



EU International Ocean Governance Forum



OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES

INTERNATIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE FORUM (IOG-FORUM)

Bringing international ocean governance upfront to the policy agenda

To respond to the many challenges faced by the ocean, marine ecosystems and marine resources including in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy adopted in 2016 the Joint Communication on **International Ocean Governance: an agenda for the future of our oceans¹**, also known as the IOG Agenda. The agenda sets priorities for improving the international framework governing oceans to ensure the ocean is healthy, productive, safe, secure and resilient through a coherent cross-sectoral and rules-based approach.

The International Ocean Governance Forum (IOG Forum): what - and what for?

A stakeholder platform to support the follow-up and further development of the EU's International Ocean Governance agenda for the future of our oceans.

Mobilising IOG stakeholders worldwide – including EU Member States and partners, international organisations, the private sector, civil society and science – to share and discuss challenges, practical experiences, solutions and pre-conditions for success for:

- ▶ Improving the international ocean governance framework
- ▶ Strengthening international ocean research, data and knowledge
- ▶ Reducing pressure on oceans and seas creating the conditions for a sustainable 'blue' economy

How will the IOG Forum operate?

Different arrangements and mechanisms will support stakeholder mobilisation and activities of the IOG Forum, including: (1) **interactive annual stakeholders conferences** for sharing and consolidating views on the IOG status quo and solutions; (2) **thematic working group discussions, webinars and workshops**, specific to the IOG Forum or organised within the framework of other international initiatives, focusing on thematic challenges, practical experiences, solutions and pre-conditions for success; (3) open **online questionnaires and consultation** for collating input and feedback more widely to consolidate priority issues identified and actions proposed under the road map.

The IOG Forum will enhance visibility through **dedicated communication** (including social media) that will accompany its activities and process.

The European Commission in association with the European External Action Service will host the IOG Forum with support from a consortium led by Fresh Thoughts, with ACTeon, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies - IASS, TMG – Think Tank for Sustainability and the European Marine Board (EMB) as partners.

What is the role of the Thematic Working Groups in the IOG-Forum?

The IOG Forum shall consist of two parts: a) a wider stakeholder conference and b) three theme-based expert working groups. The three groups are:

- ▶ Thematic Working Group 1: Improving the international ocean governance framework
- ▶ Thematic Working Group 2: Reducing pressure on the ocean and seas and creating the conditions for a sustainable blue economy
- ▶ Thematic Working Group 3: Strengthening international ocean research, data and knowledge

These thematic working groups will bring together experts from various backgrounds. Members of the working groups will participate in dedicated theme sessions with the objective to address questions formulated in discussion papers on a particular topic of interest for the development of future action recommendations. In their activities, these working groups should consider all relevant aspects for advancing international ocean governance, including regulatory and financial aspects and the EU's role in international ocean governance.

How have members of the Thematic Working Groups (TWG) been selected?

TWG members are selected based on their expression of interest or personal invitation while ensuring a representative balance of continents/regional seas, professions/sectors, types of organisations (private, public, civil society, research) and thematic/disciplinary areas of interest.

Work of the members is on a voluntary base.

What activities should TWG members support?

WG members will have the opportunity to:

- ▶ actively participate in WG meetings (up to three face-to-face meetings are planned in Brussels over the course of the IOG Forum between 2020 and 2021);
- ▶ actively participate in web-conferences/webinars organised to discuss specific issues;
- ▶ act as an acknowledged reviewer of selected outcomes (e.g. reports, policy briefs) when available and provide both scientific and strategic insight to project outcomes prior to publication;
- ▶ boost the IOG Forum's visibility through your professional networks via email, social media and/or when attending events;
- ▶ encourage the collaboration of the IOG-Forum with other relevant initiatives.

1 https://ec.europa.eu/maritimeaffairs/sites/maritimeaffairs/files/join-2016-49_en.pdf



How the TWG will be managed?

Each TWG will be facilitated by co-chairs. The co-chairs will liaise between the IOG Forum and the TWG, but also with the other TWGs. They will be supported in terms of secretariat, facilitation and input by the consortium with a lead and additional experts with complementary disciplinary expertise (e.g. technical, legal, socio-economics, governance) relevant to the topic.

Invitations to meetings and related background documents will be sent out at least two weeks in advance to each meeting.

Rules for each of the TWG

For each WG the following rules apply, when working together:

- ▶ During the meetings “Chatham house rules” apply.
- ▶ The participants treat each other with respect and appreciation.
- ▶ The parties involved make effort to present their points of view in a manner that is generally understandable and justified.

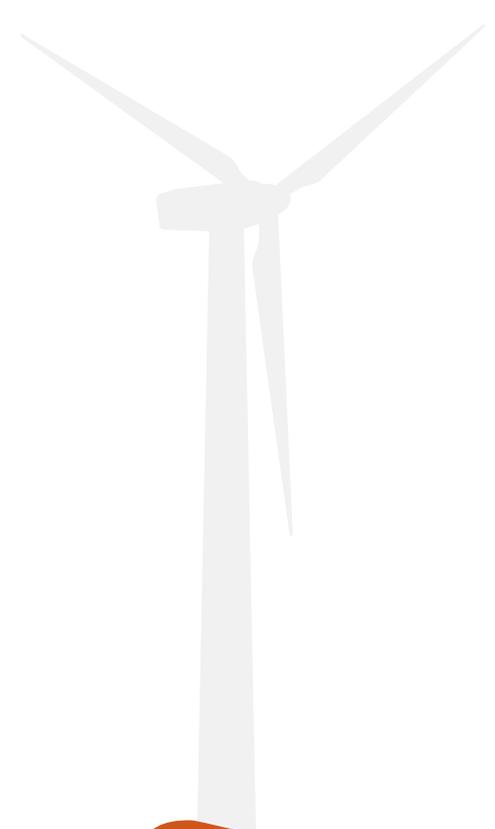
- ▶ They are willing to listen to opposing opinions, to take their motives and arguments seriously.
- ▶ Decisions in the form of votes are not planned.
- ▶ Similarities and majorities are documented as well as key unresolved or contentious questions and different opinions.

What is the status of the documents and products from each TWG?

All documents developed are considered as IOG Forum products and collective products. All documents will have the following disclaimer:

This note/report has been developed by the WG [name] in the context of the IOG-Forum. They do represent the technical views of the WG Members and not necessarily the opinion of the institutions that the members are working for.

All documents will be published on the IOG forum website : <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/maritimeforum/en/frontpage/1469> ■



 #EUOcean #IOGforum

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