

UN-OCEANS
Second Meeting
(UN Headquarters, 2-3 June 2005)

Summary of discussions

(Present at the second meeting of UN-Oceans were representatives from IMO, IOC of UNESCO, UN (DESA), UN (DOALOS/OLA), UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and ISA)

I. Review of report of 1st meeting and intersessional activities

It was agreed to approve the Report of the first meeting following the incorporation of comments by the organizations participating at the second meeting.

1. The web-site content and identification of inter-agency activities
 - a) **Brief overview of web content provided by implementing secretariat**
 - b) **Agency “profiles” content – ask agencies to approve the text describing their programmes (taken from their web-sites) or to provide alternative text. Is more information or links required in this section?**

The Coordinator informed the meeting about the UN-Oceans web site, its content, purpose and further development. Several suggestions were made as to possible improvements, such as specific links, discussion forums for the UN-Oceans tasks forces, etc. It was agreed that all comments and suggestions should be forwarded directly to the Coordinator.

- c) **Inter-agency programme list – discussion on what constitutes an inter-agency activity within the UN-OCEANS framework (e.g., should we provide information and/or a review of all existing inter-agency activities or only those that are under the guidance of UN-OCEANS?)**

It was agreed that UN-Oceans would focus on selected topics so as to maximize its contribution to interagency coordination and cooperation in specific areas. The current programme list includes existing activities carried out by the established inter-agency/ad hoc intersecretariat task forces and several additional areas to be agreed upon. The intersecretariat character of UN-Oceans task forces was underscored.

- d) **Task Forces webs – will the Task Forces have their own web-sites or do they want to use the UN-Oceans site?**

It was suggested that established UN-Oceans task forces should use the UN-Oceans web site to place information and reports about their activities and, perhaps, to provide for interactive discussions and input from users. UNEP declared its readiness to provide software to this effect.

- e) **How to link the UN-OCEANS site to the Atlas**

Inasmuch as funding is uncertain at this stage for the continuation of the UN Atlas of the Oceans, it was agreed to await further developments in that regard. Therefore,

presently, UN-Oceans could not take a definitive decision on its future cooperation with the UN-Atlas of the Oceans, although UN-Oceans remains as the “managing group” of the Atlas.

2. The Task Forces

f) Overview of task force activities

Each organization present at the meeting and responsible for an inter-agency task force gave an account of the activities of its respective task force to date (GPA-IGR-2, regular process and post-Tsunami response). In addition, it was agreed in principle that UN-Oceans task forces would remain open to IGOs outside the UN System as well as to NGOs. However, the nature of the task force itself would determine the type of IGO and/or NGO that would be invited to participate in the activities of the task force concerned. It was underscored that UN-Oceans wishes to carry out its work in a transparent and open manner and engage all groups that can meaningfully contribute to the achievement of its goals.

g) The task force template – review and development of draft template as a tool to more precisely define task forces, objectives, time-bound goals, nature of collaborative efforts, etc.

It was agreed to follow, to the extent possible, the template of the UN-Oceans Task Force on Post-Tsunami Response, as amended on the basis of the suggestions made during the 2nd meeting. The template is expected to be developed and adapted, as necessary, to the needs of each task force concerned.

h) Revision and completion of template form by each of the Task Force leaders

It was agreed that each lead organization would prepare terms of reference for its task force, following to the extent possible the template of the UN-Oceans Task Force on Post-Tsunami Response (see above).

3. The WSSD tables

i) overview of compilation and revision of lead/participating agencies as needed

j) use of tables for tracking implementation progress / activities in WSSD

The WSSD table was reviewed by the representatives of the different organizations present at the meeting to determine which organization had the lead in the areas concerned and which organizations were participating or contributing in furtherance of the required actions. Various opinions were expressed as to the contents and purpose of the table. It was agreed to proceed with the revision of the table during the intersessional period. All participating agencies were urged to submit their comments on the WSSD list to the Coordinator by end September 2005. It was also agreed that the WSSD table was to be used exclusively as an internal document of UN-Oceans for reference purposes and to monitor the progress of work. Consequently, in view of the working informal nature of the table, it would not be made available to the States or public.

II. Issues for ICP-6 and 2nd GMA workshop

k) ICP-6 expected issues (6-10 June 2005)

l) 2nd international workshop on the establishment of a regular process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects (13-15 June 2005)

The UN-DOALOS/OLA representative gave a brief account of preparations for and on the agenda of both ICP-6 and the Second International Workshop, including the meeting of the UN-Oceans Task Force on the Regular Process, which are scheduled to take place in June 2005 at UN Headquarters.

III. Programme of work for intersessional period

m) New UN-OCEANS partners – suggestions, procedure for invitations, etc. (e.g., Ramsar?)

It was agreed that UN-Oceans should not invite other organizations or entities to participate in its work until a core group of UN-Oceans had been fully developed. However, it was felt that if UN-Oceans wanted to have a regional dimension, the UN Regional Commissions may be invited to its future meetings, especially those Regional Commissions engaged in oceans issues.

The meeting was briefed by representatives of DESA (UN-Waters) and of UNEP on their activities and practices and how they might be useful for UN-Oceans. UNEP undertook to be the lead agency for the joint UN-Oceans/UN-Water task force.

n) Development of Report / Compilation of inter-agency activities

The idea was presented to have each UN-Oceans member prepare a 1-pager describing its areas of competence.

As for the intersessional work of UN-Oceans, it was agreed to concentrate on the following:

- FAO/World Bank fisheries project
- UN-Ocean Task Force on the Second Intergovernmental Review of the GPA/UN-Water Project (UNEP)
- UN-Ocean Task force on Post-Tsunami Response
- Inter-agency Task Force on Disaster (?)
- GloBallast Water Project (IMO and other organizations)

- Annotated Guiding Principles for Post-tsunami Rehabilitation and Reconstruction: to be reviewed and commented on by each UN-Oceans member. Comments are to be submitted to the Coordinator ASAP.

~~**o) Anticipated follow-up from ICP-6 (to be determined)**~~

o) Reporting on task forces

IV. Date and Place of Next Meeting

It was agreed to hold a special meeting of UN-Oceans in Lisbon, Portugal, during the International Conference on Integrated Ocean Policy: National and Regional

Experiences, Prospects and Emerging Practices, which would take place from 10 to 14 October 2005.

General conclusion:

It was the widely held view of the participants that the Millennium Development Goals did not reflect the importance of ocean issues and how they impact on the alleviation of poverty. Therefore, it was agreed that UN-Oceans should do a brochure, flyer or 1-pager to distribute during the Millennium Summit so as to highlight the importance of oceans and its interrelation with development.