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**Xth meeting of UN-Oceans**

Yeosu, Republic of Korea, 11 August 2012

MVL Hotel

8:30 am – 5:00 pm

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**REPORT**

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**1. OPENING/REVIEW OF AGENDA (UNDP)**

The 10th meeting of UN-Oceans took place in Yeosu, Korea from 9 am – 5 pm on 11 August 2012, during the closing days of the Yeosu Oceans Expo. The UN-Oceans Coordinator, Mr. Andrew Hudson, opened the meeting, welcomed the participants and dealt with some housekeeping issues. The participants adopted the agenda (as revised).

**2. SELECTION OF RAPPORTEUR**

Jacqueline Alder, UNEP and Deputy Coordinator, was elected as rapporteur by acclamation.

**3. 2012 WORLD OCEANS EXPO YEOSU - RESULTS (IOC/ DOALOS)**

DOALOS informed participants about some of the activities it was organizing or co-sponsoring during the Yeosu World Expo. In particular, an international conference “Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the Opening for Signature of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea” would take place on 12 August 2012 as co-sponsored by the United Nations (Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea and the Korea Maritime Institute, in cooperation with the Organizing Committee for the Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea. DOALOS also announced that the UN Secretary-General would launch his Compact on Oceans –“Healthy oceans for prosperity” at the Conference.

The IOC has actively participated through exhibits, symposia and meetings with Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea, the theme of which was "The Living Ocean and Coast: Diversity of Resources and Sustainable Activities". IOC hosted several international meetings at the Expo: 2nd ICES-PICES-IOC International Symposium of the "Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans" (15-19 May 2012); Fourth Session of the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (23-31 May 2012). In addition several exhibits featuring IOC projects were displayed at the Ocean and Coasts Best Practices Pavilion and at the UN Pavilion. During the closing ceremony of the Yeosu Expo, the Yeosu Ocean Declaration will be accepted at a Ministerial meeting, which will include the Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, Director

General of UNESCO, Irina Bokova, and the IOC Executive Secretary and UNESCO ADG, Dr. Wendy Watson-Wright. IOC has also contributed with some texts for the UNESCO Youth Forum.

#### **4. REPORTS ON NEW/EMERGING AGENCY PROGRAMMES RELEVANT TO UN- OCEANS (all)**

##### **4.1 UNEP**

- The UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA) will continue to draw attention to the impact of land-based activities on the marine environment through campaigns targeting marine litter, solid waste, sewage and diffuse sources of pollution, such as nutrients and pesticides. Through the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), facilitated by UNEP/GPA, attention will be drawn to the cumulative impacts of nutrient over-enrichment and pesticide contamination, and how these pollutants can be addressed at farm and river-basin scales.
- In the area of marine litter, the GPA will be promoting close cooperation among all relevant players at the international level, through the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, launched at the Rio+20 Summit in June 2012.
- The UNEP/GPA wastewater programme works on the premise that water supply and wastewater treatment are closely linked. The wastewater programme promotes specific action at the local and national levels aimed at dealing with sewage through the use of alternative solutions, including low-cost technologies, appropriate financial mechanisms and partnerships. The overall implementation approach of UNEP/GPA wastewater programme is through partnership with key stakeholders: scientists, policy makers, private sector, UN agencies, NGOs and international organisations dealing with water and sanitation issues.
- The three partnerships would be responsible for helping to collate scientific knowledge to be used in taking policy decisions and to mobilize technical support for partners in their endeavours to tackle the issues involved. The regional activities will be carried out with a particular focus on demonstrating synergies between relevant MEAs and other international agreements and the regional seas Conventions and Action Plans, using the GPA as a platform for dialogues and to foster partnership for action. At the international level, activities will aim at making the necessary linkages with UN Oceans and UN Water to continue raising awareness, and facilitate outreach and communications to promote environmental actions and innovations in relation to sound management of marine litter, nutrients and wastewater and achieve global targets related to the sustainable development of oceans, coasts, islands and their associated watersheds.
- UNEP is leading a strategic partnership on the Green Economy in a Blue World (oceans), that comprises of UNEP, UNDP, UNDESA, IMO, FAO, IUCN, World Fish Centre, GRID-Arendal. The partnership will be designing the next phase of implementation at the national/regional level through capacity building workshops in different regions – “Green Economy in a Blue World Capacity Building Initiative”.

- UNEP and GRID/Arendal are leading the development of a TEEB for Oceans. Through a partnership approach, the TEEB for Oceans is based on the following principles: (1) Human well-being is dependent on achieving a balance between the ecological, economic and social capital; (2) Nature is its own best manager – an ecosystem-based economy is about managing human activity and impact and not about managing nature; (3) Incorporating human motivation, behaviour and cultural differences in valuation and measures.

## **4.2 OLA/DOALOS**

In addition to the information provided in writing to the UN-Oceans 10<sup>th</sup> meeting on DOALOS activities, including on the servicing of processes established under the General Assembly such as, on issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, the Regular Process and the Informal Consultative Process, DOALOS highlighted three main events which had been the focus of its work since the last reporting period. All revolved mostly around the commemoration of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCLOS.

### **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

In its resolution 66/231 of 24 December 2011, the General Assembly devoted section XVII to the commemoration of the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention. In particular, it requested the Secretary-General to organize, as appropriate, activities to mark this occasion, and invited States, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and other relevant bodies, in accordance with the practices of the United Nations, to support these activities, as appropriate.

The twenty second Meeting of States Parties was held at United Nations Headquarters from 4 to 11 June 2012. In addition to its traditional items, the Meeting adopted a Declaration on the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. For more details on the proceedings of the meetings, please see the report of the meeting available as document SPLOS/251.

With in-kind and financial contributions from States and others, the Division hosted a reception on 8 June for the delegates of the Meeting of States Parties. Mugs, pins and posters were made available, also with the in-kind and financial contributions from States. A video had been posted on the website of the Division, prepared by the Division and the Department of Public Information with financial contributions from ITLOS and ISA. The Division would issue a booklet with contributions written by delegates to the Third UN Conference on the Law of the Sea and others. It would be distributed during the plenary meetings of the General Assembly on 10 and 11 December 2012. A pamphlet on the Convention would be prepared and a second reception, made possible by in-kind and financial contributions from States and others, would be taking place on 10 December.

## **World Oceans Day 2012**

The theme for World Oceans Day was “UNCLOS at 30”. It was celebrated on 8 June 2012. On that occasion, a roundtable panel discussion to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the opening for signature of UNCLOS was organized. The Secretary-General made welcoming remarks. Additional opening remarks were delivered by the Legal Counsel. The Chairperson of the Nippon Foundation of Japan gave a statement entitled “The importance of human capacity in the implementation of the Convention” and additional presentations were made by the President of ITLOS, the Secretary-General of the ISA and the Chairperson of CLCS. The Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations was the moderator. Closing remarks were made by the Permanent Representative of Monaco to the United Nations. As in the past, in recognition of World Oceans Day, the Empire State Building in New York was lit in white, blue and purple, representing the different layers of the ocean.

### **4.3 IMO**

#### **Post Rio+20:**

- The meeting noted that based on the concept of sustainable maritime development launched at IMO's side event during Rio+20 by the IMO Secretary-General, IMO will be in a position to develop and implement, together with the maritime administrations, maritime industries, port sector, maritime education institutions and other stakeholders, sustainable development goals for the sector. In so doing, IMO and the maritime sector will contribute to the global effort of the United Nations to pursue SDGs. For this purpose, an internal mechanism has been established in the Office of the Secretary-General to work with the interested stakeholders to develop proposals for such goals. This initiative will underpin the theme for World Maritime Day 2013, which the Council decided should be "Sustainable Development: IMO's contribution beyond Rio+20".

