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7th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
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Helsinki, Finland 18-20 October 2005

First Announcement of the Second Intergovernmental Review of the
Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment
from Land-based Activities



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

First Announcement

Second Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

16–20 October 2006 • Beijing, People's Republic of China

The United Nations Environment Programme and the Government of the People's Republic of China are pleased to announce that the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR-2) of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) will be held in Beijing in 16-20 October 2006.

The GPA was adopted by 108 Governments and the European Commission in 1995, with a first intergovernmental review in 2001 (Montreal, Canada). The GPA targets major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine and coastal environment resulting from human activities on land and proposes an integrated, multi-sectoral approach based on commitment to action at local, national, regional and global levels. It is the only global mechanism explicitly addressing the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments.

The value of the GPA as a tool for achieving internationally-agreed goals and targets, including those associated with the Millennium Declaration, has been reiterated in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) and in numerous intergovernmental and multistakeholder fora. The GPA is also a valuable tool for furthering ecosystem approaches to coasts, oceans and island management, integrated and sound ocean management, and national, regional and global cooperation.

Purpose of IGR-2

- **To strengthen implementation of the GPA/contribute to the achievement of the JPOI 2006 target:** To review progress made in implementation of the GPA thusfar and identify options for increasing implementation at global, regional and national levels in the future, with a particular focus on increasing national implementation of the GPA through a) the identification of innovative financing mechanisms, b) the strengthening of legislative and institutional frameworks, c) the promotion of partnerships, and d) the strengthening of cooperation with integrated coastal zone management initiatives;
- **To define the programme of work for the GPA Coordination Office for the period 2007-2011:** To review activities undertaken thusfar and chart a course of action for the next five-year period, with an effort to reflect the 'partnership approach' emerging from the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to build on the contents of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building, and to strengthen cooperation with the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the United Nations Development Group, and the Global Environment Facility, UN-Oceans, UN-Water, and other relevant bodies and mechanisms;
- **To contribute to the International Decade for Action: 'Water is Life', 2005-2015:** To identify joint activities to support the objectives of the Decade;
- **To forward ecosystem approaches/contribute to the achievement of the JPOI 2010 target:** To provide practical input to the implementation of the JPOI 2010 ecosystem approach to coast and ocean management;
- **To contribute to the achievement of the JPOI 2015 target for sanitation:** To help maintain momentum in addressing the 2015 JPOI sanitation targets, particularly as it relates to the collection, treatment, reuse and reallocation to the natural environment of municipal wastewater; and
- **To plan the road to 2014-2015,** when the Commission on Sustainable Development will consider the thematic cluster of Oceans and Seas, Marine Resources, Small Island Developing States, and Disaster Management and Vulnerability.

Format of the meeting

I. A discussion on the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office

Outcomes: A realistic and effective programme of work for the period 2007-2011, with activities at the global level (aimed, *inter alia*, at supporting implementation of the Millennium Declaration, the JPOI, and other relevant international agreements); the regional level (within the framework of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme); and the national level (with an emphasis on supporting countries to develop realistic National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities).

II. A high-level/ministerial segment

Outcomes: A declaration or initiative that will:

- Provide policy guidance in relation to the further implementation of the GPA at national, regional and global levels and the utilisation of the GPA for achievement of relevant JPOI targets;
- Endorse the Programme of Work for the GPA Coordination Office for the period 2007-2011;
- To contribute to the Water Decade and the achievement of relevant goals and targets associated with the Millennium Declaration and the JPOI; and
- Outline a preliminary framework for preparations for the 2014-2015 cycle of the CSD.

III. A national practices forum

Outcomes: A set of measures that could help governments and other stakeholders to strengthen their implementation of the GPA in the future, including best practices and strategies for upscaling successful local, national and regional approaches and activities.

IV. A multi-stakeholder partnership fair

Outcomes: New and strengthened partnerships at the regional and national level and between different stakeholders (including governments, intergovernmental organizations, international financing institutions, regional bodies, civil society, academia, and the scientific community).

Preparatory Process

The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office is planning to organize a series of preparatory meetings and information events for IGR-2 at relevant international and regional meetings throughout 2005 and 2006. The preparatory process is expected to include an intergovernmental preparatory meeting to look specifically at the proposed Programme of Work for the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office for the period 2007-2011.

The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office will work closely with its partners in undertaking all IGR-2 preparations. This will include leading a joint UN-Oceans/UN-Water task force to ensure the full integration of relevant UN partners into the planning process; working closely with the World Water Council/organizers of the Fourth World Water Forum to ensure the integration of the freshwater community; and strengthening ties with the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands to ensure outreach to as broad a group of stakeholders as possible.

Further information concerning this preparatory process will be released over the coming months, along with information concerning the exact date and venue, planned documentation and materials (including a GPA/LBA State of the Environment report), the agenda and format of the event, and registration.

We urge you to monitor our website (www.gpa.unep.org) for updates.

If you wish to receive future meeting announcements directly, please send an e-mail to gpa@unep.nl requesting including in our electronic distribution list (subject: IGR-2 mailing list).

In the meantime, we encourage all those with the sustainability of coasts, islands and oceans at heart to mark their calendars now. We look forward to seeing you at IGR-2 in Beijing in 2006!