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**The 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans
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**Report of the meeting of the 17th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans**

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

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 draft document is entitled “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” and to be further adopted by the General Assembly.
3. In the draft 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. Among these, *inter alia*, the following goals are highlighted as those more closely relevant to the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP):

“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”

4. The same draft 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).

II. RREGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS AND ACTION PLANS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

5. 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.
6. Today, more than 143 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.
7. 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, 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.
8. Different regional Action Plans and associated legal instruments have varied scopes of action at regional and national levels depending 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:

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).

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.

- *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.*

9. 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 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 Mediterranean Action Plan developed its Sustainable Development Strategy and its regional sustainable development has been monitored through sustainable development indicators. The East Africa regional seas programme introduced the blue economy concept and started working with other ocean sectoral organisations.

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

10. The “Transforming Our World” draft recommends the regional level follow-up as review as follows: *“Follow-up and review at the regional and sub-regional 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 sub-regional 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 (HLPF).”* (Paragraph 80). Further paragraph 81 stipulates, *“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. UN regional commissions are encouraged to continue supporting member states in this regard.”*
11. In order to implement the recommended regional follow-up and review, the regional seas conventions and action plans are encouraged to work in two areas: (i) internalising the SDGs in their strategic documents (Action Plans, thematic action plans and SAPs) and further implementing these documents through regionally coordinated national action; and (ii) coordinate the national monitoring of the SDGs through the regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms.

(i) Internalising SDGs

12. As discussed above, the regional seas programmes have developed various strategic documents, ranging from the Action Plans, thematic action plans, SAPs and National Action Programmes (in support of the SAPs). These documents engage and in many cases oblige the member States in achieving the objectives and goals clearly defined in them. In the implementation of these documents and its monitoring, each regional seas programme has its own institutional framework. The proposal is that the SDGs relevant to the scope and mandate of the regional seas programmes be incorporated into the objectives and goals of the strategic documents, so that the continuing implementation of the strategic documents by its member States automatically drives their implementation of the SDGs. By doing that regionally coordinated SDGs implementation by the member States and mutual assistance and effective external support would become possible.
13. The implementation of the strategic documents are to be reviewed by the existing regional seas institutional mechanisms. 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.
14. As each regional seas programme has its own defined scope and mandate, it is suggested to carry out the review of the SDGs to see if the existing regional seas objectives and goals can easily tagged with SDGs that are considered to be relevant to the scope and mandate. Regional Seas programmes may choose to revise their strategic document or adopt a new document fully incorporating SDGs relevant to them.
15. 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 move the implementation of some of them by establishing partnership with relevant regional and/or international organisations. For example, fishery related SDGs, regional seas programmes may work with regional fisheries bodies to jointly assist the member States in their implementation and monitoring.
16. If and when regional seas programmes so decide, the secretariats of the regional seas programmes will bring to their member states the issues of review of the SDGs vis-à-vis their strategic documents and objectives to explore the best modalities to internalise the SDGs. It is suggested that this consultation would take place within one year of adoption of the SDGs.
17. The review of the strategic document implementation should be strengthened based on the strong needs of the member States in the review of the SDG implementation and achievement.
18. 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 Relation Internationales, a project is being developed to support interested regional seas programmes in internalising the relevant SDGs, particularly those evaluated to be

of priority by their members and assisting their members States in achieving these goals. PROG is calling for expression of interests in becoming “Pioneer regions” under this project.

(ii) Regionally harmonized SDG monitoring

19. 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 are ongoing and will be concluded at the Statistic Commission to be organised in March 2016.
20. 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”³. Further UNEP organised the Technical Workshop on Selecting Indicators for the State of Regional Seas, 30 June – 2 July 2014, Geneva, Switzerland⁴. 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. Then first meeting of the Working Group will meet on 23 October 2015, Istanbul, Turkey⁵. The coordinated and common set of indicators should be linked with the World Ocean Assessment and the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme and is supposed to be tied with the SDG implementation monitoring.
21. Based on the results of the above-noted Geneva workshop, the regional seas indicators should be based on the existing indicators used in many of the regional seas in the state of the marine environment reporting, protocol reporting, Action Plan and SAP achievement reporting. All regional seas programmes under UNEP’s general coordination are encouraged to participate in the Working Group. UNEP will be responsible for transmitting to the UN-based SDG discussion results or milestone products from the Working Group with a message that the compiled indicators are readily monitored by the regional seas member States under strong regional harmonization and coordination under the regional seas programmes. In this way the Regional Seas Indicator development process can provide to and receive feedback from the UN SDG indicator processes.
22. Once the Regional Seas coordinated and core set of indicators are agreed and well-coordinated with the SDG indicators, each regional seas programme is urged to use the set of indicators. A set of indicators may include the issues that are considered to be outside the scope and mandate of the regional seas programmes. It is however suggested that the regional seas programmes monitor all SDGs relevant to oceans, and this naturally requires partnership with other regional organisations and mechanisms.

