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**Regional Seas implementation and monitoring
of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

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I. BACKGROUND

1. In the “The Future We Want” adopted at the Rio+20 Summit, the member States recognized “*that the development of goals could also be useful for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. We further recognize the importance and utility of a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs),.....*” (paragraph 246), and resolved “*to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on SDGs that is open to all stakeholders with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the United Nations General Assembly. The Open Working Group was established and was supposed to submit a report to the 68th session of the UNGA containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action...*” (paragraph 248).
2. Driven by this document, the Open Working Group was formulated and produced a draft document to be adopted at the Post-2015 Summit in September 2015. The outcome document entitled “*Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” was adopted by the General Assembly in September 2015 (UNEP/WBRS.18/Inf xxx).
3. In the document, 17 Sustainable Goals and 169 associated goals are proposed, many of which are relevant to the work and scope of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. While the SDGs constitute an indivisible and universal body to be targeted in its entirety, the following goals are highlighted as those more closely relevant to the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans:

Goal 1, especially 1.5; Goal 2 especially 2.4; Goal 5, especially 5.a; Goal 6 especially 6.3,6.5, and 6.6; Goal 7, especially 7.2, 7.a; Goal 8 especially 8.3, 8.4 and 8.9; Goal 11, especially 11.6; Goal 12, especially 12.2 and 12.4; Goal 13, especially 13.1 and 13.2; Goal 14, especially 14.1,14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.a, 14.b, and 14.c;and Goal 17, especially 17.16 and 17.18.
4. The same document indicates that “*Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets over the coming fifteen years.*” (paragraph 47). It further outlines that “*[I]ndicators are being developed to assist this work. Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind.*” “*Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible.*” (paragraph 48).
5. Subsequently the list of Sustainable Development Goal indicators was adopted at the United Nations Statistic Commission (UNEP/WBRS.18/INF7). Of particularly importance to the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are those related to SDG14.

6. The RSCAP established a Working Group on Regional Seas Indicators, which agreed on a coordinated set of Regional Seas indicators and decided to align the agreed set with the SDG14 indicators. The results of the Working Group are also submitted to the present meeting (UNEP/WBRS.18/xxx).
7. The General Assembly through resolution A/RES/70/226 decided to organize the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, in Fiji during 5-9 June 2017. It is expected that practical arrangements for the implementation of the Goal, particularly multi-stakeholder partnerships would be highlighted.
8. The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) made a number of resolutions which also affect the Regional Seas Programme. Among them, the most important ones are: Resolutions 2/4 (Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals); 2/10 (Oceans and Seas); 2/11 (Marine plastic litter and microplastics); 2/12 (Sustainable coral reefs management); and 2/18 (Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariat).
9. Operational Paragraph 3 of Resolution 2/10 invites “the Executive Director to provide the necessary input for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to be organized in June 2017, as appropriate”. Further the Assembly invites “*Member States and regional seas conventions and action plans, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other regional organizations and for a, such as regional fisheries management organizations, to work towards the implementation of, ad reporting on, the different ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets*” (Operational paragraph 5 of the same Resolution).

II. RREGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

10. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme¹, launched in 1974, is one of UNEP’s most significant achievements in the past 40 years. It aims to address the accelerating degradation of the world’s oceans and coastal areas through sustainable management and use of resources and by engaging littoral countries in specific actions to protect shared marine environments. It has accomplished this by stimulating the creation of regional seas programmes for sound environmental management coordinated and implemented by countries sharing a common body of water.

¹ The term “a regional seas programme” is used to denote a programme for specific regional seas, normally governed by Inter-Governmental Meetings of littoral states and, in some cases, by legally binding instruments, such as a framework convention and associated protocols. All regional seas programmes seek their programmatic activities in the Action Plans and supportive thematic action plans (such as marine litter action plans, LBS action plans, etc.). The terms “*UNEP Regional Seas Programme*” refers to the coordination programme of UNEP over UNEP-administered and non-UNEP-administered regional seas programmes. Currently, 18 regional seas programmes are participating in this coordination programme (see www.unep.org/regionalseas).

