

United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea
Twenty-third Meeting
5 to 9 June 2023

(Agenda item 6)

Composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in the future work of the General Assembly on oceans and the law of the sea

Prepared by the Co-Chairs

1. The composite streamlined list of issues presented in section A below has been prepared on the basis of the lists contained in the reports of the fourth through the twenty-second meetings of the Informal Consultative Process (A/58/95, A/59/122, A/60/99, A/61/156, A/62/169, A/63/174 and Corr.1, A/64/131, A/65/164, A/66/186, A/67/120, A/68/159, A/69/90, A/70/78, A/71/204, A/72/95, A/73/124, A/74/119, A/76/171 and A/77/119). The position of the issues in the list reflects the order in which they were presented in the various reports and is not intended to indicate any order of priority.
2. The areas of focus selected by the General Assembly for the first to the twenty-third meetings of the Informal Consultative Process are presented in section B below.

A. Composite streamlined list of issues

Marine protected areas

- Marine protected areas (A/58/95, para. 131(a) and A/64/131, para. 73);
- The science underlying the identification and management of marine protected areas (A/58/95, para. 131(o));

Implementation of international instruments

- Review of the national, regional and global implementation of Part XII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (A/58/95, para. 131(b));
- Implementation of existing international instruments (A/58/95, para. 131(p));
- Harmonization of treaty obligations relevant to oceans issues (A/58/95, para. 132(c));
- Examination of progress in the implementation of the oceans chapter of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (A/58/95, para. 132(f));
- Contribution of oceans to the achievement of internationally agreed sustainable development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (A/63/174, para. 140 (b));
- Review of the oceans-related outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference, and how those outcomes would impact and benefit international coordinate on and cooperation (A/67/120, para. 72);
- Regular review of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 and other ocean-related goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/72/95, para. 119);

Uses of the oceans

- Potential and new uses of the oceans (A/58/95, para. 131(c) and A/68/159, para. 69);
- Competing uses of the continental shelf, including mariculture, the laying of cables and pipelines, and exploitation of non-living marine resources (A/58/95, para. 131(q));
- Deep-sea mining (A/76/171, para. 77)

Science/technology/data, including capacity-building

- Development and transfer of marine technology (A/58/95, para. 131(d));
- Capacity-building for the collection of marine geographic data (A/58/95, para. 131(s));
- Promotion of marine scientific research, as well as capacity-building for the development of scientific information (A/60/99, para. 106(e));
- Transfer of marine technology (A/65/164, para. 88);
- Capacity-building for the research and collection of marine fisheries resources data (A/65/164, para. 88);
- Capacity-building for the research and collection of marine fisheries resources data and management advice (A/65/164, para. 88);
- Aspects of marine scientific research related to sustainable development (A/67/120, para. 72);

Ecosystem approaches to oceans

- Oceans stewardship/ecosystem-based integrated management of the marine environment (A/58/95, para. 131(e));
- The application of an ecosystem approach to oceans management (A/60/99, para. 106(a) and A/69/90, para. 92);
- Short-, medium- and long-term ecosystem management mechanisms to address and prevent the decline and extinction of associated species, including fish, billfish, sea turtles, seabirds and marine mammals (A/60/99, para. 106(d));
- Naturally occurring meso scale marine ecosystems (A/60/99, para. 106(g));
- Ecosystem management mechanisms to address and prevent species decline and extinction (A/64/131, para. 73);
- Ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change on oceans and coasts (A/65/164, para. 88);

Food security

- Food security and mariculture (A/58/95, para. 131(f));
- The role of sustainable use of marine resources in food security (A/59/122, para. 97(c) and A/76/171, para. 77);
- Ocean acidification and its effects on food security (A/64/131, para. 73);

