



Office of Legal Affairs
Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea

“The work of DOALOS with a focus on fellowship programmes opportunities and the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects”

**Presentation to the European Marine Board
Early Career Ocean Professionals (ECOPs)**

Wednesday, 4 February 2026, 2:00-3:00 PM CET, online

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Vanessa Arellano Rodriguez, Legal Officer, DOALOS/OLA

Outline

- Fellowship programmes opportunities at DOALOS
- The Regular Process
- Q&A

Functions of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS)



Secretary-General



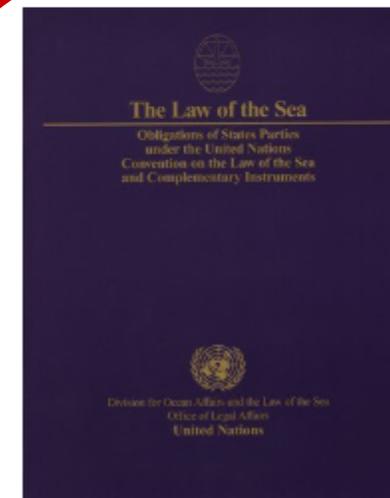
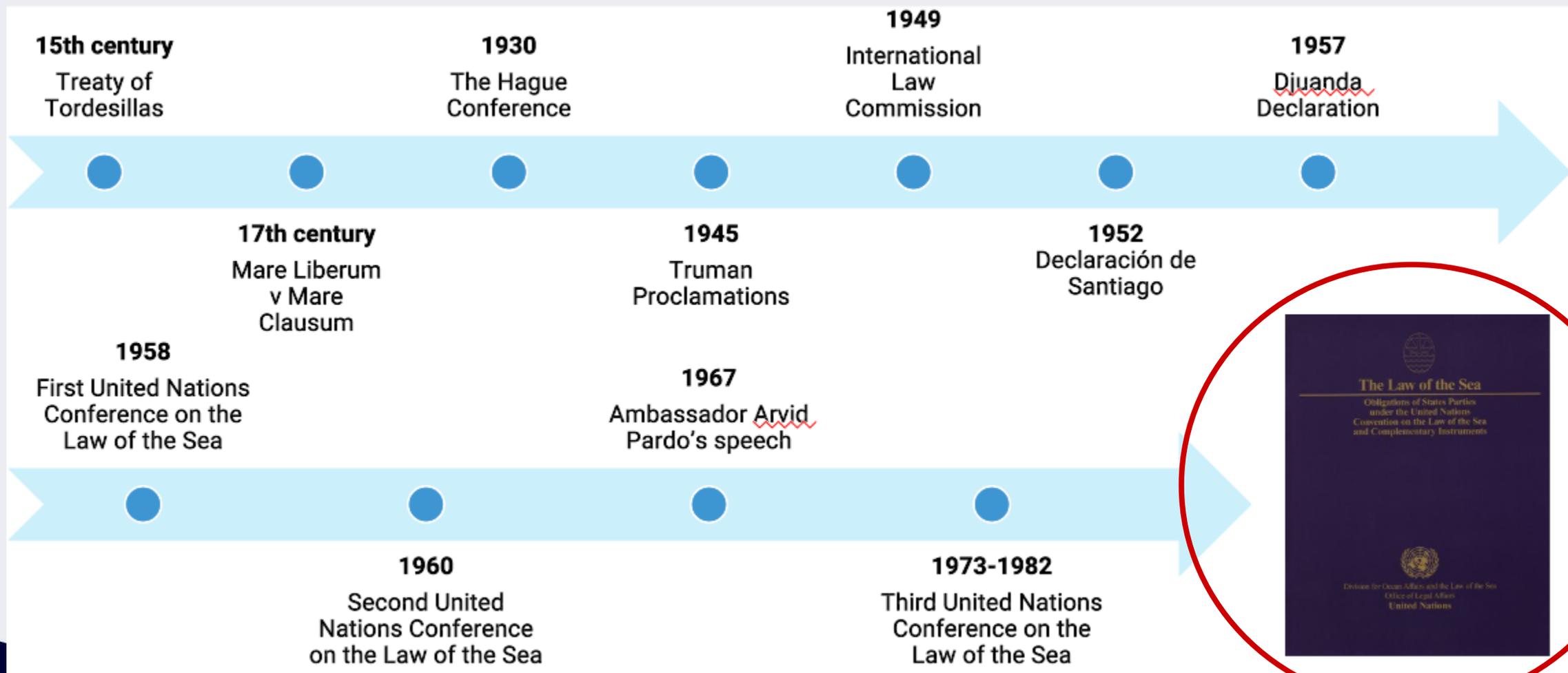
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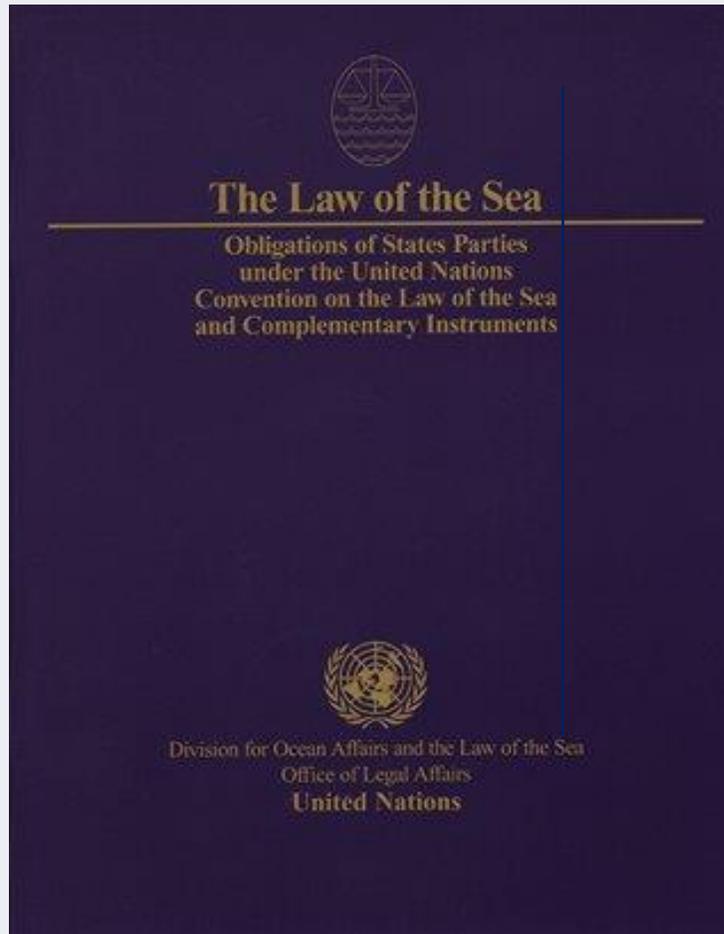
DOALOS