11. Today, more than 140 countries participate in 14 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Black Sea, Wider Caribbean, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa, South Asian Seas, ROPME Sea Area, Mediterranean, North-East Pacific, Northwest Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South-East Pacific, Pacific, Caspian and West and Central Africa) established under the auspices of UNEP. Secretariats of seven of these regional seas programmes are administered by inter-governmental organisations or regional centres while the remaining seven are administered by UNEP. These regional seas programmes received financial and technical support from UNEP in the initial phases of development of an action plan and its initial implementation. There are other regional seas conventions and action plans under general UNEP coordination, and these are Northeast Atlantic, Baltic Sea, Arctic Ocean and Southern Ocean.
12. The Regional Seas programmes function through the implementation of Action Plans. In most cases, such Action Plans are underpinned with strong legal frameworks in the form of regional Conventions and associated Protocols addressing specific problems. In the Action Plans and in some cases in the Protocols, specific objectives and goals are defined for their member states and parties to collectively achieve. In some regional seas, thematic action plans exist and were agreed, such as regional marine litter action plans, regional action plans on land-based sources of pollution, regional contingency plans for accidental oil and chemical spills, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Offshore resource extract, and regional marine biodiversity action plans. In some regional seas, Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) were agreed upon, mainly through the GEF funded projects. These thematic action plans and SAPs also clearly define regional objectives, goals and sometimes targets.
13. Different regional Action Plans and associated legal instruments have varied scopes of action at regional and national levels depending on the perceived and assessed issues and problems related to the regional seas environment, requiring different sets of action from one region to another. Generally speaking, many of the regional seas programmes were started based on the scope of the UNEP marine environment activities as defined by the UNEP Governing Council: The overall strategy to be followed was defined by UNEP's Governing Council as²:
- *Promotion of international and regional conventions, guidelines and actions for the control of marine pollution and for the protection and management of aquatic resources;*
 - *Assessment of the state of marine pollution, of the sources and trends of this pollution, and of the impact of the pollution on human health, marine ecosystems and amenities;*
 - *Co-ordination of the efforts with regard to the environmental aspects of the protection, development and management of marine and coastal resources; and*
 - *Support for education and training efforts to make possible the full participation of developing countries in the protection, development and management of marine and coastal resources.*
14. Over the years when the regional seas programmes developed themselves by addressing regional or global emerging issues and needs, the scope of these programmes have also been modified. Many human and sector activities are

² UNEP. 1982. Achievements and Planned Development of UNEP's Regional Seas Programme and comparable programmes sponsored by other bodies. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No.1.

considered to be pressure to degrade the marine environment, and in order to address the sources and threats to the degradation of the marine environment, the regional seas programmes started addressing the human activities identified to be significant from the perspective of the protection of the marine environment. Further by introducing the ecosystem approach, the member states and regional seas programmes recognised that the maintenance of the marine ecosystem functioning is related to economic and social benefits. Different regional seas programmes took different pathways for their own evolution, resulting in different programmes and their scopes. The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan developed a Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy (the current version covers 2016-2025) and its regional sustainable development has been monitored through sustainable development indicators and followed up by the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Commission. The East Africa regional seas programme introduced the blue economy concept and started working with other ocean sectoral organisations.

15. UNEP by issuing the document, “*Ecosystem Approach to Regional Seas*”³ where setting and agreeing on ecosystem based objectives/targets as well as the monitoring of their achievements have been promoted. Annex II indicates the compiled information on the strategic documents each regional seas programme use to define its goals, objectives and targets.

III. ENGAGEMENT OF THE REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS IN SDGS

16. The Agenda 2030 clearly defines the follow-up and review of the SDGs. Some of the principles for SDGs included and relevant to the Regional Seas Programme are (paragraph 74):

“(a) They will be voluntary and country-led, will take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and will respect policy space and priorities. As national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development, the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels, given that the global review will be primarily based on national official data sources.”

