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**The 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans
Incheon, the Republic of Korea
30 September - 1 October 2016**

Report of the meeting

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Meeting Report of the 18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

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List of acronyms

		NGOs	Non-governmental organisation
		NEAFC	North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
ABNJ	Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction	NOWPAP	Northwest Pacific Action Plan
BSC	Black Seas Commission	UNESCO-IOC	Oceanography Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
BBNJ	Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction		
COBSEA	Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia	OSPAR	OSPAR Commission
DOALOS	Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea	PERSGA	Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden
ESA	Economic and Social Analyses	RSSD	Regional Seas Strategic Directions
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zones	HOLAS	Holisti Assessment
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
IGR-4	Fourth Intergovernmental Review of GPA	SACEP	South Asian Seas Environment Programme
GPML	Global Partnership on Marine Litter	SCBD	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity
GPNM	Global Partnership on Nutrient Management	SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
GW ² I	Global Wastewater Initiative	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific
HELCOM	Helsinki Commission	UNEA-2	United Nations Environment Assembly
IGRs	Intergovernmental Reviews	WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency	WWF	World Wildlife Fund
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements		

Background

1. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Seas Programme was established in 1974 to address the accelerating degradation of the oceans and seas through the cooperation of neighbouring countries. Eighteen Regional Seas programmes currently participate in the Programme.
2. In May 2016, Member States reemphasized the importance of the Regional Seas Programme as the regional mechanism for the conservation and sustainable management of the oceans and seas through resolution 2/10 Oceans and seas of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) of the United Nations Environment Programme.
3. Members States also requested that the Executive Director of UNEP communicate the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD 2017-2020)¹ to the governing bodies of the Regional Seas programmes through paragraph 11 of the resolution 2/10.
4. The 18th Global Meeting of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans was held in the G-Tower, Incheon, the Republic of Korea from 30 September to 1 October 2016.
5. The meeting addressed five topics: (1) regionally coordinated national actions and reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); (2) assessments and indicators for SDG implementation tracking; (3) Regional Seas implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA); (4) Regional Seas engagements in the process of the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ); and (5) Implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD 2017-2020).
6. The expected outcomes of the meeting were to: (1) set clear recommendations on how the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans can function as mechanisms for regionally harmonised national SDG implementation and reporting; (2) define activities for aligning the Regional Seas indicators with the SDG indicators; (3) formulate Regional Seas inputs to be submitted to the Fourth Intergovernmental Review of GPA (IGR-4); and (4) formulate a clear implementation and reporting plan for the RSSD (2017-2020) to guide the Regional Seas actions to assist Member States in achieving the SDGs.
7. The meeting documents and information documents were provided to the participants prior to the meeting through the UNEP website². The annex includes the list of meeting documents (**Annex 1**), the programme of the meeting (**Annex 2**), and the list of participants (**Annex 3**). All meeting sessions were conducted in English.

¹ Adopted at the 17th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

² <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/Meetings/18thGlobalMeetingoftheRSCAPs/tabid/1061162/Default.aspx>

Day 1 (30 September 2016)

Opening of the meeting

8. Ms. Lisa Emelia Svensson, UNEP, opened the meeting on 30 September 2016 at 09:05am. In her opening remarks, she introduced the resolution 2/10 oceans and seas of the United Nations Environment Assembly. She also stressed the significant role of the Regional Seas programmes in the context of the implementation of SDG 14. She introduced five topics for the meeting: (1) Regionally coordinated national actions and reporting for SDGs; (2) Assessments and indicators; (3) Regional Seas implementation of the GPA; (4) Regional Seas' inputs to the BBNJ process; and (5) Implementing the RSSD (2017-2020).
9. Mr. Sang-Keun Song, Director General of Marine Environmental Policy Bureau, Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, delivered opening remarks. He thanked the participants, welcomed them to the Republic of Korea, and expressed his support of the work of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Following the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, organised from 26 to 29 September 2016, he stressed the importance of making concerted efforts at the regional level. The Ministry had been committed to the conservation of the marine environment, including through the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP), the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), and the GPA. He stated that the value of oceans kept increasing and demanded efforts by the international community for sustainable management. He welcomed the meeting theme on the SDGs and encouraged the coordinated regional efforts through the Regional Seas programmes.
10. Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Director and Head of Office, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), delivered opening remarks as the host of the meeting venue. He welcomed the participants to the UNESCAP office. He started by introducing the history of the office. In 2009, Member States adopted the resolution that asked the UN to work more closely with Member States. Following that resolution, the UNESCAP office in Incheon was established in 2010. He stressed that the countries adopted resolution 72/9 Regional cooperation to promote the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific³ at the 72nd session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. He concluded his statement by stressing that coordination with the Regional Seas programmes would be a key for the work of UNESCAP on marine and coastal ecosystems.
11. Participants introduced themselves and their affiliation to the meeting.
12. The meeting agenda was adopted by the meeting participants.

³ E/ESCAP/RES/72/9

Session I: Regionally coordinated national actions and reporting for SDGs

13. Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP, delivered a presentation on the outcomes from the Second Session of UNEP and the implementation plan. He presented the four resolutions that are particularly relevant to the Regional Seas programmes: (1) 2/10 Oceans and Seas; (2) 2/11 Marine plastic litter and microplastics; (3) 2/12 Sustainable coral reefs management; and (4) 2/18 Relationship between the UNEP and the multilateral environment agreements for which it provides the Secretariats. He emphasized that Member States stressed the role of the Regional Seas Programme in resolution 2/10. Referring to Paragraph 13 of resolution 2/10, he explained that there could be three ways of expanding geographical coverage of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans: (1) cover more area in the ocean, including areas beyond national jurisdictions; (2) cover more of the land area; and (3) increase the number of participating countries. He also provided the overview of the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on the implementation of SDG 14, to be held in New York in June 2017.
14. After the presentation on the UNEA-2 resolutions, Mr. Nakamura delivered a presentation on possible mechanisms for regionally coordinated action through the Regional Seas programmes. He started by explaining that the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development clearly indicated that the primary responsibility was at the national level, but at the same time, that follow-up and review at global and regional levels were encouraged. He suggested aligning the Regional Seas programmes with the SDGs. The Regional Seas programmes had been analysing the regional targets against SDGs and Aichi Targets through the Regional Seas Indicators Working Group prior to the meeting. After this exercise, analysis would be conducted and regional SDG implementation outlooks could be prepared. These outlooks might describe whether the Regional Seas programmes function as a regional review platform. He highlighted that the UNEP Regional Seas Programme was a partnership and, at the same time, each Regional Seas programme was also a partnership itself. He invited the Regional Seas programmes to participate in global partnerships, including the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)⁴, the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM)⁵, and the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW²I)⁶.
15. As the Chair of the session, Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), asked the participants how the UN Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14 (hereafter the UN Conference) could enhance the visibility of the activities of participating countries of the Regional Seas programmes. She invited the participants to discuss how to prepare for the UN Conference.
16. Ms. Lorna Inniss, Cartagena Convention, asked whether UNEP was planning to present the Regional Seas Programme as a partnership and whether there would be opportunities to register new partnerships.
17. Mr. Nakamura clarified that Member States adopted resolution A/70/L.64 on the Modalities for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The

⁴ <http://unep.org/gpa/gpml/MLN.asp>

⁵ <http://unep.org/gpa/gpnm/gpnm.asp>

⁶ <http://unep.org/gpa/gwi/gwi.asp>

review and follow-up of SDG 14 would not be the primary focus of the Conference. At the Small Island Developing States Conference in Samoa in 2014⁷, UNEP registered the Regional Seas Programme as a partnership. Ms. Svensson, UNEP, stressed that there would be a limited window of opportunity. Both region-specific inputs and collective voices highlighting collective actions would be important for the UN Conference. Responding to the comment, Ms. Stankiewicz stressed that inter-regional cooperation to highlight the entire Regional Seas family would be necessary. She summarised the discussion and proposed to prepare a short strategy paper so that the Regional Seas Secretariats can begin contacting their participating countries in a coordinated manner.