- Secretariat to UNCLOS (MSP), UNFSA and CLCS
- Interim Secretariat of the BBNJ Agreement
- Secretarial support to General Assembly processes (ICP, Regular Process, BBNJ IGC, resolutions)
- Substantive support to the UN Ocean Conferences
- Capacity building - Fellowships and trainings
- Trust funds (e.g., CLCS, ITLOS, HSA Fellowship)
- Outreach and publications
- United Nations World Oceans Day
- UN-Oceans Focal Point



Main features



- Opened for signature: 10 December 1982
- Entered into force: 16 November 1994
- Parties: 171
- 320 articles (XVII parts)
- 9 annexes

- ✓ Comprehensive
- ✓ Integrated
- ✓ Enforceable
- ✓ Universal
- ✓ Framework
- ✓ Package deal

Implementing agreements

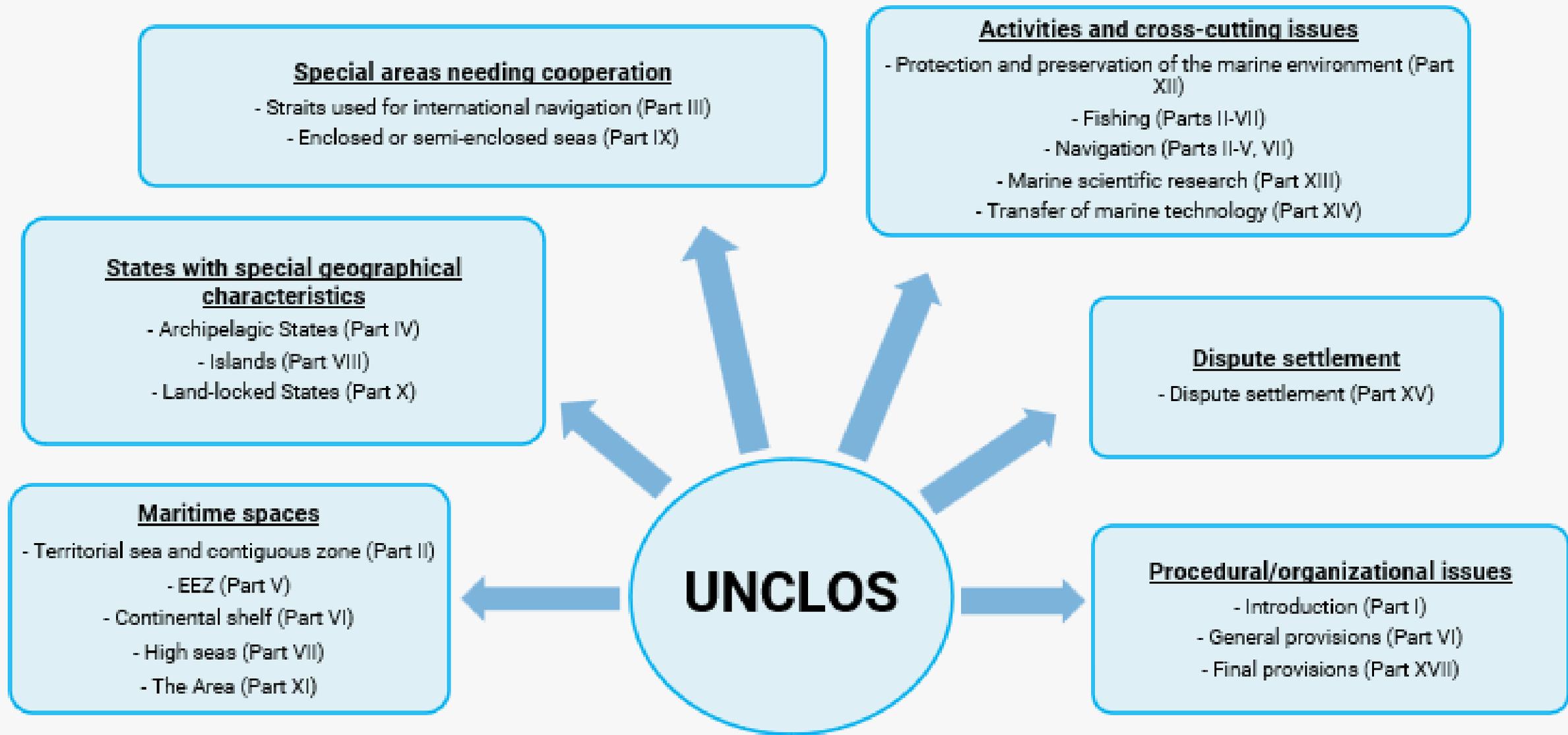


- Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982
- United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (**Fish Stock Agreement**)
