

Stakeholder Input into the Preparatory Meeting for the IGR-2, Paris 27-28 July
Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future

Stakeholders from several major groups have taken the opportunity of the forthcoming Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) to review their own understanding of the status of the marine environment and the threats to it from land-based sources of pollution. Having consulted together they now wish to put forward the following conclusions for the consideration of Governments and other participants in the international preparatory meeting in Paris, together with the attached suggestions for amendment of the draft declaration to be adopted at the high level meeting in Beijing.

Stakeholders are very concerned about the state of the marine environment and the growing threats to it in many parts of the world. 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 are placing growing stresses upon the marine environment in many parts of the world. Stakeholders are also concerned with the impacts of climate change on oceans, including ocean acidification and rising sea levels. In some places, the health and integrity of marine ecosystems is at risk, and pollution levels pose threats to the human food chain, to human health and well-being and to the amenity and cleanliness of coastal areas and inland waters.

Stakeholders recognize the progress that has been made in many places in establishing regimes to monitor and control pollution levels. But in many places these systems are incomplete or are not being implemented with sufficient vigor to prevent further deterioration. We believe that the Beijing review provides a unique opportunity to focus the world's 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 level to establishing the necessary targets and timetables of action, with appropriate measures and resources to achieve them.

Stakeholders believe that it is vital that stakeholder groups should themselves be involved at all stages in the development and implementation of strategies at national and local level, taking full account of the knowledge, experience and skills that are present amongst many different groups, and ensuring that measures and programmes fully reflect the diversity of problems in different localities and the range of different solutions that may be needed to deal with them. National Programmes of Action should follow extensive consultation with stakeholders of all kinds at all levels, and should include measures for continuing to raise awareness and understanding of the issues and problems, and to develop the capacity of groups and of the public to play their part in implementing solutions.

Stakeholders consider that the first draft of the Ministerial declaration provides a good framework for negotiation, but that it needs to be strengthened substantially to incorporate more specific targets and timetables and appropriate measures and resources commitments to achieve them. The document should include more urgent language about the threat to marine ecosystems from land-based sources of pollution; recognition of the diversity of people and experiences of marine pollution; the importance of action at the local level, in addition to the national regional and global levels; adequate attention to financial arrangements to support the implementation of the GPA; recognition of the importance of legislative models at the national level; and action-oriented language about supporting multi-stakeholder partnerships; among others. We accordingly offer for consideration the attached suggestions for amendment. Consultation between stakeholders will be continuing up until the Beijing Summit, and we may have further suggestions for amendment to offer at a later stage.

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 [from a number of sources], and the continuing and projected increase of the untreated discharge of municipal [and industrial] wastewater, [personal, agricultural, and industrial pollutions sources] [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 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 alia, 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, [communication to various publics and dissemination of new findings] 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 [use] 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.