18. Some participants pointed out the opportunities for side events during the Conference. Mr. Nakamura stated that there would be four entry points for the UN Conference: (i) the Secretary-General's report to be produced by January 2017; (ii) the draft outcome document "Call for Action" to be prepared at the Preparatory Committee in February 2017; (iii) partnership dialogues highlighting existing and possibly new partnerships; and (iv) side events.
19. Mr. Mahir Aylev, Tehran Convention, proposed to create a roadmap to reach a desired outcome and to attract attention to the Regional Seas Programme. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Barcelona Convention, also stated that it would be important to formulate a collective message and to highlight the Regional Seas framework for the implementation of the SDGs.
20. Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention, pointed out the importance of dialogues with the co-organisers, namely the Government of Sweden and Fiji. He informed the participants that the Government of Sweden, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and the Nairobi Convention planned to organise a side event showing how the SDGs would be implemented in the Western Indian Ocean region.
21. Ms. Stankiewicz summarised the discussion and stated that: (i) UNEP would prepare a common strategy document to be the basis of collective action; (ii) inputs to the Secretary General report would be made; (iii) Regional Seas would collectively highlight their role for the implementation of SDGs; and (iv) Regional Seas Secretariats would reach out to their participating countries. She further requested that the participants showcase the entire Regional Seas Programme family in events and partnerships.
22. Subsequently, the meeting reviewed the document UNEP/WBRS 18/8⁸. Ms. Stankiewicz invited participants to provide inputs.
23. Mr. Ziad Abu Ghararah, representing the Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), requested clarification on the relationship between the Regional Seas programmes and the climate change related conventions. Mr. Nakamura responded by stating that there were ongoing discussions on the synergies between biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), but that the scope had not been expanded to

⁷ <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1537>

⁸ UNEP/WBRS 18/8 United Nations Environmental Programme implementation plan on the resolutions of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which are relevant to the Regional Seas programmes.

the climate change related conventions. He further explained that resolution 2/17 on enhancing the work of UNEP in facilitating cooperation, collaboration, and synergies among biodiversity-related conventions did not properly consider the Regional Seas Conventions and there was a need for the UNEP to advance the discussion. Mr. Ziad also pointed out that the Ballast Water Convention had already entered into force.

24. Ms. Stankiewicz suggested setting a deadline to provide input into UNEP/WBRS 18/8. She also reminded the participants that this document could be treated as a living document.
25. Ms. Stankiewicz proceeded with the next agenda item, inviting the participants to discuss the preparation of SDG implementation outlooks by the Regional Seas Secretariats. She stated that at HELCOM, the mapping of regional targets against SDGs had been very useful to identify gaps. New elements from the Agenda 2030 could be incorporated in all of the Regional Seas programmes. She asked whether all the Regional Seas programmes were ready for preparing such implementation outlooks.
26. Mr. Lev Neretin of the Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) stated it would be important to mainstream the reporting of Regional Seas with other regional reporting through a regional commission. Responding to the comment, Mr. Nakamura stated the Agenda 2030 clearly defined that the reporting would be at the national level. No regional reporting mechanism had been mentioned in the document. He further clarified that the outlook being discussed was for the implementation and not for reporting. Referring to the reporting process, Mr. Aylev commented that it was necessary to consider how to place the Regional Seas programmes within the reporting process. The regional economic commissions would have important roles in reporting, and thus the Regional Seas programmes would need to have stronger alliances with the regional commissions.
27. Mr. Darius Campbell, OSPAR Commission (OSPAR), stated that the national governments in the North East Atlantic region could implement SDGs without OSPAR support and it would not be easy to obtain support from the contracting parties. On the other hand, Mr. Warren Lee Long, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), stated that in his region, such regional support would be needed.
28. Mr. Pulakesh Mondal, South Asian Seas Environment Programme (SACEP), stated that multi-sectoral cooperation was needed for the implementation of the SDGs. Ms. Irina Makarenko, Black Sea Commission (BSC), added that the Commission shall clarify whether it would like to produce a SDG implementation outlook. Ms. Jihyun Lee, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), also commented that the term “outlook” might need clarification. Mr. Nakamura responded that this would be an implementation outlook and was different from the Global Biodiversity Outlook.
29. Mr. Reynaldo Molina, Coordination Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA), proposed that the UNEP provide assistance in analysing the mapping exercise. He further requested that the UNEP support the process by communicating the results of the analysis to the participating countries, showing the added values of the Regional Seas programme. He stressed that a similar analysis had been conducted at the national level and it would be important to communicate added values.

Referring to the various global partnerships, he questioned whether separate reports needed to be made to each partnership.

30. Ms. Stankiewicz noted that further discussion was needed on the SDG implementation outlooks. Summarizing the session, she stated that each Regional Seas programme needed to discuss the role of Regional Seas programmes for the SDGs with their respective participating countries. She stated there would be a high-level segment on the SDGs during the next HELCOM Commission. She reiterated that for HELCOM, the mapping exercise had been useful, and the preparation of an implementation outlook would be important. She requested clarification from UNEP on the reporting through regional economic commissions. She concluded the session by reminding the participants of the importance of implementation rather than reporting.
31. Mr. Alister Graham, WWF, commented that synergies between different SDGs would not be overlooked. He added that food security for oceans and seas would be considered in preparing the implementation outlooks. Responding to the comment, Ms. Svensson indicated that the UNEP was also mapping how other SDGs are linked with SDG 14 and that this mapping would guide the discussion further.