³ http://apps.unep.org/publications/index.php?option=com_pub&task=download&file=-Measuring_success__indicators.pdf

⁴ See the workshop webpage:

http://www.unep.org/regionalseas/globalmeetings/Indicator_RS_meeting/indicator_workshop.asp

⁵ See the meeting webpage:

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

23. Regional seas programmes may also use the coordinated and common set of indicators for the assessment of the state of the marine environment, which in turn may function as the platform to monitor the progress in the achievement of ocean related SDGs.

IV. RECOMMEDATED DISCUSSIONS

24. The regional seas programmes participating in the current meeting are urged to discuss the following:

- Whether the proposed SDG internalization would be possible and useful to their member States in their effort to achieve SDGs;
- Whether they are willing to move towards developing a coordinated and core set of indicators, which are aligned with future monitoring of SDG achievements; and
- The process of discussing this issue with their member States.

**Report of the 17th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans,
20-22 October 2015, Istanbul, Turkey**

I. Background

1. The UNEP Regional Seas Programme has been an integral part of ocean governance since its establishment in 1974. There are eighteen (18) Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) around the world (Arctic, Antarctic, Black Sea, Baltic Sea, Caspian Sea, Wider Caribbean, East Africa, East Asia, ROPME sea area, Mediterranean, Northeast Atlantic, Northeast Pacific, Northwest Pacific, South Pacific, Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South Asia, South East Pacific, and West, Central and Southern Africa), of which seven (7) Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Caribbean Region, Caspian Sea, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa Region, Mediterranean Region, North-West Pacific region, Western Africa Region) are administered by UNEP.
2. The 17th Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans was held at the Renaissance Istanbul Bosphorus Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey from 20 to 22 October, hosted by the Black Sea Commission.
3. The expected outcome of the meeting was to increase understanding of how Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) and UNEP will collaborate to increase the visibility and strategic involvement of RSCAPs in key processes at global and regional levels. Three outputs were expected to be produced from the meeting:
 - a. Preparation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) 2017-2020;
 - b. Preparation of RSCAPs' inputs to the Fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for The Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA); and
 - c. Stepwise plans for RSCAPs to respond to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the SDGs)
4. Discussion documents were provided to the participants before the meeting as preparatory documents to the meeting. The list of meeting documents is found in Annex 1. The programme of the meeting is included in Annex 2. The list of participants is also found in Annex 3. All the sessions of the meeting were conducted in English.

Day 1 (20 October 2015)

II. Opening of the meeting

5. Prof. Halil Sur, the Coordinator of the Black Sea Commission, opened the 17th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans on 20 October 2015 at 9:00am and welcomed the participants. Ms. Mette Willkie, Director of the Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI) of UNEP presented the objectives and expected outcomes of the

meeting, welcoming the participants on behalf of UNEP. She highlighted the importance of the Regional Seas Programme, particularly in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and stressed the roles that the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will play in the coming years in order to assist Member States with achieving the SDGs.

6. Participants introduced themselves and their affiliation.
7. The meeting agenda was adopted by the meeting participants.
8. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Barcelona Convention, presented the outcome of the pre-event meeting on African Ocean Governance Strategy, which was held on 19 October 2015.

III. Presentation of the summary report on the Implementation of Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016

9. Ms. Kanako Hasegawa, UNEP, outlined the summary of reports from the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans on the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2013-2016). She outlined the challenges with the current Regional Seas Strategic Directions and proposed a new approach to have collective targets between UNEP and Regional Seas Programmes. UNEP suggested forming several working/contact groups, each addressing one proposed element of the next Strategic Directions, i.e. Governance, Pollution, Extraction, Climate Change and Ocean acidification.
10. The meeting participants were invited to discuss the possible improvements for the next Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020, based on the discussion paper on the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)¹ and implementation of Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2013-2016).
11. Dr. Hassan Mohammadi, ROPME, emphasized that some of the important aspects have not been covered in the Strategic Directions, for example, sea-based pollution, pollution from transportation and exploration of the seas, energy-related issues, exploration of the seas, energy-related issues, and impact on biodiversity from high temperature.
12. A lack of data-exchange and interactions among the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans were pointed out as a limitation for the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions.
13. Mr. Robert Wabunoha, UNEP, suggested that repositioning of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans through collective efforts is necessary to enhance visibility and avoid isolation.

¹ UNEP/WBRS.17/2/

14. Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention, pointed out that the timing of COPs could result in time-lag for the implementation of Regional Seas Strategic Directions, as the process of formulating the Strategic Directions is not necessarily synchronized with the timing of COPs.
15. Mr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP, questioned the value of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions. Responding to the question, the participants agreed that the Strategic Directions are important to connect regional activities with global processes.
16. Several participants suggested that the next Regional Seas Strategic Directions need to be more strategic, serving as guidelines rather than setting specific action targets, as had been proposed by UNEP.

