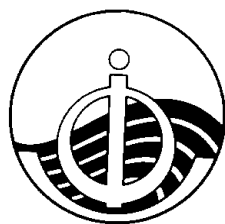


Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
Reports of Governing and Major Subsidiary Bodies



**EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Paris, 10-11 December 2001

UNESCO

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
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Paris, 10-11 December 2001

UNESCO 2001

IOC/EC-Ext.1/3
Paris, 12 December 2001
Original: English*

SC-2001/CONF.219/CLD.5

* Also published in French, Russian and Spanish.

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1. OPENING

1 The Chairperson, Prof. Su Jilan, opened the Extraordinary Session of the IOC Executive Council at 10:00 a.m. on 10 December 2001.

2 **The Executive Council received and noted with appreciation** the welcoming statements by the Chairperson and by Mr. Marcio Barbosa, the Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO. *(The latter statement is reproduced as Annex IIIA).*

2. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3 The Chairperson, Prof. Su Jilan, proposed to split for practical reasons the Agenda item 5 into 5.1 “Discussion and approval of the final Declaration” and 5.2 “Background Documentation for WSSD”.

4 The Delegate of South Africa also proposed the inclusion of a point on the African Process and the WSSD Agenda to be covered under Agenda item 4. The Chair welcomed the proposal and proposed the Delegate of South Africa to include it during her presentation under Agenda item 4 “Progress Report on the Preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg, South Africa, 2-11 September 2002”.

5 **The Executive Council adopted** the Agenda as given in Annex I.

2.2 DESIGNATION OF THE RAPPORTEUR

6 **The Executive Council accepted** the proposal from the Delegate of China, seconded by Australia, Canada and Portugal to designate a Rapporteur from the Republic of South Africa. The South African Delegate nominated Mr. Ashley Naidoo from his delegation to be Rapporteur for the Session. This proposal **was welcome and approved by the Executive Council.**

2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION

7 **The Executive Council noted** the List of Documents and the Provisional Timetable (Document IOC/EC-Ext.1/1 prov.) and **adopted** it with minor amendments. The List of Participants is given in Annex V.

8 An open-ended Drafting Group was approved under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chairperson, Dr. D. Pugh (UK). This Drafting Group was charged with the task of revising the existing Draft Declaration in light of the comments made by Member States and to report back to the Plenary for its final adoption.

3. RESULTS OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON “OCEANS AND COASTS AT RIO+10: ASSESSING PROGRESS, ADDRESSING CONTINUING AND NEW CHALLENGES”, PARIS, 3-7 DECEMBER 2001

- 9 Dr Patricio Bernal and Professor Biliana Cicin-Sain reported as co-chairs of the global conference on 'Oceans and Coasts at Rio +10: Assessing Progress, Addressing Continuing New Challenges' held in Paris, 3-7 December 2001.
- 10 The conference was co-organized by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the Center for the Study of Marine Policy, University of Delaware. Nineteen organizations provided financial support and 77 organizations provided additional support in the form of travel and in-kind.
- 11 The purpose of the conference was to assess progress achieved in all aspects of the post-UNCED oceans and coasts agenda: (i) What has been achieved?; (ii) What problems/constraints have been encountered?; (iii) What lessons have been learned?; (iv) What works and what doesn't?; (v) What trends are present now that were not present ten years ago?; (vi) What efforts need to be refocused or redirected?; (vii) What recommendations should be put forward for the global agenda on oceans and coasts for the next decade?
- 12 The conference was prepared through discussion among NGOs/Scientists in 1999/2000. Further discussions took place at UNICPOLOS in New York in 2000/2001 and with other UN entities in ACC-SOCA in July 2000.
- 13 The conference was based on three major pillars: NGOs, IGOs, and government experts. Over 400 persons from over 60 countries participated. 18 Ministerial-level officials and other eminent persons, more than 100 members of IGOs, over 150 experts from universities and NGOs and over 150 experts from governments.
- 14 The format of the conference consisted of 17 panels (most of which were held in plenary) and 8 working groups.
- 15 The issues addressed were: (i) Marine resources and environment (including marine environment, fishery resources, and marine biodiversity); (ii) National efforts (including integrated coastal zone management and exclusive economic zones, and marine protected areas); (iii) Ocean governance (including global governance, regional governance, small islands, and emerging issues); (iv) means for implementation (including donor aid and capacity building).
- 16 The outputs from the conference will be: (i) concluding statement (December 7, 2001); (ii) Co-Chair's Summary (main report to go forward to WSSD); (iii) Volume on Ministerial Perspectives Presented at the Conference; (iv) Reports from the Working Groups; (v) Book and special issues of journals.
- 17 Highlights of the concluding statements from the conference were: (i) Poverty reduction through sustainable use of ocean resources and healthier coastal communities; (ii) Full implementation and compliance with international agreements; (iii) Capacity building for ocean and coastal governance; (iv) Integrated management of river basins and watersheds and ocean ecosystems; (v) Protection of coastal and marine areas and biodiversity through an ecosystem approach; (vi) Strengthening of science-based monitoring and assessment of the oceans; (vii) Special attention to the problems and issues of Small Island Developing States.

18 The results of the 'Oceans and Coasts' conference would be presented in January 2002 to the PrepCom II, New York.

19 The output from the conference would also be disseminated among policy makers, scientists, and other constituencies around the world. It will foster the discussion of an ocean agenda for the WSSD and promote a diplomatic process in support of the ocean agenda at the WSSD and its implementation.