Session II: Assessments and indicators

32. Ms. Inniss opened the session, inviting all the participants, including the observers, to actively participate in the discussion on assessments and indicators.
33. Ms. Joanna Akrofi, UNEP, delivered a presentation on the second cycle of the Regular Process. By pointing out that the lessons learnt from the first cycle indicated a lack of integration between regional assessments and global assessment, she stated that UNEP would like to support a coordinated approach to the regional State of the Marine Environment Reports. The coordinated regional reports would be able to contribute to the World Ocean Assessment in a coherent manner. She further explained that the Second cycle was going to focus on trends and gaps, and would produce a handbook as output. During the first cycle, UNEP supported six regional workshops, but many of the regions still needed to further integrate social aspects as expected by the Regular Process. She stressed the fact that the same Member States were participating in the Regional Seas programmes as in the Regular Process, and commented that regional assessments would be integrated in the global process. An indicator-based approach based on the experience of the Transboundary Waters Assessment Programme (TWAP)⁹ and the Regional Seas Indicators Working Group could be used in the regional assessments.
34. Ms. Inniss asked how many Regional Seas programmes had produced their Status of the Marine Environment reports and noted that many of them had already done so.
35. Ms. Stankiewicz, HELCOM, delivered a presentation on the holistic assessment of HELCOM as an example of regional integrated assessment. The first holistic assessment (HOLAS I) was prepared in

⁹ <http://www.geftwap.org/>

2010¹⁰. The second holistic assessment (HOLAS II) would build on the first assessment. She explained that the European Union (EU) Marine Strategy Framework Directive had driven the development of the holistic assessments. She stated that the assessment would be data-rich analysis based on indicators. Half of the HELCOM indicators would be used for the HOLAS II process. The economic and social analyses (ESA) would be a new part of the assessment and would link the assessment of human activities and pressures. She highlighted two lessons learned from HOLAS I and II: (i) keep key stakeholders informed to prevent concerns such as those the fisheries sector had with the results from HOLAS I; and (ii) financing from the EU was an important enabling factor. She suggested starting assessments on areas where data were largely available and concluded the presentation.

36. Ms. Charlotte Salpin, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the UN Office of Legal Affairs, as the Secretariat of the Regular Process, provided comments on the Second Cycle. She stressed that the second cycle would focus on evaluating trends and identifying gaps. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole held in August 2016 identified that the outputs of the second cycle would be specifically tailored to the requests and needs of ongoing ocean-related intergovernmental processes, including the process established under General Assembly 69/292: development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She also noted that it was anticipated that the regional dimension would continue to be strong under the second cycle, as had been the case during the first cycle, since the preparation of the assessment(s) would be supported through regional workshops that will, among other things, help to identify regional priorities.
37. Mr. Campbell, OSPAR, commented that OSPAR had a process very similar to that of HELCOM. One of the biggest challenges was to overcome the challenges in developing integrated assessments. He explained that in OSPAR, the national experts were often mobilized and the Secretariat supported the assessment processes. He added that OSPAR had strength in pollution monitoring. However biodiversity assessments were a new area and had to be developed properly given the policy implications of not getting them right. With regard to the Regular Process, he stated that the first cycle was disappointing because Regional Seas assessments had not been well-integrated. He thus recommended that the regional assessments be better used for the next cycle. He highlighted the importance of partnership, giving an example of the partnership between OSPAR and HELCOM.
38. Mr. Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention, also stated that it would be important that assessments be driven by the regional level. The indicators for assessments should be adjusted to the needs of the respective regions. He pointed out that regional assessments could reduce the cost of global assessments. He further commented that the nomination of experts for the Regular Process driven by New York had not been sufficient to engage regional experts.

¹⁰ <http://www.helcom.fi/Lists/Publications/BSEP122.pdf>

39. Mr. Gaetano Leone, Barcelona Convention, introduced the integrated monitoring and assessment programme, which was adopted at the 22nd Conference of Party held in February 2016. This was an outcome of mainstreaming the ecosystem approach in the programme, and the next assessment would be based on this programme. He stated that the lesson learned was that the process was extremely time- and resource-consuming.
40. Mr. Ahmed Khallil, PERSGA, also reported that standards methods had been developed for the assessment of key habitats such as coral reefs.
41. Ms. Makarenko, BSC, shared the experience in the region. The Black Sea Commission prepared regional assessments reports every five years. The next report was delayed for two years. She stated that it had not been easy to convince Member States of the importance of the assessments and to obtain funding. She commented that the lack of the common methodologies on indicators had made it difficult to move forward.
42. Mr. Chris O'Brien, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), questioned to what extent external scientific bodies were engaged in the assessments and stated that independent review was important. Ms. Stankiewicz responded that the experts under HELCOM were often part of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).
43. Ms. Svensson invited the participants to consider how regional assessments could be faster and less resource-intensive. She stated that the UNEP encourages more information sharing on assessments. Mr. Nakamura added that the unified methodology that had been proposed by UNEP was not well accepted by the Regional Seas programmes. At that time, indicators-based activities had been rapidly developed and the Regional Seas indicators working group was formulated.
44. Mr. Michail Angelidis, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), emphasized the importance of quality-assured data to support assessments based on indicators. IAEA had long-lasting cooperation with the Regional Seas Programme. He reassured the committee that IAEA would assist with the quality assurance and the monitoring of the Regional Seas programmes.
45. Mr. Peter Harris, GRID-Arendal, commented that the database for regional assessments produced by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC)¹¹ had not been updated. He added that GRID-Arendal assisted Member States in conducting assessments. For example, in the Abidjan Convention area, the status of the marine environment report based on expert knowledge was produced. He stated that GRID-Arendal was preparing a guideline for integrated environmental assessments to be produced in 2017.
46. Ms. Cornne Martin, WCMC, clarified that the Global and Regional Marine Assessment Database was a continuous work. In terms of indicators, she explained that WCMC had ongoing work to disaggregate global indicators into regional indicators.

¹¹ <http://www.unep-wcmc-apps.org/GRAMED/aoaRegions.cfm>

47. Mr. Lee Long commented that most countries in the Pacific region did not have sufficient data and needed to rely more on data collected by other bodies, such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs).
48. Mr. Johan Williams, North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), asked whether the assessments were used for management. Ms. Stankiewicz, HELCOM, responded that not all data were translated into decisions. Having political uptake was as important as the contents of the comprehensive assessment. Mr. Abou Bamba, Abidjan Convention, commented that the purpose of assessments was also important. The assessments needed to tell messages to policy makers.
49. Mr. Waruinge commented that the policy scenarios produced from the assessment were important. Mr. Lee Long, SPREP, commented that one solution to promote more participation of countries was the Sustainable Ocean Initiative workshops. Mr. Williams, NEAFC, commented that the capacity of countries for using assessments was also a problem.
50. Mr. Julian Barbieri, Intergovernmental Oceanography Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO-IOC), delivered a presentation on the SDG indicators and role of science in capacity building. He explained that UNESCO-IOC had provided technical capacity development in different parts of the world. The SDG indicators had been categorised into three tiers based on the availability of data and the level of methodological development. Most of the SDG 14 indicators were at Tier III. The next steps for the SDG indicators would be the finalisation of indicators, and the lead agencies for each indicator had prepared a workplan. In terms of capacity development, he stated that it included knowledge, skills, systems, structures, values, resources, and powers. He stressed that SDG 14 would catalyse the transition to the ecosystem-based approach to manage the marine and coastal environment. The capacity development would be coordinated at different levels. For example, the Ocean Teacher Learning Platform provided technical training and the centres existed across the world. He stressed that all the agencies needed to work together to support Member States in the implementation of SDG 14, and UNESCO renewed the partnership with UNEP in this regard.
51. On behalf of the Regional Seas Indicators Working Group, Ms. Makarenko presented the intersessional work of the Regional Seas Indicators Working Group. She began by describing the background of the Regional Seas Working Group indicators and the activities up to now. She indicated that the fisheries indicators would be provided by FAO, and collaboration with partner organisations including CBD and FAO would be key for the group. She highlighted the compilation work of the current monitoring practices in different Regional Seas programmes on three indicators. She described potential steps to move forward and invited the participants to consider the next steps of the indicators Working Group.
52. Mr. Alex Tkalin, NOWPAP, reported that after the initiation of the Regional Seas indicator work group, the NOWPAP countries nominated scientists to work on regional indicators for regional ecological objectives.

