

**Global Ocean Forum Activities in Advancing the Rio+20 Outcomes**  
**Summary of a Multi-stakeholder Brainstorming Session on Oceans**  
**Post Rio+20, November 12, 2012, World Bank, Washington**



**February 2013**

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**Purpose:** The purpose of this document, produced by the Global Ocean Forum, is to provide information on the ocean-related outcomes of Rio+20, and to present the contextual background, opportunities, and strategies for advancing the post-Rio+20 ocean agenda.

# **1. Global Ocean Forum Activities in Advancing the Rio+20 Outcome: Summary of the Multi-stakeholder Brainstorming Strategy Session on Oceans Post Rio+20, November 12, 2012, World Bank, Washington, D.C.**

On November 12, 2012, the Global Ocean Forum convened an informal brainstorming discussion on implementation of the oceans package emanating from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro on June 20-22, 2012. The intent of the meeting was to strategize about the implementation of the Rio+20 oceans package and related ocean commitments from 1992 and 2002, to explore how various ongoing initiatives can be used to achieve maximum synergy and forward movement, and to take advantage of key forthcoming meetings and other opportunities to advance the global ocean agenda. The event brought together over 45 ocean experts from government, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and academia that will be involved in implementing various aspects of the oceans package.

Meeting presenters and participants included:

- Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, President, Global Ocean Forum
- Dr. Andrew Hudson, Coordinator, UN-Oceans; Principal Technical Advisor, International Waters; UNDP/GEF, Cluster Leader, UNDP Water and Ocean Governance Program
- Dr. Braulio de Souza Dias, Executive Secretary, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Dr. Juergen Voegelé, Sector Director, Agriculture and Environmental Services, World Bank
- Ms. Paula Caballero, Director for Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia
- Ms. Sari Söderström, Sector Manager, Agriculture and Environmental Services, World Bank
- Mr. Peter Kristensen, Team Leader for Oceans and Natural Resources, Global Partnership for Oceans, World Bank
- Mr. Mitrasen Bhikajee, Deputy Executive Secretary, IOC-UNESCO (via telephone)
- Ms. Julie Ritz, Sustainable Development Officer, Emerging Issues Branch, Division for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
- Ms. Monika Thiele, Programme Officer, Focal Point for North America UNEP, Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species
- Ms. Carla Friedrich, Associate Programme Officer for Ecosystems Management, UNEP
- Mr. Liu Zhenghua, APEC Marine Sustainable Development Center (via telephone)
- Ms. Karin Sjölin-Frudd, Senior Adviser, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization (IMO) (via telephone)
- Mr. Ivan Zavadsky, International Waters Focal Area Coordinator, Senior Water Management Specialist, GEF
- Ms. Barbara Cooney, GEF Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- Mr. Jacob Scherr, Director, Global Strategy & Advocacy, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)
- Ms. Lynne Hale, Director, Global Marine Program, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- Mr. Bill Eichbaum, Vice President, Marine & Arctic Policy, WWF
- Dr. Jihyun Lee, Environment Affairs Officer, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (via telephone)
- Mr. Christian Severin, Senior Environmental Specialist, Natural Resources, GEF
- Dr. David VanderZwaag, Dalhousie University (via telephone)
- Mr. Matthew Gianni, Political Advisor, Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (via telephone)
- Ms. Alice Hiciburundi, Senior Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs (via telephone)

- Ms. Charlotte Salpin, Legal Officer, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UN-DOALOS), Office of Legal Affairs (via telephone)
- Dr. David Freestone, Executive Director, Sargasso Sea Alliance
- Dr. Nicole Glineur, Program Manager, Biodiversity, GEF
- Ms. Charlotte Gobin, Senior Environmental Specialist, Natural Resources, GEF
- Dr. Naesun Park, Director, International Affairs Division, Korean Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)
- Dr. Indumathie Hewawasam, Ocean and Coastal Management Specialist, formerly Senior Coastal and Marine Specialist, Environment Department, World Bank
- Mr. Ludovic Frere-Escoffier, NAUSICAA (France) and World Ocean Network (WON)
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, Associate Professor, George Mason University, Virginia
- Dr. Robert Brumbaugh, Lead, Integrated Ocean Management, Global Marine Team TNC
- Mr. Richard Delaney, Executive Director, Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies
- Ms. Brittany Baschuk, Associate, International Policy, The Pew Environment Group
- Dr. James Anderson, Fisheries & Aquaculture Adviser, World Bank
- Mr. Tim Bouley, Global Partnership for Oceans, World Bank
- Dr. Angus Friday, Senior International Climate Policy Specialist, World Bank
- Dr. Mimako Kobayashi, Agricultural and Resource Economist, Agriculture and Rural Development, World Bank
- Dr. Rebecca Lent, Special Advisor, World Bank
- Ms. Elisabeth Mealey, Senior Communications Officer, World Bank
- Dr. Pawan Patil, Senior Economist, Agriculture and Environmental Services Department, World Bank
- Mr. John Virdin, Sr. Natural Resource Management Specialist, Environment Department, World Bank

The full meeting agenda can be found at:

<http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Agenda-Nov12BrainstormingSession.pdf>

Presentations focused on the specific ocean-related outcomes of Rio+20, including the identification of the commitments with specific, concrete targets and deadlines. Intergovernmental organization participants discussed avenues to promote the ocean agenda through the Rio+20 follow-up processes, including the High Level Political Forum, the post-2015 Development Agenda, the Third Global Conference on Small Island Developing States (2014), and in the intergovernmental process on Universal Sustainable Development Goals, and related initiatives of UN organizations and secretariats including the UN Secretary General’s Oceans Compact, UN-OCEANS, the Regular Process, Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to Study Issues relating to the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction, the World Bank’s Global Partnership for Oceans, the Yeosu Declaration on the Living Ocean and Coast, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and related opportunities from the CBD, UNDP, UNEP, IMO, and IOC-UNESCO. Further presentations centered on the range of Rio+20 voluntary commitments and new partnerships that will be integral in implementing the oceans-related provisions in Rio+20.

Afternoon sessions were devoted to breakout discussions to develop strategies in the areas of integrated, ecosystem-based ocean and coastal management and the monitoring, assessment and protection of the marine environment, fisheries, capacity development, climate change and ocean acidification, and the “blue” green economy. The outputs of these breakout groups included analysis of the 1992, 2002, and 2012 targets and commitments in each issue area, including an analysis of what has and has not been accomplished, remaining gaps, sharing of lessons learned, possible existing frameworks and approaches to address the targets, and appropriate fora. Breakout groups also discussed possible implementation strategies for each issue area, focusing on specific objectives of each commitments and identification of specific capacities, expertise, mandates, and financing that are available and needed to meet the commitments, and the key institutions and organizations that can support the implantation of the action items. While the meeting participants recognized

that the outcome of the Rio+20 process was a mix of accomplishments and drawbacks, there was a general sense among the meeting participants that the synergies among the various partners of the Global Ocean Forum have a number of opportunities to promote the new ocean agenda in the coming months and years at the international level.

