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Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

Third session

Manila, 25–27 January 2012

Item 5 of the provisional agenda of the high-level segment*

Adoption of the ministerial declaration

Draft Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

We, the representatives of Governments and the European Union, with the valued support and concurrence of representatives of international financial institutions, international and regional organizations, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, other stakeholders and major groups,

Having met in Manila from 25 to 27 January 2012 at the third session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,

Recognizing that people depend on the oceans and coasts and their resources for their survival, health and well-being, that a substantial proportion of the world's population derives its food security and economic livelihood from the coastal and marine environment and that that environment, including in particular low-lying coastal areas and small island developing States, is vulnerable to rising sea levels, climate-related natural disasters and ocean acidification resulting from land-based activities,

Noting the steady urbanization of coastal areas and the fact that the major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine environment result from human activities on land,

Recognizing that sewage and wastewater, persistent organic pollutants, heavy metals, oils, nutrients and sediments, whether carried by rivers or discharged directly into coastal areas, take a severe toll on human health and well-being and on coastal and marine ecosystems,

Recognizing also that the marine environment is threatened by physical alterations of the coastal zone, including destruction of habitats of vital importance to maintaining ecosystem health and services such as coral reefs, coastal tidal flats, deltas, mangroves and estuaries,

Recognizing further the intrinsic links between marine, coastal and freshwater ecosystems and human well-being and the importance of the Global Programme of Action in dealing with the interaction of land and ocean and the need for integrated watershed and coastal management in efforts

* UNEP/GPA/IGR.3/1.

to achieve the effective sustainable management of land-based activities, including the incorporation of the value of ecosystem services into planning processes,

Acknowledging that the Global Programme of Action is an effective tool for integrating environmental concerns into development planning and strategies at the regional and national levels and that, as such, it contributes substantially to the attainment of internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing the importance of the regional seas programmes in tackling the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment, by engaging neighbouring countries in comprehensive and specific actions, including the development and implementation of protocols on land-based sources and activities, and through integrated coastal zone management, among other things,

Recognizing also the important contributions of the regional seas programmes, the Global Environment Facility and international financial institutions in implementing the Global Programme of Action, in addition to the financial constraints to such implementation and the consequent need for resource mobilization and support,

Recognizing further the achievements in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action over the period 2007–2011 and, in particular, the contribution of the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office in the Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation,

Recognizing the importance of improved coastal water quality and the need for improved monitoring to identify threats to the marine environment at the regional, national and local levels through the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects,

Acknowledging the large increases in the levels of nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorous entering the world's environment as a result of human activity and noting the severity of the environmental problems caused by nutrient excess, including eutrophication of coastal waters and oxygen depletion, and the associated damage to ecosystems, biodiversity and coastal water quality,

Recognizing the relevance of the Honolulu Commitment, which establishes a cross-sectoral approach to helping to reduce the occurrence of marine litter and the damage that it causes to marine habitats, the global economy, biodiversity and human health, and of the Honolulu Strategy, a results-oriented framework for reducing the amount and impact of marine litter from land-based and sea-based sources and marine debris accumulations, adopted at the Fifth International Marine Debris Conference, which was co-organized by the United Nations Environment Programme and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States of America and took place in Honolulu from 20 to 25 March 2011,

Recognizing also the significant progress made by some countries in building institutional capacity and developing legislative frameworks, environmental policies and market-based instruments for the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment,

Acknowledging the important contribution of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and in the implementation of intergovernmental commitments to advance action on internationally agreed and recognized goals,

Emphasizing the need to maintain the currency and relevance of the Global Programme of Action by focusing action mainly on nutrients, sewage, marine litter and physical alterations and destruction of habitats as agreed by Governments at the second session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, held in Beijing in 2006,

Recognizing the importance of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, at which global leaders will meet to reaffirm their commitments to sustainable development and to tackle emerging challenges, in by strategically advancing the stewardship of oceans, coasts and islands,

1. *Recommit ourselves* to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action as a flexible and effective tool for the sustainable development of oceans, coasts and islands, and for human well-being;

2. *Also recommit ourselves* to comprehensive, continuing and adaptive action within a framework of integrated coastal management relevant to our respective national and regional priorities;

3. *Commit ourselves* to furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action with a focus on the programme of work agreed upon for 2012–2016, including through intersessional meetings of the Global Programme of Action as necessary, and to that end:

(a) *Agree* to devote additional efforts and financial resources to expedite the implementation of the programme of work of the Global Programme of Action for 2012–2016;

(b) *Also agree* actively to engage ourselves and step up our efforts to develop policies on the sustainable use of nutrients and nutrient management strategies to improve the nutrient use efficiency of manufactured fertilizer by 20 per cent over the period 2012–2016 so as to protect the environment and reduce the cost of fertilizer use;

(c) *Adopt* a multi-stakeholder partnership approach to the priority source categories of the Global Programme Approach and to that end:

(i) *Agree* to support the further development of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management as a catalyst for political and institutional engagement in international and regional forums seeking to build a common agenda for tackling nutrient challenges and associated regional and national stakeholder partnerships;

(ii) *Also agree* to guide and support the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management in its undertaking of a global assessment for a comprehensive understanding of the complex cycle of the two main nutrients, nitrogen and phosphorus, and associated environmental impacts leading to the development of a broad range of actions that will ultimately reduce the environmental impact of unused nutrients;

(iii) *Further agree* to work with all stakeholders concerned in the light of the Honolulu Commitment and the Honolulu Strategy to find solutions to the marine litter problem, including by sharing technical, legal, policy, community-based, economic and market-based means of preventing, reducing and managing marine litter;

(iv) *Agree* to share among stakeholders information on good practices for wastewater management for the purposes of environmental protection, sanitation, climate change and nutrient benefits so as to prompt coordinated action;

(d) *Agree* to support and facilitate initiatives that turn waste into a resource in an environmentally sustainable manner by developing global, regional, national and local targets for reducing marine litter and by improving global knowledge, understanding and monitoring of the scale, nature and sources of marine litter and its impact on human health, marine habitats, biodiversity and economic development;

(e) *Also agree* to make wise investments in wastewater management and to recommit ourselves to promoting and demonstrating environment-friendly and resource-recycling approaches to wastewater and to tackling the adverse impacts of excess nutrients in wastewater discharges as part of the overall solution and approach to improved sanitation and human health;

4. *Commit ourselves* to improving cooperation and coordination at all levels to deal with issues related to watersheds, coasts, oceans and islands by applying integrated coastal management approaches, including by involving stakeholders;

5. *Agree* to support the regular process for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, to improve monitoring systems at all levels to enable all relevant stakeholders to contribute to building a common understanding and knowledge of the damage being caused to the marine environment and the measures needed to protect it through the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

6. *Decide* to strengthen the regional seas conventions and action plans, in addition to other regional agreements and programmes for the protection of the marine and coastal environment, so that they serve as effective mechanisms for furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action through, among other things, the implementation of protocols, including those on land-based sources and activities;

7. *Also decide* to promote the effective implementation of international and regional agreements and programmes relevant to the attainment of the goals of the Global Programme of Action;

8. *Call upon* United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, United Nations inter-agency groups, such as the coordination mechanism on ocean and coastal issues within the United Nations system (UN-Oceans) and the coordination mechanism on water resources (UN-Water), the United Nations Development Group and multilateral environmental agreements to increase the integration of the Global Programme of Action into their policies, plans and programmes, consistent with their mandates;

9. *Call upon* the Global Environment Facility and other international and regional financial institutions, in addition to donor countries, to continue to support the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and to increase their contribution to ensuring its long-term sustainability through financial and technical support and by building the capacity of developing countries, particularly small island developing States;

10. *Express our appreciation* for the efforts of the United Nations Environment Programme in supporting the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and expediting the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, and request the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to strengthen the Programme's support for the further implementation of the Global Programme of Action through increased contributions from its Environment Fund and extrabudgetary sources;

11. *Endorse* the programme of work for the period 2012–2016 submitted by the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and commend it to the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum for its endorsement;

12. *Request* the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum to endorse the present declaration and the outcome of the third Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities as valuable contributions to the sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment;

13. *Request* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to forward the present declaration to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development for consideration by the participating Governments so that they acknowledge the important contributions made by the Global Programme of Action to the sustainable development of coasts, oceans and islands in their deliberations and integrate the priority issues under the Global Programme of Action into the outcomes of the Conference;

14. *Also request* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to convene the Fourth Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in 2016, and, as necessary, intersessional meetings, all in collaboration with the relevant organizations and institutions, and to seek the support of the United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in organizing the meeting and implementing its outcome;

15. *Express our gratitude and appreciation* to the Government and people of the Philippines for hosting the third session of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

Done at Manila on 27 January 2012.