4. **PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD), JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 2 –11 SEPTEMBER 2002**

20 Following the presentation by Dr. Bernal and Professor Cicin-Sain, the Honourable Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of the Republic of South Africa emphasised the challenges of sustainable development in face of new realities such as the globalization process and *“the failure to integrate international systems for trade, finance and investment with the goals of sustainable development.”* (See full statement in Annex III).

21 Ms. Mabudafhasi highlighted five main topics for Johannesburg: environmental protection; resource conservation and sustainable use; socio-economic and resource development; ocean and coastal governance; data management and information sharing. She recalled the Executive Council that sustainable development rests on three related pillars: economic development, social development, and environment. Ms. Mabudafhasi reported on progress in implementing the African Process and recalled to the plenary that South Africa supported the recommendation from the preparatory committee of the Partnership Conference that the African Process be part of the agenda for WSSD to be discussed at Heads of State level during WSSD.

5. **DECLARATION AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION FOR WSSD**

5.1 **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE FINAL DECLARATION FOR WSSD**

22 General comments on the draft declaration (IOC/EC-Ext.1/2) were provided by a number of Member States. Several delegates pointed to the need to shorten the proposed text and focus it on the mandate that the IOC was given in Agenda 21, what IOC had achieved since Rio and what the IOC will be attempting in the next decade. Many delegates stressed that the three themes for WSSD - economic, social and environmental development in a sustainable way will be the focus of the WSSD and that IOC should demonstrate its contribution to these three themes. Several Member States emphasized the need for capacity building. Attention was also drawn to the UN General Assembly Resolution A/56/L.17 (23 November, 2001) which provided IOC with new mandates and responsibilities. A copy of this resolution was distributed to the Executive Council members and is included as Annex IV.

23 At a later stage **the Executive Council examined** the draft Declaration as revised by the Drafting Group established at the beginning of the session. **The Executive Council** noted that the general comments were well reflected in the new text and **adopted** with minor changes Resolution EC-Ext.1.1, which contains the *Declaration by the IOC of UNESCO to the World Summit on Sustainable Development*.

5.2 DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT BACKGROUND DOCUMENT FOR WSSD

24 The afternoon session dealt with the draft background document for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, September 2002 entitled *Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO*.

25 **The Executive Council congratulated** the Secretariat for this draft document. Several comments were raised by Member States. The main issues are summarized below.

26 It was mentioned that the document could benefit of a better definition of the target audience and that certain issues were not presented clearly such as the IOC's extensive partnership with other organizations and the regional implementation of projects and programmes. On the other hand it was felt that other issues were presented in too much detail. Some delegations stressed that the IOC's special role within the UN system had to be stated more clearly. Some Member States felt that the report could focus more on what results IOC has achieved and will achieve within its area of competence.

27 **The Executive Council urged** its Member States to submit their comments on the draft as soon as possible to the Secretariat, preferably before the end of the session but in any case no later than the 20 December 2001.

28 **The Executive Council also decided** that a second draft of the document should be circulated to its members by 4 January 2002 for final editorial comments to those members who wish to do so the final date will be the 25th January 2002.

29 **The Executive Council instructed** the Executive Secretary to prepare, in consultation with the IOC Officers, background information expanding on key points of the declaration. This would be used during WSSD preparatory meetings and be made available on the IOC Website for comments and suggestions by the members of the Executive Council. This information will be appended to the background document.

6. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT

30 **The Executive Council adopted** the report as herein presented.

31 The chairperson, on behalf of the Executive Council, acknowledged Dr. Angus McEwan's work as former Chairman of I-GOOS. Dr. Su Jilan granted him the IOC Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of his substantial contributions over many years to IOC's work on climate and the oceans, and in particular to the development of the Global Ocean Observing System. Dr McEwan reminded the Council that he was still active in the IOC and acknowledged with appreciation this distinction.

7. CLOSURE

32 The Chairperson closed the Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council at 12.45 on 11 December 2001.

ANNEX I

AGENDA

<i>Agenda items</i>	<i>Documents and references</i>
1. OPENING	
2. ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS	Resolution XXI-3
2.1 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA	IOC/EC-Ext.1/1 prov.
2.2 DESIGNATION OF RAPPORTEUR	(Provisional Agenda)
2.3 CONDUCT OF THE SESSION, TIMETABLE AND DOCUMENTATION	
3. RESULTS OF THE GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON 'OCEANS AND COASTS AT RIO+10: ASSESSING PROGRESS, ADDRESSING CONTINUING AND NEW CHALLENGES', PARIS, 3 - 7 DECEMBER 2001	Oral Report by Patricio Bernal, IOC Executive Secretary and Prof. B. Cicin-Sain, as co-chairs of the Conference
4. PROGRESS REPORT ON THE PREPARATION OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD), JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 2 - 11 SEPTEMBER 2002	Oral report by the Honourable Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism of the Republic of South Africa
5. DECLARATION AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION FOR WSSD	
5.1 DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE FINAL DECLARATION FOR WSSD	IOC/EC-Ext.1/2 (Draft Declaration of Member States of the IOC for the WSSD)
5.2 DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT BACKGROUND DOCUMENT FOR WSSD	IOC/EC-Ext.1/Inf. 1 (Sustainable Development and the IOC of UNESCO, draft)
6. ADOPTION OF THE SUMMARY REPORT	IOC/EC-Ext.1/3 prov.
7. CLOSURE	