Specific action items for each issue area varied, but there was general consensus that the international community should focus on enhancing partnerships and developing synergies among the voluntary commitments and other initiatives emanating from Rio+20. Increasing public awareness, including knowledge sharing platforms, new means of building connections among all stakeholders, and seeking support from existing industries and institutions that are involved in, or may have future interests in, improving ocean management, were highlighted as means to achieve these ends. Identifying successful initiatives and scaling up of successful efforts, particularly in the development of a “blue” economy will also be required. Innovative approaches to support the ocean agenda should be considered, including those that improve on the narrative of the importance of ocean issues and resources, as well as considering the positive benefits healthy ocean ecosystems will provide. In the area of integrated, ecosystem-based ocean and coastal management and monitoring, assessment, and protection of the marine environment, improving the integration of adaptation planning into ICM, increasing implementation at the national and sub-national levels as well as building on existing regional initiatives was supported. For fisheries, improving the capacity and accountability of RFMOs, as well as strengthening the relationship between RFMOs and regional sea conventions was recommended. The need to emphasize the economic and environmental value of natural systems for SIDS and climate change adaptation, as well as seeking innovative partnerships to support adaptation and mitigation actions, including the private sector, were highlighted. To improve on capacity development, the need to seek new partnerships and investors (non-traditional collaborators) was also discussed, as was the need to assess gaps and develop a clear, focused capacity development strategy to support ocean leadership at all levels. The key recommendation for the “blue economy” was to scale up successful initiatives, and to provide guidance to the stakeholders in developing effective blue economy practices.

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## **2. Summary of Progress Made on Ocean Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, and Next Steps Emanating from the Rio+20 Outcome Document** (Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain, Dr. Miriam Balgos, Mr. Joseph Appiott, Ms. Marisa Van Hoeven, and Ms. Gwenaelle Hamon, Global Ocean Forum)

The following section is a summary of (1) progress made on ocean commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development; and (2) major ocean-related goals emanating from the Rio+20 Conference. The summary addresses the following issue areas: Integrated, Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM/ICM); Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities; Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM); Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas; Small Island Developing States (SIDS); Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture; Addressing Critical Uncertainties for the Marine Environment; Coordination of UN Activities; Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment; and Capacity Development

The summary of progress made on past ocean commitments (including the report cards) is based on the Global Ocean Forum report, “*Oceans at Rio+20: How Well Are We Doing in Meeting the Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development?*”, which is available at: <http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Rio20SummaryReport.pdf>.

The following text provides a brief summary of the Global Ocean Forum analysis in each issue area, as well as an overview of the ocean-related commitments made in the Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, available at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

### **Ecosystem-Based Management/Integrated Coastal Management**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Medium	High	Some Delay

Use of EBM/ICM has been widely accepted by the international community and has been implemented by a growing number of countries, as well as at the regional level, including through the Large Marine Ecosystem programs. Despite the increase in the scope of implementation, there is a need for further expand implementation of EBM/ICM, supported by improvements in institutional decisionmaking processes, at both the national and regional level, improve integration in the UN system to achieve more coherence, and apply EBM/ICM in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Effective EBM/ICM has been hampered by lack of data regarding ecosystem structure and function, lack of effective decisionmaking frameworks and legal competence, and limited funding to support scientific and management institutions.

The Rio+20 outcome document stressed the importance of an ecosystem approach to the management of activities impacting the marine environment.

### **Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Medium	Medium	Some Delay

Since its establishment in 1995, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment (GPA) has focused on providing guidance and supporting implementation at the national level in the reduction of marine pollution from land-based sources. Over 70 countries have developed National Programmes of Action through the GPA, and regional programmes to mitigate marine pollution have been advanced through the Regional Seas Programmes. Success has been mixed, and some of the most serious sources of marine degradation have not been adequately addressed, including sewage, nutrients, marine litter, and physical habitat alteration and degradation. Challenges include the lack of public education and awareness, limited political will, financial and human resources, and fragmentation of legal and institutional arrangements, as well as lack of compliance, enforcement, and reporting. The goal of achieving substantial progress by 2006, as stated in the Montreal Declaration, has not been achieved.

The Rio+20 outcome document called for States to take action to reduce the incidence and impacts of marine pollution, including through the implementation of the relevant conventions of the International Maritime Organization and through the GPA, and called for significant reduction in marine debris to prevent harm to coastal and marine environments by 2025.

### **Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM)**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Medium	Medium	Some Delay

According to a report by UN-Water, developed countries have advanced Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in all major issue areas, while developing countries have seen improvements in the IWRM planning process. As a whole, the percentage of countries with IWRM plans that have been completed or are in the implementation phase has increased. A set of indicators and a Roadmap have been developed by UN-Water and GWP to provide guidance in IWRM. Despite this progress, there are a number of key areas that must be addressed to improve IWRM, including increased public awareness, gender mainstreaming, addressing implementation gaps, and more effective and consistent development and application of tools across regions. In addition, more effective water efficiency plans are needed.

The Rio+20 outcome document highlighted the need to implement IWRM planning at all levels, address flood-related impacts, water scarcity, and imbalances between water supply and demand, and to consider non-conventional water sources. As well, mobilization of resources, capacity building, and technology transfer were recognized as essential to implementing effective IWRM. There was also support for national action to better manage key ecosystems that play a role in maintaining water quality and quantity. There was a further commitment to reduce water pollution, improve water quality, and improve wastewater treatment and efficiency. The need for international cooperation and assistance was stressed in this regard.

### **Biodiversity and Marine Protected Areas**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Medium	Low/Medium	Significant Delay

While there has been growing recognition of the value of biodiversity among the public and policymakers, including new studies that look at the socio-economic value of marine biodiversity, the global goal of 10% MPA coverage by 2012 has not been met, and the trend in biodiversity loss has continued. Many countries have established networks of marine protected areas, and there have been improvements in multilateral cooperation through the Regional Seas and LME Programmes. However, management of area-based approaches must be improved and embedded within broader EBM frameworks to improve their effectiveness. Challenges to more effective management include the lack of standardized data and reporting, as well as the lack of understanding of the relationship between biodiversity and ecosystem services.

The Rio+20 outcome document reaffirmed a number of commitments from the 10<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the CBD, including the recent commitments under the Aichi Targets and Nagoya Protocol. There was recognition of the importance of area-based measures, including MPAs, to conserve biodiversity, and calls for wider application of traditional knowledge and engagement of local communities in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. It also called for the mainstreaming of the socio-economic benefits of biodiversity, and supported initiation of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services to provide improved information to decision-makers. With regard to areas beyond national jurisdiction, the Rio+20 outcome document called for a decision on the development of an international instrument under UNCLOS for conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity in ABNJ before the end of the 69<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly in 2014.

### **Small Island Developing States**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Medium	Medium	Some Delay

The special circumstances, vulnerabilities, and needs of SIDS have been recognized by the international community through the Barbados Plan of Action (BPoA) and the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI), yet implementation of important commitments related to SIDS and oceans has lagged, and institutional and financial support has been lacking. While SIDS have increasingly invested in the protection of their natural marine capital, including through designation of MPAs and the use of EBM frameworks at both the national and regional level, they have not been able to equitably benefit from their marine resources, and are in need of the human, financial, and institutional capacity to realize these gains. Despite growing focus at the global and regional levels on the threats posed to SIDS by climate change, these concerns have not resulted in the needed international commitments to reduce emissions, and adaptation funds to address climate change is inadequate.

