

**Restricted distribution**

IOC/INF-959  
Paris, 8 June 1994  
English only

06 JUL 1994



**INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION  
(of UNESCO)**

**REPORT OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE ACC SUB-COMMITTEE  
ON OCEANS AND COASTAL AREAS**

**FAO Headquarters, Rome, 19-21 April 1994**

The attached report is presented as submitted from the IOC Secretariat to the IACSD Secretariat. It is provided for information to the Executive Council in order to facilitate discussion, particularly in regard to Agenda Item 6.

**First Session of the ACC Sub-Committee on  
Oceans and Coastal Areas**

**(FAO Headquarters, Rome, 19-21 April 1994)**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Part I**

The ACC Sub-Committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas held its first session at FAO Headquarters from 19 to 21 April 1994 and designated Mr. S. Garcia (FAO) as its Chairperson.

The Sub-Committee draws to the attention of the IACSD the following recommendations for advice and decision:

1. Having received the kind offer of WMO to host the second session, the Sub-Committee agreed to meet in Geneva, preferably during the third week of January 1995.
2. In view of the need to have ready by early 1996 the Report on Chapter 17 for submission to the IACSD, the Sub-Committee agreed that it should hold its third session in the latter part of 1995, preferably at UN Headquarters in New York.
3. Taking into account the very wide range of subjects encompassed in consideration of oceans and coastal areas, the Sub-Committee is of the view that these can best be addressed through a two-pronged approach similar to that adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. It is therefore proposed that the Report on Chapter 17 to be presented to the IACSD in 1996 consist of a policy-makers' summary of 10 pages, followed by a substantive report of 70 pages.

## Part II

At its first session, held at FAO Headquarters from 19-21 April 1994, the ACC Sub-Committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas made a number of decisions regarding its workplan and operational methods. Mr. S. Garcia, Director of the FAO Fisheries Resources and Environment Division, was unanimously designated as Chairperson for a term of office extending through 1996.

In reaching these decisions, consideration was given to the dual role of the Sub-Committee in monitoring and facilitating implementation of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 as well as in reporting through the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) to the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD).

The Sub-Committee decided that both implementation and reporting functions would be structured in accordance with the programme areas of Chapter 17. As indicated in Table I (para. 11) responsibilities for each area were assigned to agencies that agree to work as 'sub-task managers', in collaboration with 'participating' and 'associated' agencies.

Noting that governments are to report directly to the CSD on their implementation of Agenda 21, the Sub-Committee agreed to focus its work on progress made in implementation of Chapter 17 through the UN System.

In regard to methods of work, the Sub-Committee identified the types of action that each sub-task manager would be expected to undertake in meeting the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee as applied to the assigned programme area. These are recapitulated in Table II (para. 12).

In planning its inter-sessional work, the Sub-Committee agreed on a draft outline for the Report to be submitted in 1996 and a schedule to be followed by sub-task managers in developing initial chapters in time for its second session to be held in late January 1995 at WMO Headquarters in Geneva. A third session is forecast for late 1995, preferably at UN Headquarters in New York.

The Sub-Committee also identified a number of cross-sectoral issues, including financing, capacity building, trade, technology transfer and information, that should be addressed within its reporting function to the IACSD. The absence of some agencies was noted with regret in this respect. Their possible involvement is included in Table II, subject to confirmation.

## Opening

1. The first session of the ACC Sub-Committee on Oceans and Coastal Areas was held at FAO Headquarters, 19 -21 April 1994 with representation from the UN, UNEP, UNDP, FAO, UNESCO, IGC, World Bank, ITU, WMO, IMO, IAEA. The following agencies have appointed focal points, but did not attend the meeting: UNIDO, ILO, WHO and IFAD. The list of participants is found in Annex I. Mr. P.J.Mahler (Special Advisor to the Director-General/ADG for Environment and Sustainable Development), welcomed participants to FAO and provided guidance on the Sub-Committee's responsibilities as Task Manager. Mention was made of its dual role in monitoring and facilitating implementation of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 as well as in reporting through the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) to the Commission for Sustainable Development (CSD). Emphasis was given to the responsibility of the Sub-Committee in identifying cross-sectoral subject areas and issues which should be drawn to the attention of the CSD for appropriate decision and action at the intergovernmental level. While recognizing that one aspect of the report to be produced by the Sub-Committee in 1996 would include a summary of ongoing activities and inter-agency collaboration, Mr. Mahler urged the members to give due attention to concrete proposals that would contribute to a more effective implementation.