IV. Sustainable Development Goals and the Regional Seas

17. Mr. Takehiro Nakamura outlined the SDGs that are closely interlinked with the work of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. Based on the discussion paper², he stressed that the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are encouraged to work in two areas: (1) internalising the SDGs in their strategic documents (Action Plans, thematic action plans, SAPs and national programmes of action) and further implementing these documents through regionally coordinated national action; and (2) coordinating the national monitoring of the SDGs through the regional monitoring and reporting mechanisms.
18. The meeting participants were invited to discuss the following questions presented by the chair of the session, Mr. Darius Campbell, OSPAR: (1) what will change in Contracting Parties' agendas?; (2) Will the Regional Seas Programme drive an agenda for implementation of the SDGs?; (3) Will SDGs drive new activities?; and (4) Can the regional or marine perspective open up new ways of looking at SDGs?
19. Mr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP, questioned whether the SDGs will lead to new activities in his region. In response to his comment, several participants suggested that the SDGs may bring new opportunities including funding, generating positive impetus to help deliver activities. However added values of the Regional Seas to the countries need to be well considered.
20. Mr. Chris Corbin, CEP, suggested that Regional Seas should engage in other relevant SDGs such as on fisheries or on water, sanitation or pollution that are of main concern to the member states. The member states are principally responsible for the implementation of the SDGs but Regional Seas could offer intermediate targets / monitoring between global and national levels. It should be noted, however, that the Regional Seas would need to be selective about issues to tackle as some of them need to be dealt with at a global level.

² UNEP/WBRS.17/3/

21. Mr. Abou Bamba, Abidjan Convention, suggested that SDGs may offer an opportunity to join up activities across sectors, including to key economic and social activities. He also suggested that it would be helpful to consider SDGs linked to challenges at national level and linked to economic issues. Regional Seas Convention and Action Plans are used to dealing with these issues. It was also proposed that the Regional Seas Conventions Action Plans diversify and not only focus on SDG 14.
22. The participants agreed that member states will require technical supports to implement the SDGs and the Regional Seas Programme could offer such assistance to the participating countries. For example, Regional Seas can offer knowledge on monitoring and relevant science as well as experience on cooperation mechanisms to achieve action at relevant levels.
23. Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP, suggested that the Regional Seas Secretariats make estimations of the amount of financial resources required to achieve the SDG Targets in each region.

V. Protection of Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)

24. Mr. Robert Wabunoha, on behalf of UNEP DELC, outlined the issues related to the protection of biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, highlighting the potential areas of engagement for some of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.
25. Ms. Charlotte Salpin, DOALOS, outlined ongoing development on ABNJ through Skype call. Mr. Gaetano Leone, the Coordinator of Barcelona Convention, outlined experiences of ABNJ work at the Mediterranean Sea. Mr. Darius Campbell, OSPAR, also shared the experience of work related to ABNJ in the OSPAR region. Mr. Sebastian Unger, IASS, presented an overview of the ABNJ work conducted with the Abidjan Convention.
26. The meeting participants were invited for questions and comments on the above presentations. Responding to the presentation by Ms. Charlotte Salpin, the participants enquired how the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans could be engaged in the process rather than only providing information. Ms. Salpin stated that the preparatory session will start in March 2016 and there will be opportunities for engagement for the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.

VI. Coordination among Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEAs)

27. Mr. Gaetano Leone, the Coordinator of the Barcelona Convention, described the progress of the Working Group on the Relationship between UNEP and Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), in which he represents all the other UNEP-administered Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.

28. As an example of collaboration among MEAs to share knowledge and information, the inforMEA project at UNEP DELC was presented by Ms. Kanako Hasegawa, UNEP. She highlighted that the pilot implementation of inforMEA project is ongoing with the Abidjan Convention, Barcelona Convention and Cartagena Convention. It is expected that the foundation of information sharing among the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will later be developed further through participation of other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in the project.
29. Ms. Jihyun Lee presented CBD's work on marine and coastal biodiversity, highlighting the works on Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs). She also briefly outlined the workshop on mainstreaming biodiversity in fisheries planned for September 2016 in Korea.
30. The participants stressed that there are overlapping mandates among international bodies and MEAs operating at regional level, hindering effective and efficient protection of the marine environment.

Day 2 (21 October 2015)

VII. Preparations for the Fourth Intergovernmental Review meeting (IGR-4) of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

31. Mr. Vincent Sweeney, Coordinator of GPA, presented a preliminary report on the implementation of the Manila Declaration, including information submitted by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. He outlined the work of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) and the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW²I). He also highlighted some of the activities implemented through the Regional Seas Convention and Action Plans.
32. The participants were invited to comment on the presentation. Mr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP, asked whether Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are mandated to implement the GPA. Mr. Vincent Sweeney, UNEP, replied that Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans are not obligated to implement although the Regional Seas programmes are the most important implementation mechanism at regional level. It was also highlighted that many Conventions have an article on LBS in the Convention which gives them the mandate to address GPA related issues in line with their regional priorities. The text of the GPA adopted in 1995 highlights regional bodies to serve as implementers of the GPA, and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans provide the most relevant regional platform for the GPA.
33. The participants pointed out the importance of information sharing and South-South cooperation. With regards to marine litter, focus on East Asia where a considerable amount of

marine litter originates (Jambeck study in Science) could be an effective strategy. In this sense cooperation among the regions (SACEP, COBSEA and NOWPAP) is important.