The Rio+20 outcome document reiterated the commitments of the BPoA and MSI, and called for a third international conference on SIDS in 2014, which will be held in Samoa. It also called for the strengthening of the UN system’s support for SIDS, including support for new and emerging challenges. Rio+20 supported improving national capacity to manage and realize the benefits of sustainable resource use, including through improved market access for small-scale, artisanal, and women fishworkers, as well as indigenous people and communities.

### **Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Medium	Low/Medium	Significant Delay

Despite the fact that 78 nations have ratified the Fish Stock Agreement, over 90% of FAO member states have developed or implemented fisheries management plans and 80% have taken steps to develop or implement plans to address illegal, unregulated, and unreported (IUU) fishing, the number of stocks classified as overexploited, fully exploited, depleted, or recovering from depletion have only increased in recent years, indicating that much more progress is needed. Overcapacity also remains a major problem, even though many states have taken action to reduce overcapacity through the International Plan of Action for the Management of Fishing Capacity. In the high seas, UN General Assembly resolutions aimed at mitigating the impacts of bottom trawling on vulnerable ecosystems have been adopted, but implementation, especially at the regional level and in the high seas is still a major issue. There is a clear need for improved enforcement by flag and port states, as well as expanded efforts to mitigate destructive fishing practices. There is a need to address harmful subsidies and the incentive structures that contribute to overfishing and IUU, and to develop management plans that deal focus on long-term sustainability, not short-term losses.

The Rio+20 outcome document contained a number of commitments intended to reduce overfishing and IUU. It called for the intensification of efforts to meet the 2015 JPoI target to restore stocks to maximum sustainable yield (MSY) levels, within the shortest possible timeframe. Science-based management plans were supported. Management actions to address bycatch and destructive practices were called for, in addition to enhanced actions to protect vulnerable ecosystems, including the use of environmental impact assessment (EIA). Support for implementation of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement, the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, and the JPoI to address IUU fishing was reiterated, and countries were urged to ratify the Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter, and Eliminate IUU Fishing to bring it into force. The outcome document also called for national action to prevent and combat IUU activities, as well as the elimination of subsidies, including the capacity building for improved monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement systems. At the international level, Rio+20 called for the conclusion of World Trade Organization negotiations to address fishing subsidies in a manner that considers development priorities. RFMOs were encouraged to undergo independent review to increase transparency and accountability, and to implement the recommendations that

emerge from these reviews. Increased market access, and access by subsistence, small-scale, artisanal, women, and indigenous fishers was observed.

### **Addressing Critical Uncertainties for the Management of the Marine Environment and Climate Change**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
High	Medium/High	Some Delay/Significant Delay

There has been a mobilization of scientific effort to adapt scientific priorities to address pressing environmental concerns related to climate change. As a whole, improved sampling systems and networks of monitoring sites has resulted a deeper understanding of ecosystem processes. However, more effective monitoring and reporting, and improved global coverage, as well as implementation of the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) is required. The cumulative impacts of human activities need to be addressed in a multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional approach, and there is a need for systematic environmental data exchange between nations and the international community. The challenges of lack of capacity in developing countries, including technology transfer, education and training, and limited financial capacity has hampered implementation.

The Rio+20 outcome document called for states to consider the findings of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment following its completion. The outcome document also stressed the need to consider the precautionary approach in ocean fertilization activities. Although not ocean-specific, the Rio+20 outcome document also called on states to improve early warning systems for disaster risk reduction, including capacity building, and called for the strengthening of risk assessment and risk reduction instruments, including integration with climate change adaptation strategies.

### **Coordination of UN Activities on Oceans**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Low	Low	On Time

UN-Oceans has been operating since 2005 on a regular basis, and with transparency. Work has been carried out through task forces, and has provided a forum for communication between UN agencies. However the activities of UN-Oceans has been limited, largely due to the lack of a lead authority, secretariat, staff or funding support, including through the individual agencies to support group activities. The different governing bodies, processes, timelines, and budgets for each of the UN agencies involved makes coordination difficult. Actions have been time bound, and there has been limited NGO involvement. A clear lead authority, a position at a higher level within the UN system, as well as specific funding is required to make UN-Oceans more effective.

The Rio+20 outcome document did not mention UN-Oceans, nor did it reference inter agency cooperation in relation to oceans.

### **A Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Medium	High	Significant Delay

The Regular Process was established as an international process guided by international law, including UNCLOS and other relevant international instruments, though the scope and scale of establishing it was slow and hampered by a lack of resources to carry out the start-up phase. The Assessment of Assessments, which synthesizes information from existing assessments on the state of the marine environment was recently completed and was widely accepted by the research community, although the assessments gave less attention to areas beyond national jurisdiction and economic and social factors. The first cycle is underway, and is expected to be completed in time for review in 2014. While there has been improved participation by developing countries, the management of the Regular Process by States has limited the involvement of other key actors and the resources they could provide.

The Rio+20 outcome document called on states to consider the findings of the Regular Process following its completion in 2014 and subsequent review by the assembly.

### **Capacity Development**

<b>Effort</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Timing</b>
Low/ Unavailable	Low	Significant Delay

Capacity development was a major focus of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 (the outcome document of the 1992 Earth Summit), and continues to be a major area of importance. There have been many efforts since 1992 to respond to the capacity development needs expressed at UNCED and at the WSSD on the part of various entities: educational institutions, UN agencies, multilateral and bilateral donors, NGOs, but there is currently no entity tracking effort and expenditures, aggregate impact, effectiveness, or extent to which current and emerging needs have been met, making assessment of effort difficult in this area. The absence of strategies and guidance at the international level, as well as a lack of indicators and timelines at the national level has slowed capacity development. Funds are limited, there are no tracking mechanisms for funds that have been provided, and there is no integration among the many actors that assist in capacity development. Capacity building efforts need to be integrated into long term development strategies, and will need to include human and institutional capacity building in addition to public education.

In the Rio+20 process, developing countries identified the lack of capacity development as one of the major gaps at the international level. In the outcome document, capacity building for oceans, coasts, and SIDS was highlighted to enable developing countries to implement their global commitments and to benefit from the conservation and sustainable use of their resources, including technology transfer, to provide support for monitoring, control, surveillance, compliance and enforcement systems to prevent and combat IUU fishing, to improve implementation of integrated water resource management. Support for sustainable tourism was also included in the outcome document, though this was not specific to coastal tourism.