53. Mr. Campbell, OSPAR, commented that the harmonization of indicators across regions would be difficult and inter-calibration might be a better method.
54. Mr. Joe Appiott, SCBD, informed the participants that the Aichi Target 6 indicator would be discussed at the upcoming COP 13 in Mexico in December 2016¹². Responding to the comment, Ms. Stankiewicz said that she supported the idea to work with other agencies to avoid duplications.
55. Mr. Nakamura clarified that the Regional Seas indicators had been submitted to the SDG process as information on existing practice. The proposal was to use the existing practices at the Regional Seas for the SDG reporting. In terms of inter-calibration, Ms. Alice Newton had promised to provide information to the Working Group. In terms of fisheries indicators, the indicator working group was still waiting for input from the FAO. He stressed that the Regional Seas indicators would not have to replace the existing indicators.
56. Ms. Makarenko proposed that every working group meeting review three to four indicators. Mr. Molina stated that the information might be presented to the governing bodies for consideration.
57. Mr. Nakamura explained the delay in compilation work due to the limited technical and human capacities in UNEP. In addition, he proposed that the Regional Seas programmes start piloting with three indicators that had already been compiled. He reiterated that the Regional Seas indicators were not for harmonization and rather for assisting them in developing indicators.
58. Mr. Graham commented that it was important to align regional indicators with global indicators.

Side session by the Future Earth Coast

59. Mr. Bruce Glavovic, Future Earth Coast, presented the organisation's work on indicators. He explained that Future Earth was a forum for global sustainable research and the aggregation of global projects. It was made up of partners including UN bodies, research institutions, and funding agencies. Future Earth Coast was one of the projects under Future Earth. He explained that the Coastal Futures Initiatives had two goals: (i) to mobilise understanding about coastal sustainability prospects; and (ii) to institutionalise practices that enable coastal nations.
60. Mr. Martin Le Tissier, Future Earth Coast, delivered the work in the Arctic region. The project engaged local communities and developed social indicators, which helped identify future options. One of the objectives of the project was to bring the projects together to collectively deliver results. He also presented the Nested Environmental Status Assessment Tool from DEVOTES project¹³. The project had a European focus and was tested in four European Regional Seas programmes.
61. Mr. Lee Long commented that the presentation was not clear as to how the scenario building exercise was different from what had already been done in different regions. He stated that the challenge

¹² UNEP/CBD/COP/13/2/Rev.1

¹³ <http://www.devotes-project.eu/>

would be to bring stakeholders together beyond the workshops and provide a governance structure to maintain the convening power.

Session III: Regional Seas' monitoring and support of implementation of the SDGs

62. UNEP prepared draft conclusions of Day 1. The participants had an intensive discussion of the text of the conclusions and agreed on the paragraphs as attached (**Annex 4**).
63. Ms. Svensson thanked the participants for their active contribution and closed the meeting at 7:00pm.

Day 2 (1 October 2016)

Session IV: Regional Seas Implementation of GPA

64. Mr. Nakamura welcomed the participants back to the meeting and opened the meeting at 9:10am. As the Chair of the session, Mr. Leone thanked the participants and provided the background and history of the GPA.
65. Mr. Habib El-Habr, Coordinator of the GPA, initiated the session by delivering a presentation on the general overview of the GPA. He explained that the GPA had been adopted in 1995 and up to now three Intergovernmental Reviews (IGRs) had been held¹⁴. He stressed that there had been increasing interests in land-based pollution. At UNEA-2, resolution 2/11 was adopted. The resolution requested a review of the existing instruments related to marine litter and the study's submission to the third session of UNEA to be held in 2017. He explained further that three global partnerships (GPML, GPNM, GW²I) had been created under GPA and the Regional Seas programmes had been working with the partnerships. He described recent activities under each partnership. Following the description of the partnerships, he explained the current plan on the fourth intergovernmental meeting to be held in 2017. He stated that regional workshops could be organised for preparatory consultations.
66. Mr. Leon invited participants for (i) general comments; (ii) questions regarding the substantive focus of the GPA; and (iii) discussion on the relationship between the GPA and Regional Seas programmes.
67. Ms. Makarenko asked for clarification regarding whether the Regional Seas programme needed to be a regional node under GPML. Mr. El-Habr answered that there were different cases of setting up nodes and it might be established under the Regional Seas programme.
68. Mr. Bamba raised a question concerning the budget. Responding to the question, Mr. El-Habr stated that the Trust Fund had received no contribution from the countries in recent years.

¹⁴ The three IGMs were in Canada (2001), the People's Republic of China (2006), and the Philippines (2012).

69. Several participants expressed their gratitude for the support provided to the Regional Seas programmes through the three partnerships. Mr. Neretin recalled that the GPA was originally intended to develop methods for national implementation and suggested assessing the current situation of the GPA.
70. Mr. Leone stated that the focus of the discussion should be the future direction of the GPA. He stressed that the global leverage of the GPA would be a benefit to the Regional Seas programmes that address pollution from land-based sources.
71. Mr. Aliyev asked for clarification on private sector engagement with the GPA. He explained that the LBS protocol under the Tehran Convention attracted a lot of interests from the private sector. He further asked how the GPA envisioned the engagement of the private sector for possible cooperation between Regional Seas programmes and the private sector.
72. Mr. Waruinge commented that the decision of the future direction of the GPA needed to be made.
73. Mr. Campbell stated that the OSPAR contracting parties had not indicated that Secretariat involvement in GPA was a priority. He asked whether the closure of the GPA was one of the options being considered. The implication being that if funding was not forthcoming was the value of the the current GPA being questioned.
74. Ms. Inniss asked for clarification on the resource mobilization of partnerships and asked whether closing specific partnerships could be an option to move on to other substantive areas.
75. Mr. Nakamura clarified that the GPA was a separate intergovernmental mechanism. He further explained that the focus of the original GPA was at the national level but that not much was known about the level of implementation at the national level. Originally, the GPA had had a clearing house mechanism, but the mechanism had been abolished.
76. Mr. Leone responded that identifying new focus areas could be an option. Engagement of the private sector could also be an important aspect. He summarised by stating that the Regional Seas programmes would be ready to support preparation for the IGR-4, but the GPA secretariat would need to show leadership.
77. Ms. Svensson commented that, under the new leadership, UNEP was working to make stronger partnerships with the private sector. She added that UNEP would launch global campaigns to mobilize global action for environmental issues, including marine litter.