- Agreement under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (**BBNJ Agreement**)

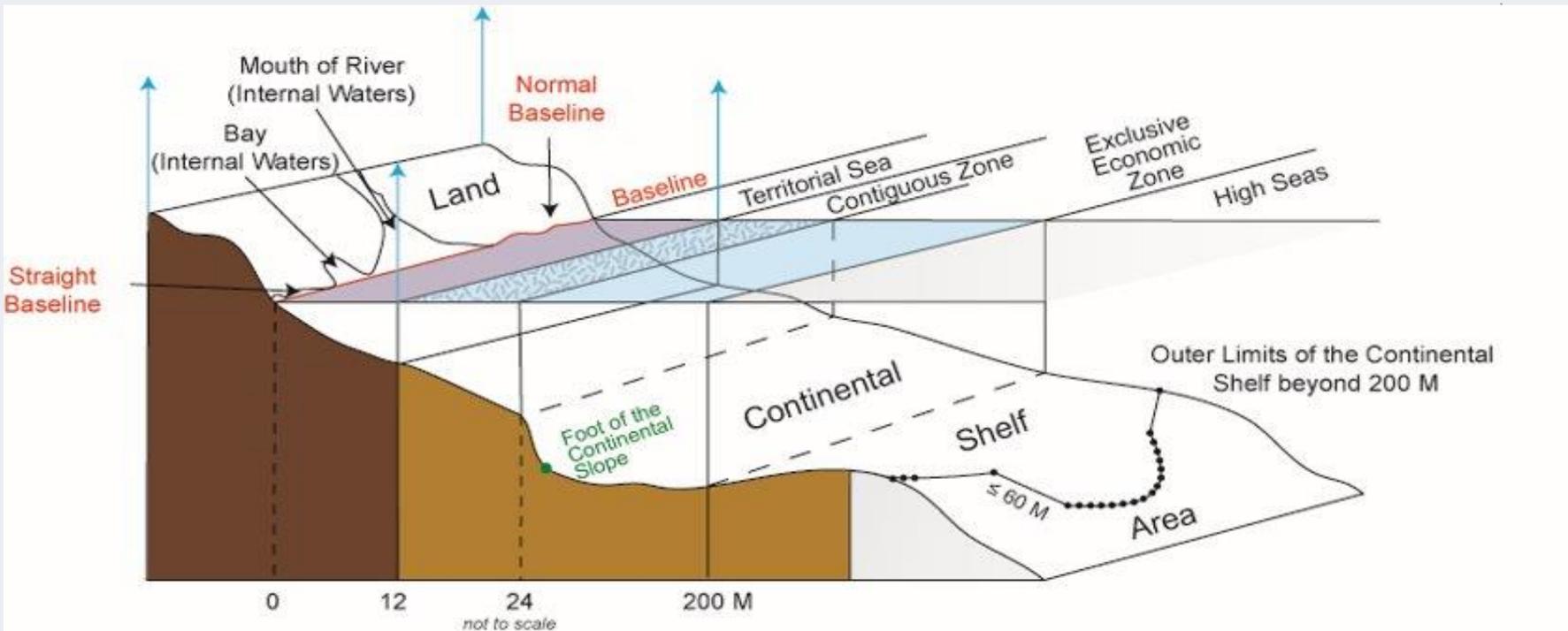
Bodies established under UNCLOS



- International Seabed Authority (ISA)
- International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS)
- Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS)



Maritime zones under UNCLOS



- Areas within national jurisdiction
- Areas beyond national jurisdiction

Relevance of UNCLOS for ECOPs



- UNCLOS shapes the "operating space" - where you can work under what rules.
- UNCLOS regulates marine scientific research – research permits, data - sharing obligations.
- UNCLOS underpins conservation and sustainable use - legal frameworks (e.g., fisheries management, protection and preservation of the marine environment).
- UNCLOS underpins emerging and complex ocean issues.
- UNCLOS encourages and necessitates interdisciplinary approaches.

