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Programme**



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

Final meeting report

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**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>
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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