ANNEX II

RESOLUTION EC-Ext. 1.1

PREPARATION FOR THE 2002 WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD)

The Executive Council,

Recalling the Assembly Resolution XXI-3, that decided to convene this Extraordinary Session of the Executive Council,

Recognizing the rationale and objectives contained in Resolution XXI-3 for preparing a declaration from the IOC Member States to the WSSD emphasizing the role of the ocean in the global environment,

Noting the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/56/L17 on Oceans and the Law of the Sea,

Further noting the deliberations and outcomes of the Global Conference on Oceans and Coasts at Rio+10, Paris, 3-7 December 2001,

Instructs the IOC Executive Secretary to finalize the supporting document entitled *Sustainable Development and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO*, to be submitted to the WSSD as amended by the Executive Council;

Instructs the IOC Executive Secretary to forward both documents to the WSSD Preparatory Committee for onward transmittal to the World Summit, at the earliest opportunity;

Further instructs the Executive Secretary to convey these documents to the IOC Member States and relevant UN agencies and international organizations;

Urges Member States to support the IOC Declaration in their own preparation and statements for the WSSD;

Invites the Director-General of UNESCO to assist the IOC in its efforts to raise the awareness of the importance of the ocean, and to further assist in promoting the IOC Declaration through the WSSD process.

Annex to Resolution EC-Ext. 1.1

Declaration by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO to the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The world oceans and their adjacent seas, and the living and non-living resources they contain, are a necessary element for the survival of life as we now know it. The sustainability of the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat and the climate in which we live is dependent upon the oceans. The oceans also provide for the cultural, social and economic

well being of people. It is the oceans that make life on earth uniquely sustainable within the solar system. Sustainable development is highly dependent on the wise management of the oceans and coasts based on scientific knowledge.

Governments must work together. The collective effort of all states is required to resolve global issues. Government co-operation at global and regional levels is necessary. We need strong global and regional institutions to support this, and to bring science and policy makers together. The countries whose economies and social structures depend on the ocean must be able to address local problems. For this it is essential that we build the capacity of all countries.

Governments placed the protection and preservation of the oceans and their resources at a high level of priority in Agenda 21 of UNCED.

As the sole UN organization specialised in ocean science and services, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO has many notable achievements over the last decade in support of UNCED:

- support of research into ocean climate and long-term weather variations in co-operation with the World Climate Research Program which allows early forecasting of El Nino events, such as happened in 1997/98;
- the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) has been initiated in concert with companion UN agencies and ICSU, with an initial focus on the open ocean and a fast developing parallel focus on monitoring and forecasting in coastal seas;
- improved systems for exchange and availability of ocean data and information;
- a programme on Integrated Coastal Area Management is focusing attention on many of the high priority environmental problems in coastal areas;
- better knowledge of ocean features, processes and the impacts of human actions on the state of the marine environment;
- strengthened regional mechanisms in ocean sciences and in the capacity of developing countries in marine research and services;
- leadership of the UN 1998 International Year of the Ocean;
- substantial contribution to the UN Ocean Informal Consultative Process.

Much has been achieved. Much remains to be done over the coming years. The Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission affirms its will to:

- act as a focal point to encourage interactions in marine science and observations across relevant bodies of the UN system and other organizations;
- further develop partnership in capacity building in marine science and services at regional and national levels, particularly with developing countries and taking also into account the African Process;

- develop GOOS as an operational system;
- promote the development and implementation of programmes on Integrated Coastal Area Management;
- participate fully in the necessary assessment of the global ocean environment, and periodic reporting on the state of the oceans;
- promote the use of scientific knowledge for management decisions and policy making and facilitate access to this knowledge;
- work to increase public awareness of the importance of the oceans and coasts for sustainable development and the future of humanity.

The Member States of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission ask that the WSSD reaffirm the importance of the oceans for sustainable development; promotes the IOC as the key marine science body of the UN; and encourages governments and funding organizations to provide the resources necessary to implement IOC priorities, including support for IOC activities for marine science capacity building in developing countries.

ANNEX III

ADRESSES AND STATEMENTS

**A. Opening Address by Mr. Marcio Barbosa
Deputy Director-General of the United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural Organization
(UNESCO)**

UNESCO, 10 December 2001, 10.00, Room X

Dr. Su Jilan, Chairperson of IOC,
Distinguished Members of the Executive Council of the IOC
Distinguished delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased and honoured to have this opportunity to address the Extraordinary Executive Council of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO.

I am delighted that UNESCO/IOC is having this extraordinary meeting to debate about a statement addressed to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in September of next year.

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) put into motion many changes related to ocean and coastal management- including the adoption of a number of international agreements on oceans such as Chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and the oceans-related aspects of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. Since that time, too, the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea has come into force, and several related conventions dealing with straddling stocks and deep seabed mining have been adopted.

UNCED also opened the door for substantial new investment by international and national donors and especially the creation of GEF, the Global Environment Facility, which since it was launched in 1991 has contributed substantially to supporting coastal and marine projects and programmes all around the world.

