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**Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the  
Implementation of the Global Programme of Action  
for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
from Land-based Activities  
Second session  
Beijing, 16–20 October 2006**

**Report of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on  
the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection  
of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities**

**Introduction**

1. The second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities was held pursuant to United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum decision SS.VII/6 of 15 February 2002, which endorsed the outcomes of the first session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

**I. Opening of the session**

2. The second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting was held at the Beijing International Convention Centre, Beijing, from 16 to 20 October 2006.

3. The session was opened at 10 a.m. on Monday 16 October 2006 by Mr. Zhou Shengxian, Minister of the State Environmental Protection Administration of the People's Republic of China. Opening statements were also made by Mr. Khalid Malik, United Nations Resident Coordinator and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative in China, Ms. Veerle Vandeweerd, Coordinator of the Global Programme of Action and Mr. Ian Matheson, Director-General, Environmental Protection Operations, Environmental Stewardship Branch, Environment Canada.

4. Mr. Zhou commenced by noting that land-based activities could have both global and local consequences on the marine environment, which implied the need for a systematic response from countries. He said that the Global Programme of Action constituted one such response and noted with satisfaction that the Programme had enjoyed steadily growing support. In view of the coastline's importance to the economy and human welfare in China, the country prioritized marine environmental protection and had undertaken specific activities to protect the marine environment from land-based activities, including the implementation of action plans for some rivers and seas, controls on the use and movement of pollutants and improved waste water treatment. Following an analysis of the state of the environment in 2005, Prime Minister Wen Jiabao had recognized the interdependence of economic growth and environmental protection and called for a balancing of economic and environmental priorities, in particular by moving beyond administrative responses to legal, economic and technological ones. Mr. Zhou concluded by affirming that the world should work in unison to improve marine and coastal environmental protection.

5. Mr. Malik said that many of the world's challenges could only be addressed at the global level and that the Global Programme of Action represented an example of such action. He explained that UNDP and UNEP had concluded a memorandum of understanding for joint work in 2005, which aimed to ensure the mainstreaming of environment into national development planning. In line with those developments, the Global Programme of Action was being made more relevant to national activity and priority planning. The Programme's third phase would focus on mainstreaming its goals into national development planning and would be supported through the joint action planning arising from the partnership between UNDP and UNEP. He noted that the integration of environmental and development work in China was progressing well and concluded by affirming the need to build on the outcomes of the session.

6. Welcoming participants to the session on behalf of UNEP, Ms. Vandeweerd noted that the Global Programme of Action was currently the only intergovernmental programme that addressed the linkages between freshwater and coastal environments. The present session offered an opportunity to examine issues pertaining to coasts, oceans and their associated watersheds and thereby chart a way forward, while exploring new avenues and contributing worldwide to the sustainable development of coastal areas. She stressed that implementation of the Global Programme of Action did not always require a stand-alone national programme of action but rather the establishment of integrated institutional, legal and financial mechanisms. Challenges ahead included the need to ensure that implementation of the Programme was not only integrated into national programmes, budgets, laws and regulations but also remained current by addressing and incorporating the many developments that had taken place since 1995 in the international environmental policy framework. Active participation of non-government stakeholders in the process, as exemplified by the effective partnership with the regional seas programme, would also be vital.

7. Mr. Ian Matheson, noted with satisfaction that the global community continued to consider marine pollution as a main concern and the Global Programme of Action as a key instrument for addressing the problem. Since the first session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting, held in Montreal, Canada, in 2001, significantly more countries had established national programmes of action, indicating a growing desire to tackle the challenges of land-based sources of pollution. A further mark of progress was the importance now placed on the sharing of knowledge, and the building of working relationships for advancing the Global Programme of Action nationally, regionally and globally. He concluded by noting the need for an integrated freshwater and marine approach that involved the collective action of all stakeholders, and highlighted the Programme as a model since it bridged both land and marine environments.

## **II. Organization of the session**

### **A. Attendance**

8. The following countries were represented at the session: Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Lebanon, Liberia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Niue, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Palestine was represented as an observer.

9. The following convention secretariats and intergovernmental organizations, including United Nations bodies, projects and specialized agencies were represented: Asean Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment, Asia Pacific Environmental Cooperation, Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, Comisión Centroamericana de Transport Marítimo, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species, Convention of the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (HELCOM), European Commission, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Global Environment Facility (GEF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Ocean Institute, Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia, Permanent Secretariat of the Black Sea Commission, Ramsar Convention, Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNDP-GEF Black Sea Ecosystem Recovery Project, United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNEP Tongji Institute of Environment for Sustainable Development, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UNESCO Institute for Water Education, UNESCO International Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO).

10. The following non-governmental organizations and other bodies were represented: All China Environment Federation, Al Taher Group, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Beijing Landa Aquarium Company, Centre for Environment Education, Chukyo University, Global Forum on Oceans Coasts and Islands, Flanders Marine Institute, Innovation Centre for Energy and Transportation, International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network, Mexican Institute of Water Technology, National Oceanography Centre, National Polytechnic Institute, Ningbo Municipal Development and Reform Commission, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Seine-Normandy Water Agency, Social Aid, Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, The World Conservation Union (IUCN), Third Institute of Oceanography (China), Tsinghua University, University of Michigan, University of Rhode Island, University of the Aegan, University of Western Cape, World Ocean Network.

## B. Election of officers

11. Mr Zhou was elected President of the session by acclamation. The following were also elected by acclamation as officers of the session:

Vice-Chair:	Ms. Lucia Ana Varga (Romania)
Vice-Chair:	Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi (South Africa)
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Ferguson Theophilus John (Saint Lucia)
Rapporteur:	Mr. Thomas Laughlin (United States of America)

## C. Adoption of the agenda

12. The Intergovernmental Meeting adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda submitted by the secretariat (UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Organization of the session:
  - (a) Election of officers;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
  - (c) Organization of work.
3. Opening of poster exhibit
4. Day one. National implementation in action:
  - (a) Opening panel discussion on the way forward with national programmes of action;
  - (b) Parallel breakout groups:
    - (i) Group A: Mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action into national development planning;

- (ii) Group B: Financing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
  - (iii) Group C: Strengthening legislative and institutional frameworks to further the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.
- 5. Day two. Partnerships – mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action:
  - (a) Report from day one;
  - (b) Introduction to the partnerships day;
  - (c) Parallel partnership workshops.
- 6. Day three. Building a common agenda:
  - (a) Report from day two;
  - (b) Review of accomplishments, focussing on progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities at the international, regional and national levels in the period 2002–2006;
  - (c) Discussion on the document entitled “Guidance to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities for 2007–2011: Global Programme of Action contribution to the internationally agreed goals and targets for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands”;
  - (d) Discussion on the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for 2007–2011;
  - (e) Discussion on the draft elements of a Beijing declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.
- 7. Ministerial segment:
  - (a) Opening statements:
    - (i) Opening remarks by the representative of the People’s Republic of China;
    - (ii) Opening remarks by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme.
  - (b) Report from days one to three;
  - (c) Ministerial/high-level discussion:
    - (i) Presentations and moderated debate on the importance of oceans, coasts and islands and their associated watersheds, and the way forward;
    - (ii) Parallel regional groups on building momentum and partnerships.
  - (d) Presentation of the Chair’s summary of discussions at the ministerial/high-level segment;
  - (e) Adoption of the Beijing Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action.
- 8. Other matters.
- 9. Adoption of the report of the session.
- 10. Closure of the session.

#### **D. Organization of work**

13. It was agreed that the session should be divided into two segments: a multi-stakeholder segment from Monday 16 October to Wednesday 18 October, to consider items 1 to 6 of the provisional agenda; and a ministerial segment on Thursday 19 October and Friday 20 October, to consider items 7 to 10.

14. It was also agreed that the session should work in plenary and through parallel breakout groups and that an open-ended drafting group should be set up to consider the proposed Beijing declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, under the chairmanship of Ms. Mara Murillo (Mexico).

15. It was further agreed that during the first segment, parallel breakout groups would be convened to consider the three main focus areas: mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action into national development planning; financing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action; and strengthening legislative and institutional frameworks. The key outcomes of those groups would be reported back to plenary for consideration. A summary of key points would be forwarded to the ministerial segment and included in the report of the session.

16. In view of the desire to encourage an interactive process and the wish to identify several concrete implementation activities, the Meeting also resolved to hold 19 partnership workshops during the first segment. The results of those workshops would also be reported back to plenary, forwarded to the ministerial segment and included in the report of the session. A summarized version of those results is set out in annex II to the present report.

17. In keeping with the goal of identifying practical next steps to implement the Global Programme of Action, the Meeting agreed that a portion of the ministerial segment would take the form of roundtable discussions focused on what actions would be needed to implement the proposed Beijing declaration.

## **E. Side events**

18. In the margins of the session, a number of side events were organized to provide further insight into issues considered, including the following: Developing stakeholder input to the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting; China Forum; Arctic Circle; Reactive nitrogen in the environment; Global Environment Facility; East Asian Seas Regional Forum; Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem; Advancing the oceans, coasts, small island developing States and freshwater agenda in the next decade: Key issues and opportunities. In addition to the above, a recent documentary entitled “Cold Water Coral Reefs” was shown.