### **References**

Biliana Cicin-Sain, Miriam Balgos, Joseph Appiott, Kateryna Wowk, and Gwénaëlle Hamon. 2011. Oceans at Rio+20: How Well Are We Doing in Meeting the Commitments from the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development? Summary for Decision Makers. Global Ocean Forum. Available at: <http://www.globaloceans.org/content/rio20>

UN Resolution 66/288. “The Future We Want” 11 September 2012, available at:  
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

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### **3. Opportunities to Advance the Ocean Agenda through Post-Rio+20 UN Processes**

There are a number of opportunities to promote the Ocean Agenda through ongoing UN processes post Rio+20. Information on the following processes was provided by Ms. Julie Ritz, Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

#### **Establishment of intergovernmental High-level Political Forum (HLPF)**

**Goal:** convening first HLPF at beginning of GA 68<sup>th</sup> session in 2013

- Building on strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of Commission on Sustainable Development - subsequently replacing CSD
- CSD 20 in September 2013 (if taking place) will be last meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development
- The CSD 2014/2015 review of oceans will not take place
- Format and organizational aspects of HLPF currently negotiated (Agenda 21 resolution)
- Unclear to date which topics will be picked up by HLPF

#### **Consultative Process on Post-2015 Development Agenda**

**Goal:** Development of single, unified development agenda for post-2015, with sustainable development at its center that integrates three dimensions of sustainable development

1. Secretary-General High-Level Panel on Post-2015 Development Agenda  
*Co-Chairs:* President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (Indonesia), President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (Liberia) and Prime Minister David Cameron (United Kingdom)  
*Special adviser:* Amina Mohammed (Nigeria)
  - Report of High-Level Panel (due in May 2013): “Practical development vision”
2. UN System Task Team on Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (led jointly by UN DESA and UNDP)
  - First report “Realizing the Future We Want for All” published in June 2012 (common vision for UN system)
  - Secretary-General report (due in August 2013) to support ongoing deliberations and build basis for intergovernmental negotiations

#### **Intergovernmental process on Universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

**Goal:** Development of a balanced, comprehensive set of sustainable development goals (SDGs)

SDGs, as outlined in §§ 245-251 of Rio+20 outcome document are to:

- Be coherent with and integrated into Post-2015 Development Agenda
- Not divert focus or effort from achievement of MDGs
- Address and incorporate in balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages

- Be action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries
- Take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities
- Address and be focused on priority areas for achievement of sustainable development, being guided by Rio+20 outcome document

Developing the SDGs:

### 1. **Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs**

- comprising 30 representatives nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups
- to submit a report to the General Assembly at its 68th session containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action

### 2. **UN System Technical Task Team on SDGs (led jointly by UN DESA and UNDP)**

- Provide technical support to Open Working Group (OWG)
- First report: “Initial input of the Secretary-General to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals” (official UN document: A/67/634) based on “Questionnaire related to the development of Sustainable Development Goals” which was sent to Member States now available on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform administered by DESA: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

### **Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Apia, Samoa (foreseen in first half of 2014)**

- Called for in §180 of Rio+20 outcome document
- Appointed Secretary-General of the Conference: Mr. Hongbo Wu, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN-DESA
- Building on Barbados Programme of Action, Mauritius Strategy of Implementation (MSI) and chapter VII of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation regarding small island developing States,
- Recognizing the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing small island developing States
- The Conference is supposed to:
  - Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy, building on, inter alia, existing reports and relevant processes;
  - Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to address effectively the special needs and vulnerabilities of small island developing States by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and Mauritius Strategy, inter alia, through mobilization of resources and assistance for small island developing States;
  - Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of small island developing States and ways and means to address them, including through the strengthening of collaborative partnerships between small island developing States and the international community;

- Identify priorities for the sustainable development of small island developing States for consideration, as appropriate, in the elaboration of the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015;
- Resolution “Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States” adopted at GA 67<sup>th</sup> session
- General-Assembly to decide, before the end of 2013, the modalities and format of the Conference (e.g. dates of Conference and preparatory committee meetings)

#### 4. List of Ocean-Related Events in 2013-2014

##### 2013

Event	Location	Date
First meeting of the Plenary of the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-1)	Bonn, Germany	January 21-26, 2013
Launch of the Global Ocean Commission	London, UK	February 12, 2013
27th Session of UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum	Nairobi, Kenya	February 18-22, 2013
Advancing the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda: Reconfirming Rights-Recognizing Limits-Redefining Goals - Supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)	Bonn, Germany	March 20-23, 2013
6 <sup>th</sup> Annual Global Marine Renewable Energy Conference – Ocean Renewable Energy Coalition	Washington, D.C.	April 10-11, 2013
Expert Group Meeting Oceans, Seas and Sustainable Development: Implementation and follow-up to Rio+20 - UNDESA	New York, NY	April 18, 2013 (morning)
World Ocean Council “Sustainable Ocean Summit”	Washington, D.C.	April 22-24, 2013
UN ABNJ Working Group Intersessional Workshops	New York, NY	May 3-4, 2013 Marine Genetic Resources May 6-7, 2013 Conservation and Management Tools
EU – U.S. Conference Series on ‘Sustainable Oceans – Reconciling Economic Use and Protection’: 3rd Conference on ‘Good Governance for Sustainable Marine Development’	Cascais, Portugal	June 3-5, 2013
UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP)	New York, NY	June 17-20
GEF 44th Council Meeting	Washington D.C.	June 18-20, 2013

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
27th Session of the IOC Assembly	Paris, France	June 26 – July 9, 2013
GOF/FAO ABNJ Workshop: Advancing the Global/Regional Policy Dialogue on Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	London, UK (IMO Headquarters)	<i>Dates TBC July or September 2013</i>
Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction (BBNJ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GOF/FAO ABNJ Dialogues</li> </ul>	New York, NY	August 19-23, 2013
44th Pacific Islands Forum	Majuro, Marshall Islands	September 16-20, 2013 <i>[tentative]</i>
The 7 <sup>th</sup> GEF Biennial International Waters Conference	Caribbean	October 2013
CBD SBSTTA 17	Montreal, Canada	October 14-18, 2013
37th session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC 37)	Georgia (tentative)	October 14-18, 2013
3 <sup>rd</sup> International Marine Protected Areas Congress <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GOF/FAO ABNJ Dialogues</li> </ul>	Marseille and Corsica, France	October 21-27, 2013
Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for 3rd International Conference on SIDS <i>[tentative]</i>	New York, NY <i>[tentative]</i>	November 1, 2013 <i>[tentative]</i>
19 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	Warsaw, Poland	November 11-22, 2013

## 2014

<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>
GOF/FAO ABNJ Workshop: Building on Experiences and Developing Synergies to Improve ABNJ Management	Suva, Fiji (tentative)	TBD
Third meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Nagoya Protocol on access and benefit-sharing (ABS) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Montreal, Canada	February 3-7, 2014 <i>[tentative]</i>
Third International Conference for Small Island Developing States <i>[tentative]</i>	Samoa	March 1, 2014 <i>[tentative]</i>
Sixth Global Ocean Conference	TBD	Spring 2014
31st Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI 31)	Rome, Italy	June 2014
CBD SBSTTA 18	Montreal, Canada	June 16-20, 2014 <i>[tentative]</i>
12 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 12)	Republic of Korea	October 1, 2014
20 <sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change	TBD	December 2014

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## 5. Major Ocean Initiatives

The following section provides information on major ocean initiatives that will support the Ocean Agenda, as presented by participants and discussed at the November 12, 2012, Global Ocean Forum Brainstorming Session. The information contained herein is derived from the websites of each initiative.

