



# United Nations Environment Programme

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PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE

ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

## 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>1</sup> and those highlighted in Agenda 21<sup>2</sup>, the Barbados Programme of Action<sup>3</sup>, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation<sup>4</sup> and the Mauritius Strategy for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States<sup>5</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 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/Global Ministerial Environment Forum 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 current 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,

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<sup>1</sup> See General Assembly Resolution 55/2.

<sup>2</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.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>3</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.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

<sup>4</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>5</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.

*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 we 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 plans of action 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;

9. To further the application of ecosystem approaches to watershed, coast, oceans and large marine ecosystem 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>6</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 ecosystem 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>6</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 invite the 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>7</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;

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<sup>7</sup> UNEP/GPA/IGR.2/3.

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;

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.