19. Participants at the meeting on the Russian Arctic commended progress achieved and encouraged implementation of the second phase of the project.

20. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) and its International Waters projects addressed Global Programme of Action issues through information sharing and learning through the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network project.

21. Participants at the Reactive Nitrogen side event reviewed the draft document entitled, “A Non-Technical Review of Reactive Nitrogen in the Environment”, prepared by UNEP and the Woods Hole Research Centre. The participants recommended that the document be substantially revised and suggested that the Coordination Office organize an international platform for information sharing on nutrients and their impact on the marine environment.

22. At the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands side event, representatives dealing with marine and freshwater issues discussed the global water agenda. They underlined the importance of continuing to address the natural interlinkages between marine and freshwater management approaches and of facilitating closer interaction between the marine and freshwater communities.

23. Building on the feedback received at their side event and through further electronic consultations, the Stakeholder Forum prepared a submission, which was presented to the Meeting and is set out in annex III to the present report.

## **III. National implementation in action**

### **A. Opening panel discussion on the way forward with national programmes of action**

24. Introducing the topic of national implementation of the Global Programme Action, Ms. Vandweerd gave an overview of the goals of the first day of the current session and presented the recently published report, “Protecting coastal and marine environments from land-based activities: a guide for national action”. She noted that the guide, which was a revision of the 2002 UNEP handbook on the development and implementation of national programmes of action, emphasized the importance of implementing national programmes of action and included various concrete examples and lessons learned during the previous five years.

25. In her capacity as vice-chair of the session, Ms. Lucia Ana Varga (Romania), moderated presentations by representatives of six countries on developing and implementing national programmes of action for the marine environment. Presentations were made by Mr. Francisco Arias, Director of the Institute of Marine and Coastal Research, Colombia; Ms. Ulla Kaarikivi-Laine, Director (Water Issues and Rural Environmental Protection), Ministry of Environment, Finland; Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rawat, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India to China; Mr. Anil Kumar Bachoo, Minister of Environment, Mauritius; Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi,

Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa; and Mr. Conrad Lautenbacher, Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States of America.

26. The presentations and ensuing discussions produced a broad range of ideas, from which several common themes emerged.

27. The design of national programmes clearly depended on the establishment of global, regional and national legal and policy frameworks, including the involvement of the national executive authority, coordination between national and subnational government bodies, and international cooperation through activities such as the regional seas programmes. Alongside government commitments, participation of the scientific community and civil society in an inclusive process of discussion and analysis was found to be crucial. Both Colombia and Finland, for example, engaged in multi-year consultative processes to engender a broad-based scientific consensus and social commitment to their efforts to improve the Baltic and Caribbean Sea environments. Successful implementation of national programmes required partnerships such as those developed for the Caribbean through the White Water to Blue Water partnership initiative.

28. Further efforts were needed to demonstrate and clarify the linkages connecting the marine environment to human health and economic activity as this could be important to ensure participation by a broader set of government ministries. Such involvement was essential to secure financing for national programmes, whether from domestic sources or from international donors. An ecosystem-based approach, demonstrated in the South African Benguela Large Marine Ecosystem programme and by the United States in its programmes for the Chesapeake Bay and the Gulf of Mexico, had the advantage of addressing regional issues while also examining multisectoral factors that affected the status of the marine environment. It was also recognized that successful national programmes were science-based, included a strong monitoring component and were designed to change over time in response to new information.

29. While several common elements were identified, the importance of national and regional differences, such as cultural values or geographic realities, was also recognized. For example, the population of a small island developing State such as Mauritius faced the immediate effects of marine degradation. By contrast, in a large State such as India, the land-based sources of marine pollution were often distant from the coastline, and stronger policy and administrative mechanisms were required to promote and sustain preventive and corrective measures.

## **B. Parallel breakout groups**

30. When it resumed its deliberations in plenary session with Ms. Lucia Ana Varga (Romania) in the chair, the Meeting heard reports from the chairs of the three breakout groups.

31. Ms. Dagmara Berbalk (Germany) reported on behalf of the group on mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action into national development planning; Mr. Magnus Johannesson (Iceland) presented findings from the group on financing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action; and Ms. Elizabeth Thompson (Barbados) delivered the report of the group on strengthening legislative and institutional frameworks to further the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

32. Major themes for national programmes of action highlighted in the three reports included the need for cross-sectoral partnerships, use of an ecosystem approach, coordination between national programmes and regional environmental efforts, and scientific basis for action through on-going monitoring of the marine environment. The consolidated report of the three breakout groups is available in annex I to the present report.

33. The themes identified in the three reports strongly reflected the ideas and themes that had emerged in the opening panel discussion, indicating a growing and increasingly shared body of knowledge about how to implement the Global Programme of Action.

34. In the ensuing discussion, representatives also called attention to households as land-based sources of marine pollution. Fees collected from households might provide a domestic source of financing environmental programmes, under the "polluter pays" principle that was already applied to industry. Armed conflicts were also identified as causes of marine degradation, both for direct action such as attacks on oil transport systems and for the diversion of resources from environmental management. International assistance in providing a methodology for economic valuation for ecosystem resources and services was also noted as useful, as was an international review of national programmes of action for the effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

#### IV. Partnerships – mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action

35. In acknowledgement of the crucial role played by many non-state actors, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector in implementing the Global Programme of Action, either through their own activities or in partnership with Governments and other stakeholders, a number of partnership workshops were held throughout the second day of the session, on the theme “mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action”.

36. When it resumed its deliberations in plenary session under this item, with Ms. Mabudafhasi (South Africa) in the chair, the Meeting heard a report from Mr. David Osborne (Australia) on the outcomes of the partnership workshops.

37. He said that during the parallel partnership workshops, conducted on Tuesday 17 October, representatives had explored a broad range of partnerships under the general theme of “mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action through partnerships”. The workshops had discussed successes to date, lessons learned and courses of action for the partnerships in the coming years.

38. In the context of the Global Programme of Action, the workshops had observed the effectiveness of the partnerships as a means to:

- (a) Engage stakeholders (including the general public);
- (b) Rally organizations to adopt coordinated and innovative approaches;
- (c) Exchange information;
- (d) Overcome obstacles and foster successful practices;
- (e) Facilitate systematic collaboration;
- (f) Leverage policy, legal or institutional reform;
- (g) Share resources and secure additional investments;
- (h) Prioritize activities;
- (i) Increase political support; and
- (j) Expand the reach and effectiveness of programmes.

39. The workshops had demonstrated that the various types of partnership in operation could provide flexible frameworks for addressing conflicting usage of marine and coastal resources and increasing awareness of coastal and marine issues. Partnerships provided a mechanism to increase capacity for addressing land-based sources of marine pollution and promoting new paradigms for freshwater, coastal and marine management. Products of partnerships included decision-making or decision support tools, new global and regional standards, and pragmatic directions for the partners involved.

40. Clarity of purpose or a common goal was a central characteristic of partnerships that had successfully mainstreamed the objectives the Global Programme of Action. Successful partnerships inspired participants to generate new ideas and explore synergies. They remained simple in their delivery, despite complex and multi-dimensional problems. In successful partnerships there was unambiguous assignment of specific responsibilities to accountable partners and clear performance objectives with measurable indicators of performance.

41. The workshops emphasized that the development of robust and targeted partnerships was key to the successful implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels. In that regard, the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office could play a very effective role in brokering and supporting partnerships at the global and regional levels. Furthermore, partnerships between different sectors of society could and should be a significant component of efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action at the national level.

42. Many of the issues and ideas that were raised during the subsequent discussion in plenary matched those considered in the partnership workshops themselves. A description of the partnership workshops' discussions is set out in annex II to the present report.

## V. Building a common agenda

### A. Review of accomplishments, focusing on progress in implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities at the international, regional and national levels in the period 2002–2006

43. Ms. Vandeweerd provided a presentation of progress that had been achieved in implementing the Global Programme of Action during the period 2002–2006, summarizing the information contained in document UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/2. She stressed that the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office could play a catalytic, facilitating role in future implementation but that progress would depend on the sustained determination of national Governments. She outlined various sources of information on the status of Global Programme of Action implementation and briefly summarized achievements to date, highlighting the integration of the Programme into the international environmental agenda, the establishment of strategic partnerships with other international bodies, and the various ways in which regional and national implementation of the Programme had been achieved. She described improvements to the Coordination Office's outreach material, including improvements to the Global Programme of Action clearing house, and concluded by affirming that lessons learned since the last session of the Meeting were reflected in the Global Programme of Action programme of work for the period 2007–2011.

44. During the ensuing discussions, many representatives praised the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for its success in furthering implementation of the Programme and facilitating valuable partnerships. In that context, several representatives described progress that their countries had made in domestic implementation of the Programme and their development of national action plans. Representatives also suggested various ways in which implementation could be strengthened. Several highlighted waste-water management as a key threat and stressed the need for adequate and sustainable funding to address the problem, as well as a greater focus on evaluating potential costs and benefits. Ecosystem-based approaches should be adopted that recognized the importance of coastal areas to economic growth and human welfare. There were also calls for a greater focus on the provision of capacity-building and technology support assistance to countries, notably in the area of waste-water treatment.

45. Several representatives stressed the need for collaboration between stakeholders at all levels and urged UNEP to help facilitate more links among countries and with organizations. One suggested, however, that coordination between global, regional and national programmes of work was currently inadequate and called specifically for more cooperation at the regional level, particularly in the administration of GEF funded projects. Another representative suggested that more regional workshops could be held to assess the status of the coastal and marine environment; that regional land-based activity protocols should be updated; and that the Coordination Office should support and implement pilot projects in the context of national programmes. Looking forward to implementation of the 2007–2011 programme of work, one representative stressed the need to learn from the lessons of the previous five years while another proposed the next session of the Meeting be conducted ahead of schedule in order to review progress sooner. It was also stressed that the Programme should be kept flexible enough to respond rapidly to donors' needs.

### B. Discussion on the document entitled “Guidance to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities for 2007–2011: Global Programme of Action contribution to the internationally agreed goals and targets for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands”

46. In its consideration of the item in plenary session, the Meeting heard a presentation from Ms. Vandeweerd, summarizing document UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/3 on guidance to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the period 2007–2011. She emphasized the need for the Global Programme of Action to remain responsive to new developments, in the international context in which the Programme operated. She noted that the guidance comprised a set of suggested approaches that Governments and other partners might pursue when implementing national programmes.

47. In the ensuing discussion, a number of representatives expressed their satisfaction with the guidance presented, particularly its delineation of the ecosystem approach and its practical advice on implementation. They also requested that the document be modified to address the following: triangular cooperation that would draw developed country inputs into South–South interactions; collaboration with non-governmental organizations dealing with freshwater management; issues of potable water; linkages to social programmes other than poverty eradication; unsustainable patterns of production and consumption; and greater coordination of the Global Programme of Action with the goals and actions of the World Summit on Sustainable

Development, European Union, GEF and national programmes of action, particularly in regions where countries might have differing levels of engagement in protecting the marine environment.

48. Constraints to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action identified by representatives included a shortage of finance, a scarcity of management skills and insufficient technical support. In that regard, specific requests were made for the appointment of a focal point or coordinator for small island developing States within UNEP and for further elaboration of the methods of economic valuation of ecosystem resources and services.

49. The Meeting concluded its consideration of the item by forwarding it to the high-level segment for consideration.

### **C. Discussion on the programme of work of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for 2007–2011**

50. Ms. Vandeweerd provided a presentation on the draft programme of work of the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for the period 2007–2011, set out in document UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/4. She outlined the ways that the proposed programme of work built on its predecessors and its overarching objectives, highlighting the desire to advance implementation of the Programme at the national level. Noting that the purpose of the current discussion of the programme of work was to secure approval for the overall strategic direction of the Coordination Office, rather than discuss detailed plans, she provided a broad outline of the main work areas in the draft programme of work and the activities possible under three alternative funding scenarios.

51. In the ensuing discussions, there was widespread support for the draft programme of work and a number of suggested improvements. In response to some calls for the development of indicators to manage performance and for a more detailed account of planned work, it was agreed that the Coordination Office would prepare a one page paper outlining results-based indicators for the period 2007–2011 and a more detailed work programme for the period 2007–2009. Both would be presented for consideration by the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its next session in February 2007. Other suggestions for adjustments to the programme of work included putting greater emphasis on South-South cooperation; identifying more creative means of financing Programme implementation; ensuring dissemination of assessment findings; and increasing collaboration with multilateral environmental agreements.

52. The Meeting agreed to endorse the draft programme of work in its present form at an appropriate level of funding and entrust the secretariat with the task of incorporating representatives' comments into the text.

### **D. Discussion on the draft elements of a Beijing declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action**

53. Ms. Rejoice Mabudafhasi (South Africa), vice-chair, introduced the draft Beijing declaration (UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/5), as amended by the Beijing declaration working group, for consideration by the plenary. She called on Ms. Mara Murillo (Mexico), chair of that working group, to present the draft document.

54. Ms. Murillo said that the working group had aimed for a brief, action-oriented document, focused on practical issues related to implementation of the Global Programme of Action. She highlighted the call in the draft declaration for strengthened regional action, dedicated financial resources for relevant action by developing countries, participation of local authorities and civil society, and incorporation of integrated water resource management plans into national programmes of action.

55. The draft Beijing declaration was approved by the representatives present at the multi-stakeholder segment of the session for submission to the ministerial segment for consideration and possible adoption.

## **VI. Ministerial segment**

### **A. Opening statements**

56. The ministerial/high-level segment of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting was held from Thursday 19 to Friday 20 October 2006. At the commencement of the segment, opening statements were made by Mr. Hua Jianmin, State Councillor, State Council, People's Republic of China, and Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP.

57. Welcoming participants to China, Mr. Hua noted the need for international cooperation to protect the marine environment, particularly given the damage caused by economic growth and by discharge of land-based pollutants. It was essential to protect the seas and oceans in a manner that ensured a harmonious balance between nature and the interests of mankind. China was pursuing a number of measures including

strengthening the prevention and control of pollution by ships and management of the transportation of hazardous waste. Noting that seas and oceans were the common wealth of mankind and that marine environmental issues entailed global implications, Mr. Hua emphasized the need for concerted efforts by all countries in protecting the marine environment. He recognized the work carried out by international institutions, highlighting the establishment of regional seas programmes through which UNEP had facilitated the work of marine environmental protection. In closing, he expressed the hope that the present session would help strengthen the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

58. Mr. Steiner opened by illustrating the pervasiveness of marine litter with reference to a remote Pacific island chain, noting that the status of too many of the Programme's key source categories was deteriorating. He said that there were, nevertheless, reasons for optimism. More than 60 countries had developed national programmes of action. Moreover, international financial bodies, Governments and, in certain instances, the private sector, were providing substantial financial support for Programme implementation, and various countries and regions had made commitments to control land-based pollution. He proposed that its current session, the Meeting should aim to accelerate implementation of the Programme by mainstreaming the Programme across Governments and ministries, in line with various internationally agreed development goals. The Programme also offered a useful example of international cooperation in the absence of a legal instrument that could be replicated elsewhere. Indeed, once it had achieved its objectives, such an instrument could be phased out. He concluded by affirming his support for the Programme and called on the Meeting to be ambitious in response to the needs of current and future generations.

59. The floor was then given to the ministers of Australia, South Africa and Sri Lanka who summarized the discussions and outcomes of the stakeholder segment of the session, as described in the present report and its annexes.

60. Mr. Awni Benham, President of the International Ocean Institute, addressed the plenary on behalf of stakeholders and other major groups. Citing widespread concern over the condition of the marine environment, he urged the ministers and heads of delegation to exercise leadership by following the precautionary and participatory principles and by ensuring adequate financing for Global Programme of Action implementation. He said the present session of the Meeting was an opportunity to preserve the oceans as a source of life and drew attention to the recommendations contained in the statement by stakeholders and other major groups. The stakeholder submission is included as annex III to the present report.

61. Mr. Zhaoqian Li, Mayor of Rizhao, China, delivered a presentation on the circular economy approach to urban management, as applied in his city. He highlighted industrial, agricultural, social and administrative aspects of the circular economy approach, in which the reduce-reuse-recycle paradigm was applied on a large scale. Examples of circular economic activities included the use of industrial wastes in building materials or as fuels for energy production, reuse of waste water in aquaculture, widespread use of solar heating and photovoltaic cells, civic awareness and education on the circular economy, and strict environmental standards for approval and maintenance of industrial activity. Rizhao had experienced rapid economic growth while applying the circular economy approach to its development and had been recognized in China for its achievements.

## **B. Ministerial/high-level discussion**

62. Mr. Fergusson John (St. Lucia) in his capacity as vice-chair, opened the ministerial round-table discussion and invited three speakers to make introductory remarks.

63. Recalling that the health of the marine environment was closely linked to economic activity, Mr. Stefan Wallin, State Secretary of the Environment, Finland, outlined issues related to the Global Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels. He said it was important to recognize differences among States in their progress toward Programme goals and noted that the Bali Strategic Plan for Capacity-building and Technology Support provided an efficient mechanism for assisting countries in meeting their own goals for the marine environment. Regional mechanisms, such as the water framework directives of the European Union and the regional seas conventions some of which were directly administered by UNEP, were essential for coordinated management of shared marine ecosystems. Scientific research and monitoring were also indispensable tools to catalyze regional cooperation. On the international level, the Global Programme of Action had evolved into a flexible mechanism for management of the marine environment. He challenged Governments to make a long-term commitment of resources and sustained policy change to address threats to the marine environment.

64. In addressing potential issues for the round-table discussions, Ms. Elizabeth Thompson (Barbados) highlighted the importance of the marine environment for many cultures in both economic and social terms. She noted, however, that the sustainability of marine ecosystems was threatened by land-based activities. Sewage discharge and industrial effluents, for instance, posed a significant threat to the goal of sustainable oceans. It was therefore important that the excellent work achieved thus far under the Global Programme of

Action continue and address such issues as poverty eradication and economic empowerment of indigenous communities. She acknowledged the increasing financial involvement of GEF in marine ecosystem-based projects and challenged Governments to demonstrate their own financial commitment to the Programme. In conclusion, Ms. Thompson called for recognition of sustainable community-based actions, particularly in the case of small island States, in order for national programmes of action to exert genuine influence on development planning at all levels.

65. Mr. Steiner expressed hope that the unusual, round-table format of the current discussions would allow participants more freedom to share ideas and draw inspiration from their respective experiences. Citing a few substantive themes that might guide the round-table talks, he briefly discussed the need to create political will by demonstrating the social and economic costs and benefits associated with environmental protection and the need to establish effective partnerships.

66. Following those introductory remarks, the meeting formed round-table discussion groups to consider the mainstreaming of the Global Programme of Action and the role of the United Nations and other stakeholders in its implementation. When it reconvened in plenary, the Meeting heard reports from the chairs of the discussion groups on their conclusions. The UNEP Executive Director welcomed the innovative format of the ministerial discussions, noting that it had fostered an extremely lively atmosphere, which had led to a free expression of valuable practices and experiences. He then responded to a number of questions from the floor before drawing out the main common strands of the discussions, which were subsequently reflected in the summary prepared by the Chair.

### **C. Presentation of the Chair's summary of discussions at the ministerial/high-level segment**

67. The Chair provided a summary of the discussions that had taken place during the ministerial and high-level segment of the session, which is set out in annex IV to the present report. He expressed the hope that the summary would serve as a valuable reference tool for further implementation of the Global Programme of Action and that it would be forwarded to the UNEP Governing Council for consideration at its next session in February 2007.

### **D. Adoption of the Beijing Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action**

68. The meeting unanimously adopted the Beijing Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action, as set out in annex V to the present report.

## **VII. Other matters**

69. The Meeting noted with concern the issue of the transfer of toxic wastes from industrialized countries to less developed countries, including those under occupation, as was the case recently in Côte d'Ivoire. It called upon the Coordination Office to explore collaboration with the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (1989) and with the Bamako Convention on the ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa (1991), in order to create or strengthen early warning measures and controls on the transboundary movement of hazardous wastes.

70. The representatives of Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority requested that UNEP consider ways that geopolitical hostilities could bring about pollution of the marine environment and the need to prepare emergency response measures. They also requested that the issue be given further consideration by the Meeting at its future sessions.

## **VIII. Adoption of the report of the session**

71. The meeting adopted its report on the basis of the draft report contained in documents UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/L.1, L.1/Add.1, L.1/Add.2 and L.1/Add.3, which had been circulated, as amended, and on the understanding that finalization of the report would be entrusted to the Rapporteur, working in conjunction with the Coordination Office.

## **IX. Closure of the session**

72. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the President declared the meeting closed at 4.20 p.m. on Friday, 20 October 2006.

## Annex I

### **Outcomes of discussions on mainstreaming, financing, and legislative and institutional strengthening for national programmes of action.**

1. The multi-stakeholder segment of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities met in three breakout groups and subsequently in plenary to discuss the following topics:
  - (a) Mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action into national development plans;
  - (b) Financing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
  - (c) Strengthening legislative and institutional frameworks to further implementation of the Global Programme of Action.
2. The three breakout groups were chaired by the representatives of Germany, Iceland and Barbados, respectively. Presentations of national and regional experiences were made by Brazil, China, Guatemala, India, Israel, Jamaica, Sri Lanka, European Union and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia. Formal comments were made by Bangladesh, Belgium, Finland, Caribbean Environment Program Regional Coordinating Unit, Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Group and the World Bank.
3. Representatives identified the following key elements for improved implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the national level:
  - (a) Political will and the endorsement and engagement of all levels of government;
  - (b) Linkages between ministries of the environment and other ministries, supported by well-defined awareness raising and capacity-building programmes;
  - (c) Creation and strengthening of an enabling environment through the drafting of legislation and policies;
  - (d) Participation of communities, civil society organizations and an independent judiciary in the monitoring and enforcement of implementation;
  - (e) Promotion of an ecosystem-based management approach;
  - (f) Highlighting the relevance of the Global Programme of Action to the realization of the Millennium Declaration and internationally agreed development goals and the World Summit on Sustainable Development targets through issues such as poverty eradication and food security;
  - (g) Realistic and standardized valuation of the goods and services produced by ecosystems and the cost of inaction, so as to facilitate decision-making and secure finance ministry backing;
  - (h) Leveraging national legislative frameworks and institutional arrangements through participation in regional instruments and processes such as regional seas conventions, action plans and related protocols on land-based sources of pollution;
  - (i) Studies to record and monitor baseline data and the dissemination of findings to all agencies responsible for Global Programme of Action implementation;
  - (j) Development of national programmes of action with clear targets and priorities;
  - (k) Use of domestic resources as the primary means to implement the Global Programme of Action, bearing in mind that strengthening of domestic resource allocation for national programmes of action is closely linked to improvements to the enabling environment;
  - (l) Promotion of strategic partnerships with the private sector, international bodies, donors and Governments to support capacity-building aimed at enabling the relevant levels of government to access sufficient financing to implement the Programme;
  - (m) Creation of national environmental protection funds, drawing on international experience already available to ensure their credibility, legitimacy and implementation through the application of the "polluter pays" principle and fines for non-compliance with legislation;
  - (n) Promotion of the use of appropriate technologies, such as eco-sanitation, and management systems for cost-efficient solutions, such as common effluent treatment facilities for small-scale enterprises and constructed wetlands;

- (o) Development of community-based waste management programmes (community engagement in collection, reuse and safe disposal of waste) to address local environmental needs, including financing of infrastructure, with potential support from public sector seed funding and matching community funds;
- (p) Mainstreaming of environmental considerations into public sector budgeting, and strengthened links with domestic capital markets and private sector finance;
- (q) Engagement with regional development banks to encourage them to focus more intensely on environmental considerations in investment decisions;
- (r) Engagement with bilateral and multilateral donors (such as GEF and the World Bank) to encourage them to support the creation of regional revolving funds and investment funds to serve as regional financing mechanisms for the protection of the marine environment.

## Annex II

### **Partnerships for mainstreaming and expediting the implementation of the Global Programme of Action: a summary of the discussions of the partnerships workshops**

#### **1. Strategic partnerships for international waters in the Global Environmental Facility (GEF): Mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action in transboundary basins and in large marine ecosystems**

The GEF International Waters focal area had provided assistance to transboundary water systems, such as river basins with water flowing from one country to another, groundwater resources shared by several countries or marine ecosystems bounded by more than one nation, such as large marine ecosystems. Among the primary concerns that the GEF International Waters Programme had addressed were water pollution, habitat conservation and ecosystem-based approaches to fisheries. The workshop focused on two GEF supported strategic partnerships. The first of those, the Danube-Black Sea Basin Strategic Partnership for Nutrient Reduction, was aimed at reducing agricultural, industrial and municipal sources of nitrogen and phosphorous pollution that had resulted in the “dead zone” in the Black Sea. That partnership involved two United Nations Development Programme-GEF regional projects and the World Bank-GEF Investment Fund. The second strategic partnership, the Partnership Investment Fund for Pollution Reduction in the Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia, had a long-term goal of reducing pollution in the large marine ecosystems of East Asia and promoting sustainable coastal development through integrated coastal management. The importance of economic cost-benefit analyses, mainstreaming at national level, and local actions were stressed.

#### **2. UNEP-GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean large marine ecosystem**

The Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean large marine ecosystem responded directly to priorities of the countries of the Mediterranean Sea basin. The main objective of the Partnership was to assist countries in implementing reforms and investments in key sectors that addressed transboundary pollution reduction, biodiversity decline, habitat degradation and living resources protection.. The Partnership served as a catalyst in leveraging policy development, legal and institutional reforms, and additional investments for reversing degradation of this large marine ecosystem, and its freshwater basins, habitats and coastal aquifers. The Partnership was found to be innovative in a number of aspects such as in its combination of a regional component together with an investment fund and in its well developed replication strategy. It was felt that further efforts to apply a holistic approach which would include prevention of pollution from land-based activities, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem approaches to management of fisheries, and integrated coastal management should be carried out.

#### **3. Local government implementation of the Global Programme of Action: Partnerships in integrated management of coastal and marine areas**

For the past twelve years, the Partnership for Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia programme had been collaborating with Governments and other stakeholders in the East Asia region on the development, demonstration and replication of Integrated Coastal Management as a framework and process by which marine and coastal areas and their resources could be developed and managed sustainably. Capacity development in integrated coastal management had provided local governments of the East Asian Seas region with the management tools and skills to plan and implement Global Programme Action-related programmes at the local level, with evidence of on-the-ground results covering pollution reduction, conservation and restoration of habitats, community awareness and education, and sustainable financing mechanisms. Multi-stakeholder partnerships, which had begun as informal collaborative arrangements involving local governments, the corporate sector and industry, community-based non-governmental organizations, academia, the media, and people’s organizations, had been transformed into institutional mechanisms through local legislation. These provided a solid platform for implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and continuous improvement of integrated coastal management programmes across all sectors of the community. With awareness and experience derived from implementation, local governments and their partners had recognized the value of expanding and scaling up integrated coastal management, including the extension of its coverage to neighbouring coastal and river basins areas in order to address transboundary environmental issues in the marine and coastal area.

#### **4 Increasing public awareness of the Global Oceans Agenda and promoting citizenship of the ocean**

The World Ocean Network had formed a new partnership to produce an ocean information package comprising a collection of public information materials on oceanic issues. The package aimed to enhance general public awareness of the Global Oceans Agenda and to engage the public in concrete actions for the sustainable use of the world's oceans. The package would be developed and produced by the World Ocean Network in collaboration with the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, the Global Programme of Action, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). That information package would include ocean issues related to targets of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the internationally agreed development goals, and information about what citizens could do, to reduce pollution affecting the ocean, to choose sustainable seafood, or to save energy and reduce greenhouse effects, for instance. It would also include communication tools such as the Passport of Citizen of the Ocean, and a list of "10 little things to make a difference for our Ocean Planet". Through its networks, consisting of some 200 aquaria, zoos and education centres, the World Ocean Network partnership aimed to reach out to one billion world citizens. Also, an effort would be made to link with information mechanisms such as the Oceans Library. Support would be needed to sustain up-to-date outreach efforts, bearing in mind that funding the messenger is equally important as funding the effects of the message in the field. The involvement of Governments would be needed for the formal designation of World Ocean Day (June 8) as an official international day.

#### **5. Oceans Library**

Flanders Marine Institute worked with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO in a network of 135 Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission member States and 65 national oceanographic data and information centres to develop a globally accessible oceans library. The oceans library workshop focused on the issue of coordination, integration and accessibility of new oceanographic information products on the internet, with special attention to the interests of developing countries. It helped enhance the visibility and accessibility of Global Programme Action and publications generated by the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. The partnership also explored possible synergies with the World Oceans Network and other relevant communities.

#### **6. Upscaling Sustainable Sanitation and Wastewater Services**

The partnership involving UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) developed recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and actual implementation of sustainable wastewater services. To achieve that goal it was agreed that it would be necessary to ensure political will at both local and national levels; to enhance public awareness through targeted campaigns and education; to facilitate the establishment of national requirements related to global United Nations standards, goals and targets; to advocate the use of effective financial instruments, such as the polluter-pays principle; to facilitate sharing of good practices and sound technologies and exchange successful experiences; to create demand for wastewater treatment through social marketing and education; and to provide support to and facilitate local government involvement and public participation. Furthermore, a number of commitments were agreed. At the international level it was agreed to contribute actively to the International Year of Sanitation (2008) and report progress at the 2014/2015 Global Conference on Sanitation, and to improve coordination and actual delivery of joint United Nations system-wide capacity-building on both urban and rural sanitation, for example through the United Nations water mandate on sanitation and wastewater. Furthermore, participants strongly recommended clarifying the financial context of the water and sanitation and wastewater sector (for example through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) and recommended the rewording or redefinition of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation target on sanitation. With respect to action at the national level, they recommended improving national plans, policies, legislation and financial incentives on urban waste-water treatment, and efforts to address the rural sanitation target. Regarding action at the local level, they recommended reinforcing public information, participation and awareness-raising, and the initiation of similar partnerships at the national and local levels.

#### **7. Oceans training: Synergies in capacity-building through multi-partner collaboration**

The GEF (International Waters – Learn Programme), Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Division on Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (Train-Sea-Coast programme), UNEP Global Programme of Action, UNESCO Institute for Water Education and the International Ocean Institute (Ocean Learn Programme) launched their Oceans Training Initiative, an active and open-ended partnership. The panelists described their capacity-building networks and highlighted some current courses and activities that emphasized existing synergies between them, and the potential for future collaboration. Discussion on the way forward led to an agreement to pool resources, consider economies

of scale in course development and delivery, avoid duplication, encourage a demand-driven approach, and to work towards coherence of content and methodologies. There was discussion on the need for gap analysis of training needs (or at the least a review of existing gap analyses), and for agreement on mechanisms for communication among the network members using electronic means and a suitable web platform. There was strong support for the development of a training database, and for sharing of courses and educational materials. Emerging needs were identified in the areas of ocean governance, high-level courses for new generations of ocean leaders, and training in conflict management and education for entrepreneurs in local communities. It was agreed that the enthusiasm and synergies evident among the participating and other potential partners were a strong reason for endorsement and launching of the Oceans Training Initiative.

## **8. National implementation of the land-based activities protocols in partnership with the regional seas conventions and action plans**

The regional seas conventions and action plans had provided a platform for the regional implementation of the Global Programme of Action. Several regions had land-based activities and sources of pollution protocols; others were in the process of developing such protocols; and others were implementing the Global Programme of Action through mechanisms apart from such protocols. As such, each region was unique and could have different approaches to address the common goal of protecting the marine and coastal environment from land-based activities and sources of pollution. The workshop aimed to provide a forum to exchange experiences in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, to identify how the various regional seas conventions and action plans had influenced the national implementation of the land-based activities and sources of pollution protocols, and to consider suitable mechanisms for translating the protocols into national legislation for compliance and enforcement. Areas identified for further action included economic valuation of environmental impacts, the use of economic incentives, building partnerships that also engage local communities, creation of regional networks for non-governmental organizations, and continued dialogue and capacity-building at regional and national cross-sectoral levels.

## **9. Advancing World Summit on Sustainable Development 2010 targets on ecosystem management and on integrated coastal and ocean management**

As the only global mechanism that explicitly addressed linkages among coastal, marine, and freshwater environments, the Global Programme of Action could play an important role in assessing the status and trends of such initiatives at the global level and to ascertain progress, obstacles and necessary changes. This Partnership, organized by the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands and UNEP Global Programme of Action with partners at global, regional, and national levels, would prepare a global report on patterns of ecosystem management and integrated coastal and ocean management at national and regional levels. Case studies would identify explicit factors, which accounted for successful linkages between coastal, marine, and freshwater environments, and would suggest best practices for consideration in other national and regional contexts. The report would feature at the 2008 Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, which would bring together experts from around the world to examine the progress being achieved and obstacles faced in the implementation of ecosystem management and of integrated coastal and ocean management.

## **10. Marine litter – a global challenge**

The workshop focused on the creation of a new partnership named “Marine litter - a global challenge”. In response to the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/60/L.22 on marine litter, the workshop and the partnership served as a platform to enhance cooperation and implementation of the Global Initiative on Marine Litter, sponsored by UNEP, through a unified effort in the wider context of the Global Programme of Action, the regional seas conventions and action plans and the respective mandates of other stakeholders. Existing solutions could be tailored and replicated for specific regions, comprising innovative economic incentives to prevent litter and encourage clean-up, prevention and management of lost and abandoned fishing gear, harmonization of monitoring and assessment systems, and establishing reception facilities for marine garbage and waste.

## **11. Establishing a partnership between the London Convention, the Global Programme of Action and the UNEP Regional Seas Programme**

Parties to the London Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter and its associated Protocol had been developing joint activities and projects with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and with the Global Programme of Action. Partnership members agreed to strengthen and streamline compliance and reporting under the partnering agreements and programmes. Therefore, it was recommended to support coordinated programming and coherent implementation, showing the benefit of integrated and ecosystem-based management. Joint technical cooperation projects, both South-South and South-North could be instrumental to improving members' compliance. Concerted action could enhance the achievement of sustainable financing of activities aimed at building capacities in developing countries for the

implementation and compliance of the partnering agreements and programmes. The workshop was targeted at strengthening and further developing the partnership and expanding its membership.

## **12. Planning instruments for sustainable tourism development in small island developing States**

While tourism development could be crucial to the economic development and poverty alleviation of small island developing States, development could have serious, irreversible environmental and social impacts. It was thus extremely important to develop rational and objective methods for measuring negative environmental and related social impacts. Two of the most promising planning and management instruments for sustainable tourism development were the “ecological footprint” concept and integrated coastal zone management. The workshop focused on the proposed creation of a partnership that would build on existing experience and the proposed creation of a team that would draft and implement a decision-making tool for sustainable tourism planning in small island developing States and other small islands.

## **13. Information portal on waste management for small island developing States**

Compared to other developing countries, waste management presented special difficulties for small island developing States, derived in part from the small land area and high population densities of such States, limited infrastructure and the need to address management of many kinds of waste including litter, sewage, hazardous and toxic wastes and liquid wastes. The workshop discussed an information portal on waste management for small island developing States, which would serve as a tool allowing small island developing States from all regions to share information on initiatives, projects, activities, best practices and other information dealing with waste management.

## **14. White Water to Blue Water – a model for partnership building in the wider Caribbean and beyond**

The White Water to Blue Water partnership initiative had established linkages and cross-sectoral approaches to watershed and marine ecosystem management. The partnership initiative, announced in September 2002, continued to engage practitioners in all sectors in marine and freshwater management. The newly established structure of the partnership initiative comprised an executive committee and a council. The executive committee guided the initiative and facilitated new partnerships in the key theme areas of integrated watershed management, environmentally sound marine transportation, sustainable tourism, and marine ecosystem-based management. The partnership initiative was a successful model of cross-sectoral implementation of marine and coastal ecosystem management for sustainable development. The Global Programme of Action and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration node was a partnership established through White Water to Blue Water, which worked with Wider Caribbean countries to facilitate implementation of national programmes of action.

## **15. Cooperative environmental governance: Pacific small island developing States partnerships on wastewater and recycling initiatives**

The workshop facilitated discussions on the outcomes of two partnership groups, namely the Pacific Islands Regional Recycling Initiative and Pacific Small Islands Developing Countries. The former was formed through a series of interlinked regional multilateral resolutions and joint communiqués as a cooperative environmental agreement aimed at developing and implementing sustainable environmental policy. The latter had hosted a capacity-building initiative called “Improving sanitation and wastewater management for Pacific island countries and territories”, focused on improving wastewater management through a cooperative exchange among trainers. Multi-sectoral partnerships among small island development States were regarded as being a means to synergize existing programmes, to unify and mobilise resources, and provide concerted technical assistance in support of cooperative environmental governance. The workshop focused on strengthening and integration of existing partnerships, development and implementation of public information campaigns, and promotion of alternative domestic and husbandry wastewater collection and treatment systems having little to no impact on water and land resources.

## **16. Seeking solutions to integrating stakeholders to achieve sustainable freshwater and coastal management at the local and national level in the wider Caribbean**

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Coordination Office of the Global Programme of Action had entered into an umbrella memorandum of understanding at the White Water to Blue Water Conference in Miami, in March 2004. The memorandum established a framework for collaboration on activities related to coastal and marine pollution originating from land and coastal degradation within the wider Caribbean region and established an office within the National Ocean Service’s Staff Office for International Programs. The newly established office provided direct technical assistance and advice to Governments in the wider Caribbean regarding development of their national programmes of action to prevent,

reduce, control and eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities and to use such national programmes as vehicles to promote the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities and to raise environmental awareness. The workshop stressed the need to act collectively and to involve all stakeholders in a participatory approach, aiming at realistic actions, and building on integrated analyses of current initiatives. The partnership aimed at expanding the implementation of national programmes of action to the Pacific, the region of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations and other areas, through a best practices guidance document and establishing regional networks of national programmes of action practitioners.

### **17. Challenge of linking freshwater and coastal management**

The workshop focused on identifying obstacles to establishing linkages between freshwater and coastal stakeholders. Viewpoints from both river basin and watershed management, and coastal area and marine ecosystem management were addressed. The analysis of more than 20 cases provided several examples of best practice in linking catchment and coastal management at the operational level. In addition, reference was made to a number of promising approaches used under the Partnership for Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia project for the East Asian Seas. Nevertheless, from the freshwater community's viewpoint the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2005 target on integrated water resources management plans provided an opportunity to incorporate the freshwater-coast link in institutional reform processes more effectively. Stakeholders were encouraged to initiate and foster demonstration projects and learning networks on the opportunities and necessity of adequately linking catchment and coastal integrated management approaches. The Orders of Outcomes Framework in Ecosystem-Based Management seemed to provide a realistic and results-based indicator and progress reporting mechanism. Workshop discussions also referred to the Global Water Partnership Toolbox, which provided a valuable means of enhancing linked freshwater and coastal management initiatives. Furthermore, it was recommended that integration of the development of integrated water resources management national plans be improved, in accordance with the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2005 target and national programmes of action for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.

### **18. Demonstration of an integrated freshwater to oceans management approach for the Xiamen-Zhangzhou-Longyan region of Fujian Province**

Through its existing programme partnerships under the UNDP Biodiversity Management in the Coastal Area of China's South Sea and the United States-China Science and Technology Agreement, the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would provide technical assistance in the development of a demonstration plan of action for the Xiamen-Zhangzhou-Longyan region of Fujian Province with the aim of reducing the impact of land-based sources of pollution on the marine environment. Through that effort, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration would provide technical assistance in the assessment of eutrophication and pollutant influences from watershed sources, provide training in the development and use of watershed-based geographical information systems, and assist in the development of an integrated coastal and watershed management programme to address land-based sources of pollution. Based on the 10 year experience of Chinese integrated coastal management experiments in the municipality of Xiamen, discussions focused on the rationale of expanding the project up the Jiulongjiang River in the light of pollution transport and loading considerations. The importance of a new partnership established among cities and key organizations, as well as a balanced public participation was stressed.

### **19. China-Africa, China-Arab partnership for environmental cooperation**

The partnership between China and African countries was agreed in Nairobi, Kenya, in February 2005, and the partnership between China and Arab countries had been agreed in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in February 2006. The two partnerships had conducted training courses on water management and municipal waste-water treatment, with plans for further training on those and other water-related issues. China-Africa and China-Arab cooperation in the field of environment was regarded as being responsive to the needs of the partnering countries, and a unique and welcome South-South cooperation initiative, with a huge potential for expansion, particularly in the areas of technology transfer and capacity-building, including land-based sources of pollution, disaster risk reduction and adaptability, and land degradation.

## Annex III

### Stakeholder submission

1. Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and the millennium development goals set out the framework for our commitments and activities on sustainable development and, in particular, on marine and coastal issues.
2. Stakeholders from several major groups have taken the opportunity of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to review the status of the marine environment and the threats to it from land-based sources of pollution.<sup>1</sup> We are concerned with the rapid pace of development in coastal areas, increased discharges from industrial, agricultural and domestic sources, and growing exploitation of marine resources that are putting growing stress on the marine environment in many parts of the world. A further impact on the ocean from land-based activities is climate change created by global warming, the results of which are degrading the ocean habitat and marine life.
3. Stakeholders recognize the progress that has been made in some places in establishing regimes to monitor and control pollution levels. In many places, however, these systems are incomplete or are not being implemented with sufficient vigour to prevent further deterioration. We believe that the Global Programme of Action provides a unique opportunity to focus attention on the scale of the problems and to secure high-level political commitment to a more determined programme of action at national and international levels.
4. Stakeholders assert that the establishment of targets, timetables and commitments of appropriate resources are critical to the delivery of the Global Programme of Action and the preservation of our marine environment.
5. Stakeholders believe that their involvement in all stages in the development and implementation of strategies at national and local levels is vital, taking full advantage of their knowledge, experience and skills. National programmes of action should be based upon extensive consultation with stakeholders at all levels and should include measures to raise awareness and understanding of the issues and problems and to develop the capacity of groups and of the public to play their parts in influencing decision-making processes and proposing and implementing solutions.
6. Stakeholders are already working in partnerships to implement the Global Programme of Action, but these partnerships often are not supported with adequate financing to enable them to fulfil their potential and to foster replication. Funding for partnerships should comprise both new resources and also additional resources from both Governments and stakeholders. International financial institutions should be encouraged to be more flexible in supporting stakeholder activities for the purpose of implementing the Global Programme of Action.
7. **To further the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, stakeholders will:**
  - (a) Utilize their scientific, technical and policy expertise and experience to identify and highlight degradation of marine and coastal environments and associated river basins by land-based activities;
  - (b) Advocate solutions to identified problems and the means to overcome obstacles to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
  - (c) Practice, in their own operations and activities, efforts to minimize impacts on the marine environment, thus providing leadership by example;
  - (d) Promote civic participation in implementing the goals of the Global Programme of Action, particularly at the local, subnational and national levels;
  - (e) Introduce and emphasize concerns of the Global Programme of Action, especially regarding freshwater-coastal-marine linkages, into international environmental forums, including the annual meetings of the World Water Week in Stockholm and World Water Forums;

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<sup>1</sup>. During the preparatory process of the second session, a consultative process with major groups and other stakeholders was held to develop stakeholder inputs to the Beijing Declaration and a stakeholder submission to the second session of the Global Programme of Action. Inputs were collected during meetings in Mexico City, Stockholm, New York, London, and Beijing. These inputs supplemented the informal consultative process. The outcomes of this process were built upon and finalized by stakeholders attending the second session.

- (f) Provide leadership by identifying and testing innovative technologies and promoting community-based approaches for reducing pollution from land-based activities, particularly from human and industrial wastes;
- (g) Endeavour to enhance communication and collaboration among stakeholders in programmes and activities directly and indirectly in support of the Global Programme of Action;
- (h) Work with the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office to develop appropriate partnerships to realize the Global Programme of Action and commitments made at the second session;
- (i) Work to quantify and publicize the values of the marine environment and its uses, including, inter alia, through work at the national level with ministries of the environment; and
- (j) Promote collaboration with local, subnational and national Governments and at the regional and international levels to further the implementation of international commitments.