Fellowships and trainings



United Nations – Nippon Foundation (UNNF) Programmes

- UNNF Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea Fellowship
- UNNF Strategic Needs Fellowship
- UNNF Ocean Governance Fellowship for SIDS
- UNNF Alumni Programme

<https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/UNNF>

Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship

<https://www.un.org/oceancapacity/HSA>



United Nations-Nippon Foundation Capacity-Building Programmes



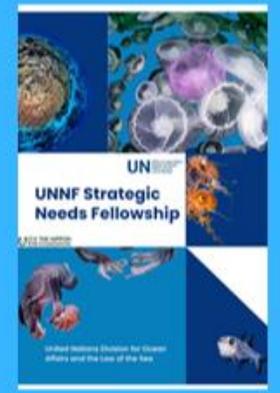
UNNF Fellowship 🔍



-  **Duration:** 9 months (3 months of training followed by a 6-month research stay)
-  **Location:** Phase One: DOALOS, UNHQ, New York
Phase Two: Host Institution
-  **Fellows:** Mid-level professionals from developing States (25-45 years old)
-  **March - December**

Strategic Needs Fellowship 🔍

-  **Duration:** 4 months
-  **Location:** DOALOS, UNHQ, New York
-  **Fellows:** Government officials from developing States (25-45 years old)
-  **September - December**



SIDS Fellowship 🔍



-  **Duration:** 3 months
-  **Location:** DOALOS, UNHQ, New York
-  **Fellows:** Government officials from SIDS (25-45 years old)
-  **September-December**



WORLD OCEAN
ASSESSMENT



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Overview of the Regular Process

for Global Reporting and Assessment of the Marine Environment,
including Socioeconomic Aspects

Fourth cycle (2026 – 2030)

Evolution of the Regular Process



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2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development: Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

Preparatory & startup phases:

- Proposals for modalities in SG report (A/58/423)
- The “Assessment of Assessments” (A/64/68)

Second cycle (2016-2020):

- Technical Abstracts on WOA I
- Second World Ocean Assessment (WOA II)

Fourth cycle (2026-2030):

- Fourth World Ocean Assessment (WOA IV)
- WOA digital platform
- Capacity-building programme
- Thematic summaries on WOA IV



UN resolution 57/141 establishes the Regular Process in 2004

First cycle (2010-2014):

- First World Ocean Assessment (WOA I)

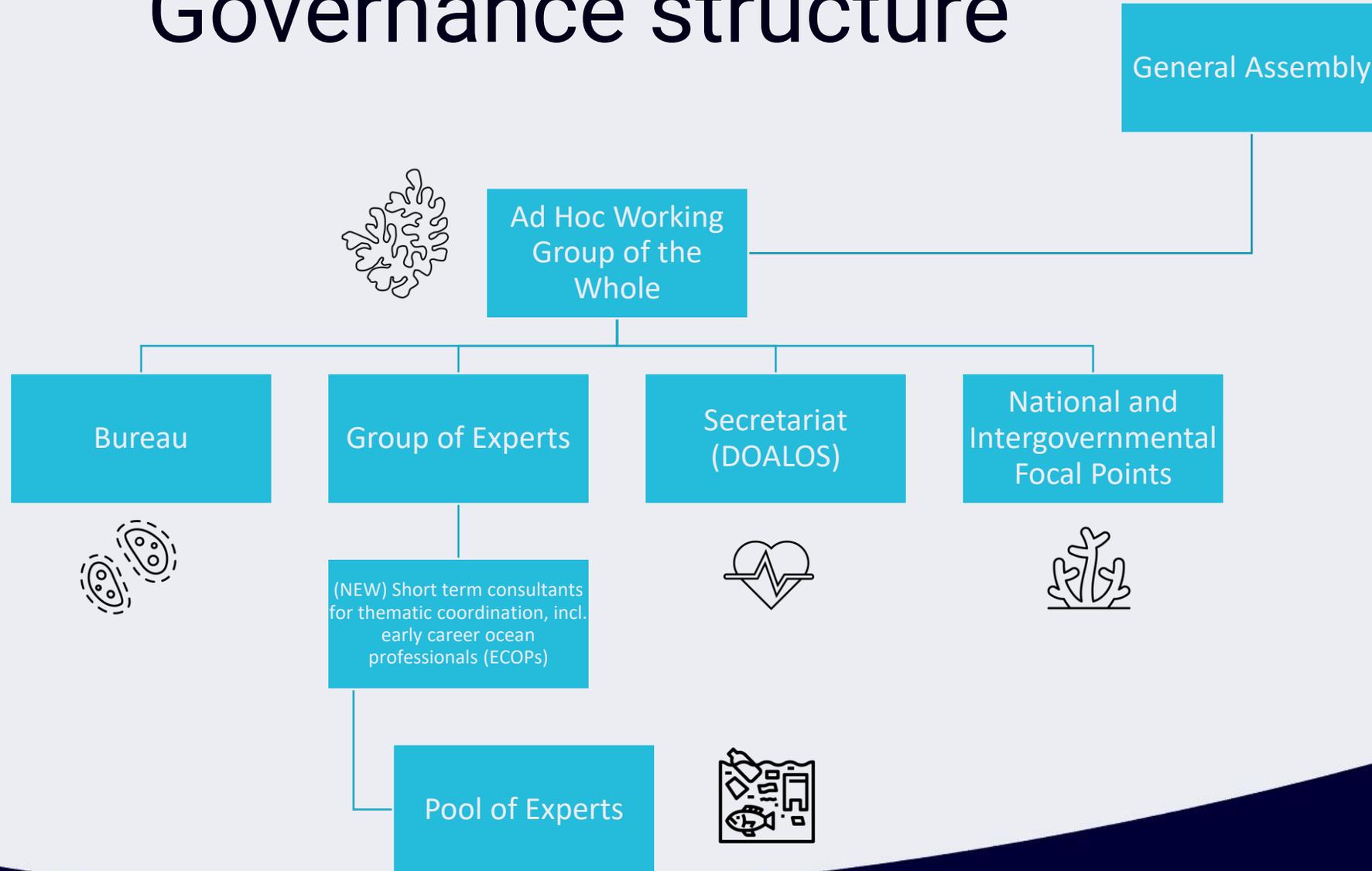
Third cycle (2021-2025):