### *1) The UN Secretary General's Ocean Compact*

#### **History:**

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon launched the Oceans Compact on 12 August 2012 at the Yesou International Conference, Republic of Korea. “The launch of the Oceans Compact follows the announcement

by the Secretary-General earlier this year of his Five-Year Action Agenda, which includes oceans as a main

category. In that context, he decided to give strong emphasis to the importance of oceans and their role in sustainable development by putting forward the idea of an Oceans Compact that would commit the wide United Nations System to furthering “healthy oceans for prosperity.”

#### **Mission:**

The Oceans Compact is an initiative to set out a strategic vision for the UN system to deliver on its ocean-related mandates, consistent with the Rio+20 outcome document “The Future We Want”, in a more coherent and effective manner. It aims to provide a platform for all stakeholders to collaborate and accelerate progress in the achievement of the common goal of “Healthy Oceans for Prosperity”.

It is essential to address the issues of declining ocean health and productivity as well as weak ocean management. The Oceans Compact will be underpinned by pragmatic short-, medium- and long-term strategies to increase cross sectoral coordination and cooperation at the national, regional and global levels as well as within the United Nations system. The intent is to address the cumulative impacts of sectoral activities on the marine environment, including through implementing ecosystem and precautionary approaches.

The Oceans Compact aims to mobilize and enhance the UN system’s capacity to support actions by Governments, and promote the engagement of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, scientists, the private sector and industry to tackle challenges in protecting and restoring the health and productivity of the oceans for the benefit of present and future generations.

To attain the goal of “Healthy Oceans for Prosperity”, we need to discover new and innovative ways to protect ocean resources, use them more efficiently, while ensuring sustainable use and conservation of natural resources by all stakeholders. Three inter-related objectives advance this goal:

- Protecting people and improving the health of the oceans
- Protecting, recovering and sustaining the oceans’ environment and natural resources and restoring their full food production and livelihoods services
- Strengthening ocean knowledge and the management of oceans

Realizing the objectives of the Oceans Compact will require the creation of enabling conditions so that interventions and actions can be undertaken as part of an integrated and results-oriented “Action Plan” and,

where appropriate, up-scaled to ensure an improved quality of life and enhanced opportunities for the hundreds of millions of people whose lives depend on the oceans. This will involve:

- Increasing capacity and technical assistance to Member States that may require it. In that regard, I call for the elaboration and implementation of a global strategy to build national and regional capacity in ocean affairs, including the ability of States to implement existing agreements and arrangements and use available tools, such as marine spatial planning, integrated coastal zone management, assessments, monitoring and surveillance, to better address the cumulative impacts on the marine environment;
- Building and sharing the scientific, traditional and indigenous knowledge base for sustainably managing ocean and coastal resources, protecting coastal populations, and maintaining ecosystem services;
- Creating the economic and social conditions to ensure sustainable livelihoods and economic development through green practices, increased societal awareness and respect of human rights including the right to food and active participation of all interested parties in the elaboration and implementation of integrated ocean-related policies;
- Improving ocean governance through enhanced and coordinated global, regional and national mechanisms; and
- Increasing participation in, and the implementation of, global and regional agreements addressing the protection and preservation of the marine environment and its living marine resources against all sources of pollution and other forms of physical degradation.

### **Partners and Funding:**

The Oceans Compact builds upon the range of existing and ongoing activities of UN system organizations. The Compact will assist Member States to implement the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other relevant global and regional conventions and instruments, and promote participation in those instruments.

Oceans Compact is available at:

[http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean\\_compact/SGs%20OCEAN%20COMPACT%202012-EN-low%20res.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean_compact/SGs%20OCEAN%20COMPACT%202012-EN-low%20res.pdf)

Press Release on the Oceans Compact:

[http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean\\_compact/launch\\_oceans\\_compact\\_press\\_%20release\\_10%20Aug\\_final.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/ocean_compact/launch_oceans_compact_press_%20release_10%20Aug_final.pdf)

## ***2) Reform and Enhancement of UN-Oceans***

### **History**

In September 2003, the United Nations High Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) approved the creation of an Oceans and Coastal Areas Network (subsequently named "UN-Oceans"), covering a wide range of issues and composed of the relevant programs, entities, organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and the secretariats of the relevant international conventions.

Following recommendations from the Informal Consultative Process (ICP) and taking into account the decisions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the General Assembly invited the Secretary-General to establish an effective, transparent and regular inter-agency coordination mechanism on oceans and coastal issues. The Chief Executive Board endorsed in 2003 the establishment of UN-Oceans, which was approved by the sixth meeting of HLCP.

### **Mission:**

The Terms of Reference for UN-Oceans are as follows:

1. Strengthening coordination and cooperation of the United Nations activities related to oceans and coastal areas;

2. Reviewing the relevant programmes and activities of the United Nations system, undertaken as part of their contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Agenda 21, and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI);
3. Identification of emerging issues, the definition of joint actions, and the establishment of relevant task teams as appropriate;
4. Promoting the integrated management of ocean at the international level;
5. Facilitating, as appropriate, the inputs to the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea; and
6. Promoting the coherence of the United Nations system activities on oceans and coastal areas in accordance with the mandates of the General Assembly, and the priorities contained in the Millennium Development Goals.

The General Assembly in its resolution 66/231 on “Oceans and the law of the sea” invited the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) to review UN-Oceans and submit a report for consideration at its sixty-seventh session. In parallel, a proposal for such a review was submitted to the JIU by UN-Oceans for its Programme of Work (PoW) for 2012. The objective of the evaluation is to examine the UN-Oceans inter-agency mechanism and propose tangible recommendations. The evaluation questions were structured around the following evaluation criteria:

- *Relevance*: Does UN-Oceans have a clear mandate and role to play and doing it correctly?
- *Coherence*: Do members share the same vision, understanding of the mechanism and do they work in coherence with the mandates?
- *Efficiency*: Is it structured and does it have systems and processes in place to fulfill its mandate effectively?
- *Effectiveness*: How far is it achieving its objectives?
- *Sustainability*: Can UN-Oceans continue as a mechanism, what factors threaten its continuation, relevance and effectiveness and what measures have been put in place?

The review found that ocean affairs have received low visibility and priority in the United Nations system. Further, they note that UN-Oceans has not yet been able to demonstrate its full “value added” due to its structural weaknesses and lack of resources and should be given a fair chance, with the proper resources, to carry out the work it was mandated to do in order to fully realize its potential.