Side session by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD)

78. Ms. Jihyun Lee delivered the presentation on the outcome of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) workshop held from 26 to 29 September 2016 in Seoul, Republic of Korea¹⁵. She started by

¹⁵ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/?meeting=SOIOM-2016-01>

explaining the importance of the Regional Seas programmes to the Aichi Targets. The Regional Seas had worked on EBSA, and the remaining EBSA process were in the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea. The Conference of Parties (COP) 13 would discuss the future of the EBSA process. Then she presented the Seoul Outcome of the SOI meeting and stressed the need for continuous global dialogue. As a follow up, an informal working group would be set up for the next Global Dialogue. This outcome would be submitted to COP 13 to be held in December 2017. She stressed that the Regional Seas programmes would need to work with different sectoral bodies for the implementation of the SDGs, and the global dialogue platforms provided by CBD would facilitate this process.

79. Mr. Nakamura invited the participants to comment on the future activities based on the Seoul Outcome.
80. Mr. Aliyev commented that the environment sector could use the convening power to start providing services to the fisheries sector. Mr. Neretin suggested that other sectors be involved for future dialogues. Mr. Graham responded that this would be a step-by-step approach. Mr. Williams asked for clarification on the term “mainstreaming biodiversity” and added that a step-by-step approach would be needed for cross-sectoral cooperation.

Session V: Regional Seas inputs into the process on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)

81. As the Chair of the session, Mr. Lee Long, SPREP, briefly introduced UN resolution 69/292, which called for an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. He further described that two Preparatory Committee meetings had been organised and the third Preparatory Committee would meet in 2017. He thanked the CBD for its contribution of starting work on the regional perspective, which could also be input into the BBNJ process. He emphasized that some Regional Seas programmes such as SPREP had become closely engaged in the process.
82. In order to provide background on the discussion and updates on the development from the Preparatory Committee, Ms. Salpin delivered a presentation on the overview of the process. She explained that the BBNJ process dated back to 2006 and, following nearly 10 years of discussions in the context of a Working Group, General Assembly resolution 69/292 of June 2015 had decided to develop a legally binding instrument under UNCLOS and established the Preparatory Committee. She pointed out that it had been decided that the new instrument should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies. It had also been decided that the should address a package of issues developed in 2011, namely the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, in particular, together and as a whole: (i) marine genetic resources, including questions on the sharing of benefits; (ii) measures such as area-based management and tools, including marine protected areas; (iii) environmental impact assessments; and (iv) capacity-building and transfer of marine technology. Following the first session of the Preparatory Committee, the Chair had produced an overview,

including a compilation of issues raised during the discussions. Based on those, the Chair, had also prepared indicative suggestions of clusters of issues and questions to assist further discussions at the second session of the Preparatory Committee. Ms. Salpin stressed that, in discussions relating to area-based management tools, including marine protected areas, one of the main issues under discussion revolved around whether to adopt a horizontal approach, aiming at facilitating greater cooperation between relevant organizations and processes, and a vertical approach, whereby a global mechanism would make decisions that would be implemented by relevant organizations and processes. She explained that views were split among delegations. In terms of the next steps, she recalled that the Chair had invited delegations to provide submissions on elements of a draft text by 5 December 2016, based on which a rolling compilation of submissions and a Chair's non-paper would be produced. She concluded by informing the meeting that two Preparatory Committee sessions were planned in 2017 and the Preparatory Committee was to report to the General Assembly on its progress by the end of 2017.

83. Responding to the question regarding the link between the BBNJ process and the UN Conference to support the implementation of SDG 14, Ms. Salpin stated that Member States had been careful about ensuring that the UN Conference did not prejudice the BBNJ process and noted that the modalities resolution for the UN Conference included some wording to that effect.
84. Mr. Graham stressed the importance of Regional Seas programmes in BBNJ, which already covers some part of the areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ).
85. Building on the comment by Mr. Graham, Mr. Nakamura delivered a presentation on the Regional Seas engagements in the BBNJ process. He explained that, currently, five Regional Seas programmes included ABNJ in their geographical coverage: (i) the Barcelona Convention, (ii) the OSPAR Convention; (3) SPREP; (iv) the CCAMLR Convention; and (v) the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS) regarding pollution. He added that other regions had also been working on ABNJ, including the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions. He then introduced paragraph 13 of resolution 2/10 of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which invited participating countries of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to consider the possibility of expanding their regional coverage. In Africa, the Cairo Declaration in 2015 called for the African Ocean Governance Strategy for the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) and adjacent water. He concluded by inviting the participants for discussion.
86. Mr. Lee Long invited the participants to comment on the possibility of expanding geographical coverage. Mr. Williams reminded the committee that there was nothing to stop Member States from making regional agreements.
87. Mr. Campbell commented that depending on the region there may be a lot more urgent work to be done within national jurisdictions, although the BBNJ discussion was of course important. In practical terms for some regions, there were more urgent issues such as pollution or habitat destruction going on within productive EEZ areas. Mr. Bamba responded that there were no means to control what is happening in ABNJ and that it was important to address those issues for the management of EEZ.

88. Mr. Lee Long summarized the comments, stating that a lot of issues needed to be addressed within national jurisdiction. Responding to the comment, Mr. Williams stated that ABNJ only accounts for 2% of fisheries. Ms. Inniss reiterated the importance of urgent issues within the national jurisdiction given the limited resources. Mr. Williams commented that SDG 1 and 2 were the most important.
89. Noting the importance of issues within national jurisdiction, Mr. Waruinge commented that the ecosystem-management needed to consider activities in ABNJ considering the connectivity between the national jurisdiction and ABNJ.
90. Mr. Campbell commented that if the Regional Seas needed to present a balanced representation of their role in EEZ as well as paying attention to the BBNJ discussion, this was to ensure continued support for their contracting parties priorities was communicated.. Mr. Waruinge pointed out that it would be still important to make sure that the BBNJ negotiators know about the Regional Seas programmes.
91. Mr. Nakamura thanked the participants for their input. He summarised the discussion and stated that there needed to be more convincing information for the countries to consider the importance of BBNJ. The Abidjan Convention and Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPs) had started collecting such information. He commented that some type of briefing sessions could be useful for negotiators. Responding to the comment, Ms. Salpin noted that, as in the past, there would be opportunities to organize side events during the next sessions of the Preparatory Committee, so this could be an avenue through which such an information session could be organized.
92. Mr. Lee Long summarised the discussion, stressing the importance of connectivity between areas within national jurisdiction and ABNJ, and concluded the session.

Session VI: Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)

93. Mr. Bamba opened the session and provided the background on the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (RSSD 2017-2020), which was adopted at the 17th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.
94. Ms. Kanako Hasegawa, UNEP, delivered a presentation on the implementation of RSSD (2017-2020). She proposed that the Regional Seas programmes organise four networks for the four thematic areas of the RSSD: Pollution, Climate change, Extraction of living and non-living resources, and Governance. She also presented the proposed targets and possible regions for the pilot activities and invited the participants for discussion.
95. Ms. Stankiewicz recommended that the working document of the RSSD (2017-2020) be adjusted based on the outcomes of the discussion from this meeting.
96. Mr. Waruinge commented that, in the absence of the overall UNEP strategy on oceans, it was important to discuss the focus areas of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Responding to the

comment, Mr. Nakamura clarified that the strategic direction of UNEP on oceans was under discussion and would be prepared before the next session of the UNEA in 2017.

