

## Committee of Permanent Representatives Subcommittee meeting

5<sup>th</sup> March 2020

### Written comments from the Emirates Environmental Group

#### **Agenda Item 2: Draft elements of a decision the Global Programme of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities.**

##### Preambular section

1. “Recognizing that maintaining a high-quality coastal and marine environment provides ecosystem functions and services in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources);”

##### **EEG’s Input:**

Point 1 and 7 are the same. Please delete one.

2. “Recalling that the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) was created to counter the impact of land-based activities.....”

##### **EEG’s Input:**

We recommend adding the fact that the GPA is “**a unique intergovernmental initiative**” that was created to counter the impact of land-based activities.

3. Further recalling that Intergovernmental Review Meetings of the GPA have been organized in Montreal (2001), Beijing (2006), Manila (2012) and Bali (2018), wherein governments with the participation of stakeholders met to review the status of the implementation of the GPA and decide on the actions to be taken to strengthen its implementation;

##### **EEG’s Input:**

No comment

4. “Also recalling with appreciation, the Bali Declaration<sup>2</sup> on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities adopted at the Fourth IGR held in Bali, Indonesia, 31 October-1 November 2018;”

**EEG's Input:**

We recommend adding some more substance from the Bali Declaration to this paragraph as currently, it is very one-dimensional.

*“Acknowledging the achievement of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) during the period 2012-2017 and the commitment to the subsequent programme for the period 2018-2022 to prevent, reduce, control and eliminate marine degradation as a result of land-based activities as integrated activities on land, coastal and marine environment.”*

*“Ascertaining the fulfillment of The Programme of Work of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the protection of the coastal and marine ecosystems from landbased activities at national, regional and international levels for the period 2018- 2022 as recommendations of IGR-4 through collaboration with relevant organizations and institutions.”*

5. Noting with appreciation that the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has hosted the GPA Coordination Office since its establishment and also welcoming the work of the office in preventing land-based sources of marine pollution on the global level through demonstration projects, policy recommendations, research, capacity-building and awareness raising activities, and further recognizing the valuable role of its three global partnerships, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management, and the Global Wastewater Initiative, for which the GPA Coordination Office acts a Secretariat;

**EEG's Input:**

No comment

6. Recognizing that the aims, functions and general objectives of the GPA are relevant to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2021 and Programme of Work and to various relevant resolutions adopted by the UN Environmental Assembly;

**EEG's Input:**

No comment.

7. Recognizing that maintaining a high-quality coastal and marine environment provides ecosystem functions and services in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and in particular Sustainable Development Goal 14

**EEG's Input:**

This is the same as Paragraph 1 – please delete.

## Operative Section

1. Decides to hold no further meetings of the periodic Intergovernmental Review (IGR) of the Global Programme of Action;

### **EEG's Input:**

We support this action.

2. Recognizes the continued relevance and valuable role of the three global partnerships in tackling land-based pollution established in the framework of the GPA, namely the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management and the Global Wastewater Initiative as tools to contribute to the implementation of targets 6.3 and 14.1 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and calls upon all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system, other relevant regional and international organizations, the private sector, the academia, civil society, non-governmental organizations, individuals, and other relevant stakeholders to support its activities;

### **EEG's Input:**

The SDG targets 6.3 and 14.1 have been mentioned in this point as they are directly related. However, we believe a number of other targets are also associated with the same. For example:

- SDG Target 6.2: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and increasing substantially by recycling and safe reuse
- SDG Target 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts
- SDG Target 14.3: Minimise and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels
- SDG Target 14.5: By 2020, conserve at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas