

**Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future**

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Derek Osborn, Chair • Felix Dodds, Executive Director



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**Stakeholder Consultation with Major Groups and Stakeholder Representatives  
on the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine  
Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)  
Wednesday, June 14, 2006, 1:00 P.M – 5:30 P.M.  
London, UK**

Participants

Mr. Steve Bloomfield, UNISON,

Ms. Joke Muylwijk, Gender and Water Alliance

Mr. Damien Guihen, Youth Representative

Ms. Carolien Van Der Voorden, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council

Professor Jim Readman, Plymouth Marine Laboratory

Mr. Derek Osborn, Chair, Stakeholder Forum

Mr. Charles Nouhan, Advisor to Stakeholder Forum

Ms. Jennifer Peer, Stakeholder Forum

Ms. Saskia Wazel, Stakeholder Forum

Apologies

Ms. Danielle Morley, Freshwater Action Network

Additional Written Comments

Ms. Rosalie Callaway, Local Government International Bureau (LGIB)

Ms. Eva Haden, World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBSCD)

## Meeting Minutes

### Introduction

Mr. Nouhan began the meeting by welcoming participants and explaining that the aim of the consultation was to involve a variety of stakeholders in identifying key issues and discussing the role they can play in addressing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA).

Ms. Peer gave a brief introductory presentation, on behalf of Cees Van de Gutche of UNEP/GPA who was unable to attend the meeting, to the GPA and the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting that will take place in Beijing in October. She introduced the GPA as a programme adopted in 1995 by over 100 countries and the EU, which aims at preventing the destruction of the marine environment from land-based activities. She noted that the GPA is the only global programme that links coastal and marine environment. It is of significance because more than 40% of the global population lives in coastal areas and 80 % of marine pollution is from land based activities. Therefore, the GPA is of importance also to issues of public health, human well-being and cultural aspects. She noted that in addition to being a source of conceptual and practical guidance, the GPA also advocates for the importance of linking freshwater to coasts and oceans management, the importance of environmental dimensions in addressing sanitation.

Ms. Peer briefly described the schedule for IGR-2. On Day 1 governments will explain how they have implemented their respective NPAs, including financing, mainstreaming the GPA into various ministries, and major challenges they have faced in GPA implementation. Day 2 is Partnerships Day, where many partnerships will be represented. Day 3 of IGR-2 will focus on the GPA Programme of Work. Finally, Days 4 and 5 will consist of Ministerial discussions and multi-stakeholder dialogues.

Ms. Peer reviewed the work Stakeholder Forum is undertaking with UNEP/GPA to engage stakeholders in the preparatory process of the IGR-2. She explained that Stakeholder Forum is hosting regional consultations with stakeholders and an online dialogue, that it produces a monthly newsletter, GPA Outreach, and that it is undertaking activities to increase stakeholder awareness and understanding of the GPA. She explained that this meeting is part of this ongoing work, and that the aim is to bring networks of Major Groups into the discussion. She added that Stakeholder Forum would convene a similar meeting on Thursday 15 June in New York in the margins of the 7<sup>th</sup> United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, which will engage primarily environmental NGOs in a similar discussion.

Mr. Nouhan gave a brief explanation of the role of Major Groups in the United Nations and partnerships. He explained that since partnerships have emerged within the UN system as an increasingly acknowledged means of realizing the sustainable development agenda. In 2002, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) officially recognized "Type II Commitments" as an essential means of implementation.

## Discussion

Following Mr. Nouhan's comments on partnerships, participants discussed their experiences with partnerships in this sector.

Ms. Van Der Voorden explained that the WSSCC is a partnership which emerged from the WSSD. WSSCC aims to accelerate the achievement of sustainable sanitation, hygiene and water services to all people, particularly poor people, by enhancing collaboration and coordination of all sector stakeholders, at the national and international level. She described WSSCC's collaboration with UNEP/GPA through the WET-WASH campaign, which was launched in 2004 at the Hilltops-2-Oceans Partnership Conference. The WET-WASH campaign links wastewater emissions targets with sanitation targets.

Mr. Bloomfield discussed his organisation's involvement with Partners for Water and Sanitation, which has as members government departments, private enterprises, and NGOs. The partnership works with developing countries to provide knowledge and expertise to help them supply clean water and adequate sanitation. He noted a real need to focus attention and resources on the capacity of local and state actors in this area.