97. Ms. Inniss commented that it would be useful to have information-sharing networks for the Wider Caribbean. She further recommended preparing a detailed concept of a network for consideration by the Regional Seas programmes.
98. Several partner organisations showed interest in such informal information-sharing networks. The participants welcomed this feedback and concluded that such networks would invite partner organisations.
99. Summarising the discussion, Mr. Bamba suggested that the participants consider restructuring the annual global meetings of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. He proposed set themes for future global meetings based on the four key thematic strategies in the RSSD (2017-2020), which were: (i) pollution; (ii) climate change; (iii) extraction of living and non-living resources; and (iv) governance.
100. The participants discussed the approach and agreed to put two themes on the agenda per meeting for two consecutive years. It was agreed that the themes for the 19th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans would be decided during the intersessional period.
101. In terms of reporting, the participants agreed that each Regional Seas programme would report every year to the global meeting on the progress of the implementation of RSSD (2017-2020) based on the format specified by UNEP. It was decided that no strict indicators would be set to monitor the progress of the RSSD (2017-2020), but that annual review would examine whether progress on the strategic directions had been made.
102. Ms. Svensson invited the participants to brainstorm about the possible timing for the next Global Meeting. The participants examined possible back-to-back opportunities with different meetings including the GPA IGR-4, the annual Large Marine Ecosystems meeting, and Our Oceans Conference in Malta. The participants examined advantages and disadvantages of setting the meeting back-to-back with a large-scale meeting. It was agreed that the exact timing and location for the next global meeting would be decided during the intersessional period.

Side session by GRID-Arendal

103. Mr. Harris presented on the expert elicitation method. He explained that the method was built on knowledge and judgements provided by regional experts in a workshop setting in order to describe the state of the marine environment. He also presented on the Blue Solution, a five-year global cooperation project on marine and coastal development.

Conclusion of the meeting

104. The participants discussed the recommendations from Day 2 and adopted them as shown in **Annex 4**. Several participants requested that the entire programme of the GPA be reviewed in order to have discussion on the future of the programme at IGR-4.

105. Ms. Svensson expressed her gratitude to all of the participants for their active engagement and commended the outcomes from the meeting. Ms. Hasegawa thanked the participants and the logistical support made by Ms. Jihee Yi from the NOWPAP Secretariat Busan office.

106. Thanking the participants, Ms. Svensson closed the meeting at 6:00pm.

Annex

Annex 1: List of meeting documents

Working documents

- UNEP/WBRS.18/1 Provisional agenda
- UNEP/WBRS.18/2 Regional Seas implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- UNEP/WBRS.18/3 Regional Seas assessments and indicators for the SDGs
- UNEP/WBRS.18/4 Regional Seas implementation of GPA (not issued)
- UNEP/WBRS.18/5 Implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)
- UNEP/WBRS.18/6 Regional Seas programmes and Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction
- UNEP/WBRS.18/7 Final report of the implementation of RSSD (2013-2016)
- UNEP/WBRS.18/8 United Nations Environmental Programme implementation plan on the resolutions of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which are relevant to the Regional Seas programmes
- UNEP/WBRS.18/9 Report of the meeting

Information documents

- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF1 Information note for participants
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF2 Provisional list of participants
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF3 Provisional list of documents
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF4 Report of the meeting of the 17th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF5 Ecosystem Approaches to Regional Seas
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF6 Regional Seas Engagement in the implementation of SDGs
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF8 Final list of proposed Sustainable Development Goal indicators
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF9 Regional Seas Core Indicators Set
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF10 Manila Declaration
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF11 Draft Policy Paper for GPA implementation (not issued)
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF12 Regional Oceans Governance
- UNEP/WBRS.18/INF13 Compilation of the resolutions of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which are relevant to the Regional Seas programmes

Annex 2: Programme of the meeting

30 September 2016	
08:30 – 09:00	<p>Registration At the meeting room on the 6th Floor in G-tower, Incheon, the Republic of Korea</p>
09:00-09:45	<p>Welcoming remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sang-Keun Song, Director General of Marine Environmental Policy Bureau, Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries • Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna, Director and Head of Office, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific <p>Background, purpose and expected outcomes of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Lisa Emelia Svensson, Coordinator, United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP), Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Branch <p>Presentation of the participants Adoption of the meeting agenda</p>
09:45-11:00	<p>Session I: Regionally coordinated national actions and reporting for SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of the resolutions of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) and the plan to implement them (Ms. Lisa Emelia Svensson, UNEP) • Possible mechanisms for regionally coordinated action by Regional Seas member states (Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP) • Discussion <p>Facilitator: Ms. Monika Stankiewicz (Helsinki Commission)</p>
11:00-11:20	<i>Coffee</i>
11:20 – 13:00	<p>Session II: Assessments and indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on the second cycle of the Regular Process (Ms. Joana Akrofi, UNEP) • HELCOM Holistic Assessment of the Ecosystem Health of the Baltic Sea (Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Helsinki Commission) • Discussion: How can regional assessments contribute to monitoring of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and as input to World Ocean Assessment? <p>Facilitator: Ms. Lorna Inniss (Cartagena Convention)</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>

14:00 – 16:00	<p>Session II: Assessments and indicators (Cont')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SDG indicators and role of science in capacity building in reporting on SDG14 (Mr. Julian Barbieri, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO) • Results from the Regional Seas indicators working group (Ms. Irina Makarenko, Black Sea Commission) • Discussion: Future harmonization of Regional Seas indicators with the SDG indicators <p>Facilitator: Ms. Lorna Inness (Cartagena Convention)</p>
16:00 – 16:20	<p><i>Side session with coffee</i></p> <p><i>Join presentation by Devotes and Future Earth Coasts</i></p>
16:30-18:00	<p>Session III: Regional Seas' monitoring and support of implementation of the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed monitoring on the SDGs (Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP) • Discussion: Recommendations to the UN Conference on the implementation of the SDG14 in June 2017 • Summary of the discussion of the Day 1
18:00	<p><i>Closure of Day 1</i></p>

1 October 2016	
09:00-11:00	<p>Session IV: Regional Seas implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft policy for the GPA implementation (Mr. Habib El-Habr, GPA) • Formulation of Regional Seas recommendations to IGR4 • Discussion <p>Facilitator: Mr. Gaetano Leone (Barcelona Convention)</p>
11:00-11:20	<p><i>Side session with coffee</i></p> <p><i>Outcome from the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress Towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Ms. Jihyun Lee, CBD)</i></p>
11:20 – 13:00	<p>Session V: Regional Seas' inputs to the process on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on the Preparatory Committee held in March and September 2016 (Ms. Charlotte Salpin, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea) • Regional Seas and BBNJ (Mr. Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Potential engagement of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans for the BBNJ discussion <p>Facilitator: Mr. Warren Lee (Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme)</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 – 16:00	<p>Session VI: Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP proposal for the implementation of RSSD (2017-2020) (Ms. Kanako Hasegawa, UNEP) • Discussion: Intersessional networks for the four thematic strategies <p>Facilitator: Mr. Abou Bamba (Abidjan Convention)</p>
16:00 – 16:20	<p><i>Side session with coffee</i></p> <p><i>Demonstration of the Blue Solutions (UNEP- Grid Arendal)</i></p>
16:30-17:30	<p>Session VI: Implementing the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020) (Cont')</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion: Common targets for the RSSD (2017-2020) and priority regions <p>Facilitator: Mr. Abou Bamba (Abidjan Convention)</p>
17:30-18:00	<p>Conclusion of the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of meeting conclusions • Next Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
18:00	<i>Closure of Day 2</i>

