

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

Fifteenth round: "Implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management"

New York, 17 to 19 May 2022 Conference Room 3 (CB)

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 2019, fourteen rounds of informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement were convened to address a variety of related topics.

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 76/71, adopted on 9 December 2021, the fifteenth 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 from 17 to 19 May 2022.

In paragraph 61 of resolution 76/71, the General Assembly recalled the recommendation of the resumed Review Conference in 2016 that the informal consultations of States Parties to the Agreement be dedicated, on an annual basis, to the consideration of specific issues arising from the implementation of the Agreement, with a view to improving understanding, sharing experiences and identifying best practices for the consideration of States parties, as well as the General Assembly and the Review Conference.

Pursuant to paragraph 55 of resolution 72/72 of 5 December 2017, and reiterated in paragraph 62 of resolution 76/71, the fifteenth round of informal consultations will focus on the topic "Implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management". Pursuant to paragraph 63 of that resolution, the fifteenth round of informal consultations will devote two days to the consideration of the topic of focus and will serve for one day as a preparatory meeting for the resumed Review Conference on the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement.

Background material

In paragraph 66 of resolution 76/71, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite States parties to the Agreement, as well as States, and entities referred to in the Convention and in article 1, paragraph 2 (b), of the Agreement, not parties to the Agreement and others invited to participate in the consultations as observers pursuant to paragraph 62 of the resolution, to submit their views on the topic “Implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management”, together with a translation into English, to the Division, and requested the Division to post such views, unedited and in the languages in which they are received, on its website, in accordance with past practice. Contributions received pursuant to this request, as well as other information and documentation, are available on the DOALOS website at:

http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/fish_stocks_agreement_states_parties.htm.

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 preferably no later than 15 April 2022. All requests should be addressed to the Secretary of the Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement (doalos@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: “Request for side event: Informal Consultative Process”. Side events are expected to be held each day, during lunch time, from 1:15 pm to 2:45 pm. 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 intergovernmental organizations invited to attend the fifteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement should communicate their intention to attend the meeting directly to the Protocol and Liaison Service (unprotocol@un.org) by 22 April 2022, with a copy to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs (doalos@un.org), for issuance of grounds passes, which allow access to the United Nations premises. The procedure for such requests is outlined in the invitation letter to the meeting. The representatives of intergovernmental organizations having a Liaison Office in New York must get their pass from their respective Liaison Office.

Non-governmental organizations

For non-governmental organizations with consultative status with ECOSOC, please visit <http://csonet.org/?menu=86> for the issuance of grounds passes. For other non-governmental organizations invited to attend the fourteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement, the names and contact details of representatives should be communicated to the Division (doalos@un.org with a copy to amerim@un.org) by 21 April 2022 for issuance of grounds passes, to allow access to the United Nations premises. The Division will communicate directly to the non-governmental organization representatives the venue, date and time for pick-up of their UN grounds pass. An official document (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.