

**United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans  
and the Law of the Sea**

**Twenty-fourth meeting**

**" The Ocean as a source of sustainable food "**

**New York, 18 to 21 June 2024  
Conference Room 4**

**Information for participants**

***Background***

In 1999, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Informal Consultative Process) in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea by considering the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced (resolution 54/33).

In paragraph 357 of General Assembly resolution 78/69 of 5 December 2023, the General Assembly decided that, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, the Informal Consultative Process shall focus its discussions at its twenty-third meeting on the theme "The Ocean as a source of sustainable food".

The twenty-fourth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 21 June 2024.

***Co-Chairs***

The President of the seventy-eight session of the General Assembly re-appointed **H.E. Elina Kalkku**, Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations, and **H.E. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē**, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga, as Co-Chairs of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process.

***Format and annotated provisional agenda***

The format and annotated provisional agenda for the twenty-fourth meeting is available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs ([http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative\\_process/consultative\\_process.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm)).

***Report of the Secretary-General***

The report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea in all official languages. The Secretariat has also posted the full text of the contributions to the report received

on the website of the Division

([http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative\\_process/consultative\\_process.htm](http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/consultative_process.htm)).

### *Side events*

Requests to hold side events during the Informal Consultative Process must be communicated in writing to the Secretariat no later than **10 June 2024**. All requests should be made via email to the Secretary of the Informal Consultative Process ([doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org)) with an indication of the title, organizing institution(s) and preferred date for the event. An indication of whether you would intend to book audio-visual services in connection with the event should also be provided. The subject of the message should specify the following: “Request for side event: Informal Consultative Process”.

Subject to any restrictions on the organizing of side events at the United Nations premises at the time of the twenty-fourth meeting, one side event may 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.

### *Trust Fund*

Attention is drawn to the limited funds available in the Voluntary Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/7 for the purpose of assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, in attending the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. In this regard, the General Assembly, in paragraph 359 of resolution 78/69, expressed its continued serious concern regarding the lack of resources available in the above-mentioned Trust Fund and urged States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make additional contributions to the Trust Fund.

Pursuant to paragraph 360 of resolution 78/69, priority consideration in the disbursement of funds from the Voluntary Trust Fund will be given to panellists from developing countries who are invited by the Co-Chairs, in consultation with Governments, to make presentations during the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process. These panellists will also be eligible to receive daily subsistence allowance, subject to the availability of funds after the travel costs of all other eligible representatives have been covered. In this regard, consistent with resolution 55/7, preference will be given to processing applications received from least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States.

Information on applications for assistance from the Voluntary Trust Fund, including required forms, can be found on the website of the Division (<https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/icp>). Completed applications (including all necessary and valid visas) must be transmitted to the Division through the nominating State’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York no later than **5 May 2024**.

### *UN Grounds Passes*

*Member States, States members of the specialized agencies, and parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*

Name(s) of representative(s) who will attend the meeting should be communicated to the Division ([doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org), with a copy to [charmaine.asinuli@un.org](mailto:charmaine.asinuli@un.org)) as soon as possible and no later than **10 June 2024**.

Requests to obtain grounds passes for non-New York based representatives to access the United Nations premises should be submitted via the online eRegistration system at <https://edelegate.un.int>. Information regarding the eRegistration system can be found at <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/protocol/meetings>. Requests via the eRegistration system must be received no later than **10 June 2024**.

*Entities that have received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the work of the General Assembly pursuant to its relevant resolutions, and intergovernmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs*

Eligible intergovernmental organizations and entities which have an office in New York or have already enrolled in the online eRegistration system may submit their requests via the eRegistration system at <https://edelegate.un.int>. Information regarding the eRegistration system can be found at <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/protocol/meetings>. Requests via the eRegistration system must be received no later than **10 June 2024**.

Those eligible intergovernmental organizations and entities which do not have an office in New York or have not enrolled in the eRegistration system should follow the registration procedure below to obtain a UN grounds pass:

- i. Submit a letter to the Protocol and Liaison Service (see details below), stamped and signed by the head of the organization, with the names and functional titles of the delegation attending the meeting. In addition, the letter must include a name and an email address of the focal point handling the request(s).

Ms. Beatrix Kania  
Chief of Protocol  
Protocol and Liaison Service  
Att. Ms. Wai Tak Chua

- ii. Complete an SG.6 form for each member of the delegation (the SG.6 form can be found at <https://www.un.org/dgacm/en/content/protocol/meetings>).
- iii. Send both the letter and the SG.6 form to the Protocol and Liaison Service by email to [unprotocol@un.org](mailto:unprotocol@un.org), copied to [chuaw@un.org](mailto:chuaw@un.org).
- iv. Send a copy of the letter to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (Att. Mr. Dmitry Gonchar, email: [gonchar@un.org](mailto:gonchar@un.org) , copied to [doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org)).
- v. Requests following the procedure as outlined in this paragraph must be received by **10 June 2024**. The Secretariat will not be in a position to process late registrations.
- vi. The focal point will be notified of the registration approval(s) via email. A hard copy of that email must be presented by the participant together with a valid

passport or government photo ID to the United Nations Pass and Identification Unit (located on the ground floor of the FF Building, at 320 E. 45th Street) for the issuance of a UN grounds pass.

Representatives of relevant United Nations system organs, organizations, funds and programmes without a valid UN grounds pass issued in New York may also gain access to the UN premises by presenting a valid UN Laissez-Passer at the visitor entrance at 46<sup>th</sup> Street or staff entrance at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street.

*Non-governmental organizations with competence in ocean affairs and the law of the sea that represent major groups as defined in Agenda 21*

To the extent possible, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council 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, by e-mail ([doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org), copied to [charmaine.asinuli@un.org](mailto:charmaine.asinuli@un.org)) by **10 June 2024**.

In cases where the non-governmental organizations cannot avail themselves of the above-mentioned procedure, the names and contact details of the representatives of said non-governmental organizations attending the meeting should be communicated to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea ([doalos@un.org](mailto:doalos@un.org), copied to [charmaine.asinuli@un.org](mailto:charmaine.asinuli@un.org)), no later than **10 June 2024**, by a formal communication from the Head of the non-governmental organization requesting issuance of grounds passes in order to have access to the United Nations premises for the duration of the meeting. Such communications should include the contact details of the representatives for whom passes are required. The Division will communicate directly to the non-governmental organization representatives where and when to pick up 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.