Today, a decade after UNCED, and two decades since the Stockholm conference which led to the creation of UNEP, we want to follow-up what progress has been done the last 10 years and contribute an oceans perspective to the deliberations of governments in the World Summit on Sustainable Development which will be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, on September 2 to 11, 2002. I am happy to note that UNESCO/IOC will be able to arrive to this World Summit with a statement produced as an Intergovernmental organization.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am glad to say, that around the world much work has been done in preparing for the World Summit. Preparatory work at the national level has been progressing on several fronts, involving the establishment of national preparatory committees, national consultations with stakeholders and preparation of national assessments. The UN Secretariat has also invited countries to launch four initiatives to help raise awareness, mobilise support and enhance the sense of ownership of the preparatory process.

The private sector has emerged as a global actor that has a significant impact on environmental trends through its investment and technology decisions. In this regard, governments have a crucial role in creating an enabling environment. The institutional and regulatory capacities of governments to interact with the private sector should be enhanced.

I think that a greater commitment by the private sector should be pursued to engender a new culture of environmental accountability through the application of the 'polluter-pays' principle, environmental performance indicators and reporting, and the establishment of a precautionary approach in investment and technology decisions. This approach must be linked to the development of cleaner and more resource efficient technologies for a life-cycle economy and efforts to facilitate the transfer of environmentally sound technologies.

I would like to conclude that there has emerged a consensus that the Summit in Johannesburg is taking place at a crucial juncture and will be a turning point in moving the global society to a sustainable future. Regional and sub-regional preparatory processes have been moving forward along three tracks - regional and sub-regional intergovernmental preparatory meetings, regional roundtables, and stakeholder consultations. The Conference on Oceans and Coasts of the last week, with its very broad participation, was an important part of that process, and I trust that UNESCO/IOC played a key role in the successful development of that meeting.

In conclusion I would like to say on this opportunity, that I have great confidence in your efforts. UNESCO attaches the highest importance to the work of the IOC, something reflected in the Flagship status that the General Conference recently adopted for the Commission. You are examining matters of the great importance in the course of this meeting. I look forward to hearing the outcome of your deliberations and I wish you a most successful session.

**B. STATEMENT BY HON. REJOICE MABUDAFHASI, MP
DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
Paris, 10 December 2001**

INTRODUCTION

Distinguished participants, I am honoured to deliver this address. Let me take this opportunity to thank the IOC for hosting this Executive Council meeting at this opportune time. Those of you who attended last week's conference will agree with me that it is through such meetings that we are well on our journey to Johannesburg - a journey that we ought to take beyond Johannesburg in a practical and implementable way, for all participating partners to influence not just the environment but directly the quality of life of so many people.

Through initiatives like Rio + 10 and the GPA Intergovernmental Review which I attended the previous week, we are able to determine a meaningful Agenda for Johannesburg.

During the deliberations last week two distinct areas of information emerged: Accomplishments since the Rio Summit and Issues to be addressed to achieve the noble objectives of Agenda 21. Together with this, five overarching themes crystallized.

Before getting into the overarching issues let me briefly describe the Legacy of the 1992 Rio Summit.

The many international agreements promoting sustainable development have been unable to reverse or halt the effects of the globalisation process, which has effectively reinforced global inequality, deepening and widening the rift between the rich and poor.

The root cause of much of the discussion during the week centred on the failure to integrate international systems for trade, finance and investment with the goals of sustainable development. The challenge for the next ten years will be to integrate the priorities of these sectors, and eliminate perceptions that these priorities compete with each other.

Other issues that perpetuate this Rio legacy are:

- The plethora, fragmentation and lack of co-ordination of conventions & institutions;
- The development initiatives are under funded and ineffective;
- Complex ocean and coastal governance systems hinder developing country participation and co-ownership;
- Donor funds are limited and not necessarily in line with country priorities;
- Poor implementation of development targets; and
- Shortcomings in international conventions.

Returning to the second area of discussion, the issues to be addressed to achieve the noble objectives of Agenda 21 are:

- Environmental Protection;
- Resource Conservation and Sustainable Use;
- Socio-Economic and Resource Development;
- Ocean and Coastal Governance;
- Data Management and Information Sharing.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Future sustainable development or management of ocean and coastal resources depends on achieving a level of environmental protection, sufficient to ensure public health and food security. This is especially relevant to developing States where marine industries often dominate coastal economies. It is therefore important that ocean and coastal environments, with their associated biodiversity, be protected from potential threats posed by anthropogenic activities at all scales. Counters to all threats must focus on precautionary measures for pollution prevention and reduction of habitat degradation. In specific cases, designated projects to enhance environmental rehabilitation are required, not least in reversing past losses to key ocean and coastal resources through the recovery of associated biodiversity.

Resource Conservation and Sustainable Use

The world ocean and coastal environments exhibit wide biodiversity and ecological potential, thereby necessitating the greatest possible protection. Such protection is essential for ensuring that a genetically diverse fauna and flora are preserved so as to maximise the potential for sustainable resource development, thereby contributing to alleviating poverty.

To date, the need for economic stability has largely been driven by developed States, which ultimately results in exploitation of ocean and coastal resources in the developing world. This has both limited access to these resources for developing States and has also compromised resource sustainability by encouraging profit-orientated exploitation at the expense of conservatory practices.

Solutions to this issue require development of equitable partnerships between the developed and developing world.

Socio-Economic and Resource Development

Several presentations throughout last week emphasized the link between socio-economic development and the environment. The underlying theme here was finding mechanisms to integrate management in real ways and to strengthen the examples that have begun to show some results.

A key constraint in the sustainable development of ocean and coastal resources has been the extent of prevailing poverty. This has forced many poor developing States to sacrifice their natural environments and resources to provide for some level of health, food and political security.