“(b) They will track progress in implementing the universal Goals and targets, including the means of implementation, in all countries in a manner which respects their universal, integrated and interrelated nature and the three dimensions of sustainable development.”

“(f) They will build on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, avoid Duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities. They will evolve over time, taking into account emerging issues and the development of new methodologies, and will minimize the reporting burden on national administrations.”

“(h) They will require enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programmes, particularly in African countries, least developed countries, small island developing States, landlocked developing countries and middle-income countries.”

³ UNEP (DEPI) RS.15/WP.2.RS

17. The Agenda 2030 also defines the follow-up and review at the national, regional and global levels.
18. In order to achieve SDGs and implement the recommended regional-level follow-up and review, the Regional Seas Conventions and Action plans are encouraged to work in three areas: (i) aligning the regional objectives/goals/targets with the relevant SDGs and accelerating the implementation of strategic documents through national and regional action; (ii) setting up a regionally coordinated mechanism to assist the Member States in developing national reports in a coordinated manner, targeting the shared regional seas; (iii) regional partnerships under the global multi-stakeholder partnerships; and (iv) assist the Member States in applying the coordinated set of Regional Seas indicators, which are aligned with the SDG indicators.
 - (i) Aligning the regional objectives with SDGs
 19. The regional seas programmes and/or their Member States have developed various strategic documents, ranging from the Regional Seas Conventions and associated Protocols, regional strategies for sustainable development (such as the revised one for the Mediterranean, adopted in 2016), Action Plans, Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) and National Action Programmes (in support of the SAPs). Some of these strategic instruments were developed and agreed upon outside the regional seas programmes, but the same member states of the regional seas programmes committed themselves to achieve the strategic objectives and goals included in these policy instruments. These documents engage and in many cases oblige the member States in achieving the objectives and goals clearly defined in them.
 20. In the implementation of these documents and its monitoring, each regional seas programme has its own institutional framework. It is proposed that each regional seas programme list up all relevant regional objectives, goals and targets in relation to the relevant SDGs and their associated targets (Annex I of this document). It is further proposed that the regional seas programme review them from the perspective of how achieving these regional objectives, goals and targets would contribute to the SDGs and associated targets.
 21. If and when the Member States of the specific regional seas programme so decide based on the review above, the programme may revise the existing objectives, goals and targets to be aligned with the global targets.
 22. With such an exercise as proposed above, the member States of the regional seas programme can clearly recognise that achieving the regional objectives, targets and goals would lead to the implementation of the SDGs. Targeting specific regional seas ecosystems they share, they can move towards a regionally coordinated SDGs implementation and mutual assistance among them. Effective external support would be expected for such a regional seas initiative.
 23. Based on the review of the regional strategic objectives or targets, it is proposed that each regional seas programme move toward development of a SDG implementation outlook, which should outline the approach, strategy and partnership with and by which the specific SDG target will be implemented through the regional mechanisms and cooperation. The outlook also indicates the baseline situation and possible projections for the region's SDG implementation under various scenarios. For some SDG targets,

regional seas programmes may be advised to achieve them through a global programme or globally coordinated action/partnership. The example of marine litter may fall into this category as there is a developed multi-stakeholder partnership, which is the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.