- Thematic summaries on WOA II
- Capacity-building programme
- Third World Ocean Assessment (WOA III)
- Thematic summaries on WOA III

Governance structure



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Group of Experts of the 4th cycle (2026-2030)



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Group of Experts

African States



Kwasi Appeaning Addo
Ghana



Amel Hamza-Chaffai
Tunisia



Felicia Chinwe Mogo
Nigeria



Vacant



Vacant

Asia Pacific States



Chang-ik Zhang
Republic of Korea



Karenne Tun
Singapore



Juying Wang
China



Kazumi Wakita
Japan



Annette Juinio-Menez
Philippines

Joint Coordinators



Forthcoming



Forthcoming

Eastern European States



Vasily Smolyanitsky
Russia



Jonne Kotta
Estonia



Tymon Zielinski
Poland



Vacant



Vacant

Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC)



Donovan Campbell
Jamaica



Wisnique Panier
Haiti



Roberto de Pinho
Brazil



Nelson Andrés Pazmiño Manrique
Ecuador



Mercedes Santos
Argentina

Western European and Other States (WEOG)



Maria João Bebianno
Portugal



Rafael González-Quirós
Spain



Karina Von Schuckmann
Germany



Ian Butler
Australia



Nadia Pinardi
Italy

Third World Ocean Assessment (WOA III)

Section 1. An overall summary

- Considers progress against SDG 14
- Identifies contributions to other global processes (e.g. IPCC, IPBES, GEO)
- Identifies knowledge for informing other relevant international processes

Section 2. Approach to WOA III

- Details the approach used to update the chapters contained in WOA II
- Includes definitions of component parts and justification (e.g., small-scale, medium-scale, large-scale fishing)
- Details the methods associated with developing and applying input via the regional workshops held in 2022 and 2023
- Details the steps associated with defining the section on sustainability pathways, including the synthesised scenario

Section 3. An overview of global ocean governance

- Provides a summary of the overall change in conventions, associated resolutions, international agreements and regional treaties in place regulating various aspects of the ocean

Section 4. An update on the change since WOA II

- Provides the detail of the changes that have occurred in the ocean over the period of 2018-2024
- Directly relates to specific chapters in WOA II

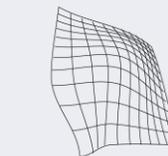
Section 5A. A sustainable and inclusive ocean economy

- Includes chapters that focus on human activities in the ocean, with each chapter specifically including content relating to: Pressures; Social and economic components; Sector-relevant governance; and Options for supporting sustainability pathways

Section 5B. One health

- Encompasses three main components:
 - The physical and chemical marine environment
 - The organisms that live in the marine environment
 - People

WOA Digital Platform



Two Thematic summaries of WOA III on:

- *Marine Biodiversity*
- *Climate Change*

Fourth cycle (2026-2030) outputs



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WOA IV



- Regional workshops on the scoping of WOA IV
- Coordinating author meetings
- Writing team workshops

Outreach incl. WOA digital platform



- Further enhancement of the WOA digital platform, incl. database of the Pool of Experts
- Outreach and engagement strategy