34. Mr. Hassan Mohammadi, ROPME, suggested that industrial wastewater needs to be one of the important issues as it is the main source of pollution in his region. If the countries decided to propose this at the next IGR4, it will be possible to put industrial wastewater as a priority area for the GPA. He also requested extension of invitation to Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to participate in important processes including IGR and requested technical support from UNEP for their Technical Workshop on Marine Litter in November 2015.
35. Additional comments from the participants included the need for a clearing-house mechanism on GPA-related activities and to consider sea-based sources of pollution where possible as this is relevant to some Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. PERSGA, ROPME, COBSEA and SACEP expressed their interest in working on marine litter (ML) and to develop/revise Regional Action Plans on ML. The GPA Coordinator responded that mechanisms are available through the global partnerships (such as the marinelitternetwork.org and nutrientchallenge.org websites, which might serve as clearing houses).
36. It was also requested that the role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans be considered for the upcoming GPA 20 year Anniversary as well as for UNEA-2 planning, in particular for marine litter. The ML Exhibition proposal submitted internally in UNEP will be shared with the RSCAPs. A high-level side event is expected to be convened and the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans were encouraged to propose countries from their regions that have a strong interest in ML for inclusion.
37. Mr. Abou Bamba stressed the need for socio-economic information on cost of action/non-action on marine litter to be used to emphasise the need for action. It was noted that Aichi target 8 is relevant to GPA related issues. The meeting was informed by the CBD that technical series publications are being produced for example on ML and will be shared with the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and GPA once finalized.
38. Mr. Julian Reyna from CPPS shared information on the various ML activities that were implemented in collaboration with UNEP – these included several capacity building workshops and development of municipal action plans in all CPPS member countries.
39. Mr. Christopher Corbin informed the meeting that a regional GEF proposal on ML in the Wider Caribbean Region is under development as well as regional wastewater guidelines and a GEF CLME EBM approach for Nutrients.
40. The partner organisations including FAO, CBD, IOC-UNESCO, IAEA and the EU pointed out the importance of collaboration particularly on marine litter activities that are implemented by

multiple organisations. A number of activities are ongoing which will be shared with the RSCAPs.

41. Ms. Irina Makarenko, Black Sea, presented marine litter activities which will be implemented in collaboration with UNEP in the Black Sea Region.

VIII. Strategic Directions for GPA

42. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, Samoa Pathway and UNEA-2 in 2016, it has been proposed that the basis for the new strategic direction should be based on: (1) Current work of UNEP/GPA Secretariat, (2) Current work of Regional Seas Programme, (3) Future Plans and (4) Emerging issues. Continued focus of GPA (2017-2021) was proposed to be: wastewater, nutrients, marine litter, NPA implementation, capacity-building, monitoring and development of guidelines, standards and regulations. Sargassum seaweed was identified to be an emerging issue. New elements/ approaches for GPA proposed were: (1) Waste as a resource, (2) circular economy approaches, (3) public-private partnerships and (4) climate change considerations.
43. Clarification was sought from many participants on the sargassum seaweed issue which has caused considerable challenges, in particular in the Caribbean as well as Western Africa where the weed is accumulating at rates and biomass levels never seen before. The reason for this explosion is unknown, however theories include dispersants containing high levels of urea which were used during the oil spill incident in the Gulf of Mexico, nutrient related growth, etc. Considerable impacts have been noted on tourism, fisheries, health (from the die-off of stranded weed), and biodiversity (turtle hatchlings not being able to reach the ocean).
44. With regard to the link to the London Convention and Protocol, the Secretariat indicated that the GPML Steering Committee includes IMO and a recent paper on “Review of marine litter in relation to the various waste streams under the London Convention and Protocol” was supported by UNEP and presented to the London Convention Contracting Parties.
45. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans were invited to discuss the Strategic Direction for GPA (2017-2021). It was suggested that various reporting requirements should be streamlined.
46. Dr. Hassan Mohammadi, ROPME, requested that Regional Seas be consulted in order to identify emerging issues for the GPA.

IX. Preparatory processes for IGR-4 and Stakeholder and Resource Mobilization

47. Mr. Vincent Sweeney presented global and regional processes to be considered in planning for the IGR 4. The possible format, venue and the need for stakeholder and resource mobilization were also discussed. Some Regional Seas indicated that they might be able to support

participation of representatives from their respective regions to the IGR-4, possibly using funding from GEF projects. It was suggested further that the next Global Land-Oceans Connections Conference (GLOC-3) might be combined with the IGR-4.

48. Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans were invited to discuss how they could contribute to the process. The participants requested the GPA Secretariat to fix the date and location in order for them to provide further support on the process. A table will be compiled by the GPA Coordinating Unit on upcoming COPs, IGMs and other relevant meetings in the lead up to the IGR-4.

X. Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020

49. Based on the draft prepared by the contact group formed on Day 1 (20 October 2015), participants formed four (4) working groups based on the four (4) main themes identified in the visioning processes in 2014³: (1) Governance; (2) Pollution; (3) Extractives (living and non-living resources) and (4) Climate Change and Ocean Acidification.

50. Each working group started drafting new Strategic Directions.

Day 3 (22 October 2013)

XI. Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020

51. Each working group drafted the Strategic Directions through extensive discussion.
52. The participants reported back to the main group and the chair of each working group presented their draft strategic directions.
53. All the participants formulated the Strategic Directions as group (Annex 4). Further work will be conducted by UNEP to improve wording on the Strategic Directions.
54. Participants agreed on the draft Strategic Directions prepared by the working groups.