#### **Promotion of energy efficiency in international shipping:**

- The meeting noted that IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) adopted, in July 2011, amendments to regulations on energy efficiency for ships under MARPOL Annex VI Regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships and added a new chapter 4 to make mandatory the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI), for new ships, and the Ship Energy Efficiency Management Plan (SEEMP) for all ships. The EEDI is a non-prescriptive, performance-based mechanism that leaves the choice of technologies to use in a specific ship design to the industry. As long as the required energy-efficiency level is attained, ship designers and builders would be free to use the most cost-efficient solutions for the ship to comply with the regulations. The SEEMP establishes a mechanism for operators to improve the energy efficiency of ships. The new chapter 4 of MARPOL Annex VI represents the first ever mandatory global and

legally binding energy efficiency standard for an international industry sector and was also the first global climate treaty to be adopted since the Kyoto Protocol in 1997.

- In 2012, MEPC 63 adopted four sets of guidelines intended to assist in the implementation of the mandatory Regulations on Energy Efficiency for Ships in MARPOL Annex and agreed an updated work plan for the development of further guidelines and the development of energy efficiency frameworks for those ships not covered by the current EEDI regulations. Linked to the implementation of energy efficiency measures was the draft MEPC resolution on the Promotion of technical co-operation and transfer of technology relating to the improvement of energy efficiency of ships, where it was agreed to further discuss the draft at the next session.
- MEPC 63 continued its intensive consideration of proposed market-based measures (MBMs), which would complement the technical and operational measures already adopted. Further debate will continue at the next session (MEPC 64, 1 to 5 October 2012). The MBM proposals under review range from a contribution or levy on all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from international shipping or only from those ships not meeting the EEDI requirement, via emission trading systems, to schemes based on a ship's actual efficiency, both by design (EEDI) and operation (SEEMP).

#### **Implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention (BWMC):**

- The meeting noted that the BWMC, which aims to prevent, minimize and ultimately eliminate the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments, had not yet entered into force. A total of 36 states, representing 29.07% of the world merchant fleet tonnage, had ratified the Convention. It was also noted that there are now 28 type-approved ballast water management systems available and 14 sets of guidelines to assist in the implementation of the Convention.

#### **International measures to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species through bio-fouling of ships:**

- In July 2011 MEPC adopted resolution MEPC.207(62) Guidelines for the control and management of ships' bio-fouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species. In adopting the Guidelines Member States of the IMO made a clear commitment to minimizing the transfer of invasive aquatic species by shipping. Studies have shown that bio-fouling is a significant vector for the transfer of invasive aquatic species. Bio-fouling on ships entering the waters of States may result in the establishment of invasive aquatic species that may pose threats to human, animal and plant life, economic and cultural activities and the aquatic environment.

#### **Major Projects:**

- GEF-IBRD-IMO Marine Electronic Highway (MEH) Demonstration Project**  
 The Project has progressed significantly over the past months with the establishment and operation of the MEH Data Centre IT System (MIS). The MIS has been formally handed over to the Indonesian Government. Sea trials using ships have been carried out to test the usefulness of data being generated through MIS in the context of navigation as well as the access and remote Internet connectivity between ship to shore facilities. This was followed in parallel by user survey and integration of oil spill and hydrodynamic models with the MIS. The Project will end in December June 2012.
- GEF-UNDP-IMO GloBallast Partnerships**  
 During the reporting period, the implementation of the GloBallast Partnerships Project focused on the national level interventions to prepare for the implementation of the 2004 Ballast Water Management Convention. Most importantly, the 15 Lead Partnering Countries continued their legal, policy and institutional reform process. At the global level, further training courses and guideline tools were developed and translated into various languages, to assist the implementation of the project and support the dissemination of experiences from the Lead Partnering Countries to other countries in their respective regions. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Global Project Task Force meeting for the project, 17 to 19 September 2012, the stakeholders endorsed a proposal for a further extension of the project until 2016 at no further increase of the project funding. The meeting also reviewed the project implementation progress and prepared the project work plan for 2013 to 2016.
- Amendments to MARPOL Annex I (Oil) - Development of a mandatory Polar Code**  
 Recognizing the increased interest in the polar regions with the projected growth in shipping traffic therein and the need to further promote the safety of navigation and prevention of pollution from ship operations, IMO has decided to develop a mandatory Code for ships operating in polar waters. The work is aimed to cover the full range of design, construction, equipment, operational, training, search and rescue and environmental protection matters relevant to ships operating in the inhospitable waters. The upcoming MEPC 64 session will further discuss options of how best to make the Code mandatory in the legal framework of the Organisation's conventions, which should be of great interest to all parties involved in this work.
- London Convention and Protocol (LC/LP)**  
**Progress to regulate ocean fertilization**  
 Parties to the London Convention and Protocol continued work to "establish a global, transparent and effective control and regulatory mechanism for ocean fertilization activities and other activities that fall within the scope of LC and LP and have the potential to cause harm to the marine environment". An intercessional working group that met in Germany in July 2012 would report to the governing bodies in 2012.
- CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations**

Following the adoption in 2009 of an amendment of Article 6 of the London Protocol allowing export of CO<sub>2</sub> waste streams and transboundary movement within reservoirs, the Contracting Parties to the LP are currently revising the 2007 "Specific Guidelines for Assessment of Carbon Dioxide Streams for Disposal into Sub-seabed Geological Formations" with a view to finalizing this activity in 2012.

#### 4.4 FAO

Selection of FAO activities relevant to UN Oceans include:

- "Global Sustainable Fisheries Management and Biodiversity Conservation in the ABNJ Promoting efficient and sustainable management of fisheries resources and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ" GEF FAO-led **ABNJ program** including four projects: Sustainable management of tuna fisheries and biodiversity conservation in the ABNJ (FAO); Sustainable fisheries management and biodiversity conservation of deep-sea living resources and ecosystems in the ABNJ (FAO/UNEP); Ocean Partnerships for Sustainable Fisheries and Biodiversity Conservation/ models for innovation and reform (World Bank); Strengthening Global Capacity to Effectively Manage ABNJ (FAO)
- "Strategies for trawl fisheries by-catch management (**REBYC-II CTI**)" with a focus on the Pacific region to be executed by the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC)
- "Strengthening the Knowledge Base for and Implementing an Ecosystem Approach to Marine Fisheries in Developing Countries" (**EAF Nansen**)
- "**Climate change and fisheries and aquaculture**, including impacts caused by natural disasters"
- "Data e-Infrastructure Initiative for Fisheries Management and Conservation of Marine Living Resources (**iMarine**)" to strengthen data standards, protocols and harmonization
- "Regional Fisheries Livelihood Programme for South and Southeast Asia (**RFLP**)" to strengthen capacity among participating small-scale fishing communities and their supporting institutions in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.
- "**Smartfish** (Implementation of a Regional Fisheries Strategy for the Eastern-Southern and Indian Ocean Region)" aims at contributing to an increased level of social, economic and environmental development and deeper regional integration in the Eastern-Southern Africa and Indian Ocean Region (ESA-IO) through improved capacities for the sustainable exploitation of fisheries resources.
- "Canary Current LME (**CCLME**)" and "Bay of Bengal LME (**BoBLME**)" projects for which FAO is the executing agency
- **Deep-sea fisheries**: FAO involved in different projects for the implementation of the guidelines on deep-sea fisheries, including development of a VME database.
- **Voluntary International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries**: an internationally negotiated instrument in the form of voluntary guidelines on small-scale fisheries is well-under development

