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7th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans

Helsinki, Finland 18-20 October 2005

Draft Elements for the Beijing Ministerial Declaration

SECOND INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEETING ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

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

Elements for the BEIJING DECLARATION

**Draft for Internal Circulation Only
and Review by the UNEP Regional Directors and
Regional Seas Programmes**

9/28/2005

We, the representatives of XX Governments and the European Commission, assembled at the Second Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, held in Beijing, People's Republic of China, from 16 to 20 October 2006, reaffirm our commitment to the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and have agreed to adopt the following Declaration:

1. **Recognising** the successful results and achievements in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) in the period 2002-2006 and the contribution of the GPA Coordination Office in encouraging the progression from planning to implementation of the GPA;
2. **Noting** the steady urbanization of coastal areas, with close to 50% of the world's population living within 100km of the coast, which underlines the importance of the GPA in addressing land-ocean interactions especially in coastal zones. As such, welcoming the achievements in addressing the environmental dimension of urban sanitation and municipal wastewater, and physical alteration and destruction of habitats in particular through Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and River Basin Management;
3. **Recognising** the direct contribution of the GPA towards achieving internationally agreed goals and targets such as the MDGs, those highlighted in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and those related to the thematic cluster of Oceans and Seas, Marine Resources, Small Island Developing States, and Disaster Management and Vulnerability to be considered at the 2014-2015 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).
4. **Recognising** the important contribution of the Regional Seas Programmes in implementing the GPA, thus directly addressing the management of the marine and coastal environment aimed at preventing its degradation;
5. **Noting** the progress made by a number of countries in building their institutional capacities, and developing their legislative frameworks and environmental policies as regards the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment, as well as the circular economy approach;
6. **Convinced** that capacity building is key to the implementation of the GPA, and that therefore the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building plays an instrumental role;
7. **Aware** of the findings of the "Overview of the State of the Environment relevant to GPA Issues", in particular the on-going concerns with wastewater and the severe and increasing occurrence of nutrient over-enrichment of coastal waters, which are predicted to become worse in the coming years;
8. **Acknowledging** the complementary contribution of partnerships to the implementation of intergovernmental commitments to advance action on internationally agreed goals and targets; and facilitating the creation of such partnerships, as required in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;
9. **Noting** that, in recent years, the impacts of climate change as related to the increase in frequency and intensity of disasters caused by natural phenomena,

with catastrophic consequences in terms of human life and economic losses, especially posing a threat to low-lying coastal areas and Small Island Developing States.

10. **Agreeing** that global oceans, coasts and islands environmental problems demand that we reach consensus among the countries of the world in deciding to advance the concept of sustainable development;
11. **Express** appreciation for the efforts of the UNEP in helping to advance the oceans, coasts and islands sustainable development, and invite it to strengthen its support to the further implementation of the GPA through enhanced coherence and coordination with MEAs and in the international community in general;

In pursuance of our commitment to prevent the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities, we further resolve to:

12. **Reaffirm** the continued validity of the GPA as the fundamental framework for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands;
13. **Welcome** the outcome of the Preparatory Conference for the 2nd Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the GPA, [held in France in June 2006];

GPA Coordination Office Programme Of Work 2007 - 2011

14. **Endorse** the GPA plan of work for the period 2007-2011 and commend it to the Governing Council/Ministerial Environment Forum of the UNEP encouraging it to implement the programme at a strengthened level, subject to availability of resources;

Annex to GPA

15. **Endorse** the ["Beijing Annex/Recommendations"] which aim(s) at further implementing the GPA in a consistent manner with emerging issues in the international environmental context;

NPA's

16. **Urge** governments to continue efforts to develop and implement their regional and national programmes of action and mechanisms, in concert with the relevant implementing legislation, in order to mainstream the objectives of the GPA and to manage the risks and impacts of ocean pollution;

Financing

17. **Encourage** governments to ensure the financial sustainability and enforcement of regional and national programmes of action and mechanisms;

UNDG

18. **Call upon** UN agencies, UN Interagency Groups such as UN-Oceans and UN-Water, as well as the United Nations Development Group and UN country-level programmes including UNDAF, to increase the integration of the GPA in national and regional sustainable development and policy agendas;
19. **Recognise** the important role of the Regional Seas Programmes which provide a comprehensive framework not only for regional cooperation on the seas and oceans, but equally importantly for the regional implementation of multilateral environmental agreements and global programmes, initiatives and action plans;

Ecosystems approach

20. **Exhort** governments to further the application of the ecosystem approach to coasts, oceans and islands management; and to strengthen national, regional and global cooperation to reach the target of the application of the ecosystem approach by 2010, as set out in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

Integrated management

21. **Improve** cooperation and coordination at all levels in order to address issues related to watersheds, coasts, oceans and seas in an integrated manner and promote the integrated management and sustainable development of river basins, oceans and seas, in particular through the Interlinked Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM);

Nutrients and wastewater

22. **Acknowledge** that special action is necessary to address nutrients as well as municipal wastewater as source categories, which requires additional support.

SIDS

23. **Reaffirm** our commitment to support the sustainable development strategies of Small Island Developing States, in particular the Mauritius Declaration and the Strategy for the further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which recognise the important role of the GPA and call for its further implementation;

Partnerships

24. **Endorse** the national, regional and international partnerships discussed during the IGR2 aimed at mainstreaming the GPA's work and objectives in their respective work plans, activities, policies and programmes at the various levels;

25. **Note** the outcome of the 2nd Intergovernmental Review Meeting as a valuable contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21, the MDGs and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and **request** that the next session of the Governing Council/Ministerial Environment Forum of UNEP endorses this outcome;

26. **Request** the Executive Director of UNEP to, in collaboration with the relevant organizations and institutions, convene the 3rd Intergovernmental Review Meeting in 2011, and seek support for organizing the meeting;

27. **Promote** the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development and the International Decade of Water for Life;

28. **Express** special gratitude and appreciation to the government and people of the People's Republic of China for hosting the 2nd Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the GPA and for the facilities made available.