24. The implementation of the strategic documents is to be reviewed by the existing regional seas institutional mechanisms, such as Conference of the Parties, Intergovernmental Meetings, etc. The implementation will be guided by the SDG implementation outlook. By incorporating SDGs into the strategic documents of the regional seas, the existing regional seas institutional frameworks should be able to review the implementation of the SDGs relevant to their scope and mandates.
25. Many of the SDGs may be considered to be outside the scope and mandate of the regional seas programmes. Among them regional seas programmes may decide to achieve and monitor some of them by establishing partnership with relevant regional and/or international organisations. For example, in regard to the fishery related SDGs, regional seas programmes may work with regional fisheries bodies to jointly assist the member States in their implementation and monitoring.
26. Once the SDGs are closely aligned with the regional seas strategic documents, necessary actions at national and regional levels should be defined within the strategic document frameworks. Some of regional seas strategic documents are accompanied by national programmes in support of achieving the regional strategic targets. Clear definition or revision of regional goals/objectives/targets within the regional seas strategic documents should lead to development of a set of national measures or national programmes in support of achieving the Ocean related regional strategic targets/objectives/goals. These national programmes may be expressed in new national marine programmes or revised national programmes of action. Further such national programmes should be incorporated into national responses, possibly in the form of national development plans or national sustainable development plans, as advocated by the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda (paragraph 78).
27. Under the Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance (PROG), which UNEP has been leading together with Institute of Advanced Sustainability Studies and Institut du Développement Durable et des Relations Internationales, a project is being implemented to support interested regional seas programmes in implementing the relevant SDGs, particularly those evaluated to be of priority by their members and assisting their members States in achieving these goals. Two other projects are under preparation: (i) one with EC funding for regional ocean governance for SDG implementation; and (ii) the other with Italian funding for SDG 14.5 on marine protected areas (under the 10x20 initiative).

(ii) Regionally coordinated mechanisms for national reporting

28. The Agenda also defines the three levels of follow-up and review: national, regional and global. The national level of follow-up and review is defined as:

“78. We encourage all Member States to develop as soon as practicable ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this Agenda. These can support the transition to the Sustainable Development Goals and build on existing planning

instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate.

79. We also encourage Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.”

29. The regional level follow-up and review is defined as:

“80. Follow-up and review at the regional and subregional levels can, as appropriate, provide useful opportunities for peer learning, including through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussion on shared targets. We welcome in this respect the cooperation of regional and subregional commissions and organizations. Inclusive regional processes will draw on national-level reviews and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level, including at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

81. Recognizing the importance of building on existing follow-up and review mechanisms at the regional level and allowing adequate policy space, we encourage all Member States to identify the most suitable regional forum in which to engage. United Nations regional commissions are encouraged to continue supporting Member States in this regard.”

30. At the global level, the high-level political forum will have a central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level, working coherently with the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other relevant organs and forums, in accordance with existing mandates. It will facilitate sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for follow-up.
31. The Secretary-General of the United Nations submitted his report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session, “Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level⁴. In this report, the high-level political forum voluntary national reviews are discussed, but details, such as frequencies and number of reviews are not provided. However, each country could consider carrying out up to two voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum until 2030. In 2017, the annual theme for the high-level political forum was set on “Ensuring food security on a safe planet by 2030, including Goals 2, 13, 14, 15 and 17. Annexed to this report is the proposal for voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum.
32. It is therefore proposed that each regional seas programme start establishing a regional sea mechanism for regional follow-up and review of the relevant SDGs and associated targets, if it is not yet in existence and the member states to the programme are willing and so decide. Such a mechanism can be established under the existing regional seas institutional framework, such as the Conference of the Parties, Intergovernmental

⁴ A/70/684, 15 January 2016

Meeting and Commission. The mechanism can take the form of ad hoc meetings, subsidiary bodies, working groups or task force, and can be tasked with the following possible action:

- Development of a regionally harmonized national reporting format;
- Regional review of the national reports for the implementation of their strategic instruments, and connected SDGs and associated targets;
- Peer learning among the member states on the implementation and reporting;
- Review of the relevant regional partnerships; and
- Exchange of best practices.

(iii) Regional seas based partnerships for SDG implementation

33. The target 17.16 clearly is set to “[E]nhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries”. UNEP received information on the existing and planned regional seas based partnerships which are closely linked with SDGs. However it is also noted that the level of development of partnerships for the implementation of global targets and regional seas agreed targets differ from one region to another.