- 30th session of the **Committee on Fisheries** held in Rome (COFI, 9-13 July 2012): highlights include support to countries in data collection and quality control; support for FAO's collaboration with CITES, suggestion to examine impacts of ocean acidification and climate and to cooperate with other organizations on ocean pollution; importance of work on deep-sea fisheries. Report available at <http://www.fao.org/cofi/28868-08d89e67cab4794708d710de7bc4428cc.pdf>
- The **State of World Fisheries and Aquaculture 2012** (FAO flagship publication) was released at COFI <http://www.fao.org/docrep/016/i2727e/i2727e00.htm>

#### 4.5 UNDP

UNDP contributed to a number of Rio+20 oceans knowledge, policy and advocacy products including:

- Worked with US-NOAA in preparing and releasing UNDP/GEF publication, "Frontline Observations on Climate Change and Sustainability of Large Marine Ecosystems";
- UNDP contribution to interagency publication "Green Economy in a Blue World" launched at 2012 GPA IGR4 in Manila and Rio+20; UNDP contributed chapter "Ocean Nutrient Pollution from Agriculture, Fertilizer Production and Wastewater Management Sectors", which sets forth a bold strategy to apply innovative economic, policy/legal and financial tools to address the geometrically increasing issue of ocean hypoxia from excess nutrient pollution;
- UNDP contributed to the interagency (IOC/UNDP/FAO/IMO) publication "Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability" launched in late 2011;
- UNDP, GEF and the Global Ocean Forum jointly produced and released "Oceans at Rio+20 - How well are doing in meeting the Commitments....Summary for Decision Makers";
- UNDP released (4<sup>th</sup>) UNDP-GEF "International Waters – Delivering Results" publication, highlighting substantive portfolio results from about 25 International Waters projects and cataloguing overall portfolio progress across GEF IW indicator suite.

Some highlights of 2011-2012 UNDP/GEF oceans portfolio results include:

Four protocols to the Tehran Convention for the Caspian Sea were developed, of which two (Oil Pollution, Land-Based Pollution) were signed and adopted in 2012. The two remaining protocols were expected to be signed at the next conference of the parties (COP).

Marine Environment Diagnostic Analyses (MEDA), national diagnostic analyses conducted for all 9 countries participating in the Agulhas/Somali LMEs project. The work to develop the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) based on the MEDAs, is progressing well. Once



completed, TDA will significantly fill the data and information gaps identified during the preparatory stage of the ASCLME project.

The Timor-Arafura Sea project successfully completed development and multi-country approval of the TDA which serves as the basis for SAP development which has commenced.

Caribbean Sea LME - The delivery and acceptance of the three fisheries ecosystem TDAs of regional significance (reef, pelagic and continental shelf fisheries ecosystems) and regional TDA show that a common understanding on main issues for the sustainable management of shared marine resources has been reached among the main partners. Based on the TDA findings a draft "CLME Vision", "Ecosystem Quality Objectives", "Societal Benefits Objectives" and "Strategic Directions" (management objectives) statements have been developed by a SAP Core Development Team for the different ecosystems.

PEMSEA achieved a number of important milestones in 2012. At the regional level, the PEMSEA Governance and By-Laws and Transformation Plans and Roadmaps have been adopted and implementation initiated. PEMSEA put in place all arrangements required for the conduct of the East Asian Seas Congress 2012 and Fourth Ministerial Forum, developed and published a regional review of SDS-SEA implementation progress, achievements and challenges from 2003 to 2011, and developed the Regional SDS-SEA 5-Year Implementation Plan. At the national level, PEMSEA supported drafting of eight 5-year national SDS-SEA Implementation Plans in coordination with the countries for adoption. These implementation plans 'nationalize' the regional SDS-SEA and outline strategies for scaling up ICM in each country towards achieving the goal of putting at least 20% of the region's coastline under ICM.

## **5. UPDATE ON KEY OUTCOMES OF SBSTTA 16 AND PREPARATION FOR CBD COP 11 (CBD Secretariat)**

Ms. Jihyun Lee from the CBD Secretariat informed the meeting of the forthcoming eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held in Hyderabad, India, from 8 to 19 October 2012. She summarized that COP 11 will consider under the agenda item on marine and coastal biodiversity the followings, inter alia:

The first summary reports prepared by SBSTTA 16 on ecologically or biologically significant marine areas (EBSAs), based on the results of a series of regional workshops convened by CBD Secretariat in collaboration with Parties, other Governments and relevant organisations, as a reference for States and intergovernmental organisations for their future conservation efforts in open ocean and deep-sea habitats, including:

- the endorsed summary reports be submitted to the UNGA and the UN Working Group on biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction, as well as to Parties, other Governments and relevant international organisations
- EBSA repository and an information-sharing mechanism continue to be developed to store data and track data sets used for regional workshops
- adequate, timely and sustainable support for training and capacity building be provided

- additional workshops on the description of areas meeting the EBSA criteria to be organized to cover all regions where Parties wish workshops to be held
- guidance on integration of traditional knowledge in the EBSA description be used
- need for development of social, cultural criteria for biodiversity conservation and enhanced management measures be noted

Voluntary guidelines for the consideration of biodiversity in environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments in marine and coastal areas:

- capacity building on the application of the EIA and SEA voluntary guidelines be assisted
- call for fisheries bodies to ensure that biodiversity considerations are a part of their work

Setting a process for addressing important issues including:

- updating the specific work plan on coral bleaching to address the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification
- addressing the impacts of underwater noise on marine biodiversity within the Convention through an expert workshop on practical guidance and toolkits for minimizing and mitigating the impacts of anthropogenic underwater noise on marine and coastal biodiversity
- addressing the impacts of marine debris through an expert workshop on practical guidance on preventing and mitigating the impacts of marine debris on marine and coastal biodiversity
- applying marine spatial planning within the Convention through web-based information sharing mechanism, compilation of experiences, expert workshop on practical guidance and toolkit, and training workshops

She also informed the meeting that the Secretariat is convening two side events in the margins of COP 11:

Side event on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (8 October), being convened by CBD Secretariat in collaboration with Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative with the following objectives:

- To update on the results of and future plan for a series of regional workshops and capacity building to facilitate description of areas meeting scientific criteria for EBSAs
- To brief on the progress made in data partnership in support of EBSA regional workshops, EBSA training manual/modules, prototype EBSA repository and information sharing mechanism, and the study on social and cultural criteria for EBSAs

High-level Side Event on Sustainable Ocean Initiative (17 October), being convened by CBD Secretariat with the following objectives:

- To formalize partnership arrangements among various partners that have indicated their interest in joining the Sustainable Ocean Initiative
- To increase awareness of the Initiative and mobilize wide-level support of COP 11

participants

She invited all UN-Ocean members to join the above side events.

Finally, it was highlighted that the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) is to provide a global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity in a holistic manner by:

- facilitating the sharing and exchange of knowledge, information, experiences and practices;
- creating partnerships that can provide targeted capacity-building and technical assistance in support of on-the-ground implementation priorities;
- enhancing interactive communication among global policy, science and local stakeholders;
- monitoring progress on Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity;
- developing partnerships among different sectors and stakeholders at local, regional and global scales; and
- working together to achieve a balance between the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, and promoting flexible and diverse approaches towards this end.

She informed the meeting that CBD Secretariat would issue invitations to relevant UN-Ocean members to join the implementation of SOI, such as a capacity building workshop in Western Africa (January 2013), SOI leadership day in IMPAC 3 (November 2013), etc.