Completely new component compared to the third cycle

Intergovernmental processes



- Thematic summaries on WOA IV
- Inter-agency meetings

Capacity-building

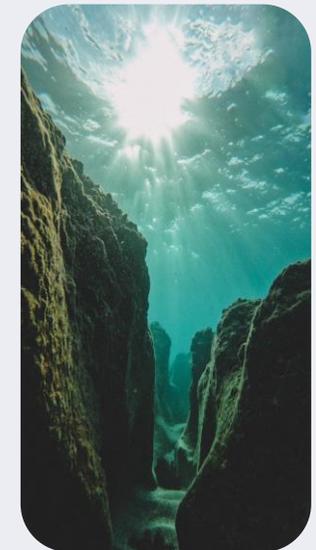
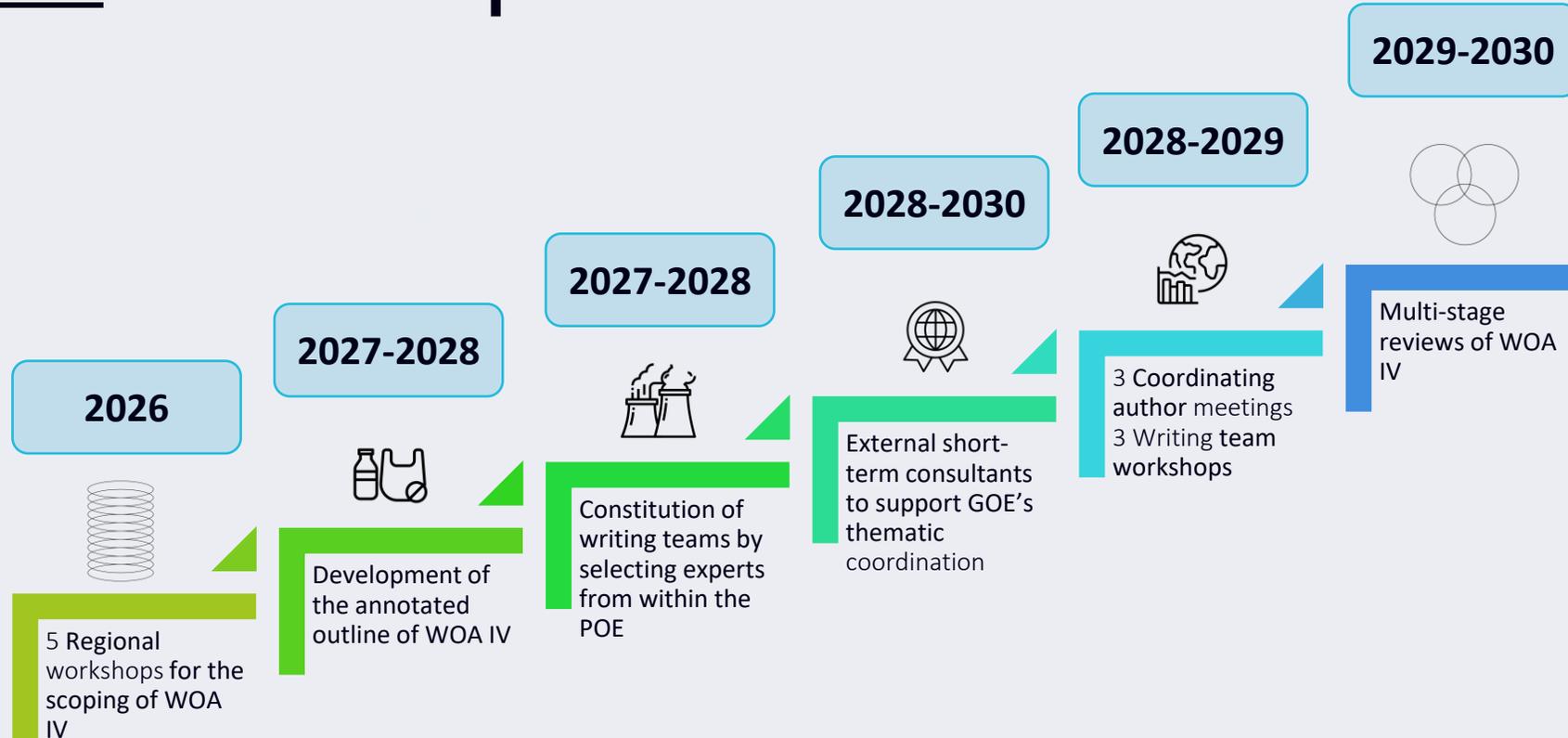


- Regional workshops on capacity-building
- International symposium

Output 1: Development of WOA IV



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The WOAs aim to be the key instrument to build environmental, economic and social resilience by informing decision-makers of the challenges and opportunities for achieving a healthy ocean environment that supports sustainable development.

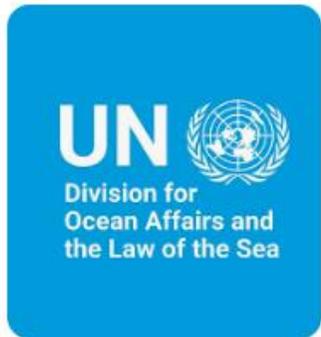
The WOAs provide the best available, scientifically informed review of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, on a continual and systematic basis, through the development of regular targeted outputs that respond to policy needs, and by building capacity to support decision making at all levels.