Mr. Nouhan raised the issue of whether capacity building is adequately addressed by the GPA, particularly capacity building at the local or grassroots level. He emphasised the importance of building local capacity to empower citizens to demand national action to address their concerns.

Professor Readman described a best practice example of transferring knowledge and capacity to developing countries in the area of the marine environment. The Rapid Assessment of Marine Pollution Programme (RAMP) provides inexpensive and easy to use tools to provide preliminary information about the extent of environmental health, and a sound scientific basis upon which environmental decisions can be based. The programme is sponsored by IOC of UNESCO, among others, and is being implemented in developing countries including Costa Rica, Vietnam, and India.

Participants then turned to the question "What are the 3 largest threats to the marine environment from land based activities that affect or concern your constituency?" The participants generally embrace the major contaminant problems relating to food security, public health, biological diversity, and economic and social benefits. Concerning the prioritization of the contaminants present in land based emissions, while 9 are identified by UNEP, participants stressed that regional differences and perceptions would frequently afford very different rankings of priorities. However, of the 9 categories, sewage was considered by all to afford the largest threat and comprise contribution from most categories. It was considered that sewage should feature more prominently in the priorities for the Beijing Declaration. Participants also noted the absence of industrial waste emissions which they considered should also be prioritized.

Mr. Nouhan then focused the group's attention to the Draft Elements to the Beijing Declaration. Participants reviewed the new draft of the Beijing Declaration, dated June 13 2006.

Ms. Muylwijk noted that diversity of people, including women and children and indigenous peoples is missing from the document, as is recognition that pollution of

the marine environment will affect different group's well-being, health, and livelihoods differently. Women and children have been shown to be more at risk than men from many pollutants. For example, most persistent organic pollutants accumulate in body fats and the accumulation rates tend to be higher for women than for men because of their generally high fat levels. Pollutants can be readily transferred from mothers to their babies, either through placental transfer to the unborn child, or via breast milk in lactating mothers. Infants and young children are especially vulnerable to the effects of pollutants, which can have adverse effects on development. Pollution of the marine environment also has negative effects on women's economic situations, through impacts on the tourism and fishery sectors in particular.

Ms. Muylwijk said that because of the differing effects of marine pollution, solutions must be varied and appropriate in order to be effective. She noted that communities have large amounts of local knowledge, which must be incorporated into solutions and actions. For example, women, as everyday users of these coastal ecosystem services can easily identify changes to habitats, to the abundance of species. Their knowledge is crucial to habitat restoration (for example mangrove re-planting, coral re-planting, shore vegetation re-planting).

Mr. Bloomfield spoke of the need to better reflect the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships. He emphasized the important role partnerships play in finding appropriate solutions at the local level. He emphasized the need to include references to partnerships under the Declaration's "National Actions" section, to build support for locally based partnerships.

Mr. Bloomfield noted that while the document emphasizes municipal waste, agricultural and industrial waste are missing.

Professor Readman emphasized that it was difficult to consider the Beijing Declaration in isolation, without also considering the Washington Declaration and the UNEP/GPA Programme of Work. He said that UNEP/GPA should include specifications of its successes, in order to support the text's recognition of the achievements of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office. He reiterated the need to recognize regional difference and perceptions when addressing pollution to the marine environment from land-based activities.

Mr. Osborn called for the need for more urgent language in the document. He underlined that worrying trends are notable in the rapid pace of development in coastal areas, the increases in discharges from industrial, agricultural and domestic sources, and the growing exploitation of marine resources, all of which are placing growing stresses upon the marine environment in many parts of the world. The document should recognize with urgency these problems and focus on action-oriented solutions.

Participants agreed that the document needs to be strengthened substantially to incorporate more specific targets and timetables and appropriate measures and resources commitments to achieve them.

Mr Guihen noted that land based atmospheric pollution should be included document, in recognition of the fact that the land environment and marine environment do not exist in isolation. He said that at the local level, education to bring about behavioural change in individuals is crucial to effectively implement the GPA.

Ms. Van Der Voorden stressed the need to acknowledge that people are dependent on the oceans and coasts and their resources for not only their survival, well-being, but also their health, noting that health was too significant to have it represented by the term “well-being”.

Ms. Peer presented written comments to the discussion provided by WBCSD and LGIB, who were unable to attend the meeting in person. These are contained in Annex II.

Mr. Osborn reiterated the point that the role of stakeholders in partners for implementation deserved far more attention in the document, as does emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships. He underlined the need to strengthen monitoring mechanisms to enable governments, Major Groups, and the public to contribute to a common understanding and knowledge of what is happening to the marine environment and what needs to be done to protect or restore its integrity.

