



Distr.: General
10 December 2020
Original: English



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

**Second consultative meeting on the development
of an African strategy for ocean governance**
Online, 21 and 22 October 2020

Report of the second consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance

I. Introduction

1. In the Cairo Declaration on Managing Africa's Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication, adopted by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) at its fifteenth session, in 2015, African ministers for the environment agreed to "develop a governance strategy, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and regional seas conventions, on oceans and seas in Africa for the effective management of the region's shared maritime resources". In the Nairobi Declaration on Turning Environmental Policies into Action through Innovative Solutions for Environmental Challenges in Africa, of September 2018, adopted by AMCEN at its seventh special session, African ministers for the environment agreed to "urge African States to promote the growth and development of the regional ocean sector in a sustainable blue economy pathway and support the mainstreaming of aquatic biodiversity in all productive sectors with a view to sustainably harnessing the blue economy". In response to those decisions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), as the provider of secretariat services for AMCEN, carried out background studies, organized a scoping workshop in Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania, from 23 to 25 July 2018, and organized the second consultative meeting to assist member States of the African Union in developing an African strategy for ocean governance.

2. The first consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance¹ was held at the headquarters of UNEP, in Nairobi, from 18 to 21 November 2018, to discuss possible elements to be included in an African strategy for ocean governance. The meeting was organized by UNEP and was attended by 45 participants from African countries, international organizations, regional seas programmes, regional economic bodies and research institutes.

3. The second consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance was organized by UNEP and held online on 21 and 22 October 2020 to discuss possible elements to be included in the strategy.

4. The following 25 member States of the African Union were represented at the online second consultative meeting: Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Kenya, Mauritius, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia and Zambia.

5. The following non-Member States were represented: Norway and Sweden.

6. The following United Nations bodies, secretariat units and convention secretariats were represented: Global Environment Facility; secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity; secretariat of the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Atlantic Coast of the West, Central and Southern Africa

¹ UNEP/ASOG/WG.1/5.

Region; secretariat of the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species; secretariat of the Convention on Migratory Species; secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; secretariat of the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean Region; secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; United Nations Development Programme; United Nations Economic Commission for Africa; and UNEP.

7. The following United Nations specialized agencies and related organizations were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and International Maritime Organization.

8. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: African Union Commission, African Union Development Authority, Arab Maghreb Union, Benguela Current Commission, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, European Commission, InterAfrican Bureau for Animal Resources of the African Union, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, Orange-Senqu River Commission, Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Marine Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, Southern African Development Community and West African Economic and Monetary Union.

9. The following regional fisheries bodies were represented: Fishery Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic, General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean, Indian Ocean Commission, Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, Lake Tanganyika Authority, Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, South-East Atlantic Fisheries Organization and Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission.

10. In addition, the following non-governmental and civil society organizations were represented as observers: International Seabed Authority, GRID-Arendal, Nelson Mandela University, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies of the University of Lagos, Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations, Coastal Oceans Research and Development–Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa, Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, International Development Law Organization, Institut Mauritanien de recherche Océanographique et des Pêches (IMROP), and Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association.

II. Opening of the meeting

11. The meeting was opened by at 1 p.m. East Africa time (UTC+3) on Wednesday, 21 October 2020 by Mr. Samba Harouna Thiam, Head of the UNEP Liaison Office to the African Union Commission and the Economic Commission for Africa.

12. Opening statements were delivered by Ms. Juliette Biao Koudenoukpo, Regional Director and Representative for Africa, UNEP; Ms. Estherine Lisinge-Fotabong, Director, Programme Innovation and Planning, Africa Union Development Authority; Mr. Jean-Paul Adam, Director for Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management, Economic Commission for Africa; and Ms. Josefa Sacko, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, African Union Commission.

III. Organizational matters

A. Election of officers

13. Mr. Stuart Mangold, Senior Policy Advisor, Department of Environmental Affairs, South Africa, was elected as the Chair of the meeting. The UNEP secretariat functioned as the Rapporteur of the meeting.