2. Upon the proposal of the UN, seconded by UNEP and the IOC, the Sub-Committee unanimously designated Mr. S. Garcia, Director of the FAO Fisheries Resources and Environment Division as its Chairperson for a term of office extending through 1996.
3. A new item on Any Other Matters was inserted on the Agenda, which was adopted as modified and found in Annex II.
4. The Secretary presented the list of documents and proposed time-table for the meeting, which was agreed upon with modifications to increase efficient use of the time available. A brief over-view of the whole agenda was made to identify those issues requiring particular attention.

#### **Review of terms of reference and composition**

5. The Sub-Committee, having reviewed its terms of reference, agreed that any matters requiring policy decisions by its members should be communicated by the Secretary sufficiently in advance to allow for full consideration by relevant authorities in each Agency and appropriate guidance to its representative, especially in regard to staff and budget implications.
6. The question of distinction between the respective responsibilities of agency 'focal points' and representatives at Sub-Committee meetings was clarified as follows:
  - i) Members are defined as those UN bodies that have indicated their interest in participating in the work of the Sub-Committee.
  - ii) Focal points are the individuals designated by members as being responsible for communication within their organization and as the interface with the Secretariat during the intersessional period. Focal points may or may not represent the agency at meetings of the Sub-Committee.
  - iii) Representatives at meetings of the Sub-Committee are decided upon by each member, bearing in mind the desirability of continuity whenever possible.

#### **Assignment of tasks**

7. The Chairperson referred to the general description of the functions of Task Managers as found in Document ACC/1993/24 and the more specific terms of reference for the Sub-Committee as found in Annex IV of the same document. It was agreed that the information and advice provided by Mr. Mahler as referred to in para.1 formed a useful basis for more detailed discussion of the specific tasks to be undertaken by the members.
8. The meeting undertook an extensive exchange of views regarding the definition and assignment of tasks that would meet the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee (Table I found as para. 12), both in regard to implementation and reporting functions. Noting that governments are to report directly to the CSD on their implementation of Agenda 21, the Sub-Committee agreed to focus its work on progress made in implementation of Chapter 17 through the UN System. The Sub-Committee decided that both implementation and reporting functions would be structured in accordance with the programme areas of Chapter 17 and that three levels of agency involvement would be forecast in carrying out assigned responsibilities. These functions are defined as follows:
  - i) "sub-task manager(s)" assume responsibility for leading the work required to monitor, review and report upon to the Sub-Committee progress made in implementation of the Programme Area of Chapter 17 to which they have been assigned:
  - ii) "participating agencies" are those which have indicated interest in being closely involved and contributing to the work of the sub-task manager;

iii) "associated agencies" are those which have indicated their general interest in a programme area and willingness to contribute to the work of the sub-task manager as may be required.

9. Thus, for each major programme area sub-task managers would assume leading roles in collaboration with participating agencies who wish to be directly involved and calling upon associated agencies for advice and assistance as required. The results of the work undertaken by the sub-task managers would be presented to the Sub-Committee as a whole for decision.

10. The representatives of the World Bank and UNDP expressed their interest in being associated with the work of the Sub-Committee in all of the programme areas. It was emphasized, however, that their functions in lending or providing funding should be borne in mind when addressing concrete proposals.

11. The Sub-Committee agreed to the following assignment of responsibilities:

**Table I: Assignment of Responsibilities**

Programme Area	Subtask Manager(s)	Participating Agency(ies)	Associated Agencies
(a) Integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including exclusive economic zones	UN-UNEP	WMO, IOC, IAEA, FAO, HABITAT, UNESCO, [WTO]*	IMO World Bank UNDP, ITU
(b) Marine environmental protection: i) sea-based pollution ii) land-based pollution	IMO UNEP ]	WMO, IOC, IAEA ]	FAO, UN, World Bank, UNDP
(c) Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources of the high seas	FAO-UN	UNEP	UNDP IOC World Bank
(d) Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources under national jurisdiction	FAO	UNEP	UNDP World Bank IOC UN
(e) Addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change	IOC	WMO, IAEA, FAO	World Bank UNDP UNEP
(f) Strengthening international, including, regional, co-operation and coordination	Sub-Committee as task manager	UN, WMO, FAO, UNESCO, IOC, IMO, IAEA, ITU [UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO, WHO, IFAD]*	World Bank UNDP
(g) Sustainable development of small islands	UN	WMO, UNESCO, IOC, FAO, IMO, IAEA, UNEP, HABITAT, [WTO]*	World Bank UNDP, ITU