Participants then divided into small working groups to draft suggestions for amendment to the Beijing Declaration which reflect areas of agreement between the groups about how to strengthen the document. These amendments are contained in Annex I.

Ms. Peer reminded the group that Stakeholder Forum will be convening additional stakeholder consultations in various regions as well as hosting an online dialogue (June 19-30, 2006) at [www.stakeholderforum.org](http://www.stakeholderforum.org). She invited participants to consult with their major group networks and send her any additional input.

**We, the representatives of XXX 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, assembled at the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), held in Beijing, People's Republic of China, from 16 to 20 October 2006, reaffirm our commitment to the GPA and have agreed to adopt the following Declaration:**

- 1. Acknowledging** that people are dependent on the oceans and coasts and their resources for their survival, well-being, **and health** and that a significant number of people derive their food security or economic livelihood from the coastal and marine environment and that many of these areas and SIDS are vulnerable to climate- related natural disasters;
- 2. Noting** the steady urbanization of coastal areas, with close to 50% of the world's population living within 100km of the coast **and aware of** the findings of the "State of the Marine Environment: Trends and processes" and the "Global Marine Assessment", in particular the severe **and** increasing occurrence of excessive nutrient enrichment of coastal waters, and the continuing and projected increase of the untreated discharge of municipal **[and industrial]** wastewater **[and the substantial increase of atmospherically transported emissions.]**

**[2a. Recognising the growing damage that these trends are causing in many parts of the world, including stress to marine ecosystems, losses of coral, contamination of marine sources of human food, prejudice to the amenity of beaches and the healthiness of bathing waters.]**

- 3. Recognising** that the GPA is an effective tool for integrating environmental concerns into development planning and strategies. As such, the GPA substantially contributes towards the achievement of internationally agreed development goals such as those contained in the Millennium Declaration, those highlighted in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI), Agenda 21, the Barbados Plan of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, and towards implementing the JPOI through the Commission on Sustainable Development thematic clusters.

**[3a. Recognizing the diversity of people, especially women, men and children, indigenous populations etc, who are affected differently by pollution and whose responses and solutions will also be different;]**

- 4. Underscoring** the importance of the GPA in addressing land-ocean interactions and integrating freshwater and coastal/marine management approaches thus protecting human health and livelihoods;
- 5. Recognising** the important contribution of the Regional Seas Programmes and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in implementing the GPA;
- 6. Noting** the progress made by a number of countries in building their institutional capacities, and developing their legislative frameworks and

environmental policies as regards the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment, including the application of the circular economy approach;

7. **Supporting** the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building given the fundamental role of capacity building for the implementation of the GPA;
8. **Acknowledging** the complementary contribution of partnerships' to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments to advance action internationally agreed goals and targets; and facilitating the creation of such partnerships, including the private sector and non-governmental organizations, as required in the JPOI;
9. **Recognising** the successful results and achievements in the progression from planning to implementation of the GPA in the period 2002-2006 and, in particular, the contribution of the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office;

[9a. Noting the continuing need for improved monitoring to identify threats at regional, national, and local level, and the impact and effectiveness of measures to deal with the problems.]

**In pursuance of our commitment to prevent the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, we further resolve to:**

10. **Express** appreciation for the efforts of the UNEP in helping to advance the oceans, coasts and islands sustainable development agenda, and invite it to strengthen its support to the further implementation of the GPA through, inter al/a, enhanced coherence and coordination with MEAs and the international community in general;

#### National Actions

[Recognising the need to involve the different stakeholder groups affected by and with an interest in the issues addressed in a participatory and inclusive planning and implementation process, utilising their local and historical knowledge.

Recognising the important contribution of multi-stakeholder partnerships, that acknowledge the diversity of people and their interest, particularly at local levels, towards the development of river basin and local water plans.

Encourage governments to support local level solutions, such as community-based wastewater treatment systems.]