## **6. REPORTS BY THE UN-OCEANS TASK FORCES**

### **6.1 Task Force on Biodiversity in Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (UN/OLA/DOALOS)**

DOALOS noted that it had continued to work towards the finalization of a compilation of tools available for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The compilation was currently foreseen as a table providing background information on the various tools as well as on which international instruments foresee their use, where appropriate. Provided the necessary resources could be mobilized, including in cooperation with other UN-Ocean members, DOALOS envisaged that the document could be converted into a web-based database and made available on the UN-Oceans website.

Nevertheless, in light of a number of comments made by States at various meetings in relation to the need for UN-Oceans Task Forces to work on matters enjoying consensus among Member States, DOALOS considered it advisable for the Task Force to await the outcome of the JIU review and the adoption of new ToRs for UN-Oceans before proceeding with this project.

### **6.2 Task Force on Marine Protected Areas and Other Area-Based Tools (CBD)**

The representative of CBD Secretariat, Ms. Jihyun Lee, informed the meeting that, in line with decision X/29, the Subsidiary Body of the Convention, at its sixteenth meeting, considered reports of two regional workshops convened by the Executive Secretary in Western South Pacific region (Nadji, Fiji, 22- 25 November 2011) and Wider Caribbean and Western Mid-Atlantic region (Recife, Brazil, 28 February - 2 March 2012), as well as the UNEP-Mediterranean Action Plan Synthesis Report on the works carried out regarding the identification of EBSAs. The Subsidiary Body then prepared and submitted to the Conference of the Parties for consideration and endorsement, a “Summary Report on Description of Areas Meeting Scientific Criteria for EBSAs”, as contained in annex to SBSTTA recommendation XVI/4 (UNEP/CBD/COP/11/3).

- Since SBSTTA 16, the CBD Secretariat also convened two regional workshops to facilitate the description of areas meeting EBSA criteria in Southern Indian Ocean (30 July – 3 August, Mauritius) and Eastern Tropical and Temperate Pacific (27 – 31 August 2012, Ecuador). These workshops have been conducted in close collaboration and communication with various UN-entities, such as FAO, IOC/UNESCO, ISA, UNEP, UNDP (through their LME projects in the region), and UNDOALOS. Plans for the future workshops were available in UNEP/CBD/COP/11/22.

### **6.3 Task Force on Marine Debris (CBD/UNEP/IOC)**

#### **Summary of Status of Global Partnership on Marine Litter**

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) introduced the Honolulu Strategy to the Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) from 25-27 January 2012, as the framework that can be adopted and used by member countries and organisations. The ‘Honolulu Strategy’, developed by UNEP and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, U.S.) with input from marine litter stakeholders from all over the world, is a worldwide applicable tool that provides a focal point for improved collaboration and coordination among the multitude of stakeholders across the globe concerned with marine litter. It does not however supplant or supersede the activities of national authorities, municipalities, industry, international organisations, or other stakeholders.

Following on from the development of the Honolulu Strategy, UNEP launched the Global Partnership on Marine Litter during the Rio+20 Summit through the convening of a Side Event titled “Marine Debris: The Ocean is not a Dumping Ground”. The purpose of the side event was to discuss how the key stakeholders working in the field of marine litter/debris could coordinate their activities and pool resources to develop and implement a concrete international partnership, which advances, inter alia, the Honolulu Strategy. UNEP and NOAA set the context for the discussions and highlighted past and on-going efforts by their respective organisations to advance marine litter/debris management. UNEP reconfirmed its commitment to assist with implementation of the Honolulu Strategy, and for this purpose, proposed the establishment of the Partnership on Marine Litter that is now recognized as part of the Work

Programme of the GPA. UNEP also committed to programme USD\$0.5M through its 2012/13 Work Programme of the GPA to take concrete actions to address marine litter, and invited organisations and governments present to actively participate. The event heard perspectives from industry representatives, governments, national and international NGOs, and regional and international programmes of the UN on the emerging issues related to marine litter. Key recommendations included improving the legal, policy and regulatory environments for managing marine litter, improving materials use efficiency, supporting recycling efforts, tackling the pollution problem at source and identifying clear goals and targets for the work of the partnership. The meeting agreed on the need for concrete actions, greater awareness-raising and wider participation of stakeholders in this global endeavour, while complimenting UNEP on its initiative in organizing the event.

At the conclusion, a number of statements of support for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter were made, including from the Governments of the Netherlands and the USA, as well as from FAO, IMO, UNEP/IETC, the NRDC, and the Plastics Pollution Coalition. The outcomes were an established group of unofficial “Founding Members” of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML); and priority actions for the GPML identified and confirmed, which now inform the Programme of Work of the GPA. Terms of Reference for the GPML have been drafted by UNEP and comments were invited from a core group of potential partners, including representatives from the Regional Seas Programmes. Comments received are being incorporated into a revised draft.

Design of a marine litter global on-line platform to facilitate information exchange is being advanced. The work is in progress, and is being funded through NOAA.

#### **6.4 Task Force on Global Partnership Climate, Fisheries & Aquaculture - PaCFA (FAO)**

- PaCFA meeting was held during COFI (11 July 2012) where overall plans and directions were discussed. Two member surveys, conducted in spring 2012, were presented – the surveys covered: i) member climate change activities; and ii) on members’ reflections on the partnership.
- FAO/OECD Workshop: Building Resilience for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Agriculture Sector <http://www.fao.org/agriculture/crops/news-events-bulletins/detail/en/item/134976/> (April, 2012)
- PaCFA presentation to International Workshop on Climate and Oceanic Fisheries, Cook Islands 3-5 October 2011
- PaCFA was used as a case study in the Stockholm Resilience Center work on Polycentric systems and interacting planetary boundaries — Emerging governance of climate change—ocean acidification—marine biodiversity – Ecological Economics PaCFA reviewed and supported the Hot, Sour & Breathless brief <http://www.pml.ac.uk/pdf/ous3.pdf>
- WorldBank and FAO, in the name of PaCFA, are collaborating on the Climate Smart Agriculture Sourcebook

Regional and national climate change workshops co-organized:

- SPC-FAO (Pacific) (May, 2012)
- FAO-ICAFFS-NACA (Vietnam) (Feb, 2012)
- FAO-BCC (Benguela Current) (Nov., 2012)
- FAO-WFC (Bangladesh) (Aug., 2011)
- IAEA (FAO-IOC supported) workshop on developing ocean acidification research agenda (Nov, 2011)
- ICES-PICES-IOC Symposium (FAO, UNEP supported) "Effects of climate change on the world's oceans (May, 2012)  
[http://www.pices.int/meetings/international\\_symposia/2012/Yeosu/scope.aspx](http://www.pices.int/meetings/international_symposia/2012/Yeosu/scope.aspx)

#### Joint project development:

- FAO-BCC-UNDP (Benguela Current)
- FAO-WFC (Malawi, Bangladesh)
- FAO-WFC-ICAFFS-NACA (Vietnam)
- FAO-SPC (Pacific, under discussion)
- FAO-NEPAD (Nigeria Lake Chad Basin)
- FAO-NEPAD-WFC-BCC-ISDR-UNDP (?) worked together to develop Component C of the NFFP addressing climate change and DRM in African Fi&Aq

#### UNFCCC processes:

- COP 17: PaCFA participated in Oceans Day (<http://www.fao.org/climatechange/29801-03f5279cfef097e058b749f2d6640c8fd.pdf>) and was generally represented through its membership, including at the FAO information booth and at the UN-Oceans event on ocean acidification.
- COP 18: PaCFA Programme Framework under development for release

### **6.5 Task Force on UN-Oceans Outreach (IOC/UNDP/FAO)**

The UN-Oceans Outreach TF developed and distributed promotional material (posters, leaflets, chronoexpo stand) for the UN-Oceans membership, including during the UNFCCC COP17 meeting on ocean acidification. Material has been distributed to members as well as made available electronically for local production (see <ftp://ftp.fao.org/FI/brochure/UN-Oceans/leaflet.pdf>). The TF is consulting with other members to seek best ways forward to strengthen UN-Oceans visibility as a group and to facilitate UN-Oceans outreach activities. The TF also supports improvements to the UN-Oceans site, i. e., through the development of a UN-Oceans events page.

