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9. In accordance with the programme of work for the third cycle, the Bureau, with the assistance of the secretariat, conducted a review of the mechanism to establish the Pool of Expert during the second cycle, with a view to strengthening such mechanism during the third cycle. Based on such review and taking into account the lessons learned from the second cycle, the Bureau developed, with the assistance of the secretariat, the Mechanism to establish the Pool of Experts for the third cycle. This document is also available on the website of the Regular Process.

10. The Bureau has been informed that its decision to grant the possibility for the Group of Experts to commence its work has enabled the start of the implementation of the programme of work for the third cycle. As the current priority, the Group of Experts has begun the scoping exercise for output II activities, as well as the development of the outlines of the brief documents which outline specific policy-relevant information from WOA II as they may relate to and support other ocean-related intergovernmental processes.

11. The Group of Experts has also begun to provide support for and interact with other ocean-related intergovernmental processes, including through attending and delivering a statement on behalf of the Regular Process at the recent 8<sup>th</sup> Plenary of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) held from 14 to 24 June 2021.

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12. During its meeting held on 5 March 2021, the Bureau considered the question of its working methods, noting that concerns had been raised regarding inconsistent attendance at its meetings, leading to lack of quorum at some meetings. It was agreed that the Bureau should continue to consider ways to improve its working methods at its next meeting.

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