11. **Urge** governments to continue efforts to develop and implement their regional and national programmes of action and mechanisms, in concert with the relevant implementing legislation and financing, and to mainstream the objectives of the GPA in development planning and implementation, including UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF), Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRS), Common Country Assessments (CCA), Country Assistance Strategies (CAS), to reduce and manage the risks and impacts of coastal and marine pollution, [and to establish targets and timetables to achieve measurable improvements with appropriate measures and commitment of resources to achieve these.; ]

- 12. Reaffirm** the continued currency and relevance of the GPA as the fundamental framework for the protection of the coastal and marine environment and commit to take the GPA objectives and mainstream them across our governments as well as advance them in the various MEAs to which we are Party.
- 13. Improve** cooperation and coordination at all levels in order to address issues related to watersheds, coasts, seas and oceans in an integrated manner and promote the integrated management and sustainable development of river basins, seas and oceans, in particular through integrating the approaches of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), the Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), and Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats (PADH);

[13a. Improve monitoring systems at all levels so as to enable governments, Major Groups, and the public to contribute to a common understanding and knowledge of what is happening to the marine environment and what needs to be done to protect or restore its integrity.]

- 14. Acknowledge** the need to devote additional effort, finance and support to address point and non-point source nutrients and municipal, [domestic, industrial, and agricultural] wastewater as major and increasing source categories directly affecting [the environment], and human health and well-being;
- 15. Encourage** governments to develop sustainable mechanisms to ensure the long-term financial sustainability and implementation of regional and national programmes of action and mechanisms;

[15a. Urge governments to involve government and communities and other Major Groups in helping to identify and scope the problems, develop the programmes of action and play their appropriate parts in implementing the strategies.]

#### Regional Actions

- 16. Work** through Regional Seas Programmes and other regional bodies to apply ecosystem approaches, including large marine ecosystems (LME), to watershed, coast, ocean, and island management, and to develop and strengthen strategic partnerships and protocols.

#### International Actions

- 17. Call upon** UN agencies, UN Interagency Groups such as UN-Oceans and UN-Water, and other UN Agencies, as well as the United Nations Development Group and UN country-level programmes, including UNDAF, to increase the integration of the GPA in national and regional sustainable development policies, plans and programmes;
- 18. Endorse** the national, regional and international partnerships discussed during the IGR2 aimed at mainstreaming the GPA's work and objectives in their respective work plans, activities, policies and programmes at the various levels;

### Ministerial Segment Outcomes

- 19. Exhort** governments to further the application of ecosystem approaches, including large marine ecosystems (LME), to river basins, coasts, oceans and islands management; and to strengthen national, regional and global cooperation to reach the target of the application of the ecosystem approach by 2010, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- 20. Call** upon governments to increase their efforts to integrate and mainstream economic valuation of goods and services that oceans provide into their accounting and decision-making, taking full account of all services that the environment provides including direct and indirect value to society and ecosystems.
- 20. Mainstream** the GPA into the major global development themes and promote it as a change agent to create integrated processes, intellectual leadership and partnerships that are necessary to achieve global goals and strategies in linked watershed/coastal/oceans areas through ecosystem-based approaches.

### GPA and UNEP Actions

- 21. Endorse** the GPA programme of work for the period 2007-20 11 and commend it to the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the UNEP, encouraging it to implement the programme at a strengthened level, subject to availability of resources;
- 22. Welcome** the Guidance on the Implementation of the GPA 2007-2011 as a tool aimed at further implementing the GPA in a consistent manner with emerging issues in the international environmental context;
- 23. Request** the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of UNEP to endorse this declaration and the outcome of the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting as valuable contributions to the implementation of Agenda 21, the MDGs and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
- 24. Request** the Executive Director of UNEP to, in collaboration with the relevant organizations and institutions, convene the Third Intergovernmental Review Meeting in 2011, and seek support for organizing the meeting;
- 25. Express** special gratitude and appreciation to the government and people of the People's Republic of China for hosting the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the GPA.

**Discussion Questions for Stakeholder Consultation on GPA  
London, June 14, 2006**

**Submitted by the Local Government International Bureau (LGIB)**

1. What are the 3 largest threats to the marine environment from land based activities that affect or concern your constituency?
  - Pollutant runoff due to urban development – Currently the largest urban concentrations are on the seacoasts. In 2000 the combined population of the world's 15 biggest cities was estimated to be 223 million<sup>1</sup>. For example in Latin America - the pollution of the rivers and seas of caused by the uncontrolled discharge of untreated domestic sewage is at the top of the list of the environmental problems affecting coastal cities, seaside resorts and river communities of the region. The problem has become critical because more than 60% of the region's population live in coastal zones, and 60 of the 77 largest cities are located near rivers and coastlines<sup>2</sup>.
  - Pollutant runoff due to rural activities – Agricultural activities, especially more intensive practices, in rural communities are also a significant source of coastal pollutant
  - Impact to coastal communities – there are significant health and economic implications of marine and coastal pollution e.g. seafood contamination, water quality, beach quality. For example in Lima, Peru, it was recorded that 18,000 litres of waste water are pumped into the Pacific Ocean every second. This has resulted in beaches unsuitable for bathing and an increased incidence of diseases such as hepatitis, diarrhoea and cholera, killing thousands of people and costing millions of dollars in health care and loss of exports and tourism<sup>3</sup>
  