Main outreach activities in 2011-2012 included:

- **UN-Oceans Side Event:** at COP-17, Durban, South Africa (8 December 2011), on "OCEAN ACIDIFICATION: THE OTHER HALF OF THE CO2 PROBLEM": Organized by IOC; UNDP;

FAO, IAEA and the World Bank. Full texts of speeches delivered during the side event are available at the UN-Oceans web site.

- **Printed material:** UN-Oceans poster, announcement for OA side event
- **Electronic announcement:** Announcement for OA side event
- **Press Conference:** UN-Oceans Statement, Tara Expeditions Press Conference, DHL Auditorium, United Nations Secretariat, New York, NY; 9 February 2012
- **Interviews:** UN-Oceans Coordinator interviewed by UN News Centre as part of its Rio+20 Seven Issues.
- **Web-site:** several outreach products during 2012, including an extensive coverage of UN Oceans organisations events at Rio+20
- **World Oceans Day 2012**  
At UNESCO: Message from the DG of UNESCO Ms. Irina Bokova

There was a short discussion on the Task Forces as an outcome of the discussions on expanding the membership. It was agreed the Task Forces need to be time bound, not necessarily output focused but also focusing on coordination and information sharing. In either case the Task Forces should produce something at the end of the time frame and where possible they should be catalytic. Any tangible outputs needed to be clearly linked to UN-Oceans mandate. There was a discussion on the core group and task forces which touch on the issue of keeping UN-Oceans just to UN agency secretariats not NGOs or governments, and it was agreed to keep to just the secretariats at this time. Rather than formally state that NGOs are not part of task forces UN Oceans should indicate that they can be consulted on issues of the task forces as needed and appropriate.

The examples of the MPA Task Force catalyzing CBD members to discuss MPA issues and the sensitivity of the issue of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ) were used to further discuss the role and functioning of UN-Ocean Task Forces. The work of the Marine Litter Task Force would be expected to end eventually as the Global Partnership on Marine Litter develops further. However, the Task Force for Outreach would continue.

## **7. OTHER INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATIONS**

### **7.1. WORLD OCEAN ASSESSMENT (Regular Process) (DOALOS/IOC/UNEP)**

**DOALOS** informed the meeting that the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (AHWG) was held at United Nations Headquarters from 23 to 27 April 2012. On the basis of its discussions, the AHWG adopted recommendations to be transmitted to the sixty-

seventh session of the General Assembly (A/67/87). Among the recommendations was a proposal for the adoption by the General Assembly of the Outline for the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment of the Regular Process and the Terms of Reference and Working Methods for the Group of Experts. The Group of Experts was urged to finalize the Guidance for Contributors to enable the Pool of Experts to start work on the preparation of the First Global Integrated Marine Assessment as soon as possible. The meeting of the AHWGW was attended by representatives of some of the member organizations of UN-Oceans.

The Bureau, established to put in practice the decisions and guidance of the AHWGW during intercessional periods, met for the first time in May 2012. The Bureau discussed how to encourage further appointments to the Pool of Experts, including through mailing lists and public websites. The Division had received approximately 200 of the 1,500-2,000 appointments needed for the Pool of Experts.

At the time of reporting, workshops in support of the first phase of the first cycle of the Regular Process had been hosted by Chile (12-15 September 2011), China (21-23 February 2012) and Belgium (27-29 June 2012). Future Workshops were being planned in Australia, Mozambique and the United States. Discussions were also taking place for Workshops in the remaining two regions (Northern Indian Ocean and the South Atlantic). All regional workshops are being organized in cooperation and collaboration with UNEP and IOC.

Further information and documents related to the Regular Process could be found at [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global\\_reporting/global\\_reporting.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm).

**UNEP** and **IOC** continue to support Member States and the secretariat of the Regular Process. In the area of capacity building UNEP utilises the framework of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to organize/facilitate workshops on the World Ocean Assessment as called by the Ad-Hoc Working Group of the UN General Assembly.

Organisation of Regional Workshops on the World Ocean Assessment. The first Regular Process Workshop hosted by the Government of Chile was held from 13-15 September in Santiago, Chile, facilitated by the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS), a Regional Seas Convention and Action Plan for the South Pacific. The second workshop was hosted by the Government of China in Sanya, China from 21 to 23 February 2012 for the Eastern and South Eastern Asian Seas under the auspices of WESTPAC (IOC/UNESCO), Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and North West Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP). An additional Workshop- for the Western Indian Ocean, hosted by the Government of Mozambique, in Maputo, Mozambique, facilitated by the Secretariat of the Nairobi Convention was held on the 1-3 August 2012. Through these capacity building workshops, 38 member States have been engaged in the World Ocean Assessment.

Organisation of Regional Scientific and Technical Capacity Building Workshops on the World Ocean Assessment. These workshops are aimed as follow-up workshops to build the capacities of member states on the design and implementation of integrated assessments for the marine



and coastal environment. The first workshop organized by the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), North West Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) and WESTPAC (IOC/UNESCO) was held in Bangkok, Thailand, 17-19 September 2012.

**IOC** has continued to support the UN Regular Process through technical and financial support. In June 2011, IOC and UNEP, in collaboration with Grid-Arendal presented a proposal to support the information and communication needs of the Regular Process. The Ad Hoc Working Group welcomed the proposal and at the end of the biennium, Grid-Arendal started the development of the website, under the auspices of the United Nations that will:

- provide information to the public on the Regular Process, access to relevant documents and links to other existing web pages and support for drafting the first integrated assessment;
- establish a web-based editorial system to assist experts involved with drafting chapters for the RP Report, including support for editors to track the progress of chapters through the peer review process;
- produce GIS map products to illustrate and synthesize spatial information relevant to the range of themes covered by the RP report;
- expand and maintain the content management system for a range of data related to the Regular Process (including the already established GRAME database).

IOC has provided a contribution of 20,000USD to Grid-Arendal to initiate this work.

## **7.2 UN Atlas of the Oceans (FAO)**

Main activities for the maintenance, upgrades and improvement of UN Atlas of the Oceans:

### **Coordination & Management** (2 person-months of FAO staff)

- Provide assistance and feedback to members and users of the site
- Liaise with partners for content updates and institutional information
- Supervise external collaborators in assisting with content updates
- Provide Secretariat functions, including support of the Technical Committee

### **Communications & Promotion**

- Monthly newsletter to all members (> 11,000)
- 10 Year Anniversary of UN Atlas
- Provide support to partner events, including promotional & communications products (posters, leaflets, etc.):
  - UNFCCC COP 17 (Durban, November-December 2011)
  - 6<sup>th</sup> Water Forum (Marseilles, May 2012)
  - World Oceans Day (June 2012)
  - Rio+20 (Rio de Janeiro, June 2012)
  - Yeosu World Expo (Yeosu, August 2012)

**System Development & Enhancement** (in collaboration with FAO IT developers)

- Regular maintenance and system upgrades
- Monthly Web analysis and trends
- Perform vulnerability tests
- Planning

**Content Development & Update**

- Regular updating of information and issues related to oceans, including monitoring of links, images, etc.
- Addition of new knowledge objects, including news, events, books, etc.
- Monitor and respond to user queries

**Support to UN-Oceans**

- Maintain the UN-Oceans Web site
- Ensure regular communication with UN-Oceans members
- Provide outreach services
- Regular reporting to UN-Oceans meetings

**7.3 GESAMP (IMO/IOC)**

The meeting recalled that GESAMP, which is sponsored by nine UN Agencies (namely: IMO, FAO, IOC-UNESCO, WMO, IAEA, UN, UNEP UNIDO and UNDP), provides authoritative, independent, interdisciplinary scientific advice to its sponsoring UN organisations and also to governments to support the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment. GESAMP continues to operate under a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), with its headquarters serviced and staffed by IMO.