XII. Closing of Meeting

55. Prof. Halil Sur, the Coordinator of Black Sea Commission, expressed gratitude to all the participants for their contributions to the discussion and to the outputs generated. Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, Chief of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Unit, UNEP, thanked the Black Sea Commission for hosting and putting significant efforts into preparing the meeting and congratulated all the participants for the outcomes. He suggested that the new Regional Seas Strategic Directions be called the “Istanbul Strategic Directions”. The participants welcomed his

³ UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5 Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014

proposal.

56. Mr. Abou Bamba, Abidjan Convention, proposed to host the 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The participants welcomed his proposal.
57. Ms. Irina Makarenko, Black Sea Commission, thanked the participants for valuable inputs throughout the meeting and officially closed the 17th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans at 4:30 p.m. on 22 October 2015.

Annex 1: List of meeting documents

Working documents

UNEP/WBRS.17/1	Draft Provisional Agenda
UNEP/WBRS.17/2	Discussion Paper on the Regional Seas Strategic Directions
UNEP/WBRS.17/3	Regional Seas Engagement in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
UNEP/WBRS.17/4	Report of the implementation of the RSSD 2013-2016
UNEP/WBRS.17/5	Report of the implementation of GPA
UNEP/WBRS.17/6	Preparatory document for IGR4
UNEP/WBRS.17/7	Final meeting report

Information documents

UNEP/WBRS.17/INF1	Information note for participants
UNEP/WBRS.17/INF2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/WBRS.17/INF3	Provisional list of documents
UNEP/WBRS.17/INF4	Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016
UNEP/WBRS.17/INF5	Summary of the Visioning Processes in 2014
UNEP/WBRS.17/INF6	Progress Implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016
UNEP/WBRS.17/INF7	Briefing note on Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)
UNEP/WBRS.17/INF8	Progress Report of the Executive Director on the UNEP/UNEA Resolution 1/12 on Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and multilateral environmental agreements
UNEP/WBRS.17/INF9	Governance of Oceans Through Regional Seas
UNEP/WBRS.17/INF10	Guidance note for the working group for RSSD (2017-2020) on Day 3

Annex 2: Programme

Expected outcomes

Increased understanding of how Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) and UNEP will collaborate to increase the visibility and strategic involvement of RSCAPs in key processes at global and regional levels.

Expected outputs

- Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD) 2017-2020
- Preparation of RSCAP input to the GPA IGR 4
- Stepwise plans for RSCAP to respond to the SDG post-2015 process

Expected results

- Increase visibility of the Regional Seas Programmes and the RSCAPs in key global and regional initiatives and processes.
- Clear understanding of regional targets, objectives and priorities and how they link to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Day 1

Tuesday, 20 OCTOBER 2015

8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00	Opening of the Meeting	
Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment, Turkey (to be confirmed)• Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur, Coordinator, Black Sea Commission		
Background, purpose and expected outcomes of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Mette Wilkie, Director, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), UNEP		
Presentation of participants Adoption of meeting agenda		
Chair: Ms. Irina Makarenko, Black Sea Commission		
10:00	Session 1	Parallel Media Session1: Marine Litter (1 hour)

<p>Presentation of the summary report on the Implementation of Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016, by UNEP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP will present the summary of reports from the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans on the main challenges and opportunities in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016. • Intervention by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans on the summary report • Discussion on possible improvements for the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 - 2020 <p>Chair: Ms. Irina Makarenko, Black Sea Commission</p>		<p>Presentation of expert 1</p>
11:00	Coffee break	
11:00 – 11:20	Presentation on Ocean Governance (European Commission)	
11:30	Session 2	<p>Parallel Media Session2</p> <p>Ocean Governance (1 hour)</p>
<p>Sustainable Development Goals and the Regional Seas</p> <p>In September 2015, the UN member States will have agreed on the Sustainable Development Goals and in the current proposal, one Goal is devoted to oceans and seas. Some of the goals and targets are also relevant to the Regional Seas. Based on a working document to be circulated prior to the meeting, the Regional Seas will enter into discussions on regional targets related to the SDG-Oceans and marine related Aichi Targets of the CBD.</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Darius Campbell, OSPAR</p>		<p>Presentation of expert 2</p>
13:00	Lunch break	
13:00 – 14:00	Press conference	
14:30	Session 3	
<p>Protection of Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The General Assembly has agreed to develop an international legally-binding instrument on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. • This session will describe potential engagement of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in the conservation in ABNJ. Some regional seas will share their experiences and lessons learnt • Intervention by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Gaetano Leone (MAP) ○ Mr. Darius Campbell (OSPAR) ○ Mr. Sebastian Unger (IASS) 		

Chair: Mr. Robert Wabunoha (UNEP DELC)	
16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:00 – 16:15	Presentation on the “New tools for the assessment of biodiversity developed by the European FP7 DEVOTES project” (Dr. Angel Borja, AZTI Tecnalia, Spain)
16:30	Session 4
<p>Coordination among Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • inforMEA project • Report from the Working group on the relationship between UNEP and MEAs 	
Chair: Mr. Gaetano Leone, MAP	
18:00	<i>Closing of Day 1</i>
18:30	<i>Cocktail reception by UNEP and Black Sea Commission</i>

