

Informal consultations of States Parties to the United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks

Sixteenth round New York, 13 and 14 March 2023, Conference Room 2

Information for participants

Background

Following the entry into force of the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement on 11 December 2001, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/13 of 28 November 2001, the Secretary-General convened an Informal Meeting of the States Parties to the Agreement for the purposes and objectives of, inter alia, considering the regional, subregional and global implementation of the Agreement; making any appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly on the scope and content of the annual report of the Secretary-General relating to the Agreement; and preparing for the review conference to be convened by the Secretary-General pursuant to article 36 of the Agreement. From 2002 to 2022, fifteen rounds of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement were convened to address a variety of related topics.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/118, adopted on 15 December 2022, the sixteenth round of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement will be held, as an in-person meeting, at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 13 and 14 March 2023.

Pursuant to paragraph 63 of resolution 76/71, and reiterated in paragraph 69 of resolution 77/118, the sixteenth round of informal consultations of States parties to the Agreement will devote two days in the first half of 2023 to serve as a further preparatory meeting for the resumed Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement. The resumed Review Conference will be held in New York from 22 to 26 May 2023.

Side events

Requests to hold side events during the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement must be communicated in writing to the Secretariat no later than 1 February 2023. All requests should be addressed to the Secretary of the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement (doalos@un.org, with a copy to rachel.lucas@un.org) with an indication of the title, organizing institution(s) and preferred date for the event.

The subject of the message should specify the following: “ICSP-16 Side Event Request”. Side events are expected to be held both days, during lunch time. Owing to the limited number of time slots available, the Division may not be able to accommodate all requests for side events or preferred dates. It, therefore, reserves the right to suggest the organization of joint side events should competing requests be received for the same day. Should the number of requests exceed the number of available days, the Division may also exercise its discretion in selecting side events with a view to ensuring variety in the topics covered by the side events.

Assistance Fund under Part VII

The Assistance Fund under Part VII of the Agreement has been depleted since October 2016. Thus, absent further contribution to the Assistance Fund, the Secretariat will not be in a position to accept applications to defer the cost of travel for representatives of States Parties to the Agreement. In this regard, attention is drawn to paragraph 52 of resolution 76/71, in which the General Assembly “urge[d] States, intergovernmental organizations, international financial institutions, national institutions and non-governmental organizations, as well as natural and juridical persons, to make voluntary financial contributions to the Assistance Fund established under Part VII of the Agreement.”

Additional information on the Part VII Assistance Fund is available at:
http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fishstocktrustfund/fishstocktrustfund.htm

UN Grounds Passes

Intergovernmental organizations

Representatives from accredited intergovernmental organizations invited to attend the sixteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement should avail themselves of the procedures set out at <https://edelegate.un.int>. The names and contact details of representatives obtaining their ground passes through this procedure should also be communicated to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, by email (doalos@un.org with a copy to amerim@un.org) by 20 February 2023.

In cases where intergovernmental organizations cannot avail themselves of the above-mentioned procedure, such organizations are invited to register using the following form (<https://forms.office.com/e/PZnue3FYZP>). Requests for registration must be received by 20 February 2023. Please note that such participants must also send a formal letter signed by the head of their organization by email (doalos@un.org with a copy to amerim@un.org).

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea will communicate directly to

participants, approximately one week before the meeting, where and when to pick-up the United Nations grounds pass arranged by the Division. A government issued ID with photograph (e.g., passport) must be presented at the time of pickup.

The representatives of intergovernmental organizations having a Liaison Office in New York must get their pass from their respective Liaison Office.

Non-governmental organizations

Non-governmental organizations with consultative status with ECOSOC or on the roster of the Commission on Sustainable Development should avail themselves of the procedures set out at <http://csonet.org/?menu=86>. The names and contact details of the representatives obtaining their grounds passes through this procedure should also be communicated to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, by e-mail (doalos@un.org, with a copy to amerim@un.org) by 20 February 2023.

For other non-governmental organizations invited to attend the sixteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement, please register using the following form (<https://forms.office.com/e/PZnue3FYZP>). Requests for registration must be received by 20 February 2023. Please note that such participants must also send a formal letter signed by the head of their organization by email (doalos@un.org, with a copy to amerim@un.org).

The Division will communicate directly to the non-governmental organization representatives the venue, date and time for pick-up of their UN grounds pass. A government issued ID with photograph (e.g., passport) identifying the representative should be presented at the time of pick-up of the grounds pass.

Secretariat

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, carries out the secretariat functions for the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process.