare for presenting the inventory at the Ocean Conference. UN-Oceans members agreed to complete the inventory with their relevant information. UN-Oceans members discussed show-casing, during the UN-Oceans side event at the Ocean Conference, how the inventory may assist Member States and relevant stakeholders in identifying opportunities for synergies and greater coherence. UN-Oceans members noted that a fully completed inventory can become a useful tool in supporting, in an integrated manner, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 14.

52. UN-Oceans members discussed expanding the presence of the inventory through updates to the UN-Oceans website and by building on best practices from organizations with similar tools. FAO agreed to share user data regarding the inventory towards developing modifications and updates to the website.

53. UN-Oceans members agreed to update the UN-Oceans inventory by **29 May 2017**.

54. UN-Oceans members agreed to explore updating the UN-Oceans website, based on forthcoming data and analysis on user statistics and financial viability, to increase user engagement and increased use. FAO agreed to share such statistics by **14 April 2017**. Suggestions made in that regard included updating the front page with video messages from the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly.

55. It was further agreed that DOALOS/OLA would prepare an indicative list of required updates to the UN-Oceans website with a view to assisting FAO in its consideration of continued support to be circulated by **21 April 2017**. FAO agreed to provide feedback on costs and the feasibility of updating the UN-Oceans website by **5 May 2017**.

Progress in identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy, including identification of areas of inter-agency cooperation as well as other substantive aspects relating to the achievement of the UN-Oceans' mandate

56. DOALOS/OLA recalled that identification of areas for collaboration and synergies was discussed at the last UN-Oceans meeting. At that time, IAEA had suggested the preparation of a general document in which members would identify activities contributing to the implementation of SDG 14, synergies/areas of collaboration and gaps in partnerships, highlight areas of technical assistance to Member States, including capacity-building, as well as capacity and partnerships gaps to be further addressed. IAEA noted that the work of UN-Oceans member on SDG 14 had already enabled the identification of various areas for synergies and collaboration. Therefore, a document on potential synergies may no longer be needed in light of the Informal Preparatory Working Groups process in the context of the preparations for the Ocean Conference.

57. UN-Oceans members discussed a proposal to focus on communication and awareness-raising activities. In that regard, DOALOS/OLA cited the value of a recent initiative by UNCTAD to organize a briefing by CITES, FAO, UNCTAD and DOALOS/OLA on the fisheries regulatory framework at the multilateral level for Member States in UNCTAD. DOALOS/OLA noted that UN-Oceans members could consider similar awareness-raising activities at various intergovernmental conferences at the global or regional level, but that such efforts may require funding. It further noted that a voluntary commitment at the Ocean Conference based around such activities could assist in building partnerships and strengthening assistance (see also para. 11).

58. In support of the proposal for briefings, UNEP noted, as an example, that for SIDS and States with limited capacities that do not attend meetings of the ISA, it would be very helpful for the ISA to be included in such briefings at various intergovernmental meetings.

59. UNEP noted that several ocean-related agencies have representation at the regional level and suggested there could be discussions on strengthening UN-Oceans collaboration at a regional level.

60. DESA noted that capacity-building could also be a first focus for a possible commitment. It was noted, however, that capacity-building may be more costly and not feasible given the lack of resources available to UN-Oceans.

61. UN-Oceans members agreed to include these areas for possible collaboration and synergies in the statement of UN-Oceans to the ICP.

Item 10 – HLPF 2017 and UN-Oceans

UN-Oceans engagement in HLPF 2017, particularly with regard to SDG 14 discussions

62. DESA provided an overview of the upcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) meeting, taking place from 10-19 July 2017. It noted that the meeting will review progress on SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 14 and include: 1) a high level discussion segment; and 2) a ministerial segment, as HLPF is designated as a central platform for review of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda at the national level. The high-level discussion segment will include a partnership exchange with high-level CEOs and other individuals leading partnerships. Forty-four countries have volunteered to present during the ministerial segment.

63. DESA further noted that side events will be hosted at the HLPF and that the deadline for submission of applications for side events is **10 May 2017**.

64. UN-Oceans members discussed hosting a side-event and delivering a statement at HLPF. Based on the information provided by DESA, UN-Oceans members agreed that the side event should focus on the science/policy interface, calling attention, inter alia, to the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects and its outputs, in particular the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment and the Technical Abstract of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment on the Ocean and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals under the 2030 Agenda, and also to the Ocean Science Report.

