



United  
Nations  
Environment  
Programme

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**THE REGULAR PROCESS FOR GLOBAL REPORTING  
AND ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF THE  
MARINE ENVIRONMENT**



Intergovernmental  
Oceanographic  
Commission  
of United Nations  
Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization

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Ref: ADG/IOC/jb/283

Date : 10 June 2008

Subject : **Renewed request for funding of the “Assessment of Assessments” (UNGA 60/30 Regular Process)**

Dear Friends of the Regular Process,

As we are approaching the half way mark in the implementation of the Assessment of Assessments (AoA), as the first step towards the establishment of the Regular Process for the Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment including Socio-economic Aspects (in accordance with UNGA resolution 60/30), we feel as Secretariat of the AoA, that it is timely to review our achievements and assess future challenges lying in front of us.

Since the launch of the AoA in March 2007, we have organized four Group of Experts meetings (3 formal Group of Experts sessions and one preparatory meeting) which have brought together the AoA designated experts, as well as other key partners such as GESAMP, IMO, FAO, WMO, and other relevant scientific observers.

The GoE has adopted the following structure for the AoA report:

Part 0: Introduction

Part I: Summary of Findings from the review of Regional Assessments and Supra-regional issues/Thematic Assessments

Part II: Evaluation of Assessments: Best Practices

Part III: The Way Forward: Framework and Options for the Regular Process

As part of their initial tasks, more than 160 global and regional marine assessment initiatives have been reviewed by the experts in detail. From this exhaustive work, a set of best practices and lessons learnt have been identified as being applicable to the establishment of the Regular Process itself. As of this month, we will have several sections of the AoA report in advance drafts as well as a detailed outline of the report ready to be reviewed by Member States. The final draft of the report should be ready in November 2008 when an extensive peer review process will take place. A dedicated web site ([www.unga-regular-process.org](http://www.unga-regular-process.org)) and a brochure have also been developed by the Secretariat to communicate broadly on the objectives of the AoA. Targeted presentations have also been made at various international ocean fora and were well received by the marine community (for e.g. 4<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, April 2008, Hanoi and the UN Ad Hoc Working Group on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, May 2008, New York).

These achievements could not have been made without the kind financial contributions of several Member States (Belgium/Govt of Flanders, Canada, Netherlands, Norway, Republic of Korea, Iceland, United States of America and United Kingdom) as well as the institutional support provided by IOC/UNESCO and UNEP.

As we will shortly report progress to the Ad Hoc Steering Group of the AoA (19-20 June 2008) and the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on the Law of the Sea (ICP-9) from 23-27 June 2008 in New York, expectations are high and as Secretariat and

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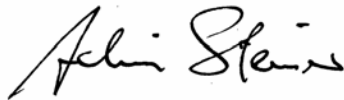
supporters of the Regular process, we need to make sure that adequate resources will be available for the Group of Expert to complete its mandate and for the AoA report to be produced in a timely and effective manner in June 2009, prior to its formal submission to the UN General Assembly.

It is anticipated that in the coming period 2008/2009, an equivalent of US\$ 755,0000 will be needed (in addition to the Secretariat In-kind resources) to finalise the activities of the AoA. These activities will include the organization of the 5<sup>th</sup> Group of Expert meeting and a final Ad Hoc Steering Group Meeting in 2009, two task force meetings to advance specific sections of the report, support for additional expertise (consultancies), the organization of the peer review process, the editing, design and printing of the AoA report as well as the printing and translation of the Summary for Decision Makers in the 6 UN languages, the preparation of a media package, and the organization of a launching event.

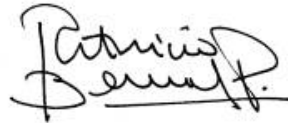
On behalf of the *Ad Hoc* Steering Group and Secretariat of the AoA, we would greatly appreciate if you could consider a voluntary financial contribution towards the completion of "Assessment of the Assessments" process.

Please note that IOC of UNESCO and UNEP do manage special accounts and are available to receive the financial contribution.

We would be happy to provide you with additional information at your request.



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