Conservation and management of living marine resources

- Effect of fishery subsidies on the conservation of marine living resources (A/58/95, para. 131(i), and A/70/78, para. 115);
- Review of the effectiveness of the exclusive economic zone in ensuring the conservation and management of living resources (A/58/95, para. 132(b));
- Legal and institutional frameworks at the international level for the protection of marine mammals (A/60/99, para. 106(f));
- Combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (A/62/169, para. 123 (a))
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including as it might relate to international organized crime (A/64/131, para. 73);
- Protection of living resources (A/64/131, para. 73);
- Impact of unfair subsidies on the fishing industry of developing States (A/64/131, para. 73, and A/70/78, para. 115);
- Effect of ocean temperature changes on fish stocks (A/64/131, para. 73);
- Measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (A/65/164, para. 88);

- Improved fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance and other measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (A/65/164, para. 88);
- Conservation of marine resources and measures which can be taken by States in this regard (A/65/164, para. 88);
- Improved fisheries statistics (A/65/164, para. 88);

International cooperation and coordination

- Cooperation and coordination between regional fisheries organizations and regional seas conventions and action plans of the United Nations Environment Programme (A/58/95, para. 131(g));
- Convergence of the legal and programmatic dimensions of international cooperation (A/58/95, para. 131(k));
- The Global Marine Assessment (GMA) (A/58/95, para. 132(e));
- Cooperation and coordination among flag, coastal and port States (for the purpose of effective implementation of the Convention) (A/63/174, para. 140 (c) and A/64/131, para. 73);

Marine environment

- Harmful algal blooms, including sargassum (A/71/204, para. 83);
- Impact of the activities in the international seabed area as a source of contamination of the marine environment (A/58/95, para. 131(h));
- Marine debris (A/58/95, para. 131(j));
- Navigation in ecologically sensitive areas (A/58/95, para. 131(l));
- Protection of coastal areas from the introduction of non-native species (A/58/95, para. 131(m));
- Liability and compensation for damage to the marine environment; and responsibility of States (A/58/95, para. 132(k));
- Undersea noise pollution: impacts on marine life (A/59/122, para. 97(d));
- Integrated management approaches to address marine pollution (A/60/99, para. 106(b));
- Ocean pollution – a constant and increase challenge for marine conservation (A/62/169, para. 123 (b));
- Preservation of the marine environment (A/64/131, para. 73);
- Conservation as it relates to marine life and environment (A/64/131, para. 73);
- Undersea noise pollution (A/64/131, para. 73);
- Conservation of the marine environment, with an emphasis on maritime safety and navigation (A/65/164, para. 88);
- Liability and compensation for the adverse effect of environmental damage (A/65/164, para. 88);
- Sustainable consumption and production patterns, in particular with regard to the sustainability of the oceans (A/72/95, para. 117);

Issues discussed at previous meetings

- Possibility of reviewing progress on issues discussed at meetings of the Informal Consultative Process (A/58/95, para. 131(n));
- Maritime security and safety (A/64/131, para. 73);

Marine biological diversity and genetic resources

- Protecting the biological diversity of the seabed (A/58/95, para. 131(r));
- Access to and protection of the genetic resources of the oceans (A/58/95, para. 132(j));
- Genetic resources (A/59/122, para. 97(b));

Flag State responsibilities

- Flag State responsibility and performance (A/58/95, para. 132(d));
- Duties of the flag State in relation to social matters, safety of human life at sea and other related issues: problems and possible actions for solution (A/59/122, para. 97(a));
- Responsibilities of flag States in all ocean affairs (A/65/164, para. 88);

Human rights and labour rights

- Human rights of seafarers (A/58/95, para. 132(h));
- Human and labour rights of those employed in the fishing and maritime sectors (A/60/99, para. 106(c));

Maritime security

- Enhancement of the prevention and prosecution of crimes at sea (A/58/95, para. 132(a));
- Transport of illegal weapons by sea (A/58/95, para. 132(i));
- Maritime security (A/61/156, para. 118 (b));
- Maritime security and flag State responsibility (A/61/156, para. 118 (c));
- Piracy and armed robbery (A/64/131, para. 73);