34. Particularly in some developing regions, partnership development is yet to be realised in furthering and accelerating the implementation of the regional seas strategic instruments and global agenda. Coordinated support for partnership development is encouraged on a regional seas scale. Inter-regional seas partnership may also be developed and/or strengthened. It is proposed that regional partnerships or region-specific networks should be developed under the global multi-stakeholder partnerships. One example is that several regional seas based nodes were developed under the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, including regional seas based implementation mechanisms of regional marine litter action plans. These relationships with global partnerships may also be included in the above noted SDG implementation outlook.

35. ANNEX III lists a preliminary list of UNEP-convened or UNEP-supported global partnerships. Based on the regional priorities under the regional seas programmes, each regional seas programme may contact such global partnerships to create regional seas based sub-partnerships, deliverables and/or networks under them.

(iv) Adoption of the coordinated set of Regional Seas indicators that are aligned with the SDG indicators

36. As discussed in the “*Transforming Our World*”, the UN member States will move to the definition of indicators to monitor the progress in the implementation of SDGs. The discussion of the indicators through the Inter-Agency and Expert Working Group resulted in a proposal submitted to the Statistic Commission of the United Nations in March 2016 (UNEP/WBRS 18/INF7). It is expected that the SDG indicators will be adopted at the Social and Economic Commission as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda.

37. The regional seas community already started compiling their existing regional seas based indicators, as summarized in “*Measuring Success: Indicators for Regional Seas*”

*Conventions and Action Plans*⁵. Further UNEP organised the Technical Workshop on Selecting Indicators for the State of Regional Seas, 30 June – 2 July 2014, Geneva, Switzerland⁶. The workshop discussed possibility and feasibility of setting a coordinated and common set of indicators among the regional seas programmes and recommended to establish a Regional Seas Indicator Working Group. The first meeting of the Working Group met on 23 October 2015, Istanbul, Turkey⁷ where the coordinated and common set of indicators were adopted, which were linked with the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme. The second meeting of the Working Group decided that, while developing description and methodologies for the adopted indicators, effort should be made to align these indicators with the SDG indicators. The third meeting of the Working Group started the process of aligning the indicators with the SDGs and their indicators.

38. The regional seas indicators should be based on the existing indicators used in some or many of the regional seas in the state of the marine environment reporting, protocol reporting, and Action Plan and SAP achievement reporting. UNEP transmitted to the UN-based SDG discussion the results or milestone products from the Working Group together with a message that the compiled indicators are readily monitored by the regional seas member States under regional harmonisation and coordination associated with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme.
39. In the first meeting of the Working Group, the participating regional seas decided to report to the present meeting on the progress made in its work. The document, UNEP/WBRS 18/xxx, reports on the progress of the Working Group. Among the agreed indicators, description and methodology of some indicators already went through the Working Group discussion and they are ready to be widely taken up by interested regional seas programmes. A sub-set of indicators include the issues that are considered to be outside the scope and mandate of the regional seas programmes, and these should be monitored in close cooperation with the competent international and regional organisations.
40. It is suggested that the Working Group complete its work to prepare and agree on the description of all the Regional Seas indicators and complete the matrix of regional seas objectives/targets/goals and associated indicators as well as SDG indicators.
41. Regional seas programmes may use the coordinated and common set of indicators for the assessment of the state of the marine environment, which can provide baseline information. Against the baseline information monitored and agreed by the regional seas member states the progress in the achievement of related SDGs could be monitored.

IV. RECOMMENDED ACTION

42. UNEP and the regional seas programmes participating in the UNEP Regional Seas Programme may agree on follow-up action, as derived from the discussion above. The following table presents proposed action by UNEP and by respective regional seas

⁵ http://apps.unep.org/publications/index.php?option=com_pub&task=download&file=-Measuring_success__indicators.pdf

⁶ See the workshop webpage: http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/Indicator_RS_meeting/indicator_workshop.asp

⁷ See the meeting webpage:

<http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/40YearsofAction/IndicatorRSMeting-2015/tabid/1060470/Default.aspx>

programmes in cooperation with relevant international and regional competent organisations.

