



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr.: General

UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/5
21 July 2006

Original: English



**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
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Building a common agenda**

**Draft elements for a Beijing declaration on furthering the
implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the
Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based
Activities**

Note by the Secretariat

1. Ministers and other high-level representatives attending the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based activities are invited to build on the discussions by government representatives and other stakeholders during the first segment (days 1–3) of the second session of the Meeting, and on the input discussed by the participants in the informal preparatory meeting for the second session and developed from input received from stakeholders on previous iterations, which was made available through the UNEP/Global Programme of Action clearing-house mechanism.
2. Ministers and other high-level representatives are invited to provide strategic policy guidance on improving the implementation of the Global Programme of Action through mainstreaming and integrating the Programme into national development planning, improving coastal and ocean governance, building partnerships and ensuring adequate financing by adopting a Beijing declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action.
3. Draft elements for such a Beijing declaration are set forth in the annex to the present note.

* UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/1

Annex

Draft elements for a 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 [...] 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 climate-related natural disasters,

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 overenrichment 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 Declaration¹ and those highlighted in Agenda 21,² the Barbados Programme of Action³ the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation⁴ and the Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,⁵

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,

¹ See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

³ *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. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ *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.

⁵ *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.

Recognizing the important contribution of the United Nations Environment Programme Regional Seas 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, including the application of the circular-economy and life-cycle approaches and the “3Rs” (reduce, reuse and recycle) approach,

Supporting the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building, as adopted by the High-level Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on an Intergovernmental Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building at its third session, in Bali, Indonesia, on 4 December 2004, 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 current session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, for the implementation of intergovernmental commitments to advance action on internationally agreed and recognized goals and targets,

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,

Recommit ourselves to the Global Programme of Action as a flexible and effective tool for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands;

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 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;

Resolve:

1. 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 call upon it to strengthen its support to the further implementation of the Global Programme of Action through increased contributions from its Environment Fund, enhanced coherence 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

2. 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;

3. To reaffirm the continued currency and relevance of the Global Programme of Action as the 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;

4. 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 promote the integrated management and sustainable use of river basins, seas and oceans, 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;

5. To further the application of ecosystem approaches, including the large marine ecosystem approach, to watershed, coast, ocean and island management, and to strengthen national, regional and global cooperation to help achieve increased application of the ecosystem approach by 2010, as set forth in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

6. To increase our efforts to integrate and mainstream economic valuation of the goods and services that oceans 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;

7. 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;

8. 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;

9. 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;

Regional actions

10. To strengthen the United Nations Environment Programme regional seas programmes 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;

11. To work through the United Nations Environment Programme regional seas programmes and other regional and interregional bodies and processes to apply ecosystem approaches, including the large marine ecosystem approach, to watershed, coast, ocean, and island management, and to develop and strengthen strategic partnerships and improve interregional action, cooperation, exchange and sharing of knowledge, technology and experience;

International actions

12. To call upon United Nations agencies, United Nations inter-agency groups, such as UN-Oceans and UN-Water, the United Nations Development Group 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;

13. 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;

14. To welcome the national, regional and international partnerships, discussed during the second session of the Intergovernmental 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 urge 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;

15. To mainstream 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;

United Nations Environment Programme actions

16. 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;

17. To welcome the “Guidance to the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for 2007–2011”⁶ 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;

18. 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;

19. 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;

20. 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.

⁶ UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/3.