

	Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects
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Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole of the General Assembly

The Fourteenth Meeting (by correspondence)

Provisional Agenda Item 3

Report of the Bureau of the Ad

reaffirmed that it was not in a position to be flexible on the insertion of the footnote. Accordingly, and taking into account the time constraints of the second cycle of the Regular Process to be completed by the end of 2020, there was no other option than to insert the requested footnote relating to the Falkland (Malvinas) islands, pursuant to the editorial directive ST/CS/SER.A/42, of 3 August 1999.

5. As agreed by the Bureau by silence procedure, on 19 October 2020, the text of the third (final) draft of WOA II, the responses agreed by the Group of Experts to comments from States on the second draft of WOA II, as well as all comments received from States on the second draft of WOA II (all in English) have been circulated to Member States and other participants in the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole in advance of the 14th meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

Optimizing the attendance in the meetings of the Bureau

6. During its meeting held on 7 October 2020, the Bureau considered the issue of optimizing the attendance by Bureau members in the meetings of the Bureau. It was agreed that this issue should be taken forward by the newly designated Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the third cycle of the Regular Process.

Designation of National Focal Points

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experts per regional group, for the duration of the second cycle of the Regular Process, taking into account the desirability of some degree of continuity, and in accordance with the terms of reference of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process. The General Assembly in paragraph 323 of its resolution 74/19 urged regional groups that have not yet done so to appoint experts to the Group of Experts in accordance with resolution 70/235, taking into account the need to ensure geographical distribution and adequate expertise in socioeconomic disciplines.

10. The Group of Experts currently stands at 19 experts with nominations still outstanding from the Group of Eastern European States and from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. This resulted in significant challenges for the Group of Experts to manage its increasing workload and an uneven distribution of work among the members of the Group of Experts, which had become a major impediment to the effective functioning of the Group of Experts and also caused delays in the overall preparation of the assessment. During the meeting of the Bureau held on 7 October 2020, it was agreed that the issue of ensuring the nomination of 25 members of the Group of Experts for the third cycle should be taken forward by the newly designated Co-Chairs and the Bureau of the third cycle of the Regular Process.

Pool of Experts

11. Additional experts have been appointed to the Pool of Experts during the intersessional period