

Regional Seas Coordination Meeting for the Preparatory Committee Meeting for the UN Ocean Conference

Report of the Meeting

1. The Regional Seas Coordination Meeting was held on 14 February 2017 in New York prior to the Preparatory Meeting for the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (UN Ocean Conference), which was held from 15 to 16 February 2017. The agenda and the list of participants were included in the meeting report as **Annex 1** and **Annex 2**, respectively.
2. The participants introduced themselves to the meeting.
3. Ms. Lisa Emelia Svensson, Coordinator of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch, made opening remarks. She stressed the political importance of the oceans in the recent years and informed the meeting of the development of the UN Environment Ocean Strategy. She explained that UN Environment aimed to further engage Member States through the Regional Seas programmes.
4. The Barcelona Convention informed that the G7 Workshop on marine litter would be held from 20 to 21 April 2017 in Rome, Italy.
5. UN Environment informed the meeting that the Global Environment Facility was developing a new strategy for the next cycle, GEF-7. The strategy included areas such as fisheries and aquaculture, noise pollution, acidification, blue economy, and communication and knowledge management.
6. The Regional Seas programmes stressed the importance of raising visibility and awareness of the regional mechanisms through different processes such as the World Ocean Assessment (Regular Process) leading up to the UN Ocean Conference.
7. UN Environment provided an overview of the preparation for the UN Ocean Conference. It was explained that the conference would produce three main outputs: a political document “call for action”; partnership dialogues; and a registry of commitments. Member States would be engaged in the preparatory process until June to draft the outcome document. During the Conference in June 2017, seven partnership dialogues would be organised. For each dialogue, a concept note would be produced and two Member States would be assigned to lead the discussion.
8. UN Environment further presented the guideline for the preparation of the SDG implementation outlook as presented in document UNEP/RSP/CM.1/3. The Regional Seas programmes were encouraged to propose how they would support their respective Member States in implementing and reviewing the ocean-related SDGs in the outlook documents.
9. The Participants commented that harmonization might not be possible in some regions and flexibility would be important in preparing the SDG implementation outlooks. Giving the example of Marine Protected Areas, UN Environment said that different regions could set different targets in achieving the SDGs.
10. The participants agreed that it would be important for each Regional Seas Intergovernmental Meeting to adopt a common message to endorse Regional Seas’ roles for the implementation of and follow-up on the ocean-related SDGs.

11. The Regional Seas programmes agreed that it would be necessary to mobilize resources for the entire Regional Seas Programme from the UN Environment Headquarter. The participants noted that long-term approach was a key for resource mobilization.
12. The Participants discussed the registration of partnerships. They agreed that the Regional Seas programmes inform the UN Environment on the registrations to avoid overlaps and further agreed that UN Environment would register the Regional Seas Programme as a global partnership.
13. The Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) presented the information on the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting of the GPA. He stressed the importance of private sector engagement and investment through the Regional Seas programmes.
14. The Participants emphasized the importance of engaging Member States in the GPA. The participants concurred that the Programme needed to clarify the value added as compared to other mechanisms. The global convening power of the Programme would allow participation of non-governmental organisations and private sector and this was considered to be one of the Programme's strength.
15. The Regional Seas programmes discussed the communication and outreach towards the UN Ocean Conference. The Participants suggested that it would be possible to create videos on Regional Seas programmes even with limited budget. For web-site related outreach, it was decided that the Regional Seas programmes would mobilize their communication officers. It was agreed that the Regional Seas programme would send further ideas to UN Environment by the end of February 2017 and to start collecting relevant videos by March 2017.
16. UN Environment informed that it was planned to prepare a booklet on the Regional Seas programmes' mandate related to the conservation of biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.
17. The Regional Seas programmes agreed that UN Environment would prepare an information document on the implementation of GPA by the Regional Seas programmes. The same paper could be submitted to the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which would be held with an overarching theme of "Pollution".

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

Time	Agenda item	Presenter
09:00-09:20	Opening of the Day Recap of the process from February 2017 to June 2017	UN Environment
09:20-10:00	Presentation of the Strategy for the UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political engagement during the PrepCom 	UN Environment Participants
10:00 – 11:00	Preparation of the SDG implementation outlook <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of the guideline by UN Environment Case Study by HELCOM Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process of preparation until June 2017 and beyond 	Participants UN Environment HELCOM Participants
11:00-11:15	Coffee/tea break	
11:15-12:30	Regional Seas Communication and Visibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website Information materials Discussion	UN Environment Participants
12:30-14:30	Lunch (GPA side event)	
14:45 – 15:30	Preparation for the IGR-4 in October 2017 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on a draft paper by the GPA Secretariat Regional Seas inputs to the IGR-4 Discussion	GPA Secretariat Participants
15:30-15:45	Coffee/lunch break	
15:45 – 16:30	Progress of the conclusions of the 18 th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Preparation for the 19 th Global Meeting Discussion	Participants
16:30-18:00	UN Environment Oceans Strategy Discussion	UN Environment Participants
18:00	<i>Closure of the meeting</i>	UN Environment

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans			
1	<p><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@unep.org</p>	2	<p><u>Cartagena Convention</u> Ms. Lorna Inniss <i>Coordinator</i> Caribbean Environment Programme United Nations Environment Programme Kingston, Jamaica Tel: 1-876-922-9267-9 Fax: 1-876-922-9292 Email: lvi@cep.unep.org</p>
3	<p><u>Helsinki Commission</u> Ms. Laura Piriz Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) Katajanokanlaituri 6 B FI-00160 Helsinki, Finland Email: laura.piriz@havochovatten.se</p>	4	<p><u>Northwest Pacific Action Plan</u> Mr. Lev Neretin <i>Coordinator</i> Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) 5-5 Ushijimashin-machi Toyama City 930-0856, Japan Email: lev.neretin@unep.org</p>
5	<p><u>OSPAR Commission</u> Mr. Darius Campbell <i>Executive Secretary,</i> OSPAR Commission / Bonn Agreement Victoria House 37-63 Southampton Row London WC1B 4DA, United Kingdom Email: darius.campbelle@ospar.org</p>	6	<p><u>SACEP</u> Mr. Muhammad Khurshid <i>Director General</i> South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) No. 10 Anderson Road, Off Dickman's Road Colombo 5, Sri Lanka Email: khurshid@sacep.org</p>
7	<p><u>SPREP</u> Mr. Tommy Moore Coastal and Marine Adviser Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme Apia, Samoa Email: tommym@sprep.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>
UN Environment			
9	<p><u>UN Environment</u> Ms. Lisa Emelia Svensson <i>Coordinator,</i> Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch Ecosystems Division PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya</p>	10	<p><u>UN Environment</u> Mr. Habib El-Habr <i>Coordinator,</i> Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) Ecosystems Division PO Box 30552, 00100</p>

			Nairobi, Kenya
11	<p><u>UN Environment</u> Mr. Takehiro Nakamura <i>Chief</i> Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch Ecosystems Division PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya</p>	12	<p><u>UN Environment</u> Ms. Mara Murillo <i>Senior Programme Officer</i> Intergovernmental Affairs UN Environment NY Office</p>
13	<p><u>UN Environment</u> Ms. Isabelle Vanderbeck <i>Task Manager</i> International Waters Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch Ecosystems Division</p>	14	<p><u>UN Environment</u> Ms. Kanako Hasegawa <i>Associate Programme Officer</i> Regional Seas Programme Ecosystems Division PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya</p>