Output 2: Outreach and engagement



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Social Media Channels



YouTube
UN DOALOS - YouTube



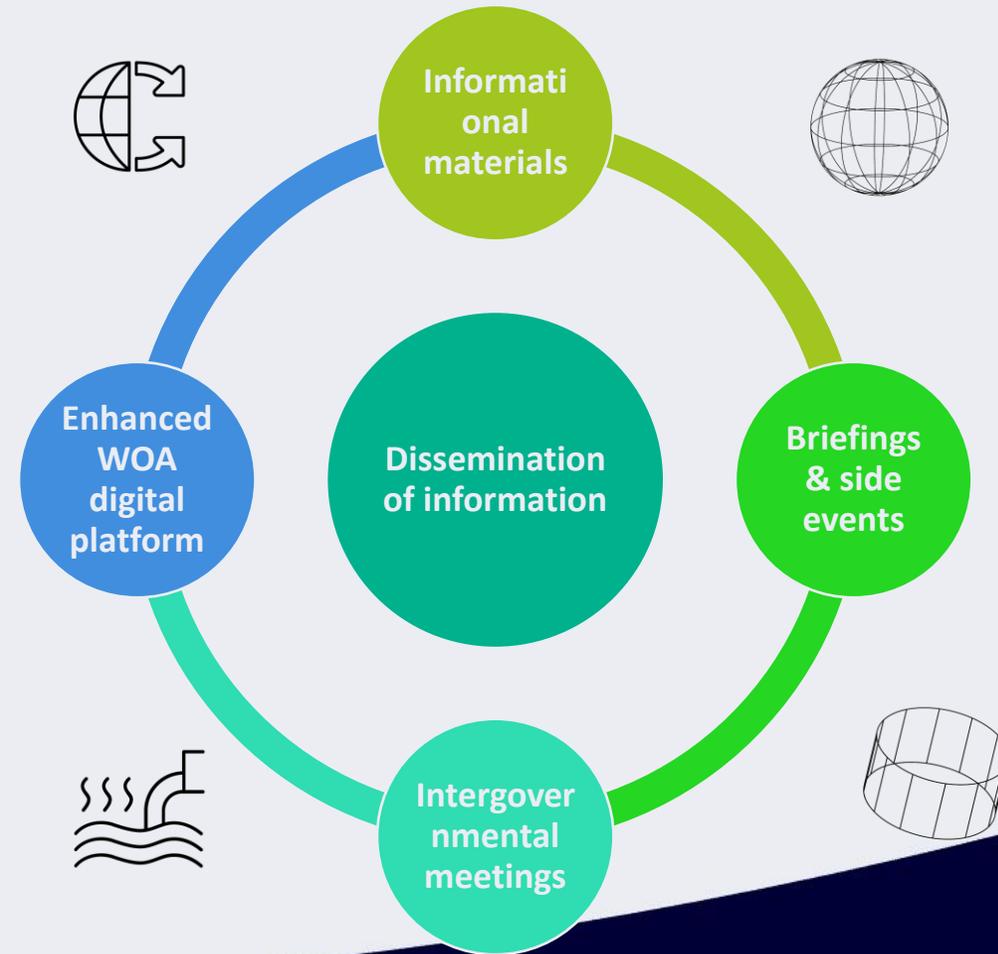
LinkedIn
Ocean Assessment ...



Instagram
The Pool of Experts fo...