65. UN-Oceans members agreed that UNEP could take the lead in preparing a UN-Oceans side event and DOALOS/OLA and IOC agreed to contribute to the preparations. UNEP agreed to circulate a side event concept paper by **24 April 2017**. Comments would be welcome on the concept paper until **1 May 2017**.

66. DOALOS and IOC agreed to prepare and circulate a draft UN-Oceans statement for comments by **19 June 2017**. Comments on this draft would be welcome until **23 June 2017**.

Methodology for SDG Indicator 14.c.1, including the reporting format

67. DOALOS/OLA provided an overview on the status of the development of SDG indicator 14.c.1, and recalled that UN-Oceans held consultations on a common proposal for the indicator for target 14.c, and communicated it to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). That proposal was included in the final list of indicators developed by the IAEG-SDGs, and the UN Statistical Commission agreed with the global indicator framework, “as a practical starting point” in 2016. DOALOS/OLA further recalled that, in March 2017, the UN Statistical Commission approved the revised global indicator framework, and recommended to the ECOSOC to adopt the draft resolution on work of the UN Statistical Commission pertaining to the 2030 Agenda.

68. DOALOS/OLA noted that guidance was needed on proceeding with the development of the methodology and metadata for indicator 14.c.1 with a view to communicating this information to the

IAEG-SDGs before their next meeting in October 2017 in order to reclassify the indicator from tier III to tier II.

69. DOALOS/OLA recalled that UN-Oceans agreed to develop a list of ocean-related instruments, as part of its work on indicator 14.c.1, noting that eight UN-Oceans members (CBD secretariat, FAO, ILO, IMO, ISA, UNCTAD, UNEP and UNESCO) had submitted their lists of ocean-related instruments, and the list currently consists of 99 instruments. Other UN-Oceans member could still contribute to the list. UN-Oceans members agreed to provide contributions to the list of instruments by **24 July 2017**.

70. FAO proposed the use of an online questionnaire to gather the data needed to measure progress in achieving target 14.c, noting that the structure of the online questionnaire could follow that of the biennial questionnaire carried out regarding the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. FAO also proposed circulating the questionnaire as a starting point in developing the methodology further. The circulation of the draft questionnaire would occur by **14 August 2017**. Comments on the draft questionnaire by UN-Oceans members would be welcome until **28 August 2017**.

71. UN-Oceans members agreed that the use of a questionnaire could be useful. Whether to develop one questionnaire or several would be further discussed based on the model to be sent by FAO.

Other Matters

72. DOALOS/OLA provided an overview of the status of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects and highlighted the lessons learned exercise that had taken place and proved to be valuable in identifying how to make the Regular Process more policy relevant as well as in having a more streamlined procedural format. The programme of work for the period 2017-2020 for the second cycle of the Regular Process (contained in A/71/362) was adopted by Member States at the seventh meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in August, 2016 and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 71/257. That programme of work envisages two key Outputs:

- Output I: Second World Ocean Assessment(s) (750 pages), to be delivered in 2020; and,
- Output II: Regular Process support for other ocean-related intergovernmental processes including the following: (a) The 2030 Agenda; (b) General Assembly resolution 69/292 on the development of an international legally binding instrument 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; (c) The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; and (d) The United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea.

73. The programme of work also outlines the activities in support of making the second cycle operational, including outreach and awareness-raising initiatives and capacity-building activities, such as regional workshops, briefings and side-events, and the development and distribution of promotional print and audiovisual material. DOALOS/OLA pointed out that UN-Oceans members would be invited to contribute to the activities during the second cycle of the Regular Process with regard to the following activities: awareness-raising, the identification of experts for the Pool of Experts, technical and scientific support to the Bureau and the Group of Experts, hosting workshops and meetings of the writing teams, capacity-building and the scoping process for the assessment(s) of the second cycle. DOALOS/OLA noted that the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole would take place from 17-18 April 2017.

74. UNDP and IAEA encouraged UN-Oceans members to explore and consider becoming members of GESAMP.

Closing

75. The Chair invited DOALOS/OLA to circulate to all UN-Oceans members action items shortly following the meeting and, subsequently, a summary report of the meeting.

76. UN-Oceans members thanked Mr. Michael Lodge for chairing the meeting and the warm and generous hospitality offered by him and the ISA.

77. The Chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.