Areas	UNEP's action	Respective regional seas action
Aligning the regional objectives/goals/targets with SDGs	<p>Develop a common format for matrix to be used by the regional seas</p> <p>Compile the information on the existing regional objectives/goals/targets and present it to relevant national/regional/global fora.</p> <p>Assistance to interested regional seas programmes in reviewing the regional objectives and as necessary revision of the existing regional objectives and goals in alignment with SDGs</p> <p>As necessary identify coordinated global action/partnership to be used for regional seas SDG implementation to be included in the regional SDG implementation outlook.</p> <p>Report to the Fiji-led meeting on the linkage between SDGs and regional objectives/goals/targets.</p>	<p>Prepare a matrix of existing regional seas targets and objectives in comparison with the SDGs</p> <p>Carry out analysis of gaps between the regional and global targets</p> <p>Development of regional SDG implementation outlook, based on the baseline of activities in a respective region.</p>
Regionally harmonized national reporting	Prepare a possible prototype of regional seas based review mechanisms of member states' national reporting	<p>Bring the proposal of SDG review mechanism to the respective governing bodies</p> <p>As necessary, establish a SDG follow-up and review mechanism under the regional seas</p>
Regional seas based multi-stakeholder partnerships	Introducing the UNEP convened or supported global multi-stakeholder partnerships to regional seas programmes.	Consider establishing regional node or sub-partnership under the global partnerships

	Report to the Fiji-led meeting on the ocean relevant partnership in which regional seas participate.	
Indicators	<p>Assist the Working Group in the review of the alignment of regional seas indicators with those for SDGs, including the preparation of formats for review of the alignment</p> <p>Obtain indicator information from FAO and other international organisations to be shared with regional seas programmes</p> <p>As necessary, develop global monitoring system of some indicators and mobilise global datasets as appropriate</p>	<p>The Working Group will complete the description of the coordinated and common set of indicators.</p> <p>Regional seas programmes adopt indicators for their use and monitoring and assessment.</p> <p>Establish regional monitoring mechanisms based on the national monitoring of the regionally coordinated indicators</p>

Annex I: Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets relevant to the Regional Seas Programme

“Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality”

“Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

14.1 By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution

14.2 By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans

14.3 Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels

14.4 By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

14.5 By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information

14.6 By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation (Footnote 2: Taking into account ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations, the Doha Development Agenda and the Hong Kong ministerial mandate)

14.7 By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism

14.a Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries

14.b Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

14.c Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want”

The other goals that may be considered to be relevant by some of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are:

“Goal 1. End Poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters”

“Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws”

“Goal 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation for all

6.3 By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and sager reuse globally

6.5 By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate

6.6 By 2030, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, Aquifers and lakes”

“Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

7.2 By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix

7.a By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and clear fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy efficiency”

“Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

8.3 Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services

8.4 Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead

8.9 By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products”

“Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.6 By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impacts of cities, including paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management”

“Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

12.2 By 2030 achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources

12.4 By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment”

“Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

13.2 Integrate climate change measured into national policies, strategies and planning”

“Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

17.16 Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

17.18 By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context”

ANNEX II: Strategic documents that define regional seas objectives, goals and targets⁸