\* [ ] = Subject to confirmation

12. The Sub-Committee also identified the types of action that each sub-task manager would be expected to undertake in meeting the terms of reference of the Sub-Committee as applied to their assigned programme area. These are recapitulated below:

Table II: Action forecast to meet Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference 1) of the Sub-Committee	Action
(a) Monitor and review progress in the implementation of chapter 17 and related matters of Agenda 21 and report thereon to the IACSD.	File periodic progress reports and monitor implementation at sessions of the Sub-Committee.
(b) Prepare proposals to IACSD and other relevant bodies to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation and coordination and facilitate such in the implementation of Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, including financial means.	Based on monitoring and review, to identify gaps, difficulties and proposed solutions, including financial implications. Probable areas will be those at interface between Chapter 17 and other subject areas such as freshwater, atmosphere and biodiversity.
(c) Consider and give effect to the possibilities and means of joint activities and programming for the implementation of Chapter 17.	The Sub-Committee as a whole would identify on going and new opportunities for joint activities where expanded collaboration would enhance implementation.
(d) Identify the needs for and facilitate the coordination of activities of the United Nations System relating to Chapter 17.	For implementation at the regional level, linkages between the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and regional bodies of other Members would provide a viable framework for more effective collaboration. Review of activities at all levels to determine those of interest to more than one UN agency. Commissioning studies on areas of common concern. Meetings of the Sub-Committee.
(e) Interact with joint scientific advisory bodies such as GESAMP which may provide the scientific basis for policy recommendations.	Present practice of referring to GESAMP certain questions for advice, especially in the field of coastal area management, will continue. A listing of other potential advisory bodies to be prepared for each programme area.
(f) Enhance exchange of information, including information on relevant intergovernmental agreements and decisions, existing and proposed programmes and operational activities, and cooperative and coordinating arrangements and promote where appropriate harmonized and shared information systems.	Each sub-task manager to keep all members aware of relevant meetings, projects, decisions and publications with objective of avoiding duplication and increasing efficiency. Secretary to arrange for inclusion of members in relevant ICAM data base systems. Use of ASFIS as joint information system to be kept under review.
(g) Assist in the preparation of system-wide reports, as required, on developments with respect to oceans and coastal area issues and the implementation of Agenda 21 as regards the protection of the oceans, all kind of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources, and related capacity-building.	The Sub-committee would respond to any such requests.

13. The exchange of information regarding the planning of meetings was considered to be of particular importance. As a recent example, the Sub-Committee expressed its regret that a GEF Workshop on Elements of Operational Strategy for the Protection of International Waters (Nairobi, 21-22 April 1994) overlapped with its present meeting. As a result, several members had not been able to attend the consultation. UNEP was requested to report on the results of this consultation.

14. The Sub-Committee recognized that there were a number of cross-sectoral issues, including financing, capacity building, trade, technology transfer and information, that should be addressed within its reporting function to the IACSD. The absence of UNIDO was noted with regret, especially in regard to the need to improve collaboration in the field of technology transfer and the specific interest of UNIDO in regard to regional centres for marine technology.

15. Following presentation by each participant of their programmes, it was decided that a composite list be made of activities which are or could be carried out more effectively with the concerted action of two or more partners, including non-governmental organizations. This compilation will be used as the basis for further elaboration of cooperative arrangements during the inter-sessional period, bearing in mind that effective collaboration is best achieved when founded upon specific activities. It was also noted that development of common strategies could naturally evolve as a product of this study.

16. The Sub-Committee was conscious that Chapter 17 of Agenda 21 strongly emphasized a management approach to the many human activities having a direct bearing on the sustainable utilization of coastal areas, the oceans and their living resources. The success with which management requirements expressed by Chapter 17 are applied should ultimately be judged by the social and economic benefits accruing therefrom. In this context, para 17.8 of Agenda 21 stresses that priority should be given to information for management purposes and, more particularly, the development of socioeconomic and environmental indicators. The representative of the World Bank informed the meeting that his organization has established a group to work on this issue in the area of forest depletion. It was noted that the World Resources Institute was similarly engaged on this issue, and that work was also underway on environmental accounting. The Sub-Committee agreed that it would be desirable to have before it at its second meeting a paper on this subject so that any gaps could be identified in regard to the subject areas of Chapter 17. It was proposed that the World Bank be approached by the Secretariat to prepare such a paper.

17. The Sub-Committee recalled the emphasis placed by UNCED on seeking innovative approaches to the attainment of sustainable development and that this had led to recognition of the importance of economic instruments in resolving outstanding environmental problems. In noting that important work in this respect was being carried out by UNCTAD and that economic instruments could be expected to have an application to the various fields of activities cover by Chapter 17, the sub-task managers were encouraged to consider the scope for applying such to their work for each programme area. The participation of UNCTAD in the work of the Sub-Committee should be sought.