Ultimately, as a result of the tremendous pressure on our limited resources, there is a need to investigate alternative sustainable livelihood options to sustain our coastal communities.

Ocean and Coastal Governance

The expressed purpose of many international marine, fisheries or coastal agreements is to promote long-term resource sustainability and to ensure global political stability by removing sources of conflict (economic or otherwise). There has been consensus this week, that the complexity and scope of agreements has often prejudiced their implementation. This is especially true for developing countries, which, due to a general lack of capacity or through excessive duplication of function cannot participate fully in these initiatives. This has tended to favour developed states.

There are some current and planned projects to develop capacity. However I wish to urge current negotiations and those to take place over the next few years to appreciate the current levels of capacity, so as to not marginalize developing states further.

Data Management and Information Sharing

A message to take forward to the WSSD, is that the success of global, regional and national actions likely to emanate from the WSSD will be critically dependent on a reliable system of information exchange. This requires recognition of the importance of, and commitment to, information exchange to facilitate appropriate partner initiatives and co-ordination of activities.

In identifying the above five issues, I have tried to comment on the larger, over-arching issues. I am sure that in the fine print there are many more issues, the result of the deliberations of a combination of experts from diverse fields of expertise.

What should be the focus of WSSD?

We must understand that WSSD is about sustainable development, equity, alleviation of poverty and ensuring economic and food security and all the underlying aspects that underpin this concept.

So many times last week as well as at the GPA Intergovernmental Review the previous week, we heard that interventions at the regional level should be encouraged. In many parts of the world, regional initiatives have proved to be successful. Ownership is a key ingredient to success.

Poverty and inequality are the greatest threats to global sustainable development in the twenty first century. I think that all participants would agree, but we would emphasize that this be consciously acknowledged in planning a strategy for this century.

To make serious inroads in addressing inequalities, there must be serious interventions, even paradigm shifts in terms of trade, investment and debt relief.

Governments alone cannot address the myriad - partnerships with business, industry and civil society are critical.

National and regional projects should serve as the delivery agents for such partnerships, so as to encourage ownership. The point that ownership produces the best results has been made several times this week and must not be ignored. The "*African Process*" and the "*New Partnership for Africa's Development*" serve as models of such delivery agents.

What would be the achievements of WSSD next year?

A renewed commitment to Agenda 21. This renewed commitment must take the form of setting in motion definite and practical implementing mechanisms.

We must find ways of implementing a global commitment to eradicate poverty for sustainable development.

WSSD must also find ways to impact on the economic factors that underpin the marginalisation of the developing world, with special reference to trade, finance and investment.

Ultimately the WSSD must produce a Johannesburg Programme of Action with clear commitments, deliverable targets, monitoring mechanisms, definite time frames and resources, which are readily accessible.

We should not forget that sustainable development rests on three related pillars:

- Economic Development;
- Social Development; and
- Environment.

Of course, each of the pillars has subcomponents as the slide illustrates. Oceans and coasts fit into the Environment Pillar.

In conclusion, let us ensure that WSSD will not be just like any other resolution-generating conference, but that concrete deliverable actions with suitable timeframes and achievable objectives will be the outcome of this major global event.

Distinguished participants, there is no doubt that the ocean unites the peoples of the world. We need to be united in our actions and act in unity, so significantly reflected in the theme of the Summit.

PEOPLE; PLANET; PROSPERITY

I thank you

ANNEX IV

UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION **A/56/L.17**

United Nations

A/56/L.17



General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
23 November 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session

Agenda item 30 (a)

Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Croatia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, Mozambique, Namibia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Samoa, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America and Uruguay: draft resolution

Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 49/28 of 6 December 1994, 52/26 of 26 November 1997, 54/33 of 24 November 1999, 55/7 of 30 October 2000 and other relevant resolutions adopted subsequent to the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention")¹ on 16 November 1994,

Recalling also its resolution 2749 (XXV) of 17 December 1970, and considering that the Convention, together with the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 ("the Agreement"),² provides the regime to be applied to the Area and its resources as defined in the Convention,

Emphasizing the universal and unified character of the Convention and its fundamental importance for the maintenance and strengthening of international peace and security, as well as for the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Reaffirming that the Convention sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out and is of strategic importance as the basis for national, regional and global action in the marine sector, and that its integrity needs to be maintained, as recognized also by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,³

¹ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10.

² Resolution 48/263, annex.

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de*

Conscious of the importance of increasing the number of States parties to the Convention and the Agreement in order to achieve the goal of universal participation,

Conscious also that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Convinced of the need, building on arrangements established in accordance with the Convention, to improve coordination at the national level and cooperation and coordination at both intergovernmental and inter-agency levels, in order to address all aspects of oceans and seas in an integrated manner,

Recognizing the important role that the competent international organizations have in relation to ocean affairs, in implementing the Convention and in promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Recalling that the role of international cooperation and coordination on a bilateral basis and, where applicable, within a subregional, interregional, regional or global framework is to support and supplement the national efforts of all States, including coastal States, to promote the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas,

Mindful of the importance of the oceans and seas for the earth's ecosystem and for providing the vital resources for food security and for sustaining economic prosperity and the well-being of present and future generations,