Regional Seas	Strategic documents
Mediterranean	Barcelona Convention and its Protocols Mediterranean Action Plan (revised) Strategic Action Programmes (SAP-Med and SAP-Bio) Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 Ecosystem Approach/Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy 2016-2025 Several thematic Regional Action Plans and Strategies (e.g. SCP, Offshore, Marine Litter, Pollution from Ships, Biodiversity)
Western Indian Ocean	Nairobi Convention and its Protocols East African Seas Action Plan Strategic Action Programme on Land-based Activities for the Western Indian Ocean Strategic Action Programme for Aglhus/Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems
West, Central and Southern Africa	Abidjan Convention and its Protocol West and Central African Seas Action Plan Strategic Action Programmes for Benguela Current, Guinea Current and Canary Current Large Marine Ecosystems
Wider Caribbean	Cartagena Convention and its Protocols Wider Caribbean Action Plan Strategic Action Programmes for the Caribbean Sea and Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystems
Southeast Pacific	Lima Convention and its Protocols Southeast Pacific Action Plan Galapagos Commitment for the XXI Century (2012) Regional Integrated Ocean Policy (may be developed)
East Asian Seas	East Asian Seas Action Plan New Strategic Directions for COBSEA (2008-2012) A new COBSEA strategy is under development for 2016-2020 Strategic Action Programmes for Arafura and Timor Seas, South China Sea, Sulu-Celebes PEMSEA (Partnership for Environment Management of the Seas of East Asia) Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia Coral Triangle Initiative Regional Plan of Action
Northwest Pacific	Northwest Pacific Action Plan Ecological Objectives (under development) Strategic Action Programme for the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem PEMSEA Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia
South Asian Seas	South Asian Seas Action Plan (SASAP)

⁸ The information in this Annex has been compiled by UNEP. The information does not include thematic action plans, such as regional marine litter action plans and regional land-based sources of pollution action plans as it focuses on the strategic action-oriented instruments that define ecosystem-wide objectives to cover all interests in the target regional seas ecosystems.

	<p>Regional Marine Biodiversity Strategy (under development)</p> <p>Strategic Action Programme for Bay of Bengal Large Marine Ecosystem</p> <p>Regional Oil and Chemical Spill Contingency Plan for SAS region (under development)</p> <p>Regional Taskforce for Coral Reef Management in SAS region</p> <p>Regional Tanks force for Ballast Water Management in SAS region (under development)</p>
Pacific	<p>Noumea Convention</p> <p>Waigani Convention</p> <p>Pacific Action Plan</p> <p>Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy</p>
Northeast Pacific	<p>Antigua Convention (to enter into force)</p> <p>Northeast Pacific Action Plan</p>
Southern Ocean	<p>Antarctic Treaty</p> <p>CCAMLR</p>
Red Sea and Gulf of Aden	<p>Jeddah Convention</p> <p>Strategic Action Programme for the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden</p>
ROPME Sea Area	<p>Kuwait Convention and its Protocols</p> <p>Kuwait Action Plan</p> <p>Ecosystem-based Management strategy (under development)</p>
Arctic	<p>Arctic Marine Strategic Plan for 2015-2025</p> <p>Ecological Objectives (under development)</p>
Northeast Atlantic	<p>OSPAR Convention</p> <p>Ecological Objectives</p>
Baltic Sea	<p>Helsinki Convention</p> <p>Baltic Sea Action Plan</p>
Black Sea	<p>Bucharest Convention</p> <p>Black Sea Action Plan</p> <p>Strategic Action Programme for the Black Sea</p>
Caspian Sea	<p>Teheran Convention and its Protocols</p> <p>Strategic Action Programme for the Caspian Sea</p>
Sargasso Sea	<p>Hamilton Declaration</p>

ANNEX III: Preliminary list of global multi-stakeholder partnerships which UNEP convenes or supports

Regional Seas Programme (RSP)
Global Coral Reef Partnership
Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)
Global Partnership on Waste Management (GPWM)
Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GWNM)
Partnership for Action on Green Economy (PAGE)
10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production
Climate Technology Centre and Network (CTCN)
Clean Air and Climate Coalition (CACC)
Blue Carbon Initiative
10x20 Initiative
Strategic Approach to Integrated Chemicals Management
Global Partnership on Mercury
Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)
Ozone Action
Global Adaptation Network
Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance
BLUEOCEANS
Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)
International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
Global Wastewater Initiative (GW2I)