Following the review, the following recommendations were made:

- The General Assembly should recommend at its sixty-seventh session that a national focal point on oceans and related issues in each country be established, if it does not exist, to enhance communication between delegates of the same country with the various United Nations meetings/entities dealing with oceans and coastal issues, to ensure coherence of the relevant national positions.
- The Secretary-General, as the chair of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, should request UN-Oceans to revise its Terms of Reference, which should be reviewed periodically every three to four years, paying particular attention to avoiding possible overlaps with existing mechanisms and taking into consideration the relevant outcomes of Rio+20.
- The legislative and governing bodies of the organizations that are members of UN-Oceans should, not later than 2013, direct their executive heads to mobilize the necessary resources to establish a small dedicated secretariat to work on UN-Oceans, taking into consideration the experience of other United Nations mechanisms.
- The Secretary-General, as the chair of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, should, not later than 2013, direct the High Level Committee on Programmes to develop operational guidelines (internal working procedures) for UN-Oceans’ decision making, membership, meetings and task force arrangements and clarify reporting and other governance issues.
- The General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session should request the Secretary-General, as the chair of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to ensure that the three mechanisms, namely UN-Oceans,

UN-Energy and UN-Water, institutionalize their coordination efforts under the High Level Committee on Programmes.

### **Partners and Funding:**

UN-Oceans is made up of 14 UN entities, at present; CBD, FAO, IAEA, ILO, IMO, ISA, UN DESA, UN DOALOS, UNDP, IOC-UNCESO, UNEP, UNIDO, UNWTO, WB, and WMO.

Any secretariat in the United Nations system can become a member of UN-Oceans by expressing its will to do so. Relevant international NGOs and other stakeholders are occasionally invited to participate in the work of UN-Oceans through its task forces. UN-Oceans is led by a coordinator (currently UNDP) supported by a deputy coordinator (UNEP). These positions are supposed to rotate every two years; UN-Oceans does not have a dedicated secretariat, staff or budget to undertake its activities.

Full review of UN-Oceans available at: [http://www.unjju.org/data/reports/2012/en2012\\_03.pdf](http://www.unjju.org/data/reports/2012/en2012_03.pdf)

### **3) *The Global Partnership for Oceans***

#### **History:**

The Global Partnership for Oceans, first announced in February 2012, is a growing alliance of more than 100 governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and private sector interests committed to addressing the threats to the health, productivity and resilience of the world's oceans. It aims to tackle widely documented problems of overfishing, pollution, and habitat loss. Together these problems are contributing to the depletion of a natural resource bank that provides nutrition, livelihoods and vital ecosystem services.

#### **Mission:**

The Partnership will work toward meeting the following interrelated objectives by 2022:

##### **Sustainable seafood and livelihoods from capture fisheries and aquaculture**

In line with previous internationally agreed commitments\* and taking into consideration growing impacts of climate change:

- Significantly increase global food fish production from both sustainable aquaculture and sustainable fisheries by adopting best practices and reducing environmental and disease risk to stimulate investment
- Reduce the open access nature of fisheries by creating responsible tenure arrangements, including secure access rights for fishers and incentives for them to hold a stake in the health of the fisheries; and
- Enable the world's overfished stocks to be rebuilt and increase the annual net benefits of capture fisheries by at least \$20 billion, including through reducing subsidies that promote overfishing.

##### **Critical coastal and ocean habitats and biodiversity**

In line with previous internationally agreed targets and to address the growing impacts of climate change:

- Halve the current rate of natural habitat loss and reduce habitat degradation and fragmentation, by applying ecosystem-based approaches to management;
- Increase marine managed and protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures, to include at least 10% of coastal and marine areas; and
- Conserve and restore natural coastal habitats to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.

##### **Pollution reduction**

In line with previous internationally agreed commitments and taking into consideration the growing impacts of climate change:

- Reduce pollution to levels not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity; and
- Support implementation of the Global Program of Action to reduce pollution, particularly from marine litter, waste water and excess nutrients, and further develop consensus for achievable goals to reduce these pollutants.

### **Partners and Financing:**

As of October 1, 2012, there were 113 participants in the GPO, representing governments and government agencies (19), private sector (31), civil society organizations (35), foundations (7), regional and multilateral organizations (9), research (7), and UN organizations and conventions (5).

Financing will be catalyzed by concessional finance and grants from the World Bank, with additional financial and human resource support from GPO partners.

GPO Declaration for Healthy, Productive Oceans to Reduce Poverty available at:

<https://globalpartnershipforoceans.org/sites/default/files/images/GPO%20Declaration.pdf>

GPO Press Release:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/2012/08/31/world-bank-announces-proposed-package-of-support-for-worlds-largest-ocean0>

## ***4) The Sustainable Ocean Initiative***

### **History:**

CBD COP 10 emphasized the need for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties through workshops that contribute to sharing experiences and knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity. Recognizing this urgent need, the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) was born at the margins of COP 10, through the leadership of Japan, COP 10 Presidency, and in collaboration with various partners who were willing to provide the necessary expertise, technical and financial resources. The SOI concept was further developed in subsequent meetings, such as the SOI Programme Development Meeting (2-4 August 2011, Kanazawa, Japan) and SOI High-level Meeting (5 June 2012, Yeosu, Republic of Korea).

### **Mission:**

To provide a global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity in a holistic manner by:

- Facilitating the sharing and exchange of knowledge, information, experiences and practices;
- Creating partnerships that can provide targeted capacity-building and technical assistance in support of on-the-ground implementation priorities;
- Enhancing interactive communication among global policy, science and local stakeholders;
- Monitoring progress on Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity;
- Developing partnerships among different sectors and stakeholders at local, regional and global scales; and
- Working together to achieve a balance between the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, and promoting flexible and diverse approaches towards this end.

Achieving a balance between conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity

- SOI is an action-oriented, holistic and integrated capacity building framework.

- SOI is committed to building bridges between biodiversity conservation and resource management sectors.
- SOI is committed to effective interaction and communication between local, national and international levels.

### **Partners and Funding:**

SOI is currently being funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund and the French Agence des aires marines protégées (marine protected areas agency), and its implementation is being coordinated by the CBD Secretariat.

Sustainable Ocean Initiative brochure: <http://www.cbd.int/marine/doc/soi-brochure-2012-en.pdf>

CBD Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Programme at: <http://www.cbd.int/marine/>

### ***5) The Yeosu Declaration on the Living Ocean and Coast***

The Yeosu Declaration Forum, which took place August 12, 2012 in conjunction with the closing of the International Exposition Yeosu Korea 2012, hosted forward-thinking discussion on advancing a new vision for the ocean and launched the Yeosu Declaration, the intellectual legacy of the Yeosu Expo. The Yeosu Expo, under the theme of “The Living Ocean and Coast,” highlighted new innovations in ocean and coastal exploration and development, and presented a hopeful vision of the future of humanity living in harmony with the sea.

The Yeosu Declaration builds on the efforts of the Expo 2012 Yeosu Korea, as well as the international framework for the ocean and the outcomes of major conferences on sustainable development. It recognizes the ocean as a critical part of the Earth’s life supporting system and a valuable source of food, livelihood, and culture to billions around the world. The marine ecosystem services and a rich diversity of marine resources are essential to human survival, civilization, and prosperity. This is especially important in light of the growing global population and the many pressures facing the ocean.