Bearing in mind the contribution that major groups, as identified in Agenda 21, can make to raising awareness of the goal of the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Underlining once again the essential need for capacity-building to ensure that all States, especially developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, are able both to implement the Convention and to benefit from the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, as well as to participate fully in global and regional forums and processes dealing with oceans and law of the sea issues,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,⁴ and reaffirming the importance of the annual consideration and review of developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea by the General Assembly as the global institution having the competence to undertake such a review,

Taking note also of the report on the work of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process ("the Consultative Process") established by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/33 in order to facilitate the annual review by the Assembly of developments in ocean affairs at its second meeting,⁵

Bearing in mind the importance of marine science, through improving knowledge, by sustained research efforts and evaluation of monitoring results, and applying such knowledge to management and decision-making, for eradicating poverty, for contributing to food security, conserving the world's marine environment and resources, helping to understand, predict,

Janeiro,
3-14 June 1992 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigenda), vol.
1: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

⁴ A/56/58 and Add.1.

⁵ A/56/121.

mitigate the effects of and respond to natural events, and for promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas,

Reaffirming the need to achieve the effective application of marine scientific knowledge and technology, through cooperation at the regional and global levels, by ensuring access of decision makers to relevant advice and information, as well as to the transfer of technology and support for the production and diffusion of factual data and knowledge for end-users, as appropriate, taking fully into account socio-economic factors and traditional ecological knowledge,

Emphasizing the urgent need for cooperation at the international level to address the issue of the acquisition, generation and transfer of marine scientific data to assist coastal developing States,

Convinced of the need to develop, where appropriate, a strong regional focus in marine scientific research and technology, through existing regional organizations, arrangements and programmes, so as to ensure the most effective use of the available resources and the protection and preservation of the marine environment, particularly by avoiding duplication and by achieving a holistic approach to the scientific study of the oceans and their resources,

Expressing deep concern once again at the continued increase in the number of incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea, the harm they cause to seafarers, the threats they pose to the safety of shipping and to the other uses of the sea, including marine scientific research, and, consequently, to the marine and coastal environment, which threats are further exacerbated by the involvement of transnational organized crime,

Emphasizing, in this context, the need for the capacity-building and cooperation of all States and relevant international bodies, at both the regional and global levels, as well as the business sectors to prevent and combat piracy and armed robbery at sea,

Recognizing the importance of enhancing the safety of navigation, the need to provide accurate and up-to-date charts of the world oceans in order to promote maritime safety, and the need to build hydrographic capacity, in particular for those States that do not yet have adequate hydrographic services,

Reiterating its serious concern at the increase in illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and recognizing the importance of combating such activities, particularly by strengthening bilateral cooperation, as well as through the relevant regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements, and through the implementation of appropriate enforcement measures,

Expressing its deep concern once again at the degradation of the marine environment, particularly from land-based activities, and emphasizing the need for international cooperation and for a coordinated approach at the national and regional levels to this problem, bringing together the many different economic sectors involved and protecting the ecosystems, and in this context reaffirming the importance of ensuring the full implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,⁶

Reiterating its concern also at the adverse impacts on the marine environment from ships, including pollution, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and by the dumping of

⁶ A/51/116, annex II.

hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, as well as the physical impacts on coral,

Welcoming resolution GC(45)RES/10 adopted on 21 September 2001 by the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency at its forty-fifth regular session, concerning measures to strengthen international cooperation in nuclear, radiation, transport and waste safety, inter alia, those aspects relating to maritime transport safety,

Bearing in mind the World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, and emphasizing the importance, in the preparations for the Summit, of addressing the sustainable development of oceans and seas,

Noting the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 49/28, 52/26 and 54/33, and in this context the expected increase in responsibilities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat in view of the progress in the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") and the anticipated receipt of submissions from States,

I. Implementation of the Convention

1. *Calls upon* all States that have not done so, in order to achieve the goal of universal participation, to become parties to the Convention¹ and the Agreement;²

2. *Reaffirms* the unified character of the Convention;

3. *Calls upon* States to harmonize, as a matter of priority, their national legislation with the provisions of the Convention, to ensure the consistent application of those provisions and to ensure also that any declarations or statements that they have made or make when signing, ratifying or acceding to the Convention are in conformity therewith and, otherwise, to withdraw any of their declarations or statements that are not in conformity;

4. *Encourages* States parties to the Convention to deposit with the Secretary-General charts and lists of geographical coordinates, as provided for in the Convention;

5. *Takes note* of the imminent entry into force of the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks;⁷

II. Capacity-building

6. *Urges* the international community to assist, as appropriate, developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, in the acquisition of data and the preparation of charts or lists of geographical coordinates for publication under articles 16, 22, 47, 75 and 84 of the Convention and in the preparation of information under article 76 and annex II to the Convention;

7. *Calls upon* bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to keep their programmes systematically under review to ensure the availability in all States, particularly in developing States, of the economic, legal, navigational, scientific and technical skills necessary for the full

⁷ *International Fisheries Instruments* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. I; see also A/CONF.164/37.

implementation of the Convention and the sustainable development of the oceans and seas nationally, regionally and globally, and in so doing to bear in mind the rights of landlocked developing States;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the competent international organizations and programmes, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the International Hydrographic Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Meteorological Organization and the World Bank, as well as representatives of regional development banks and the donor community, to review the efforts being made to build capacity as well as to identify the duplications that need to be avoided and the gaps that may need to be filled for ensuring consistent approaches, both nationally and regionally, with a view to implementing the Convention, and to include a section on this subject in his annual report on oceans and the law of the sea;

