



Dear colleagues:

The Second Meeting of the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom 2) for the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) took place 7-8 March 2011 at the UN Headquarters in New York. We are very pleased to report that ocean issues took a prominent role in these discussions and a number of delegations, including Fiji (on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States), Monaco, Nauru (on behalf of the Pacific Small Island Developing States), Palau, Australia, Barbados (on behalf of CARICOM), and Guatemala, highlighted the importance of addressing issues at the Rio+20 Summit.

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands held two events in the context of PrepCom 2 to highlight the importance of addressing oceans and coasts in the Rio+20 process. The first event, "Oceans and Small Island Developing States in the Rio+20 Process," was held on 28 February, and focused on the importance of addressing SIDS and oceans issues in the Rio+20 process. Participants at this event discussed potential priority areas for SIDS, including climate change adaptation and capacity building, and the need to form a coalition of nations supportive of oceans in the Rio+20 agenda ("Friends of the Ocean").

The second event, "Oceans and Coasts at Rio+20—Informal Dialogue and Information-Sharing," was held on 8 March and was co-hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, UNESCO (IOC), in collaboration with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). This event provided a venue for various stakeholders to report on their ocean-related activities in the Rio+20 process and facilitated open and informal discussion on how best to utilize the valuable opportunity presented by the Rio+20 process to address some of the most pressing issues facing oceans and coastal communities. Summary of the event available at: <http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/PrepCom2-eventssummary.pdf> . Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain's Presentation available at: <http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/PrepCom2Powerpoint.ppt>

The Co-Chair's Summary of PrepCom 2 is available at the UNCSD website http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/Co-Chairs_Summary_of_PrepCom_2.pdf . Please note that the following dates for the remaining meetings of the Rio+20 process were announced at PrepCom 2:

Third Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the UNCSD (PrepCom 3)—28-30 May 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Summit)—4-6 June 2012

As input to the Rio+20 preparatory process, the Global Oceans Forum will be conducting critical

assessments on the following topics

Assessments of Specific UNCED/WSSD targets

- The status of ocean ecosystems and coastal communities, in the context of climate change and continuing biodiversity loss
- Addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change
- The extent of achievement of ecosystem-based, integrated ocean and coastal management in areas of national jurisdiction (coastal zones, exclusive economic zones), in areas beyond national jurisdiction, and through regional efforts, such as the Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) approach and Regional Seas Programmes
- The status and prospects for fisheries and aquaculture within and outside of national jurisdiction
- The special issues associated with small-island developing States and oceans, especially in the context of climate change
- Biodiversity loss, climate change, and networks of marine protected areas
- Financing, capacity development, and public outreach: The needs and the challenges

Assessments of Rio+20 Themes

- The role of the oceans in the new low-carbon green economy, the “Blue Economy”
- Improved international environmental governance

These assessments, which will be succinct and aimed at policy-makers, will be completed and peer-reviewed by the end of August. We will then convene a meeting in September to review the outcomes of these assessments and prepare input into the Rio+20 process in time for PrepCom 3 and the Rio+20 Summit. We kindly invite your collaboration on these activities.

We thank you for your collaboration and we look forward to working together to advance ocean and coastal issues at Rio+20 and beyond.

Best regards,

Dr. Biliانا Cicin-Sain