It aims to elevate ocean issues to the top of the global policy agenda and empower all stakeholders to have greater stewardship and take up their unique roles in ensuring the well-being of the ocean for future generations. It seeks to mobilize the global community in all sectors, including governments, civil society, and the private sector, to support the ocean as an important source of prosperity and development, strengthening a social and economic link of the global community.

The Declaration aims to catalyze tangible action for the protection of marine ecosystems and the use of innovative and environmentally-friendly technologies to realize the many opportunities of the ocean. It seeks to support an improved understanding of the ocean through science and observation in order to better manage ocean resources and more effectively respond to major threats and natural disasters.

As the well-being of the entire world is inextricably connected to the ocean, the Yeosu Declaration emphasizes the importance of collaborative international action, involving all nations. In this respect, the Declaration also highlights the importance of assisting developing nations, including small island developing states (SIDS), to better manage their marine resources and address ocean-related challenges.

The Declaration also highlights the Yeosu Project, as a legacy of the Expo 2012 Yeosu, Korea, focused on building the capacity of developing nations, and calls for further action to translate the spirit of the Yeosu Declaration into action

The Yeosu Declaration signals a new paradigm shift redefining our relationship with the ocean; One in which we can live in harmony with the sea, meet social demands, and support economic growth, by looking to innovations and new approaches to ocean exploration, development, and management. It stresses that we must look at the ocean as our shared heritage and our legacy for the future. We must look to the ocean as a new horizon of opportunity that must be treated with care if we hope to realize these opportunities now and into the future.

Text of the Yesou Declaration available at:

<http://eng.expo2012.kr/is/ps/unitybbs/bbs/selectBbsDetail.html?ispsBbsId=BBS001&ispsNttId=0000060031>

Expo2012 Yesou Korea Website: [http://eng.expo2012.kr/main.html?mobile\\_at=Y](http://eng.expo2012.kr/main.html?mobile_at=Y)

## ***6) Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects***

### **History:**

The Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects (Regular process), was established by the General Assembly following a decision taken at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) to strengthen the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking. In 2005, the General Assembly launched the start-up phase to the Regular Process, called the “assessment of assessments,” which concluded in 2009. In 2008, the General Assembly established an Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to recommend a course of action for the Regular Process. At its sixty-fifth session in 2010, the General Assembly decided that the Regular Process would be an intergovernmental process and set up an initial programme of work. (From the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform- Ocean and Seas Issue Area)

### **Mission:**

The first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process is to be completed by October 2014. The first integrated global marine assessment will look at both the current state of the marine environment and foreseeable developments, building on exiting regional assessments. More specifically, it will:

- Provide decision-makers with accurate and timely information at the global level on the state of all aspects of the marine environments, based on the latest available scientific data
- Develop techniques for integrated assessment of ocean processes, sectors of human activities and marine species and habitats, including the identification of trends
- Include assessment of the influence of land-based activities on the marine environment
- Identify the linkages between human well-being and marine environmental changes, including those resulting from human impacts, such as the effects of climate change foreseen by the IPCC
- Organize, analyze, and communicate this information
- Create a framework to assist regional and specialized assessment processes to improve data collection and analysis
- Strengthen networking and capacity-building within and between regions
- Promote capacity-building and transfer of technology, including marine technology for developing and other States, in accordance with accepted international rules

### **Partners and Funding:**

The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations is the secretariat of the Regular Process. Technical and scientific support is provided by UNEP, IOC-UNESCO, FAO, IMO, and other United Nations specialized agencies

A Group of Experts of the Regular Process has been established to carry out the assessments within the framework of the Regular Process. It is comprised of up to 25 members drawn equally from and appointed through the five regional groups of the United Nations, covering a wide range of expertise relevant to carrying out the assessments including scientific, economic, and social expertise.

Draft timeline of past and future Regular Process actions and events:

[http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global\\_reporting/A6787AnnexIV.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/A6787AnnexIV.pdf)

Regular Process information sheet: [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global\\_reporting/Brochure.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/Brochure.pdf)

Further information: [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global\\_reporting/global\\_reporting.htm](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm)

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## 6. Ocean-related Rio+20 Voluntary Commitments

The information in this section provides details of the ocean-related voluntary commitments registered on the Rio+20 conference website. Developing new partnerships and synergies through the voluntary commitments provides an opportunity to assist in the implementation of the goals of Rio+20, and advance the Ocean Agenda. Details of the voluntary commitments can now be accessed through the UN's Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform at: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.html>

### Voluntary Commitments in the “Oceans and Seas, SIDS” category

*Ocean Watch: Assessment and Promotion of Progress in the Implementation of the 1992, 2002, and 2012 Global Commitments On Oceans, Coasts, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)*

**Partners:**

Global Ocean Forum (GOF) , United Nations Development Program , Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan

**Commitment:**

The continued assessment, policy dialogue, and reporting of the progress (or lack thereof) in meeting global commitments related to oceans, coasts, and SIDS will ensure continuous exchange of information, sharing of best practices, and provide the opportunity to develop novel approaches to fill gaps in past commitments, and to address new and emerging challenges. This serves to maintain a high public and political profile, and to mobilize the ocean community to achieve effective implementation of commitments.

This builds on the work undertaken by the GOF and partners, in the report “Oceans at Rio+20: Summary for Decision Makers,” available online.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=289>

*Building Oceans Readiness: Capacity Development for Integrated Ocean Governance*

**Partners:**

Global Ocean Forum (GOF), Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO, World Ocean Network, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Japan

**Commitment:**

Capacity development for integrated ocean governance is essential to achieve sustainable development of oceans and coasts including responses to address new challenges, climate change and biodiversity, loss and provide sustainable ocean and coastal livelihoods. Funding is limited and there has been little collaboration and coordination of efforts among the many actors that assist in capacity development.

A global strategy for ocean readiness, mobilizing expertise and partnerships, will be developed to ensure that governments and institutions have the skills, knowledge, and capacity to develop Blue Economy frameworks, and to address challenges on oceans and coastal communities in a long-term, integrated manner.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=288>

***Building Global Capacity for Marine Sciences, Observation, and Transfer of Marine Technology***

**Partners:**

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO

(in partnership with Global Ocean Forum Commitment on Capacity Building for Integrated Ocean Governance)

**Commitment:** This commitment aims at conducting a global and regional assessment of capacity development needs in the field of marine scientific research and ocean observation in developing nations and SIDS, leading to the formulation and implementation of a global strategy to implement these needs, through partnership with countries, donors, UN Agencies, global financial institutions, and the private sector. This commitment is based on the proposal contained in the UN Blueprint Report on Ocean and Coastal Sustainability and will be implemented in close cooperation with Global Ocean Forum led Voluntary Commitment on building global capacity for integrated ocean governance.

Website: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=361>

***Global Partnership and Capacity Building for Ecosystem Based Management of Oceans and Coasts: Pursuing Compatible Objectives for Sustainable Development through Integrated Spatial Planning, Management and Policies***

**Partners:**

UNEP, Regional Seas, UN Oceans, governments, NGOs, private sectors, other international organizations.