Annex 3: List of participants

Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans			
1	<p><u>Abidjan Convention</u> Mr. Abou Bamba <i>Regional Coordinator</i> Abidjan Convention Secretariat United Nation Environment Programme Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire</p>	2	<p><u>Barcelona Convention</u> Mr. Gaetano Leone <i>Coordinator,</i> Barcelona Convention Secretariat Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan 48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue P. O. Box 18019, 116 35 Athens, Greece</p>
3	<p><u>Black Seas Commission</u> Ms. Irina Makarenko <i>Pollution Monitoring and Assessment (PMA) Officer</i> Black Sea Commission Maslak Mahallesi, Büyükdere Caddesi, No 265, Sarıyer – Istanbul, 34398, TURKEY Tel: +90 212 299 2940/+90 212 299 2946</p>	4	<p><u>Cartagena Convention</u> Ms. Lorna Inness <i>Coordinator</i> Caribbean Environment Programme United Nations Environment Programme Kingston, Jamaica Tel: 1-876-922-9267-9 Fax: 1-876-922-9292</p>
5	<p><u>COBSEA</u> Mr. Reynaldo Molina <i>Consultant</i> UNEP, COBSEA Secretariat United Nations Building, 2nd Floor, Block B Rajadamnern-Nok Avenue Bangkok 10200, Thailand</p>	6	<p><u>Helsinki Commission</u> Ms. Monika Stankiewicz <i>Executive Secretary</i> Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) Katajanokanlaituri 6 B FI-00160 Helsinki, Finland</p>
7	<p><u>Helsinki Commission</u> Mr. Hermanni Backer <i>Professional Secretary</i> Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission Helsinki, Finland</p>	8	<p><u>Nairobi Convention</u> Mr. Dixon Waruinge <i>Head</i> Nairobi Convention Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), P. O. Box 30552, Nairobi, Kenya</p>
9	<p><u>North East Pacific Regional Seas programme</u> Mr. Mario Diaz-Anzueto <i>Chief</i> Department of Ecosystem Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Ciudad de Guatemala, Guatemala</p>	10	<p><u>Northwest Pacific Action Plan</u> Mr. Lev Neretin <i>Coordinator</i> Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) 5-5 Ushijimashin-machi Toyama City 930-0856, Japan</p>
11	<p><u>Northwest Pacific Action Plan</u> Mr. Ning Liu Programme Officer, Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)</p>	12	<p><u>Northwest Pacific Action Plan</u> Mr. Alexander Tkalin Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU)</p>

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13	<u>Northwest Pacific Action Plan (MERRAC)</u> Mr. Seong Gil Kang <i>Director</i> P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon 305-343, Republic of Korea	14	<u>Northwest Pacific Action Plan (MERRAC)</u> Ms. Si Yeon Lee P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon 305-343, Republic of Korea
15	<u>Northwest Pacific Action Plan (MERRAC)</u> Ms. Yoon Young Back <i>Consultant</i> P.O. Box 23, Yuseong, Daejeon 305-343, Republic of Korea	16	<u>Northwest Pacific Action Plan (CEARAC)</u> Mr. Takafumi Yoshida <i>Senior Researcher</i> Northwest Pacific Action Plan Toyama, Japan
17	<u>OSPAR Commission</u> Mr. Darius Campbell <i>Executive Secretary,</i> OSPAR Commission / Bonn Agreement Victoria House 37-63 Southampton Row London WC1B 4DA, United Kingdom	18	<u>PERSGA</u> Mr. Ziad H. Abu Ghararah <i>Secretary General</i> Regional Organisation for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Region (PERSGA) P.O. Box 53662, Jeddah 21583, Saudi Arabia
19	<u>PERSGA</u> Mr. Ahmed S. M. Khalil <i>Regional Programme Coordinator</i> Living Marine Resources and Climate Change The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) P.O. Box 53662, Jeddah 21583 Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	20	<u>SACEP</u> Mr. Pulakesh Mondal <i>Senior Programme Officer/Regional</i> South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) No. 10 Anderson Road, Off Dickman's Road Colombo 5, Sri Lanka
21	<u>SPREP</u> Mr. Warren Lee Long Coastal and Marine Adviser Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme Apia, Samoa	22	<u>Tehran Convention</u> Mr. Mahir Aliyev <i>Regional Coordinator</i> Tehran Convention Secretariat UNEP/ROE, 11 ch. des Anémones 1219 Châtelaine, Geneva, Switzerland
Observers and Partners			
23	<u>Government of the Republic of Korea</u> Mr. Sang-Keun Song <i>Director General</i> Marine Environmental Policy Bureau Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries 94, Dasom 2ro, Sejong-si, Republic of Korea	24	<u>Government of the Republic of Korea</u> Mr. Hyewon Park Deputy Director Marine Environment Policy Division Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries 94, Dasom 2ro, Sejong-si, Republic of Korea
25	<u>Government of the Republic of Korea</u> Mr. Jinjoo Sung 3rd Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs	26	<u>NEAFC</u> Mr. Johan H. Williams <i>President</i> North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

	60, Sajik-ro 8-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea		London, UK
27	<u>UNESCAP -ENEA</u> Mr. Kilaparti Ramakrishna <i>Director and Head of Office</i> 175 Art Center-daero, Songdo-dong Incheon, Republic of Korea	28	<u>UNESCAP-ENEA</u> Ms. Nobuko Kajiura <i>Sustainable Development Officer</i> 175 Art Center-daero, Songdo-dong Incheon, Republic of Korea
29	<u>CBD</u> Ms. Jihyun Lee <i>Environmental Affairs Officer for marine and coastal biodiversity</i> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity Montreal, Canada	30	<u>CBD</u> Mr. Joseph Appiott <i>Associate Programme Officer</i> Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity Montreal, Canada
31	<u>FAO</u> Mr. Chris O'Brien <i>Coordinator,</i> ABNJ Deep Seas Project Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy	32	<u>UNESCO IOC</u> Mr. Julian Barbieri <i>Head,</i> Marine Policy and Regional Coordination Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, Intergrated Coastal Area Management
33	<u>Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea</u> Ms. Charlotte Salpin <i>Legal Officer</i> Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations Room 424, 2 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017, USA	34	<u>International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)</u> Mr. Michail Angelidis <i>Section Head</i> Section of Marine Environmental Studies Laboratory Division of IAEA Environment Laboratories Department of Nuclear Sciences and Applications IAEA Environment Laboratories, 4, Quai Antoine 1er, 98000 Monaco, Principality of Monaco
35	<u>GRID-Arendal</u> Mr. Peter Harris <i>Managing Director</i> GRID-Arendal UN House P. O. Box 183, N-4802 Arendal, Norway	36	<u>UNEP WCMC</u> Mr. Corinne Martine <i>Senior Programme Officer</i> United Nations Environment Programme – World Conservation Monitoring Centre 219 Huntingdon Road Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK
37	<u>Future Earth Coast</u> Mr. Martin Le Tissier MaREI Centre, Beaufort Building University College Cork Haulbowline Rd, Ringaskiddy P43-C573 Co. Cork Ireland	38	<u>Future Earth Coast</u> Mr. Bruce Glavovic <i>Professor</i> EQC Chair in Resilience and Natural Hazards Planning Resource & Environmental Planning Programme Massey University Private Bag 11 222 Palmerston North 4442 New Zealand