Day 2

Wednesday, 21 OCTOBER 2015

9:00	Session 5
<p>Preparations for the Fourth Intergovernmental Review meeting (IGR-4) of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of preliminary report of the implementation of the Manila Declaration Vincent Sweeney, Coordinator, GPA, MCEB, UNEP <p>Review of Implementation of the GPA Programme of Work 2012 -2016</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interventions by Chairs of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and Partners <p>Chair: Ms. Mette Wilkie, UNEP</p>	
11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00- 11:20	Presentation on Partnership for Regional Ocean Governance by the Partnership secretariat (UNEP/IASS/IDDRI)
11:30	Session 5 continued
<p>Preparation for the Fourth intergovernmental review meeting (IGR-4) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)</p> <p>Strategic directions for GPA Context: SDGs; Rio+20; SAMOA Pathway; UNEA-2</p> <p>Policy issues in relation to the further implementation of the GPA will be discussed for submission to the next IGR.</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Mette Wilkie, UNEP</p>	

13:00	Lunch break
14.30	Session 5 continued
<p>Preparation for the Fourth intergovernmental review meeting (IGR-4) of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities</p> <p>Preparatory process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global and regional processes to consider for the IGR-4 • Multi-lateral meetings (GLOC-3; UNEA-2) <p>Chair: Ms. Mette Wilkie, UNEP</p>	
16:00	Coffee Break
16:00 – 16:20	IAEA Environment Laboratories collaboration with UNEP Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (IAEA/NAEL)
16:30	Session 5 continued
<p>Preparation for the Fourth intergovernmental review meeting (IGR-4) of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Format- High-level segment; workshops; Side events; Partnership fora • Stakeholder mobilization: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Governments ○ RSP ○ Major Groups ○ Global Partnership members <p>Resource mobilization opportunities</p> <p>Next steps</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Mette Wilkie, UNEP</p>	
18:00	Closure

Day 3

Thursday, 22 OCTOBER 2015

9:00	Session 6
<p>Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020</p> <p>RSCAP will draft new Strategic Directions based on the SDGs and other relevant considerations</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention</p>	

11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Presentation on Blue Ocean Programme (GRID-Arendal/WCMC)
11:30	Session 6 continued
<p>Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020</p> <p>RSCAP will draft new Strategic Directions based on the SDGs and other relevant considerations</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention</p>	
13:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:30	Session 6 continued
<p>Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017 – 2020</p> <p>Finalizing the new Strategic Directions (or the future processes) based on the identified elements. These elements should allow follow-up on the SDGs</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP</p>	
16:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:30	Session 6 continued
<p>Future implementation of RSSD 2017 – 2020 and UNEP Regional Seas Coordination Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considering the new Strategic Directions, RSCAPs are invited to discuss on the future coordination by UNEP Regional Seas Coordination • RSCAPs database management through inforMEA will be presented <p>Identification of venue and timing for the 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Alexander Tkalin, NOWPAP</p>	
18:00	<i>Closure of the meeting</i>
<p>Adoption of the draft meeting summary</p> <p>Acknowledgments and closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur, Coordinator, Black Sea Commission <p>Chair: Ms. Irina Makarenko, Black Sea Commission</p>	
18:30	<i>End of the Day 3</i>

Annex 3: List of Meeting Participants

Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans			
1	<p><u>Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea)</u> Prof. Halil Ibrahim Sur <i>Executive Director</i> Permanent Secretariat Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution Bucharest Convention Maslak Mahallesi, Buyukdere Caddesi, No: 265, Sariyer-Istanbul, 34398, Turkey Email: secretariat@blacksea-commission.org</p>	2	<p><u>Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea)</u> Ms. Irina Makarenko <i>Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (PMA) Officer</i> Permanent Secretariat Commission on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution Bucharest Convention Maslak Mahallesi, Büyükdere Caddesi, No 265, Sariyer – Istanbul, 34398, TURKEY Tel: +90 212 299 2940/+90 212 299 2946 Email: irina.makarenko@blacksea-commission.org / iryna.makarenko79@gmail.com</p>
3	<p><u>Secretariat of the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific</u> Mr. Julian Augusto Reyna Moreno <i>Secretary General</i> Permanent Commission for the South Pacific Avenida Carlos Julio Arosemena Km3 Edificio Classic, 2do Piso, Complejo Alban Borja, Guayquil, Ecuador Email: sgeneral@cpps-int.org</p>	4	<p><u>Nairobi Convention</u> Mr. Dixon Waruinge <i>Head</i> Nairobi Convention Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), P. O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya Email: dixon.waruinge@unep.org</p>
5	<p><u>Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)</u> Dr. Hassan Mohammadi <i>Coordinator</i> Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment P.O Box 26388, Safat 13124 State of Kuwait Email: hmohammadi@ropme.org</p>	6	<p><u>Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)</u> Dr. Hassan Awad <i>Marine Environmental Expert</i> ROPME P.O. Nox: 26388 13224 Safat State of Kuwait Email: hbawad@ropme.org</p>
7	<p><u>Cartagena Convention</u> Mr. Christopher Corbin <i>AMEP Programme Officer</i> Caribbean Environment Programme Regional Co-ordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) (Cartagena Convention) 14-20 Port Royal Street Kingston, Jamaica Email: cjc@cep.unep.org</p>	8	<p><u>Tehran Convention</u> Mr. Mahir Aliyev <i>Regional Coordinator</i> Tehran Convention Secretariat UNEP/ROE, 11 ch. des Anémones 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland Email: mahir.aliyev@unep.org</p>
9	<p><u>Northwest Pacific Action Plan</u> Dr. Alexander Tkalin <i>Coordinator</i></p>	10	<p><u>Helsinki Commission</u> Ms. Monika Stankiewicz <i>Executive Secretary</i></p>