**Commitment:**

(a) An interdisciplinary Partnership and Capacity Building Platform to support ecosystem-based management for sustainable development of oceans and coast established by 2014;

(b) Cross-sectoral policy frameworks with coherent objectives and management plans to support comprehensive ecosystem-based management of oceans and coasts drafted in five countries across the Regional Seas Programme by 2017.

Website:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=501>

## ***The Ocean Stewardship Initiative in the Blue Society***

### **Partners:**

Nausicaà, World Ocean Network, and the Global Ocean Forum

### **Potential partners:**

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, United Nations Development Programme, Ocean Policy Research Foundation, Sea for Society consortium, International Union for Conservation of Nature Agence des Aires Marines Protégées

### **Commitment:**

In the last summits on SD, States agreed on the need for a joint framework for conservation and sustainable use of ocean resources. To reach this goal, we shall bring together researchers, policy makers, economic stakeholders, local authorities and the general public in dialogue, mutual learning, and action in order to develop the “Blue Society” concept, a new vision of our life on Earth, in the spirit of sustainability, well-being and equity for mankind in harmony with the World Ocean.

To implement it, we shall identify innovative research themes and governance modes and promote them to be duplicated elsewhere.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=513>

## ***Creation of a Co-managed Marine Protected Areas Network***

### **Partners:**

Fundacion Loxaxanet para la Pesca Sostenible

### **Commitment:**

--The creation of Marine Protected Areas designed and co-managed by artisanal fishers as a tool to ensure marine governance and sustainability of fishery resources.

--Involvement of artisanal fishers in the co-management of fishery resources in the decision making process, which will reduce the gap among authorities and civil society.

--Improvement the socio-economic, environmental and institutional conditions in which artisanal fishers operate and place them at the heart of the sustainable management of the resources their livelihoods is dependent upon.

--Change of mindset to improve management of marine resources and governance.

--Dissemination and replication of successful experiences and good practices.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=482>

## ***Delivering Ecosystem-Based Coral Reef Management in the World's Regional Seas***

### **Partners:**

UNEP, Regional Seas programs and associated networks

### **Commitment:**

Six regional seas with extensive coral reefs incorporate tools for assessing drivers of coral reef resilience and for identifying and prioritizing actions that reduce the major anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, in order to maintain their integrity and functioning.

A global partnership initiative among regional seas will promote policy coherence through common tools and approaches as well as strengthened implementation at the regional level, supporting resilient reefs and dependent communities.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=502>

### ***Laying the Foundations of an Ocean Economy***

#### **Partners:**

Mauritius, in partnership with development partners

#### **Commitment**

Foundations of an Ocean Economy, to be achieved with assistance from development partners.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=458>

### ***Reduce pollutants from sea and land-based activities, including litter, harmful substances and nutrients from wastewater, industrial and agricultural runoff entering the world's oceans***

#### **Partners:**

Governments of Italy, Germany, the Netherlands, USA, the European Union; the International Fertilizer Industry Association (IFA); the International Nitrogen Initiative (INI); International Fertilizer Development Centre (IFDC); the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); UN-HABITAT; IOC-UNESCO, UNDP, NOAA; UN-Water; UN-Oceans

#### **Commitment:**

All countries would have set relevant national targets for nutrient loadings, marine litter reduction and wastewater discharges. The planning of strategies for achieving these targets would have been commenced, through processes such as Regional Seas Action Plans and through functioning Global Partnerships on Marine Litter, Nutrients, and Wastewater Management.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=500>

### ***Smart Ocean/Smart Industries: Global scaling up of ocean and climate data collection by industry***

#### **Partners:**

World Ocean Council member companies, i.e. from shipping, oil/gas, fisheries, mining, renewable energy, etc.

#### **Commitment:**

WOC and leadership companies will create a system to scale up and coordinate industry collecting of ocean/climate data for scientific programs that improve ocean health and industry sustainability. The Smart Ocean/Smart Industries program is operational and ready to be used by a range of companies, sectors and locations worldwide by 2015. To achieve this overall target, pilot projects in one or more regions will be undertaken using industry vessels and platforms from several sectors, e.g. shipping and oil and gas. Pilot efforts will develop the system and process for systematic, regular, sustained and integrated collection of standardized ocean, weather and climate data at industry vessels and platforms and data communication to national and international ocean, weather and climate programs.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=1034>

## **Ocean-related Voluntary Commitments in the “Climate Change” Category**

## ***Climate Change Mitigation through Sustainable Management of Coastal Ecosystems***

### **Partners:**

UNEP, GRID-Arendal, UNEP-WCMC, IOC of UNESCO, IUCN, Academic Institutions, NGOs

### **Commitment:**

International policy and financing processes under the UNFCCC encompass and enable coastal ecosystem-based mitigation activities. The area of mangroves, seagrass beds and tidal wetlands under sustainable management for climate change mitigation is increased in five developing countries, and greenhouse gas balance and other ecosystem services are consistently quantified and valued using standardized methodologies.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=499>

## ***Ecosystems-based Adaptation (EBA) Programme***

**Partners:** UNDP, IUCN

### **Commitment:**

The outcome of this commitment is countries having improved integration of climate change responses into national development processes by incorporating Ecosystem-based Approaches to Adaptation into development planning and policymaking. This includes increasing the access of communities to relevant climate change assessments and information for decision-making and long-term planning. One project will be in a SIDS.

Website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=1348&nr=495>

## ***Signature of Cooperation Agreements between the IOC, and SPREP and IOC and 5Cs***

### **Partners:**

Indian Ocean Commission, South Pacific Regional Program for Environment (SPREP) and the Community Center of Caribbean States for Climate Change (CCCCC)

### **Commitment:**

SIDS countries of the three regions will have increased their capacity in accessing climate finance, will have developed collaborations in developing human capacity to deliver on Blue economy and sustainable development; will have prepared for the SIDS summit in 2014.

Website:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=509>

## **Ocean-related Voluntary Commitments in the “Sustainable Development Strategies and Policies” Category**

### ***Smart Island Strategy—Government of Aruba***

### **Partners:**

Government of Aruba, New America Foundation, Carbon War Room

### **Commitment:**

By 2020, Aruba's Smart Island Strategy will transition the island to 100 percent renewable energy, increase housing choices and neighborhood quality, strengthen social cohesion, reduce traffic congestion and improve mobility, reduce obesity and improve public health, improve water conservation, and diversify an expanding island economy.

Website:

<http://www.uncsd2012.org/index.php?page=view&type=1006&menu=153&nr=514>

## **Ocean-related Voluntary Commitments in the “Sustainable Energy” Category**

### **Barbados Declaration – Voluntary Commitment by Island Governments (22 in total)**

#### **Partners:**

Island governments, with support from the governments of Australia, Denmark, New Zealand, Norway, and the United Kingdom, and UNDP.

#### **Commitment:**

Renewable Energy - to diversify its matrix and achieve a renewable energy target, with timetable. Targets and timetables for each government differ.

Website:

<http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Environment%20and%20Energy/Climate%20Change/Barbados-Declaration-2012.pdf>

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