Maritime safety

- Safety of navigation and the production of nautical charts (A/64/131, para. 73);

Settlement of disputes

- Settlement of disputes: to encourage the use of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Court of Justice (A/58/95, para. 132(g));

Hazard preparedness/mitigation

- Coastal hazard preparedness (A/60/99, para. 106(h));

Social aspects of oceans and the law and the sea

- Social aspects of oceans and the law and the sea (A/61/156, para. 118 (a));

Climate change and oceans

- Climate change and oceans (A/61/156, para. 118 (d) and A/64/131, para. 73);
- Climate change as it relates to security and survival, particularly for low-lying coastal areas and lowlying island nations (A/64/131, para. 73);
- Climate change and ocean acidification, in particular the direct links between ocean acidification and shifts in concentrations of fish, negative impacts on coral reefs and to the transmission of ocean noise, as well as the harmful effects of ocean acidification on coral reef services (A/66/186, para. 100);
- Sea level rise and their impact on security and survival, particularly on the low-lying coastal areas and island nations, against the background of sustainable development (A/67/120, para. 72);
- Seaward implications of sea level rise as a result of climate change in the light of the possible effects of changing baselines for maritime activities and applicable legal regimes (A/74/119, para. 83);

Oceans and sustainable development

- Oceans and sustainable development: integration of all three sustainable development concerns, namely, environmental, social and economic aspects (A/63/174, para. 140 (a));

- Sustainable use of ocean resources (A/64/131, para. 73);
- The Rio+20 process (A/65/164, para. 88);

Other

- Threats to the oceans (A/65/164, para. 88).
- An examination of the threats, including cumulative impacts, to marine species from indirect human actions and an exploration of practical, ecosystem-based approaches to mitigate those threats. Such threats could include chemical and noise pollution, coastal development and other indirect human threats (A/69/90, para. 92);

B. List of the topics of focus selected by the General Assembly for the first to twenty-third meetings of the Informal Consultative Process

First meeting

- Responsible fisheries and illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries
- Economic and social impacts of marine pollution and degradation, especially in coastal areas

Second meeting

- Marine science and the development and transfer of marine technology as mutually agreed, including capacity-building
- Coordination and cooperation in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea

Third meeting

- Protection and preservation of the marine environment
- Capacity-building, regional cooperation and coordination, and integrated ocean management, as important cross-cutting issues to address ocean affairs, such as marine science and the transfer of technology, sustainable fisheries, the degradation of the marine environment and the safety of navigation

Fourth meeting

- Safety of navigation; for example, capacity-building for the production of nautical charts
- Protection of vulnerable marine ecosystems

Fifth meeting

- New sustainable uses of the oceans, including the conservation and management of the biological diversity of the seabed in areas beyond national jurisdiction

Sixth meeting

- Fisheries and their contribution to sustainable development
- Marine debris

Seventh meeting

- Ecosystem approaches and oceans

Eighth meeting

- Marine genetic resources

Ninth meeting

- Maritime security and safety

Tenth meeting

- Implementation of the outcomes of the Informal Consultative Process, including a review of its achievements and shortcomings in its first nine meetings

Eleventh meeting

- Capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science

Twelfth meeting

- Contributing to the assessment, in the context of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, of progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges

Thirteenth meeting

- Marine renewable energies

Fourteenth meeting

- The impacts of ocean acidification on the marine environment

Fifteenth meeting

- The role of seafood in global food security

Sixteenth meeting

- Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic

Seventeenth meeting

- Marine debris, plastics and microplastics

Eighteenth meeting

- The effects of climate change on oceans

Nineteenth meeting

- Anthropogenic underwater noise

Twentieth meeting

- Ocean Science and the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development

Twenty-first meeting

- Sea level rise and its impacts

Twenty-second meeting

- Ocean observing

Twenty-third meeting

- New maritime technologies: challenges and opportunities