39	<u>Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST)</u> Mr. Jae Ryoung Oh 1270 Sadong, Ansan 426-744 Republic of Korea	40	<u>World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)</u> Mr. Alistair Graham <i>Ocean Policy Advisor</i> World Wide Fund for Nature Tasmania, Australia
Coordination			
41	<u>UNEP</u> Ms. Lisa Emelia Svensson <i>Coordinator,</i> Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch Ecosystems Division PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya	42	<u>UNEP</u> Mr. Habib El-Habr Coordinator, Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) Ecosystems Division PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
43	<u>UNEP</u> Mr. Takehiro Nakamura <i>Chief</i> Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Unit Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Branch Ecosystems Division PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya	44	<u>UNEP</u> Ms. Joana Akrofi <i>Programme Officer</i> Assessment Division United Nations Avenue, Gigiri PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
45	<u>UNEP</u> Ms. Kanako Hasegawa <i>Associate Programme Officer</i> Regional Seas Programme Ecosystems Division PO Box 30552, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya	46	<u>UNEP</u> Ms. Jihee Yi Team Assistant Northwest Pacific Action Plan (NOWPAP) 216 Gijanghaean-ro, Gijang-eup, Gijang-gun, Busan 619-705, Republic of Korea

**18th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
Meeting Conclusions**

Day 1 (30 September 2016)

Regionally coordinated national actions and reporting for the Sustainable Development Goals

1. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans¹⁶ request the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare a strategy paper in preparation for the Preparatory Committee for the United Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 for coordinated inputs; (United Nations Environment Programme will lead)
2. For the United Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in June 2017, the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will aim to be registered as a global partnership; (United Nations Environment Programme will lead)
3. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will provide inputs on the implementation matrix of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions¹⁷ by 15 October 2016. The United Nations Environment Programme will compile the information and send out the matrix by 31 October 2016
4. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will offer to provide their countries with regional contributions to their national reporting of ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals
5. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will coordinate and aim to organise a collective side event at the United Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 in June 2017 in order to showcase their impacts and their potential contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. (United Nations Environment Programme in close collaboration with Secretariats of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will lead)
6. Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will prepare outlook documents¹⁸, proposing how they can support their countries with the implementation, and monitoring of the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets. The documents will be submitted to UN Environment in order to be utilized in preparation of the Preparatory Committee for the United Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14

¹⁶ All 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

¹⁷ UNEP/WBRS.18/8

¹⁸ Every Regional Seas Convention and Action Plan will prepare as appropriate

Assessments and indicators

7. Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will work inter alia with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Environment Programme, and Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations through the Regional Seas coordination office in Nairobi towards utilizing the regional assessments in the Second Cycle of the Regular Process
8. Regional assessments, describing the environmental status, relevant policies, and ongoing activities, prepared by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans should contribute to monitoring the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals
9. The Regional Seas Indicator Working Group will continue to evaluate and describe the 22 Regional Seas Core Indicators¹⁹, including aligning them with the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators and Aichi Targets, using the existing resources of the Regional Seas Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and United Nations Environment Programme
10. Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans invited relevant bodies such as Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to continue supporting the development of the Regional Seas Core Indicators set
11. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will consider applying the three indicators²⁰ on a pilot basis, as appropriate
12. Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans invited the United Nations Environment Programme and relevant partners to facilitate capacity building on regional assessments on the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects
13. Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans invited Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and relevant organisations scientific and technical support and related science based capacity development in translating global SDG indicators into national and regional implementation
14. Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans invited the United Nations Environment Programme to disseminate the guideline on Integrated Environmental Assessments²¹

¹⁹ UNEP/WBRS.18/INF9 The indicators are guiding indicators for the monitoring of the status of the marine environment in each region.

²⁰ Chlorophyll-a, Marine Litter, ICZM

²¹ This is currently being developed by the United Nations Environment Programme

Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

15. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans welcomed the work conducted by the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
16. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans recalled their role as one of the regional-level implementing bodies for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
17. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans requested the United Nations Environment Programme to take a stronger leadership and coordinate efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, given the scale of the problems
18. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will encourage the countries and relevant stakeholders to participate in the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to be held in Indonesia in 2017
19. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans requested the Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to review and assess the effectiveness and results of the Programme in order to formulate a future direction as an input to the Fourth Intergovernmental Review
20. The Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities invite the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to review and assess the implementation of the regional action plans and instruments related to land-based sources of pollution in their respective regions, to provide an input to the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
21. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans requested the Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare a resource mobilization strategy for the work programme of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and to provide assistance for resource mobilization through the partnerships
22. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans suggest the Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities to make a stronger engagement with relevant stakeholders, inter alia, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and media actors to raise awareness and visibility of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities at a global level

23. The Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities will liaise with the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to inform them of the available global and regional partnerships that United Nations Environment Programme convenes.
24. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans requested the Secretariat of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the United Nations Environment Programme through their partnerships to step up their efforts to provide technical assistance, especially to regions most affected by the problems of land-based sources of pollution

Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

25. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans expressed appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Korea and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and welcomed the Seoul Outcome from the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress towards the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
26. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations Environment Programme encouraged individual Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to initiate or further facilitate cooperation with regional fisheries bodies in their respective regions, and continue to contribute to the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction

27. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will bring the paragraph 13 of resolution 2/10 oceans and seas of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which requested the parties to the Regional Seas Conventions to consider the possibility of increasing the regional coverage of the instruments, to the attention of their respective parties
28. It was requested that the United Nations Environment Programme collect and compile information on the ecological socio-economic and legal issues, which needs to be taken into consideration in support of the discussion of the countries of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in reviewing the benefits of considering the issues related to biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction. It

would be ideal that briefing sessions be organized with negotiators of the regional seas member countries for the legally binding instrument

29. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans will continue to provide information regarding their mandates and activities to Member States at the Preparatory Committee for the Development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction

Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)

30. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and the United Nations Environment Programme will create networks of information sharing focusing on priority issues as needs arise. The Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans asked the United Nations Environment Programme to prepare a detailed concept note on the networks and modalities by 31 December 2016
31. The Regional Conventions and Action Plans agreed to report on the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020) on an annual basis two months before the annual Global Meetings of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans in a format drafted by the United Nations Environment Programme to be agreed to by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
32. The Regional Conventions and Action Plans welcome the participation of the interested partners, inter alia, International Atomic Energy Agency, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Future Earth Coasts, Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations to participate in the thematic information sharing networks
33. The Regional Conventions and Action Plans will review progress and discuss two different themes²² in each annual Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans for two consecutive years

²² Four themes under the Regional Seas Strategic Direction (2017-2020): pollution, Climate Change, Governance, and extractives