**8. Stakeholders call on Governments and other bodies implementing the Global Programme of Action:**

- (a) To develop and implement national programmes of action with adequate resource allocations;
- (b) To mainstream and integrate the Global Programme of Action into all national development strategies and environmental policies, including poverty reduction strategy programmes, and include relevant goals and targets in such strategies and policies;
- (c) To exercise the political will necessary to achieve the goals of the Global Programme of Action, by identifying specific, quantitative goals for reducing adverse impacts from land-based activities from all nine source categories identified in the Global Programme of Action, and ensure the use of existing mechanisms for achieving these goals;
- (d) To reinstate full funding for the work on International Waters at the next Global Environment Facility (GEF) Assembly, while in the meantime, supporting a voluntary fund administered by UNEP to cover the reduction of funding agreed at the last GEF Assembly;
- (e) To finance the work programme of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, and endorse its emphasis on assisting countries and regions to develop and implement action-oriented local, subnational, national and regional programmes;
- (f) To ensure appropriate capacity-building, exchange of information, and public education as tools to implement the Global Programme of Action;
- (g) To work through their national councils for sustainable development and similar bodies to engage stakeholders in the development of both national policy options and partnerships to implement the Global Programme of Action and realize commitments made at the second session;
- (h) To promote and support the local Agenda 21 framework to engage stakeholders in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
- (i) To involve local communities and other stakeholders actively in identifying problems, developing programmes of action and implementing activities, based on traditional knowledge and other local resources;
- (j) To foster coordination among local and regional governments and organizations and cooperation among neighbouring countries and their organizations;
- (k) To promote and participate in significant partnerships with stakeholders and the public in furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
- (l) To ensure that all development and management plans for river basins that drain into coastal areas explicitly include protection of the marine and coastal environment and its living resources among their goals, thereby providing for the needs of river basin inhabitants and freshwater ecosystems;
- (m) To place greater emphasis on small- and medium-scale wastewater treatment facilities and provide financial support to alternatives to large-scale sewers and municipal wastewater treatment plants as one means of addressing sewage pollution of coastal areas and associated river basins;
- (n) To implement a coastal restoration agenda focusing on a zero-loss policy, as one means of addressing coastal habitat degradation;
- (o) To give a high priority to identifying and implementing appropriate, cost-effective programmes and measures to address point and non-point sources of nutrient discharges, particularly programmes for the management and prevention of nitrogen and phosphorus run-off from agriculture activity;

- (p) To ensure national and regional programmes of action under the Global Programme of Action are consistent with the basic principles of ecosystem management, transparency, environmental education, training, institutional capacity-building, public awareness and participation, integrated approaches and equity, and the “polluter pays” and precautionary principles;
- (q) To understand that integrated management of watersheds with coastal and marine zones must consider appropriate geographic and also technical and political factors;
- (r) To identify and implement timetables to phase out subsidies for all materials and practices that are destructive to coastal and marine environments and associated watersheds and river basins;
- (s) To establish data and information systems to assure long-term preservation of data and information, to facilitate their exchange and to develop capacity-building programmes for States lacking relevant expertise;
- (t) To ratify and enforce all multilateral environmental agreements and related protocols relevant to achievement of the goals of the Global Programme of Action as rapidly as possible;
- (u) To undertake with their national councils on sustainable development or similar bodies, in preparation for the third session of the Global Programme of Action, an assessment of challenges and obstacles to realization of commitments made under the Global Programme of Action and recommend policy options for the third session of the Global Programme of Action; and
- (v) To consider holding the third session of the Global Programme of Action in conjunction with a leading international freshwater event to facilitate improved cooperation between the freshwater, coastal and marine stakeholder communities.

## Annex IV

### Chair's summary of the ministerial round-table discussions

1. Ministers, vice-ministers and high-level representatives attending the ministerial/high-level segment of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities deliberated the value of the Programme as a flexible, non-binding, integrative and catalytic instrument for the sustainable development of coasts, oceans, islands and their associated watersheds, and as an effective instrument to support broader environmental management and sustainable development goals.
2. Representatives focused their discussions on practical measures they could adopt and apply in order to:
  - (a) Integrate and mainstream the implementation of the Programme into national development planning, through means including the mobilization of increased domestic and international financing;
  - (b) Strengthen the implementation of the Programme at the national, regional and global levels.
3. Such measures were expected to contribute to the achievement of internationally agreed sustainability goals and targets, including those associated with the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.
4. Ministers and high-level representatives shared, based on national experiences, a range of strategies to implement the Programme at various levels of government. They identified several issues requiring urgent attention at the national, regional and global levels to facilitate Programme implementation.
5. Ministers and high-level representatives recognized that concerns regarding the sustainable management of coasts and oceans were seldom reflected in national development processes, including those processes associated with the international community such as poverty reduction strategy papers, United Nations development assistance frameworks and common country assessments.
6. Examples of successful mainstreaming of the Programme into national development plans and strategies included the implementation of projects at the community level, the institutionalization of the Programme in the form of dedicated national offices and the allocation of domestic budgets for Programme-related activities. Other countries indicated the development of comprehensive land use plans and dedicated environmental funds to support environmental activities as useful tools to advance implementation of the Programme.
7. Reviewing the outcomes of the first three days of the meeting, ministers and high-level representatives underscored the importance and value of institutional and inter-sectoral coordination in developing and implementing Programme-related instruments at the national level. Examples of successful national inter-sectoral coordination included the development of inter-ministerial committees at the technical, policy and political levels. The development and implementation of plans and strategies needed to be carried out with the involvement of all levels of government, including national, provincial and municipal levels. That could be further enhanced through partnerships with the private sector and non-governmental organizations.
8. Community-based projects were seen as extremely important. Several examples were provided of sustainable livelihood projects that promoted environmental conservation and sustainable livelihoods, including mangrove restoration, sea grass cultivation and fisheries management.
9. Ministers and high-level representatives emphasized the need for improved enforcement of and compliance with legislation, including through education and awareness-raising. It was suggested that greater emphasis should be given to the use of economic incentives such as market-based instruments and the promotion of voluntary compliance through greater involvement of communities.
10. Ministers and high-level representatives emphasized the important roles that could be played by effective national and regional monitoring programmes to support improved policy setting, more informed decision-making and better compliance with legislation.
11. The nexus between the Programme and economic development was emphasized along with the need to quantify the economic value of the goods and services provided by coastal and marine resources and to enhance the use of environmental impact assessments. Greater use of economic valuation and cost-benefit analysis was recommended as a means to support a preventive approach in addressing environmental management priorities. The need for continued capacity-building, including training and technology support at all levels, was stressed within the framework of the Bali Strategic Plan on Capacity-building and Technology Support.

12. Ministers and high-level representatives noted the value of the media and environmental education and awareness in empowering communities, changing behaviour and attitudes, and providing watchdog and accountability services. They confirmed that coordinated regional actions through mechanisms such as the regional seas programmes, conventions and protocols, were effective tools to support national action and enhance ownership of and contributions by national Governments to the implementation of regional conventions and action plans; at the same time, such efforts would also meet national needs and priorities. Representatives encouraged early ratification of regional agreements, although, where regional mechanisms already existed, they emphasized the need for streamlining and improved coordination.

13. Ministers and high-level representatives expressed their concern over the slow rate of implementation of some of the international goals and targets pertaining to coasts and oceans, including the 2015 sanitation target, the integrated water resources management target and the ecosystem-based management approach. They highlighted, based on achievements made so far, that the Programme could complement and expedite realization of those global goals.

14. Representatives recognized several challenges faced in meeting the obligations of multilateral environmental agreements, which addressed issues common to those of the Programme. It was suggested that the Programme could facilitate the coordination of the implementation of such agreements at both the regional and national levels. In so doing, the Programme would become an integrating mechanism among the multilateral environmental agreements and would establish linkages between those agreements and relevant regional programmes.

15. Representatives emphasized the need for financial support to address issues related to the management of coasts and oceans and associated watersheds within national, regional and global development agendas. The Programme could facilitate the provision of donor support based on agreed national and regional priorities. Finally the need for global financial mechanisms, such as the Global Environment Facility, to continue to recognize the special needs and vulnerabilities of specific regions and sub-regions, such as small island developing States, needed to be reflected in the further development and implementation of international projects and activities.

16. Ministers and high-level representatives considered that it was necessary to keep the Programme high on national, regional and international agendas as an effective mechanism to promote the sustainable management of coasts, oceans and their associated watersheds. They reaffirmed the crucial need to apply ecosystem-based approaches, amongst others, to strengthen the link between freshwater management and the sustainable development of coastal areas.

## Annex V

## Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

*We the representatives of 104 Governments and the European Commission, with the valued support and concurrence of delegates from international financial institutions, international and regional organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders and major groups,*

*Having met in Beijing from 16 to 20 October 2006 at the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,*

*Acknowledging that people are dependent on the oceans and coasts and their resources for their survival, health and well-being, that a significant number of people derive their food security and economic livelihood from the coastal and marine environment and that many of those areas, in particular low-lying coastal areas and small island developing States, are vulnerable to the rise in the sea level and climate-related natural disasters as well as effects on the marine environment of ocean acidification resulting from land-based activities,*

*Noting the steady urbanization of coastal areas, with close to 40 per cent of the world's population living within 100 kilometres of the coast, and concerned about the findings of the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Marine Assessment and its report "The state of the marine environment: trends and processes", in particular as regards the severe and increasing occurrence of nutrient over enrichment of coastal waters, the continuing and projected increase in the discharge of untreated municipal, industrial and agricultural wastewater, and the substantial increase of atmospherically transported emissions,*

*Recognizing the growing damage that those trends are causing to people and the environment, including stress on marine ecosystems, loss of corals and wetlands, contamination of marine sources of human food and prejudice to the amenity of beaches and the health of bathing waters,*

*Noting the continuing need for improved monitoring to identify threats at regional, national and local levels and to assess the impact and effectiveness of measures to address such problems,*

*Recognizing that the Global Programme of Action is an effective tool for integrating environmental concerns into development planning and strategies at the regional and national levels and that, as such, it contributes substantially to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,<sup>2</sup> and those highlighted in Agenda 21,<sup>3</sup> the Barbados Programme of Action,<sup>4</sup> the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,<sup>5</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,<sup>6</sup>*

*Emphasizing the importance of the Global Programme of Action in addressing the interaction of land and ocean and integrating freshwater with coastal and marine management approaches, thereby protecting human health and livelihoods while fostering the application of ecosystem approaches,*

*Noting that the need for sufficient financial resources and for capacity-building are major challenges faced by developing countries for the successful implementation of the Global Programme of Action,*

*Recognizing the important contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Seas*

<sup>2</sup> See General Assembly Resolution 55/2.

<sup>3</sup> Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.L.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>4</sup> Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 4.94.L.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>5</sup> Plan of implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

<sup>6</sup> Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Programme, the Global Environment Facility and international financial institutions in implementing the Global Programme of Action and concurrently recognizing the financial constraints faced in such implementation and the consequent need for resource mobilization and support,

*Noting* the progress made by some countries in building institutional capacity and developing legislative frameworks and environmental policies regarding the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment,

*Supporting* the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, adopted by the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme at its twenty-third session, in view of the fundamental role of capacity-building in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action,

*Acknowledging* the important contribution of multi-stakeholder partnerships, including those concluded at the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments to advance action on internationally agreed and recognized goals,

*Recognizing* the successful results and achievements in the progression from planning to implementation of the Global Programme of Action in the period 2002–2006 and, in particular, the contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme's Global Programme of Action Coordination Office,

*Resolve:*

1. To recommit ourselves to the Global Programme of Action as a flexible and effective tool for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands;
2. To commit ourselves to furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in 2007–2011:
  - (a) By applying ecosystem approaches;
  - (b) By valuing the social and economic costs and benefits of the goods and services that coasts and oceans provide;
  - (c) By establishing partnerships at the national, regional and international levels;
  - (d) By cooperating at the regional and interregional levels;
  - (e) By mainstreaming the Global Programme of Action into national development planning and budgetary mechanisms;
  - (f) By supporting the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in undertaking its task of facilitating, furthering and promoting the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
3. To express appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in helping to advance the agenda with respect to the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands and invite it to strengthen its support to the further implementation of the Global Programme of Action through increased contributions from its Environment Fund, enhanced cooperation and coordination with multilateral environmental agreements and improved cooperation with all stakeholders and relevant organizations, including multilateral development banks, at the global and regional levels;

### **National actions**

4. To strengthen efforts to develop and implement our regional and national programmes of action and mechanisms for the protection of the marine environment from land-based pollution sources and activities, in concert with the relevant implementing legislation and financing, and to mainstream the objectives of the Global Programme of Action into development planning and implementation, including the United Nations country level programmes, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, poverty reduction strategy papers, common country assessments and country assistance strategies, to reduce and manage the risks and impacts of coastal and marine pollution;
5. To commit to the continued currency and relevance of the Global Programme of Action as a fundamental framework for the protection of the coastal and marine environment and to commit ourselves to taking the Global Programme of Action's objectives and to mainstreaming them across our Governments, and also to advancing them, as appropriate, in the relevant intergovernmental organizations and in the various

multilateral environmental agreements to which we are Parties and in which we participate;

6. To promote the effective implementation of international and regional conventions, agreements and protocols to which they are Parties, relevant to the achievement of the goals of the Global Programme of Action.
7. To improve cooperation and coordination at all levels in order to deal with issues related to watersheds, coasts, seas and oceans in an integrated manner and to incorporate the integrated management and sustainable use of river basins, seas and oceans into relevant national policies and programmes, in particular by implementing integrated approaches to water resources management, to coastal zone management and coastal area management, to coastal area and river basin management, and to physical alteration and destruction of habitats;
8. To develop and implement national plan of actions for the Global Programme of Action, in close coordination with the national integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans, as set forth in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;<sup>7</sup>
9. To further the application of ecosystem approaches to watershed, coast, oceans and large marine ecosystems and island management, and to strengthen national, regional and global cooperation to help achieve increased application by 2010 of the ecosystem approach, as set forth in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;<sup>8</sup>
10. To increase our efforts to integrate and mainstream economic valuation of the goods and services that oceans, coasts and watersheds provide into our accounting and decision-making, taking full account of all services that the environment provides, including their direct and indirect value to societies and ecosystems;
11. To devote additional effort, finance and support to address point and non-point source nutrients, including municipal, industrial and agricultural wastewater, as major and increasing source categories directly affecting human health, well-being and the environment, including marine ecosystems and their associated watersheds;
12. To develop and implement durable mechanisms to ensure the long-term financial sustainability and implementation of regional and national programmes of action and mechanisms for the protection of the marine environment from land-based pollution sources and activities;
13. To improve monitoring systems at all levels so as to enable Governments, major groups and the public to contribute to building a common understanding and knowledge of the damage being done to the marine environment and the measures needed to protect it and for the follow-up of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
14. To actively promote the involvement and participation of local and regional authorities, communities and other relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of programmes of action and strategies, in particular at the local level, for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

## **Regional actions**

15. To strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme regional seas conventions and programmes, as well as other regional conventions, agreements and programmes for the protection of the marine and coastal environment, to serve as effective mechanisms to further the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and the protection and sustainable use of the marine environment, through means such as the development and implementation of protocols addressing land-based pollution sources and activities;
16. To work through the United Nations Environment Programme regional seas programmes and other regional and interregional bodies and processes to apply ecosystem approaches to watershed, coast, ocean and large marine ecosystems and island management, and to develop and strengthen strategic partnerships and improve interregional action, cooperation, scientific understanding, environmental education, exchange and sharing of knowledge, technology and experience;

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

## International actions

17. To call upon United Nations agencies, United Nations inter-agency groups, such as UN-Oceans and UN-Water, the United Nations Development Group, the International Maritime Organization, and multilateral environmental agreements, in particular the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, to increase the integration of the Global Programme of Action into their policies, plans and programmes, consistent with their mandates;
18. To call upon international and regional financial institutions and donor countries to continue to support the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the appropriate levels and to increase their contribution to ensuring its long-term sustainability through financial and technical support and by building the capacity of developing countries, particularly small island developing States, to develop and implement their national programmes of action;
19. To welcome the national, regional and international partnerships, discussed during the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action, aimed at mainstreaming the work and objectives of the Global Programme of Action into their respective workplans, activities, policies and programmes at the appropriate levels and to welcome the creation of new partnerships with all sectors of civil society and the strengthening of existing ones, as critical mechanisms for the successful implementation of the Global Programme of Action;
20. To support the continuity and the mainstreaming of the Global Programme of Action into the major fields of global development activity and promote it as a means to create the integrated processes, intellectual leadership and partnerships that are necessary to achieve global goals and strategies in linked watershed, coastal and ocean areas through ecosystem-based approaches;
21. To improve the implementation of the Global Programme of Action through cooperating with other international initiatives, in order to develop joint activities around the integrated management of watersheds;
22. To call upon States that have not done so, to consider becoming Parties to international and regional conventions, agreements and protocols, as appropriate, relevant to the achievement of the goals of the Global Programme of Action.

## United Nations Environment Programme actions

23. To endorse the Global Programme of Action programme of work for the period 2007–2011, commend it to the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum and encourage the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to devote greater financial resources to its implementation, particularly at the regional level;
24. To welcome the “Guidance to the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for 2007–2011”<sup>9</sup> produced by the United Nations Environment Programme’s Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, as a tool aimed at supporting implementation of the Global Programme of Action in a manner consistent with emerging issues in the international environment and sustainable development context;
25. To request the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to endorse the present Declaration and the outcome of the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as valuable contributions to the implementation of Agenda 21 and other internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
26. To request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to convene the third session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in 2011, in collaboration with the relevant organizations and institutions, and to seek the support of the United Nations Environment Programme in organizing the meeting and implementing its outcome;

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<sup>9</sup> UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/3.

27. To express special gratitude and appreciation to the Government and people of the People's Republic of China for hosting the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

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