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11	<u>Barcelona Convention</u> Mr. Gaetano Leone <i>Coordinator,</i> Barcelona Convention Secretariat Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue P. O. Box 18019, 116 35 Athens, Greece Email: gaetano.leone@unepmap.gr	12	<u>OSPAR Commission</u> Dr. Darius Campbell <i>Executive Secretary,</i> OSPAR Commission / Bonn Agreement Victoria House 37-63 Southampton Row London WC1B 4DA, United Kingdom E-mail: darius.campbell@ospar.org
13	<u>SACEP</u> Mr. Pulakesh Mondal <i>Senior Programme Officer/Regional</i> South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) No. 10 Anderson Road, Off Dickman's Road Colombo 5, Sri Lanka Email: pulakesh.mondal@sacep.org	14	<u>Abidjan Convention</u> Mr. Abou Bamba <i>Regional Coordinator</i> Abidjan Convention Secretariat Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire Email: abou.bamba@unep.org
15	<u>COBSEA</u> Mr. Reynaldo Molina <i>Consultant</i> UNEP, COBSEA Secretariat United Nations Building, 2nd Floor, Block B Rajadamnern-Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200, Thailand Email: molinar@un.org	16	<u>PERSGA</u> Prof. Ziad H. Abu Ghararah <i>Secretary General</i> Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region (PERSGA) P.O Box 53662, Jeddah 21583, Saudi Arabia Email: ziad@persga.org
17	<u>PERSGA</u> Dr. Ahmed S. M. Khalil <i>Regional Programme Coordinator</i> Living Marine Resources and Climate Change The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) P.O. Box 53662, Jeddah 21583 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Email: ahmed.khalil@persga.org	18	<u>Helcom</u> Ms. Johanna Laurila <i>Information Secretary</i> Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) Katajanokanlaituri 6 B FI-00160 Helsinki, Finland Email: Johanna.laurila@helcom.fi
Observers and Partners			
19	<u>GRID-Arendal</u> Mr. Morten Sorensen	20	<u>UNDP</u> Mr. Vladimir Mamaev

	<p><i>Senior Advisor</i> GRID-Arendal UN House P. O. Box 183, N-4802 Arendal, Norway Email: Morten.Sorensen@grida.no</p>		<p><i>Regional Technical Advisor for International Waters</i> Water and Ocean Governance Programme Bureau for Development Policy UNDP New York Email: vladimir.mamaev@undp.org</p>
21	<p>International Atomic Energy Agency Mr. Michail Angelidis <i>Section Head of Marine Environmental Studies</i> <i>Laboratory</i> <i>Division of IAEA Environment Laboratories</i> <i>Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications</i> IAEA Environment Laboratories, 4, Quai Antoine 1er, 98000 Monaco, Principality of Monaco Email: M.Angelidis@iaea.org</p>	22	<p>UNEP WCMC Mr. Steve Fletcher <i>Head, Marine Programme</i> United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre 219 Huntingdon Road Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK Email: steve.fletcher@unep-wcmc.org</p>
23	<p>European Commission Mr. Matjaz Malgaj <i>Head of Unit</i> Marine Environment & Water Industry European Commission Environment DG B - 1049 Brussels Belgium Email: matjaz.malgaj@ec.europa.eu</p>	24	<p>European Commission Ms. Marijana Mance <i>Policy Officer</i> Directorate-General for Environment Environment DG B - 1049 Brussels Belgium Email: marijana.mance@ec.europa.eu</p>
25	<p>GEF Ms. Liana McManus <i>Project Manager</i> The Global Environment Facility Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (UNEP GEF TWAP) Email: lmcmanus57@gmail.com</p>	26	<p>Ministry of Environment and Drainage, Barbados Ms. Lorna Inniss Director Coastal Zone Management Unit Ministry of Environment and Drainage Hincks Street, St. Michael Barbados Email: linniss@coastal.gov.bb</p>
27	<p>UNESCO IOC Mr. Julian Barbieri <i>Head,</i> Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, Intergrated Coastal Area Management Email: j.barbieri@unesco.org</p>	28	<p>IASS Mr. Sebastian Unger <i>Head of Ocean Governance</i> IASS Berliner Strasse 130 D-14467 Potsdam Email: Sebastian.Unger@iass-potsdam.de</p>
29	<p>CBD Ms. Jihyun Lee <i>Environmental Affairs Officer for marine and</i> <i>coastal biodiversity</i> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity Montreal, Canada Email: jihyun.lee@cbd.int</p>	30	<p>FAO Ms. Gabriella Bianchi <i>Senior Fishery Resources Officer</i> Fisheries and Aquaculture Department Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy Email: Gabriella.Bianchi@fao.org</p>