18. Available information and models regarding the length and structure of the report [20-30 pages, including a summary of action prescribed within Chapter 17, current inter-agency response and identification of gaps and emerging issues] implies that the very wide range of subjects encompassed in consideration of oceans and coastal areas could best be addressed through a two-pronged approach similar to that adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, namely, that a policy-makers' summary would be presented, followed by the substantive report.

19. Noting that it was expected to complete the report on Chapter 17 for submission to IACSD in early 1996, the Sub-Committee agreed on the following guidelines for preparation of a first draft or expanded outline in time for consideration at its second meeting in early 1995.

20. Having reached agreement that the Report on Chapter 17 would follow the structure of the seven programme areas (with additions for cross-sectoral themes such as capacity building and interface with other chapters as required), the Sub-Committee decided that:

- i) For each of the seven programme areas, and taking into account that certain areas are also subject to specific intergovernmental discussion (e.g. small islands, high-sea fisheries) the relevant sub-task managers will prepare, in collaboration with participating agencies, a draft report [or expanded outline] of about 10 pages, together with a policy-makers' summary. Any member who wishes to be associated will be included in this endeavour.
- ii) Within each report, the structure found below will be followed:
  - . Introduction, including summary of major concerns and action set forth in Chapter 17
  - . Summary of what is currently being done in the UN System to address these issues and why (supported by tabular material which could also eventually be used in the executive summary)
  - . Identification of gaps
  - . Future directions
  - . Proposals for decision by the CSD
- iii) During the intersessional period, the following schedule will be adhered to with the aim of producing an integrated first draft or expanded outline by November 1994.

**1994**

May/June	sub-task manager sends assignments and an expanded outline to partners for comment and contributions.
July	deadline for first submissions to sub-task manager.
September	sub-task manager sends composite draft and policy makers' summary to partners, together with cross-references showing interface with other programme areas and relevance to other chapters in Agenda 21.
October	deadline for comments from partners
November	submission to the Secretary of expanded report or expanded outline, with policy makers' summary and tabular material.
December	Secretary sends first draft to all members.

**1995**

late January second session

21. Recalling advice provided to task managers which recommended the use of rapid communication as a tool for enhanced collaboration, the Sub-Committee agreed to use electronic mail as its major means of intersessional communication. Those members not already linked to an E:mail system, notably IMO and the UN, were encouraged to make the necessary arrangements as an urgent matter.

22. In regard to interaction between the Sub-Committee and other bodies, the Sub-Committee agreed that ICSPRO could be used on a case-by-case basis. Noting the work undertaken by regional economic commissions and non-governmental and international bodies, each sub-task manager was encouraged to identify and contact any such bodies as appropriate to their given programme area. This was deemed of particular interest in facilitating and monitoring collaboration at the regional level.

**23. Under Any Other Matters, the question of joint response to ocean-related disasters was raised. The Sub-Committee recommended that each sub-task manager should consider contingency planning when preparing their draft reports.**

**24. Having received the kind offer of WMO to host the second session, the Sub-Committee agreed to meet in Geneva, preferably during the third week of January 1995. The participation of ILO, WHO, IFAD, UNIDO, UNCTAD and the World Tourism Organization should be actively sought.**

**25. In view of the need to have ready by early 1996 the Report on Chapter 17 for submission to the IACSD, the Sub-Committee agreed that it should hold its third session in the latter part of 1995, preferably at UN Headquarters in New York.**

**26. The Summary Report was adopted.**

ANNEX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Chairman: S.M. Garcia (FAO)  
Secretary: N. Philippon-Tulloch (UNESCO/IOC)

UNITED NATIONS, ITS ENTITIES AND PROGRAMMES

United Nations	J-P. Levy
United Nations Environment Programme	P.C. Schroder
United Nations Development Programme	P. Reynolds

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	H. Naeve M. Lizarraga (alternate)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	G. Kullenberg
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)	G. Kullenberg
World Bank	S.F. Lintner
International Telecommunication Union	J.L. Pereira-Filho
World Meteorological Organization	M.N. Krasnoperov
International Maritime Organization	J. Wonham
International Atomic Energy Agency	M.S. Baxter

**ANNEX II**

**AGENDA**

1. **Opening.**
2. **Review of terms of reference and composition.**
3. **Assignment of tasks.**
4. **Methods of work.**
5. **Any other matters.**
6. **Adoption of the report.**