2. What actions are necessary from governments, international financial institutions, the GPA/Coordination office, etc. to expedite the implementation of the GPA?
  - Strengthen local government service delivery – Many local authorities lack technical and financial capacity to adequately treat and regulate agricultural, sewage and waste water discharges. Governments and international agencies must establish targeted training programmes and funds to establish and enhance municipal waste water treatment, regulation and monitoring
  - Promote ICZM techniques locally – Programmes that promote Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) techniques are important in ensuring sustainable local development and limiting local land-based activities that impact the coastal and marine environments. Governments and international agencies must ensure training and resources at a local level for local government, including planners
  - Regional (sub-national) coordination – Agencies need to encourage coordinated regional planning and development between local authorities around and upstream of the coastal zone

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<sup>1</sup> Tokyo, Mexico City, Bombay, Sao Paulo, New York, Shanghai, Lagos, Los Angeles, Calcutta, Buenos Aires, Seoul, Beijing, Karachi, Delhi and Dhaka. *Source: FAO (1998) Potential impacts of sea-level rise on populations and agriculture R. Gommaes, J. du Guerny, F. Nachtergaele and R. Brinkman. UN Food and Agriculture Organization*

<sup>2</sup> Source: Galvão, L (2003) *A water pollution crisis in the Americas. UN Habitat - Forum debate*  
<http://www.unhabitat.org/hd/hdv9n3/10.asp>

<sup>3</sup> *Op cit*

3. What role exists for your sector in implementing the GPA? Specifically, what could your sector do to further support the implementation of the GPA?

- Local planning – Local government could adopt sustainable local development plans, including ICZM plans, incorporating the coastal and marine environment into their decision making
- Pollution control, regulation and monitoring – Local government should be encouraged to impose tighter control and regulatory powers, as well as monitoring of their impact on the local marine environment
- Local education and engagement – local government can promote understanding in their communities and local stakeholders e.g. businesses, farming community, about the wider impacts of water pollution to the marine and coastal environment. They can provide information to encourage local stakeholders to act more responsibly.

4. From the perspective of your constituency, what elements are missing from the Beijing Declaration that should be included? What additional language should be included?

A. Local action and partners

The declaration notes the potential threat of growing urbanisation along the coast line [para 2] however the resolution does not reflect the need for action in this area. Therefore the following additional language is proposed:

[para 16] should refer to the need for enabling 'locally appropriate' responses that contribute to implementing the GPA objectives, supporting participation, training, access to resources and capacity building of local government and communities as a part of implementing NPAs.

[para 17] should also ensure financial resources are made available for *local* programmes of action as well as regional and national programmes.

[para 21] 'all levels' referred to in this paragraph should include local and regional (sub-national) authorities, as key implementing partners.

[para 24] should also support local partnerships.

B. Climate change, natural disasters and sea level rise

The declaration also notes the impacts of climate change and other natural threats as an additional threat [para 9] but again does not consider any areas of action in the resolution. We therefore propose an additional paragraph should be inserted to address this issue, and that it should reflect the need for strengthening local government capacity through training, resources and good practice exchange to minimise the threat of natural disasters along the coastline.

**Submitted by the World Business Council on Sustainable Development**

1. What are the 3 largest threats to the marine environment from land based activities that affect or concern your constituency?

The WBCSD water scenarios do not go into great depth regarding the marine environment, but do mention pollution and climate change - see two quotes from the scenarios:

- "By 2010, intermittent industrial spills are also increasing in frequency. Over-exploitation of water resources leads to loss of industrial as well as agricultural production, depletion of groundwater and major rivers failing to reach the sea. "
- "... that climate change might be leading to increasingly destructive hurricanes and that global warming might result in a sea level rise that would threaten dozens of major cities along U.S. coasts."

2. What has been your sector's experience of the GPA and its implementation?

Cees van de Guchte and Robert Bechtloff participated in one of our Scenario workshops in the Hague. Apart from that, I do not know of any other WBCSD-GPA activities.