III. Meeting of States Parties

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to convene the twelfth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention in New York from 16 to 26 April 2002 and to provide the services required;

IV. Settlement of disputes

10. *Notes with satisfaction* the continued contribution of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (“the Tribunal”) to the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with Part XV of the Convention, underlines its important role and authority concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, encourages States parties to the Convention to consider making a written declaration choosing from the means set out in article 287 for the settlement of disputes concerning the interpretation or application of the Convention and the Agreement, and invites States to note the provisions of annexes V, VI, VII and VIII to the Convention concerning, respectively, conciliation, the Tribunal, arbitration and special arbitration;

11. *Recalls* the obligations of parties under article 296 of the Convention, in cases before a court or a tribunal referred to in article 287 of the Convention, to ensure prompt compliance with the decisions rendered by such court or tribunal;

12. *Encourages* States that have not yet done so to nominate conciliators and arbitrators in accordance with annexes V and VII to the Convention, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to update and circulate lists of these conciliators and arbitrators on a regular basis;

V. The Area

13. *Notes with satisfaction* the ongoing work of the International Seabed Authority (“the Authority”), including the issuance of contracts⁸ for exploration in accordance with the Convention, the Agreement and the Regulations on Prospecting and Exploration for Polymetallic Nodules in the Area;

⁸ The contract with the remaining registered pioneer investor is expected to be issued in the very near future.

14. *Notes* the ongoing elaboration of recommendations for the guidance of contractors to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from activities in the Area, and that the Council of the Authority will continue to consider issues relating to regulations for prospecting and exploration for polymetallic sulphides and cobalt-rich crusts in the Area at the next session of the Authority, to be held in Kingston, Jamaica, from 5 to 16 August 2002;

VI. Effective functioning of the Authority and the Tribunal

15. *Appeals* to all States parties to the Convention to pay their assessed contributions to the Authority and to the Tribunal in full and on time, and appeals also to all former provisional members of the Authority to pay any outstanding contributions;

16. *Calls upon* States that have not done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the Tribunal⁹ and to the Protocol on the Privileges and Immunities of the Authority;¹⁰

VII. The continental shelf

17. *Notes with satisfaction* the work of the Commission and its readiness to receive submissions by coastal States regarding the establishment of the outer limits of their continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, and encourages concerned States and relevant international organizations and institutions to consider developing and making available training courses to assist States in the preparation of such submissions;

18. *Takes note* of the decision of the eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention¹¹ that, in the case of a State party for which the Convention entered into force before 13 May 1999, it is understood that the ten-year time period referred to in article 4 of annex II to the Convention shall be taken to have commenced on 13 May 1999;

19. *Encourages* States parties that are in a position to do so to make every effort to make submissions to the Commission within the time period established by the Convention;

20. *Approves* the convening by the Secretary-General of the tenth session of the Commission in New York starting on 25 March 2002, of a duration of three weeks in the event of a submission being filed, or of one week, depending on the workload of the Commission, of the eleventh session from 24 to 28 June 2002, and of the twelfth session from 26 to 30 August 2002;

VIII. Marine science and technology

21. *Stresses* the importance of the issues of marine science and technology and the need to focus on how best to implement the many obligations of States and competent international organizations under Parts XIII and XIV of the Convention, and calls upon States to adopt, as appropriate and in accordance with international law, such national laws, regulations, policies and procedures as are necessary to promote and facilitate marine scientific research and cooperation, especially those relating to granting consent for marine scientific research projects as provided for in the Convention;

⁹ SPLOS/25.

¹⁰ ISBA/4/A/8, annex.

¹¹ SPLOS/72.

22. *Calls upon* States, through national and regional institutions, to ensure that, in respect of marine scientific research conducted pursuant to Part XIII of the Convention in areas over which a coastal State has jurisdiction, the rights of the coastal State under the Convention are respected and that, at the request of the coastal State, information, reports, results, conclusions and assessments of data, samples and research results are made available, and access to data and samples are provided, to that coastal State;

23. *Invites* the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to request its Advisory Body of Experts on the Law of the Sea to work, in close cooperation with the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat and in consultation with relevant regional or subregional organizations as appropriate, on the development of procedures under Part XIII of the Convention;

24. *Invites* the relevant United Nations agencies to continue to promote various ocean science programmes, strengthen the coordination among such programmes and develop rules, regulations and procedures within the framework of the Convention so as to facilitate the effective implementation of the programmes;

25. *Urges* relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop, with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization acting as a focal point, appropriate interactions in the field of marine science with regional fisheries organizations, environmental and scientific bodies or regional centres foreseen by Part XIV of the Convention, and encourages States to establish, where appropriate, such regional centres;

26. *Calls upon* States, through national and regional institutions engaged in marine scientific research, to ensure that the knowledge resulting from marine scientific research and monitoring is made available in a user-friendly data format, especially to developing countries, so that it can be employed by decision makers and resource managers with a view to the effective application of marine research knowledge and technology;

27. *Stresses also* the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans/atmosphere interface and other factors required for an integrated ecosystem-based approach to the management of oceans and coastal areas, including through participation in ocean observing programmes and geographic information systems;

28. *Calls upon* States, through bilateral, regional and international financial organizations and technical partnerships, to continue to strengthen capacity-building activities, in particular in developing countries, in the field of marine scientific research, by, inter alia, training the necessary skilled personnel, providing the necessary equipment, facilities and vessels, and transferring environmentally sound technologies;