In this regard it was noted that a revised MoU would be prepared and circulated before the next session of GESAMP. It was envisaged that this would then also take on board any developments emanating from the review of the interagency co-ordination UN Oceans platform by the UN Joint Inspection Unit, and, any issues arising under the UN Regular Process or the UN Secretary-General's Ocean Compact.

It was also noted that since the cessation of structural funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in December 2010 and in the absence of any major external sponsor, GESAMP continues to seek funding for its activities from a variety of sources, including from the UN Sponsoring Agencies. The sponsoring agencies agreed to continue to support GESAMP members to attend its sessions and also to carry out some intercessional activities such as New and Emerging issues workshops. With increasing pressure on regular budgets, no additional funding to support the GESAMP Office could be made available.

It was further noted that GESAMP currently consists of six Working Groups, namely:

- Evaluation of the hazards of harmful substances carried by ships (EHS), led by IMO;

- Review of applications for ‘active substances’ to be used in ballast water management systems (BWWG), led by IMO;
- Assessment of threats posed by persistent organic pollutants (POPs) to the marine environment, led by UNIDO;
- Atmospheric inputs of pollutants into the oceans, led by WMO;
- Global trends in pollution in coastal ecosystems: retrospective ecosystem assessment, led by IAEA; and
- Sources, fate and effects of micro-plastics in the environment – a global assessment, led by IOC-UNESCO.

The meeting noted that GESAMP’s New and Emerging issues Programme which may form a useful mechanism through which it can interact with the UN Regular Process and provide advice on emerging topics, discussed the following:

- Hypoxia is acknowledged as a major threat to the ocean. At GESAMP 39, UNDP-hosted side event on hypoxia, presentations from distinguished speakers on the causes of hypoxia and the extent of its effects, including a special focus on endocrine disruption were provided. This latter is an issue on which GESAMP has already provided a scoping paper (GESAMP R&S 81, Annex VII). The side event concluded with a brief review of policy options. The event was broadcasted live on the internet and a recording is also available for download at [www.ustream.tv/channel/undp-oceans](http://www.ustream.tv/channel/undp-oceans), while the presentations are available from [www.gesamp.org](http://www.gesamp.org) under the 39th session;
- Biomagnification of contaminants in marine top predators is an issue affecting both marine and human communities and an ecological and sociological approach is warranted in the view of GESAMP. A report on the potential scope of this issue has been prepared (GESAMP R&S 85, Annex VIII) and GESAMP in collaboration with CIESM plans to investigate this further in 2012/13. Funding is currently being sought for an international workshop; and

The potential impact of disinfection byproducts in the marine environment (low molecular weight halogenated substances) is an issue raised during recent peer reviews by GESAMP of WG 34’s reports to the MEPC of IMO on the evaluation of ballast water treatment systems for use on board ships. Such systems predominantly use electrolysis to produce chlorine as an active substance; the chlorine oxidizes organic matter in the water to form disinfection by-products including bromoform. However, this issue is also relevant to the global expansion of coastal power generation sites, refineries and desalination plants and its proponents consider that an investigation by GESAMP may be appropriate.

#### **GESAMP Working Group 40 (lead agency IOC)**

- The Inception Meeting of GESAMP Working Group 40 was held in Paris on 13th – 15th March 2012, hosted by IOC-UNESCO. It was attended by representatives of sponsoring organisations (IMO, IOC, UNEP, UNIDO, ACC, PlasticsEurope) and a number of invited

Observers (EU DG ENV, OECD, UNEP/MAP). The meeting proved to be a lively and challenging event, consisting of a number of invited presentations, breakout groups and feedback sessions.

- The main purpose of the meeting was to provide an opportunity for the WG Members, sponsoring Agencies and invited observers, to discuss and agree the overall objectives, key questions and intended outputs. Three invited Members gave overviews of the current state of knowledge and knowledge gaps on; i) sources, distributions and trends of micro-plastics; ii) properties and degradation of polymers; and, iii) physical and chemical effects of micro-plastics. These followed by several shorter presentations on related programmes (e.g. NOAA, Gulf of Mexico LME, UNEP, ACC/PE, NCEAS working group) before the meeting split into two break-out groups to consider the scope and approaches required to conduct an assessment: i) sources, distribution and trends; and, ii) properties and effects. Periods for discussion and feedback were included in the meeting timetable, with rapporteurs appointed to record the key points.
- There was agreement on the need to set the assessment in a recognized assessment framework, and a number of options were described. This needed to be placed in an appropriate Road Map and a revised time-line for the work programme was recommended for approval by GESAMP 39 (New York, 15th – 20th April 2012). The proposed accelerated start to some of the Terms of Reference (ToR) was a consequence of the increased financial support since G38, where a phased approach had been recommended, spreading the work of the group over four years. The increased support will allow action on all the ToRs to be initiated at the start. The meeting also questioned whether there was a need for an additional ToR, to consider how to address social and economic concerns, including public perceptions. This reflected the perceived role of NGOs, the media and the public in raising the profile of micro-plastics as an issue that policy makers needed to address.

#### **7.4 A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability (IOC/UNDP/FAO/IMO)**

IOC took the lead in the preparation and publication of the interagency report (together with UNDP, FAO and IMO), “A Blueprint for Ocean and Coastal Sustainability”, setting out 10 proposals for the sustainable use of the ocean at Rio+20. Submitted as a formal input to the Rio+20 process, the Blueprint was launched in Paris during the 36th General Conference of UNESCO. The report is available in English and Korean while the executive summary is now available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Korean.

#### **8. UNITED NATIONS OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ON OCEANS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA (ICP-13) AND MEETING OF STATES OF PARTIES JUNE 2012 (DOALOS/OLA)**

DOALOS provided information on the thirteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (“Informal Consultative Process”) which was held from 29 May to 1 June 2012. Pursuant to General Assembly

resolutions 65/37 A and 66/231, the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Informal Consultative Process focused its discussions on the topic entitled “Marine renewable energies”. The report of the meeting was issued as document A/67/120 available also on the DOALOS website.

The 13<sup>th</sup> meeting was presided by two Co-Chairs, Ambassador Don MacKay (New Zealand) and Ambassador Milan Jaya Meetarbhan (Mauritius). The meeting was attended by representatives of 75 States, 10 intergovernmental organisations and other bodies and entities and six non-governmental organisations.

In relation to the topic of focus, discussions in the panel were structured around three segments: (a) marine renewable energies: types, uses and role in sustainable development; (b) ongoing or planned marine renewable energies projects/work at the global and regional levels; and (c) opportunities and challenges in the development of marine renewable energies, including for cooperation and coordination. The segments were launched by presentations from panellists, followed by interactive discussions.