B. Organization of work

14. The Chair introduced the meeting documents, which are listed in annex I to the present report.

IV. Adoption of the agenda

15. The agenda of the second consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance was adopted on the basis of the provisional agenda (UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/1), as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Election of officers;
 - (b) Organization of work.

3. Adoption of the agenda.
4. Outcome of the first consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance.
5. Progress achieved by the regional seas programmes.
6. Issues to be included in the African strategy for ocean governance:
 - (a) Linkages with regional structures;
 - (b) Blue economy;
 - (c) Cooperation and coordination;
 - (d) Science for ocean governance;
 - (e) Stakeholder engagement;
 - (f) Implementation of existing mechanisms and possible future governance instruments;
 - (g) Other aspects.
7. Next steps.
8. Chair's summary of discussions at the meeting.
9. Any other business.
10. Closure of the meeting.

V. Outcome of the first consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance

16. Drawing attention to the Chair's summary (UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/17) and the report of the first consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance (UNEP/ASOG/WG.1/5), the Chair invited a representative of the secretariat to provide an overview of the outcome of the first consultative meeting.

17. A representative of the secretariat gave a presentation on the outcome of the first meeting.

VI. Progress achieved by the regional seas programmes

18. The Chair invited representatives of the secretariats of four regional seas programmes to provide an update on the progress made in their work on ocean governance. Presentations were given by representatives of the secretariats of the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Sustainable Development of the Coastal Areas of the Mediterranean under the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean; the Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region; the Convention for Cooperation in the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region; and the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

VII. Issues to be included in the African strategy for ocean governance

19. The discussion on issues to be included in the African strategy for ocean governance was organized into three sessions according to the discussion items included in the issues paper (UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/2). In the first session, the discussion focused on the scope of the strategy, linkages to regional and global structures, cooperation and coordination and the implementation of existing and future strategies. In the second session, the discussion focused on the ecosystem approach and on science for ocean governance. During the third session, stakeholder engagement and the blue economy were discussed.

VIII. Next steps

20. The Chair invited a representative of the secretariat to provide an overview of the proposed African strategy for ocean governance, including a road map for its development. Following the presentation, meeting participants agreed that strategy development should begin immediately upon the conclusion of the meeting.

IX. Chair's summary

21. Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, Coordinator, Marine and Ecosystems Division, UNEP, provided an oral summary of the discussion, noting that the Chair's summary (document UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/3) would be prepared and circulated as a record of the discussion held on issues to be included in the African strategy for ocean governance.

X. Other business

22. No other matters were raised.

XI. Closure of the meeting

23. The Chair declared the meeting closed at 5 p.m. on Thursday, 22 October 2020.

Annex I

List of documents

Working documents

UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/2	Discussion paper prepared by UNEP on the development of the African ocean governance strategy
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/4	Chair's summary of the first consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance, held in Nairobi on 29 and 30 November 2018
UNEP/ASOG/WG.1/5	Meeting report of the first consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance

Information documents

UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/1	List of documents
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/2	List of participants
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/3	Regional oceans governance - making regional seas programmes, regional fishery bodies and large marine ecosystem mechanisms work better together
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/4	Ocean policies and institutional arrangements for cross-sectoral cooperation
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/5	Realizing integrated regional oceans governance - summary of case studies on regional cross-sectoral institutional cooperation and policy coherence
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/6	African ocean governance strategic blueprint
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/7	African ocean governance strategy: scoping study and gap analysis
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/8	2050 Africa's Integrated Maritime Strategy
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/9	Agenda 2063 The Africa We Want
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/10	African Union Commission - Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/11	Cairo Declaration on Managing Africa's Natural Capital for Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/12	Libreville Declaration on Health and Environment in Africa
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/13	<i>Africa Blue Economy Strategy</i>
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/14	Regional seas programmes covering areas beyond national jurisdiction
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/15	Gender mainstreaming in marine and coastal management
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/16	The state of ocean governance in the Western Indian Ocean
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/17	Chair's summary of the first meeting (French version)
UNEP/ASOG/WG.2/INF/18	Report of the first consultative meeting on the development of an African strategy for ocean governance