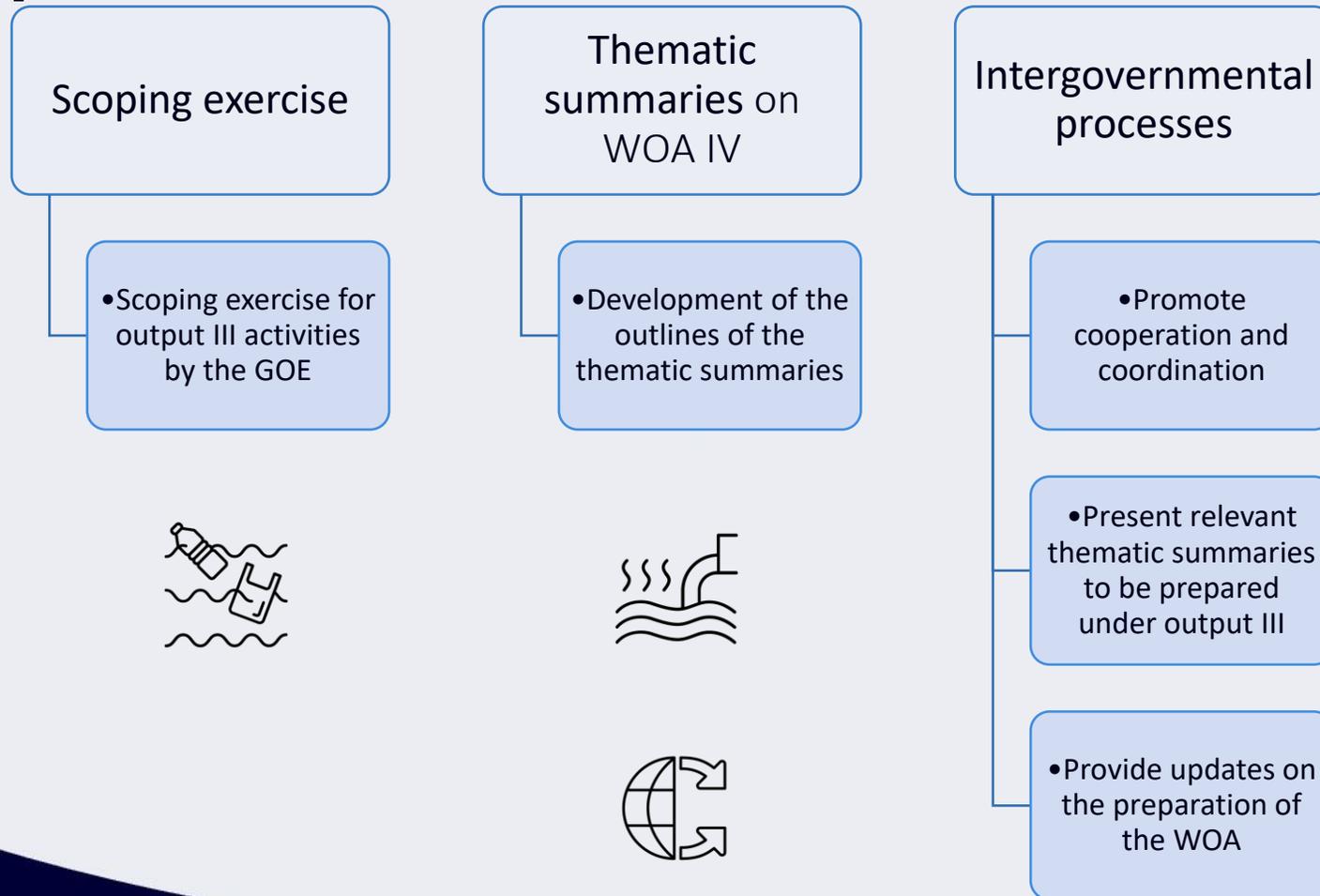
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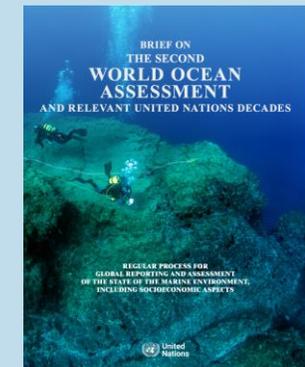
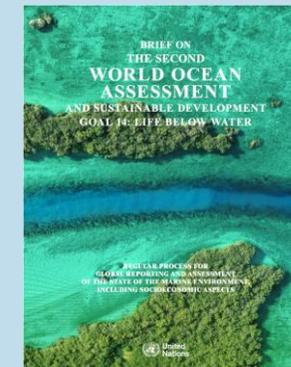
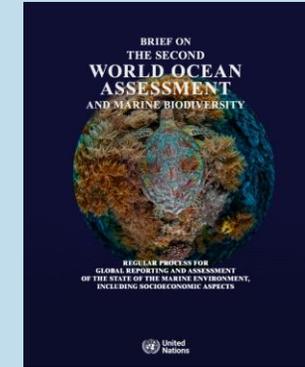
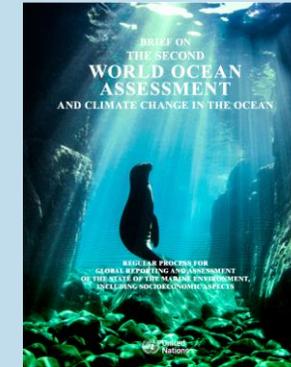
Output 3: Engagement with other processes



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Brief documents of WOA II



Examples from the previous cycle

Output 4: Capacity-building



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Capacity-building workshops

- Regional workshops with a component on capacity-building in 2026
- Writing Teams workshops with a focus on capacity-building in 2028



Pre-workshop e-learning activity

- To be conducted in partnership with the World Bank Ocean Governance Course
- Aims to support discussions on the science-policy module during the workshop



International symposium

- Launch the preparation process for the fourth WOA
- Discuss the scoping and priorities for the WOA IV, and the outcomes from the regional workshops held in 2026



Next steps and how to engage



Participate

- Host or support regional workshops and Coordinating Authors/Writing Teams' meetings*
- Nominate or recommend an expert to join the Pool of Experts (POE)**
- Join the peer reviews process, meetings, side events, and discussions***
- Nominate national and intergovernmental focal points****



Open call for nominations

- The call to nominate experts to the POE remains open as an ongoing process
- Help shape the next assessment with your expertise
- More info: un.org/regularprocess



Spread the word

- Raise awareness about the Regular Process and its outputs
- Join media campaigns on digital and social platforms
- @UNDOALOS | #ShareTheKnowledge

Notes:

* States are welcomed to host workshops/meetings and Intergovernmental Organizations can co-host or support. ***NOTE:** A Host Country Agreement between the Host Country and the UN will have to be concluded.

**States can nominate their own nationals. A State (other than the State of nationality of the expert) and Intergovernmental Organisations can recommend experts.

*** States and Intergovernmental Organisations can, inter alia, participate in the peer-review process for the assessment to be produced during the cycle.

**** States and Intergovernmental Organisations that have not yet nominated a focal point are encouraged to do so.

Questions?

Thank You



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