Delegations recalled that the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”) provided the framework for all activities in the oceans and seas, including in relation to marine renewable energies. Many delegations emphasized the need to strengthen international cooperation to address challenges in the development of marine renewable energies in accordance with the current international legal framework. Capacity building as well as transfer of technology were considered essential elements of international cooperation and coordination. The importance of the topic for developing countries was particularly emphasized.

In relation to Inter-agency cooperation and coordination, following the report of the UN-Oceans Coordinator, questions regarding the structure and functioning of UN-Oceans- were raised. Concerns were expressed about coherence between the objectives of Member States and those of UN-Oceans. Some delegations suggested that the participation and interaction of Member States in meetings and decision-making processes of UN Oceans should be improved, and that the work of the mechanism should be made more transparent. In that regard, they recalled the request to UN-Oceans, in accordance with paragraph 239 of resolution 66/231, to submit the draft terms of reference for its work to be considered by the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. They also welcomed the review of UN-Oceans by the Joint Inspection Unit and hoped that the review could address these issues.

## **9. UN-OCEANS WEB SITE (FAO/UNDP)**

UN-Oceans Web site has been managed by FAO, in consultation with UN-Oceans Coordinator, to ensure that all information is accurate and up-to-date. A new section on UN-Oceans events was developed (<http://www.unoceans.org/MajorEvents.htm>) and contact and promotional information made more accessible.

## **10. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION – INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION CENTRE (OA-ICC) (IAEA)**

Following the announcement of the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Centre at Rio+20 on 16 June 2012 (Oceans Day event), the Centre was launched in July 2012 with the recruitment of a full-time Project Officer. The various activities of the Centre were planned (e.g. web site structure and meetings, training and workshops to be held in 2013). Project Officer planned to attend the “Ocean in a High CO<sub>2</sub> World” symposium in Monterey end of September and meet with key players in the field of OA, and presented a poster on the OA-ICC. Day-to-day tasks of the Centre were also taken care of, such as the maintenance of its blog and bibliographic data base. The Centre should be fully operational in the coming months (fully staffed, detailed plans for activities, establishment of a dedicated project web site etc.).

Upcoming activities of the OA-ICC:

- 6-7 November 2012: Presentation of the Centre at the BIOACID II kick-off meeting
- 11-13 November 2012: Organization of the Second International Workshop on Bridging the Gap between Ocean Acidification Impacts and Economic Valuation: “Ocean acidification impacts on fisheries and aquaculture” at the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco.

## **11. WORLD BANK GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON OCEANS (GPO) (WB)**

The announcement of the Global Partnership for Oceans was made at the Economist’s World Ocean Summit in Singapore in February 2012. Following that, interested nations and organizations came together in April 2012 to discuss the goals of the Partnership and how it would work.

At Rio+20 in June 2012, over 100 organizations joined together to launch the Global Partnership for Oceans. The partnership was officially formalized by these partners announcing their intention by jointly preparing and signing a Declaration for Healthy, Productive Oceans to Help Reduce Poverty. This Declaration was prepared based on an inclusive and participatory approach over six months and based on a GPO Discussion Paper prepared through this consultative process and discussed at a partner’s meeting in April 2012.

The Global Partnership for Oceans (GPO) is a growing alliance of more than 100 governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and private sector interests committed to addressing the threats to the health, productivity and resilience of the world’s oceans. It aims to tackle widely documented problems of overfishing, habitat loss, and pollution. Together these problems are contributing to the depletion of a natural resource bank that provides nutrition and food security, livelihoods and vital ecosystem services.

Building upon existing efforts and programs, including in support of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, GPO will convene stakeholders to mobilize significant human, financial and institutional resources for effective public and private investments in

priority ocean areas. These investments will improve capacity and aim to close the gap in implementing global, regional and national commitments<sup>1</sup> for healthy and productive oceans.

The goal of the Global Partnership for Oceans is to sustainably enhance the economic, social and ecological performance of the ocean's ecosystems and living resources, with improved benefits captured by coastal and island developing countries and global benefits accruing to the planet as a whole – in other words, supporting healthier oceans that can contribute much more to global economic growth that's clean, green and resilient. In operational terms, the partners would build on the good examples around the world and use a new financing instrument to provide grant, loan and equity financing to responsible governments, users and stakeholders in priority areas of the ocean to achieve agreed objectives.

In line with previous internationally agreed commitments and taking into consideration growing impacts of climate change, the Partnership will work toward meeting the following interrelated objectives by 2022.

#### **Sustainable seafood and livelihoods from capture fisheries and aquaculture**

- Significantly increase global food fish production from both sustainable aquaculture and sustainable fisheries by adopting best practices and reducing environmental and disease risk to stimulate investment
- Reduce the open access nature of fisheries by creating responsible tenure arrangements, including secure access rights for fishers and incentives for them to hold a stake in the health of the fisheries; and
- Enable the world's overfished stocks to be rebuilt and increase the annual net benefits of capture fisheries by at least \$20 billion, including through reducing subsidies that promote overfishing.

#### **Critical coastal habitat and biodiversity**

- Halve the current rate of natural habitat loss and reduce habitat degradation and fragmentation, by applying ecosystem-based approaches to management;
- Increase marine managed and protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, to include at least 10% of coastal and marine areas; and
- Conserve and restore natural coastal habitats to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.

#### **Pollution Reduction**

- Reduce pollution to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity; and
- Support implementation of the Global Program of Action to reduce pollution, particularly from marine litter, wastewater and excess nutrients, and further develop consensus for achievable goals to reduce these pollutants.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/oceans/>

The Global Partnership for Oceans wishes to keep the participation open, and if an organization or company wishes to join, they can contact the Interim Secretariat via the Partnership's website ([www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org](http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org)) confirming that they commit to develop and implement the GPO as per outlined in the GPO Declaration for Healthy, Productive Oceans to help reduce Poverty (<https://globalpartnershipforoceans.org/sites/default/files/images/GPO%20Declaration.pdf>).

Presently, the Partnership is being developed more fully by the Partners with several consultations with countries, private sector, and civil society underway. While the detailed design is underway in the months after Rio+20, the World Bank has offered to facilitate the partnership on behalf of partners.

## **12. SECRETARY GENERAL'S OCEANS COMPACT & UN-OCEANS ROLE (all)**

UN-Oceans discussed the Secretary-General Oceans Compact, "Healthy Oceans for Prosperity" - an initiative of the Secretary-General to set out a strategic vision for the UN system to deliver on its ocean-related mandates, in a more coherent and effective manner. It was stated that the Compact provided a platform to promote collaboration to accelerate progress on oceans related issues.

UN-Oceans reiterated the need to advance the Oceans agenda and the importance of system-wide coherence and avoiding fragmentation. In its discussions, UN-Oceans identified some points of key importance, such as the need to ensure consistency between the Compact, the outcomes of Rio+20, the legal framework provided by UNCLOS, the GA related processes and other processes which guided the work of different UN agencies, funds and programmes. The need to support the implementation of already agreed objectives including through marine scientific research and capacity building was also highlighted. Some discussion also took place on the possible role of UN-Oceans as a facilitating mechanism for the implementation of the SG Compact.

## **13. RIO+20 OCEAN OUTCOMES AND UN SYSTEM RESPONSE (all)**

At Rio+20 Earth Summit it was clearer than ever that we all must play our part to protect our oceans and the planet. Although Rio+20 has produced a non-binding declaration, committing the world's politicians to modest goals, it was extremely important that it addressed and encouraged efforts to expand marine research.