31	<p><u>Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Marine and Coastal Department, Turkey</u> Mr. Erol ÇAVUŞ Çevre Yönetimi Genel Müdürlüğü Deniz ve Kıyı Yönetimi Dairesi Başkanlığı Ceyhun Atif Kansu Caddesi, 1271. Sokak No:13 Balgat ANKARA, Turkey Email: erol.cavus@csb.gov.tr</p>	32	<p><u>AZTI Tecnalía, Spain</u> Dr. Angel Borja Marine Research Division Herrera Kaia, Portualdea z/g E-20110 Pasaia Email: aborja@azti.es</p>
33	<p><u>NILU-Norway and University of Algarve-Portugal</u> Ms. Alice Newton NILU-IMPEC Postboks 100 2027 Kjeller Norway Email: Alice.Newton@nilu.no</p>		
Coordination			
34	<p><u>UNEP/DEPI</u> Mrs. Mette L. Wilkie <i>Director,</i> Division of Environmental Policy Implementation PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Email: mette.wilkie@unep.org</p>	35	<p><u>UNEP/DEPI</u> Mr. Takehiro Nakamura <i>Chief</i> Marine & Coastal Ecosystems Unit Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch Division of Environmental Policy Implementation PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Email : takehiro.nakamura@unep.org</p>
36	<p><u>UNEP/DEPI</u> Mr. Vincent Sweeney <i>Coordinator,</i> Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch Division of Environmental Policy Implementation PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Email: vincent.sweeney@unep.org</p>	37	<p><u>UNEP/DEPI</u> Ms. Heidi Savelli <i>Programme Officer</i> Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch Division of Environmental Policy Implementation PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Email: heidi.savelli@unep.org</p>
38	<p><u>UNEP/DELC</u> Mr. Robert Wabunoha <i>Programme officer</i> Regional Office for Africa (ROA) PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Email: robert.wabunoha@unep.org</p>	39	<p><u>UNEP/DEWA</u> Ms. Joana Akrofi <i>Programme Officer</i> Division of Early Warning and Assessment United Nations Avenue, Gigiri PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Email: joana.akrofi@unep.org</p>

40	<u>UNEP/DEPI</u> Ms. Kanako Hasegawa <i>Associate Programme Officer</i> Regional Seas Coordination Unit, Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch Division of Environmental Policy Implementation PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya Email: kanako.hasegawa@unep.org	41	
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Annex 4: Draft on the Istanbul Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)

Overarching Strategy

1. Promote and facilitate the ratification/adoption and implementation of conventions, protocols and Action Plans.
2. Strategically work in collaboration with other UN agencies, MEAs and other stakeholders and partners.

Strategy on Pollution

In line with the SDG Goal 14.1, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will continue reducing marine pollution of all kinds.

Actions for implementation

- Enhance data, information management, monitoring and assessment at national and regional level through the development/establishment of guidelines, regional indicators, baselines, monitoring programmes as well as identification of region-specific emerging issues through research
- Raise the visibility of relevant pollution issues at all levels and facilitate science/ policy interactions emphasizing socio economic impacts and promoting relevant practices / tools / technologies / measures etc
- Raise issues at global level and facilitate regionalisation of outcomes of the GPA IGR4 and mandated global partnerships

Strategy on Climate Change and Ocean Acidification

In line with SDG 13: *“Take urgent action to combat climate change”* and its impacts, Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will work towards increased resilience of people, marine and coastal ecosystems, their health and productivity *and decisions of COP21 of UNFCCC*

Actions for implementation

- Support mainstreaming of climate change into regional and national policies and institutional frameworks.
- Assess the impacts of climate change and the resilience of people, society and ecosystems in marine and coastal areas and propose adaptation strategies. (e.g. Blue carbon; Ecosystem based adaptation)
- Create or support climate research and policy networks towards a better understanding of climate impacts on the marine and coastal environment and inter-regional exchange of knowledge and best practices
- Facilitate access to Climate financing instruments at the national and regional levels.

Strategy on living and non-living resources

Integrated, ecosystem-based regional ocean policies and strategies for sustainable marine and coastal resource use and blue growth are developed

Actions for implementation

- Promote application of guidelines, rules and regulations for living and non-living resources exploitation (and exploration) within RSCAPs and develop new ones where necessary using ecosystem based approach

Strategy on Governance

Enhance the effectiveness of RSCAPs through increasing their visibility and role as regional platforms for supporting integrated ocean policies and management

Actions for implementation

- Support science-based decisions and science-policy dialogue and provision of regional guidelines for interpretation and actions
- Support member states to develop integrated ocean policy and improve relevant national legislation/policies to enhance coherence across sectors and time
- Enhance information exchange and interregional cooperation towards common goals (e.g. African Ocean Governance; ecosystem connectivity – BSC–Tehran Convention; MSFD provisions)
- Encourage multistakeholder participation including NGOs and private sector to promote compliance with Regional Seas instruments, existing guidelines and regulations of ocean management