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**Ninth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas  
Conventions and Action Plans**

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 29-31 October 2007

**Draft elements of the Jeddah Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans towards the sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment**

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## **Draft - Jeddah Declaration on Strengthening the Implementation of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans**

We the Chairs or Vice-Chairs of the Conferences of the Parties/Intergovernmental Meetings of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs); the Secretaries General/Coordinators/Executive Secretaries of the RSCAPs; with the valued support and concurrence of delegates from international organizations, conventions, intergovernmental panels, financial institutions and academia

Having met in Jeddah from 29 to 31 October 2007 at the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted at Stockholm on 16 June 1972, the Rio Declaration of 14 June 1992, the UN Millennium Declaration 2000, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 and the Beijing Declaration<sup>1</sup> 2006

*Acknowledging* the ultimate dependence of life including mankind and other creatures on the health and integrity of the marine and coastal environment,

*Recognizing* the value of marine and coastal resources as the main source and reserve for food security, economic well-being and health for a significant number of people in the world,

*Also, recognizing* that the marine and coastal environments are vulnerable to unprecedented impacts of climate change, along with the impacts of the continuing and projected increase in marine and coastal pollution; concerns about the findings and detections of the IPCC assessment reports (---); and the projected social, economic, health and environmental impacts in the coastal areas where 38% of the world population live and 70% of the world mega-cities exist,

*Noting* the growing damage that those impacts are causing to the people and marine ecosystem including loss of habitats (such as corals, wetlands), biodiversity, and income generating and food resources

*Emphasizing* the key role of the RSCAPs in facilitating implementation of the current and future global conventions, strategies, declarations, resolutions, initiatives, and action programmes addressing coastal and marine environment protection and conservation,

*Admitting* that effective policies and programmes addressing marine/coastal protection and sustainable development require comprehensive approaches, and that lessons-learnt from and examples provided by pre-existing projects implemented by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans offer valuable guidance for wider-spread adoption of such approaches,

*Acknowledging* the trans-boundary nature of the marine and coastal environment and the growing need for regional and global collaboration and coordination in addressing environmental issues,

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<sup>1</sup> Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

*Noting* the importance of the Regional Seas as useful means for detecting climate change, particularly in those areas where the short-term variability is smaller and the signal-to-noise ratio is higher<sup>2</sup>,

*Realizing* the global challenges in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change on the marine and coastal environment,

*Considering* the importance of the use of economic valuation of goods and services provided by coastal and marine resources, in addition to applying cost-benefit analysis to support preventive approaches in addressing environmental management priorities,

Also, *considering* that the conservation of the high seas and deep-water ecosystems and biodiversity needs global cooperation on both relevant international governance and scientific issues,

*Conscious of* the need to support the mainstreaming of the Regional Seas, as an innovative approach to mainstreaming the environment into national development planning and budgeting,

*Aware of* the need to further implement the Ecosystem-based approaches in management, along with continue developing proactive, creative and innovative partnerships and networks to support such approaches.

*Convinced* of our responsibilities to encourage and support our member states to fulfill their commitments to protect and conserve the marine environment through implementing regional agreements and instruments, along with the strategic directions and recommendations of the global Regional Seas , and seeking to build upon them,

*Resolve:*

- 1- To recommit ourselves to implement the existing resolutions and agreements of the Global Regional Seas programmes, and the Regional Seas Strategic Directions agreed upon at the 9<sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as an effective approach reflecting our will, common vision and cooperation to protect and conserve our global coastal and marine environment;
- 2- To commit ourselves to furthering implementation of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in light of the Global Strategic Directions for 2008-2012 (listed below), and declare our intention to do so by designing, implementing and strengthening actions with regard to:
  - a. Adaptation to and mitigating the impacts of climate change;
  - b. International governance and scientific issues regarding the high seas and deep-water ecosystems and biodiversity;
  - c. Millennium Ecosystem Assessments, including the economic valuation of environmental goods and services,
  - d. Mainstreaming of the RSCAPs into national development planning, budgeting and poverty reduction efforts;
- 3- To call upon United Nations agencies and UN inter-agency groups, multilateral environmental agreements, and regional alliances/unions/leagues or any kind of

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<sup>2</sup> (Bindoff et al. 2007, IPCC report).

association to support (through inter alia, financial assistance, technical assistance, capacity building and institutional strengthening mechanisms) the regional structures for implementing the Global Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2008-2012;

- 4- To call upon international and regional financial institutions and donor countries to support the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2008-2012 at the appropriate levels in developing countries, including amongst others strengthening capacities to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate changes, conducting economic evaluation of marine environmental assets, scientific research and monitoring
- 5- To keenly promote the participation and involvement of local and regional authorities, communities and other stakeholders in the mechanisms of implementing RSCAPs and their global Strategic Directions;
- 6- To Consolidate and initiate partnerships at the national, regional, and international levels, with emphasis on promoting sustainable financing mechanisms,
- 7- To enhance the application of ecosystem-based approaches to coasts, oceans and large marine ecosystems and island management and to strengthen them at the national level, to assist achieve increased application of the ecosystem approach by 2010;
- 8- To integrate and mainstream economic valuation of goods and services provided by coastal and marine resources, in addition to applying cost-benefit analysis, including direct use and indirect use and option values, to support preventive approaches in addressing environmental management priorities;
- 9- To develop and implement realistic actions and undertakings to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate changes, including strengthening regional monitoring to detect changes in oceanic parameters, developing regional and national early warning systems, cooperation in contingency planning and disaster management, assessment and mitigating socioeconomic impacts and taking relevant precautionary measures with regard to coastal planning and development
- 10- To continue encouraging, supporting, enhancing and finding efficient tools and mechanisms to mainstream RSCAPs into national planning and budgeting
- 11- To support the implementation of the Beijing Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, especially the provision related to the "development and implementation of protocols addressing land-based pollution sources and activities". Adopt or update strategic action plans to control pollution from land-based activities and ensure their effective implementation. Enhance current actions in sanitation and urban wastewater treatment (under the Millennium Development Goals) and promote efforts to reduce marine pollution from non-point sources and inputs from rivers.
- 12- To call upon the UNEP Governing Council/Ministerial Environment Forum to endorse and enhance the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2008-2012