The final agreement features some important issues. The Rio outcomes document, 'The future we want' specifically mentions the need for marine scientific research, monitoring and observation of ocean acidification, which is an excellent news for the Ocean Acidification science community. The agreement also includes a commitment to take action to reduce marine pollution from land-based sources, especially plastics, as well as persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, and nitrogen-based compounds. Highlighting plastic as a pollutant of particular concern is a very important step. By calling out plastic as one of the most



problematic forms of marine debris, we will now be better able to focus on the right solutions. The agreement also included a commitment to take action on fishing subsidies and overfishing. If all these actions are implemented, it will help reverse the decline of our oceans.

Regarding the public opinion and people following Rio online, in the dialogue, experts discussed topics that had been nominated through online voting in the weeks before, by hundreds of thousands of people from around the world. In the pre-voting, "actions to avoid ocean pollution by plastics" was the number one choice among the Ocean issues, and number 5 of all the issues in all topical areas. Then, in the official dialogues, hundreds of experts voted that protecting the high seas and creating an international network of marine protected areas were among the most important actions needed to protect our oceans for current and future. However, it was unfortunate that no decision was reached to negotiate a new agreement for the conservation and management of biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

DESA:

- The outcome of Rio+20 on oceans and seas is considered a success by most. It includes agreement on action for protecting marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, identifies new and emerging challenges and renews various commitments on sustainable oceans management.
- The Division for Sustainable Development is currently undertaking reorganisation to follow-up on Rio and better focus on these issues, and we are pleased to announce the establishment of the SIDS, Oceans and Climate Branch. The focal point within the Division will be Ms. Julie Ritz ([ritz@un.org](mailto:ritz@un.org), Tel: -72036, S-2659)
- Please check our website for an update of the Follow up framework to Rio+20 by the UN System: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/followupbyunsystem.html>

IOC:

During the Rio preparatory process, IOC organised a number of side events and information sessions to raise the awareness of decision makers, these included: Oceans at Rio +20, European Parliament, Brussels, 6 March; Advancing Oceans at Rio+20, 26 March, UN HQ, NY (with Global Ocean Forum), Side event on Blue Carbon on 26 April, UN HQ, NY (with IUCN and Conservation International).

At Rio, IOC was one of the co-organisers and co-chairs of the Oceans Day Event (16 June) together with the Global Ocean Forum, bringing together high-level representatives from governments, international organisations, NGOs, industry and science community.

On 20 June, IOC organised a major ocean side-event highlighting UNESCO and IOC's key roles in the promotion of ocean knowledge, marine biodiversity protection, and the empowerment of coastal communities through education and awareness building.

In addition, IOC has cooperated with other UN organisations in meetings, drafting and reviewing documents, such as 'The future we want', the SG Ocean Compact, the UN-SG

advisory group on science, the Global Partnership for Oceans, the Yeosu Declaration, and the JIU review of UN-Oceans.

#### **14. JIU REVIEW OF UN-OCEANS – RESULTS, IMPLICATIONS, NEXT STEPS (all)**

UN-Oceans welcomed the draft JIU review and its recommendations and looked forward to receiving the final review and its delivery to the SG and the GA. Depending on the agreed follow-up to the JIU review, UN-Oceans will likely take on more responsibilities and become more relevant as we implement Rio+20 decisions on oceans and seas. For example, it is anticipated that it will be given the responsibility of implementing the SG's Compact on Oceans once it is launched.

UN/DOALOS indicated that consultations on the General Assembly resolution on oceans and the law of the sea would start in September and that delegations would reflect on the JIU report for reference(s) to be included, as appropriate, in the oceans and law of the sea resolution

#### **15. NEW UN-OCEANS TOR FOR GA67 (all)**

UN-Oceans proceeded to consider its draft terms of reference (TORs). On the issue of a *Secretariat*, UN-Oceans took note of the offer from UN-DESA to host and serve as secretariat of UN-Oceans taking into account its long experience in serving as secretary to UN-Energy, UN-Water and other inter-agency mechanisms. UN-DESA offered to service the UN-Oceans secretariat in the short to medium-term, but noted that long-term support would require more resources. It was agreed that the support offer by UN-DESA would be considered temporary assistance until the results of the JIU were finalized and the future of UN-Oceans was clearer based on the JIU report and GA67 outcomes. Additional issues were discussed relating, among others, to the need for resources for a functioning secretariat and the possibility and consequences linked to the establishment of a Trust Fund. Some participants suggested that the function of UN-Oceans should be defined first and then we could consider the funding of the secretariat.

It was noted that UN-Oceans had yet to create many tangible products in its principal role to coordinate actions among member agencies. There was some discussion of other coordinating mechanisms and their functioning. UN-DESA pointed out that when UN-Water tried to implement some projects at the country level member States and some UN agencies had informally requested that these sorts of initiatives be stopped. UNIDO as secretariat of UN-Energy had driven the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, however, member States had not perceived this as a UN-Energy initiative.

The question of what else UN-Oceans could include in terms of issues/topics such as piracy, seafarers' and their welfare, etc. was discussed, and it was concluded that if there was an issue that needed to be included then it could be included in the new TOR. Progress on such issues could be better advanced if ILO was more active in UN-Oceans.

There was some discussion on the issue of leadership of UN-Oceans and whether it could be elevated to a higher level. DOALOS wondered that if leadership was at the executive level - could this limit UN-Oceans flexibility? A leadership at a lower working level might give the organization more scope to respond to changing needs etc. However, it was pointed out that there was a need for someone to convey UN-Oceans work/issues to the CEB, through HLCP, i.e. a champion at the CEB level was needed. This aspect could be included in the wording of the TORs for UN-Oceans.

It was suggested that ultimately, HLCP/CEB would decide on the structure and leadership of UN-Oceans after reviewing the outcomes of the JIU report.

The following suggestions were made to further develop the UN-Oceans TORs:

- There was a need to develop rules of procedure, including what constitutes a quorum, the process for decision making based on consensus, majority etc.
- The TORs did not need to explicitly make reference to the identification of emerging issues since such issues would stem necessarily from ongoing discussions on oceans.
- The TORs needed to be transmitted to UN-DOALOS well before 31 August for inclusion in the working documents for the informal consultations on the omnibus resolution and therefore UN-Ocean needed to submit the TORs to DOALOS by 24 August. In reviewing the TORs, members were asked to use square brackets for changes.

## **16. FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR UN-OCEANS (all)**

No discussion at this time.

## **17. 2013 UN-OCEANS MEETING VENUE & DATE**

As per traditional practice, 2013 UN Oceans meeting will be scheduled in the margins of UN ICP June 2013 in New York.

## **18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*Role of UN-Oceans:* There was some discussion on the role of UN-Oceans in some of the initiatives related to oceans – GPO, Ocean Compact and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The World Bank noted that at the World Bank members meeting, the GPO was endorsed and the need for the GPO to fill the implementation deficit was acknowledged. The World Bank is looking for quick wins for the GPO. It was agreed that UN-Oceans should be involved in the process relating to SDGs, and all agencies expressed interest in that regard.

There was consensus that UN-Oceans work must be grounded in the existing mandates of one or more of the agencies and it should not create its own mandate(s). It was agreed that UN-Oceans would not implement specific initiatives, but would ensure coordination as necessary.

There was some discussion of UN-Oceans also monitoring the progress of implementation of the Compact. FAO suggested one way to address the interest of member States being a part of UN-Oceans would be to have a mechanism for linking to member States such as holding informal consultations during ICP between interested member States and UN-Oceans members.

## 19. MEETING CLOSURE

