UNEP-MEAs Coordination

17th Global Meeting for the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
Istanbul, Turkey 20 October - 22 October 2015
The Need for Cooperation and Coordination

• Outcome document of Rio+20, “The future we want” (para. 89): calls for enhancing coordination and cooperation among multilateral environmental agreements, as well as between those agreements and the United Nations system in the field.
• Common interest would increase coherence, coordination, cooperation, and synergies, avoid duplication and unnecessary overlap and ultimately reduce burden by increasing coherence of reporting by countries to numerous governing bodies.
• Many examples of one-to-one cooperation.
UNEP’s Response

• 2014: UNEP Task Team on the Effectiveness of Administrative Arrangements and Programmatic Cooperation between UNEP and UNEP-administered Convention Secretariats.
• Two objectives:
  • To review the administrative arrangements
  • To strengthen programmatic cooperation between UNEP and the convention secretariats and synergy
• Two Working Groups, on Administration and on Programmatic Cooperation respectively
• The final report will be submitted to UNEA-2 in May 2016.
• The Executive Director informed the MMT of his decision to establish focal points within UNEP to facilitate communications with MEA Secretariats, in the following manner: Establish a focal point to strengthen the programmatic cooperation with MEAs in DELC; provide a single entry for Secretariats on administrative matters through the establishment of a focal point in OfO.
Task Team’s Findings

• A significant amount of fruitful programmatic cooperation already exists between UNEP and the Secretariats.
• Possible areas for renewed and strengthened cooperation include: timely coordination on programmatic matters, including preparation of work programs, support to governments and technical assistance at the national level, regional delivery as well as communications and outreach.
• Programmatic cooperation: UNEP to incorporate the priorities of the Conventions into its own programme, in so far as they relate to the mandate of UNEP.
• Administrative improvements: to consult on a regular basis with the Secretariats, develop agreed administrative arrangements with the relevant governing bodies, and review delegations of authority.
Task Team’s Recommendations

1. Changing the processes for consultation and interaction between UNEP and the Secretariats
2. A clear process to bring Convention priorities into the programmatic planning processes of UNEP
3. Strengthening regional and sub-regional support for programmatic cooperation
4. Assisting in the implementation of Umoja
5. Continuation of a UNEP-MEA Consultative Mechanism