IX. Piracy and armed robbery

29. *Urges* all States and relevant international bodies to prevent and combat piracy and armed robbery at sea by adopting measures, including assisting with capacity-building, for prevention; reporting and investigating incidents; and bringing the alleged perpetrators to justice, in accordance with international law; in particular through training seafarers, port staff and enforcement personnel, providing enforcement vessels and equipment and guarding against fraudulent ship registration;

30. *Welcomes* initiatives of the International Maritime Organization and Governments aimed at enhancing international cooperation,

particularly at the regional level, and encourages the development by Governments, based on mutual trust, of a common approach to enforcement, investigation and prosecution in dealing with piracy and armed robbery at sea;

31. *Calls upon* States and private entities concerned to cooperate fully with the International Maritime Organization, including by submitting reports on incidents to the organization and by implementing its guidelines on preventing attacks of piracy and armed robbery;

32. *Urges* States to become parties to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and its Protocol,¹² and to ensure its effective implementation, in particular through the adoption of legislation, where appropriate, aimed at ensuring that there is a proper framework for responses to incidents of armed robbery at sea;

X. Safety of navigation

33. *Invites* the International Hydrographic Organization, in cooperation with other relevant international organizations and interested Member States, to provide the necessary assistance to States, in particular to developing countries, in order to enhance hydrographic capability to ensure in particular the safety of navigation and the protection of the marine environment;

XI. Marine environment, marine resources and sustainable development

34. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Committee on Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations of the International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, and urges States to take, as a matter of priority, all necessary steps to implement it effectively, including through relevant regional and subregional fisheries management organizations and arrangements;

35. *Emphasizes once again* the importance of the implementation of Part XII of the Convention to protect and preserve the marine environment and its living marine resources against pollution and physical degradation, and calls upon all States to cooperate and take measures, directly or through competent international organizations, for the protection and preservation of the marine environment;

36. *Calls upon* States to continue to prioritize action on marine pollution from land-based sources as part of their national sustainable development strategies and programmes, in an integrated and inclusive manner, as a means of implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities,⁶ and takes note of the review by the intergovernmental meeting in Montreal, Canada, from 26 to 30 November 2001;

37. *Calls upon* United Nations agencies and programmes identified in General Assembly resolution 51/189 of 16 December 1996 to continue to fulfil their roles in support of the Global Programme of Action, as well as to consult with Governments, representatives of the private sector, financial institutions and bilateral and multilateral donor agencies to review their involvement in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and to consider, inter alia, what international support is needed to help overcome the obstacles to the preparation and implementation of

¹² International Maritime Organization publication, Sales No. 462.88.12E.

national and local action programmes and how they can participate actively in partnership-building with developing countries for the transfer of the requisite technology in accordance with the Convention and taking into account the relevant parts of Agenda 21, capacity-building and funding for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action;

38. *Calls upon* States to take measures for the protection and preservation of coral reefs and to support international efforts in this regard, in particular the measures outlined in the 1998 Renewed Call to Action of the International Coral Reef Initiative and in decision V/3 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its Fifth Meeting, held at Nairobi from 15 to 26 May 2000;¹³

39. *Emphasizes* the importance of ensuring that adverse impacts on the marine environment are taken into account when assessing and evaluating development programmes and projects;

40. *Once again urges* States to take all practicable steps, in accordance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto, to prevent pollution of the marine environment from ships and, in accordance with the 1972 Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter,¹⁴ to prevent pollution of the marine environment by dumping, and further calls upon States to become parties to and to implement the 1996 Protocol to the 1972 Convention;¹⁵

41. *Urges* States to continue to work, through the International Maritime Organization, on issues relating to the protection of the marine environment from degradation resulting from ship-based activities, including the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens through ships' ballast water, and notes the adoption of the International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships;¹⁶

42. *Encourages* coastal States to enhance their national capacity and establish or improve their marine management systems in order to promote integrated marine management, the protection of the marine environment and ecosystem, and the sustainable development and utilization of marine resources, and invites the relevant agencies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to take effective measures to assist the coastal States in this regard;

XII. Underwater cultural heritage

43. *Takes note* of the adoption by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of the Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage;

XIII. Activities of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

44. *Invites* Member States and others in a position to do so to contribute to the further development of the Hamilton Shirley Amerasinghe Memorial Fellowship Programme on the Law of the Sea established by the General Assembly in its resolution 35/116 of 10 December 1980 and to support the training activities under the TRAIN-SEA-COAST Programme of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat;

¹³ See UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23.

¹⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1046, No. 15749.

¹⁵ IMO/LC.2/Circ.380.

¹⁶ IMO document AFS/CONF.26.

45. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea,⁴ prepared by the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as for the other activities of the Division, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the mandate set forth in resolutions 49/28, 52/26 and 54/33;

46. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to carry out the responsibilities entrusted to him in the Convention and related resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 49/28 and 52/26, and to ensure that appropriate resources are made available to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea for the performance of such responsibilities under the approved budget for the Organization;

XIV. International coordination and cooperation

47. *Reaffirms* its decision to undertake an annual review and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention and other developments relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, taking into account General Assembly resolution 54/33 establishing the Consultative Process to facilitate the review of developments in ocean affairs, and requests the Secretary-General to convene the third meeting of the Consultative Process in New York from 8 to 15 April 2002;

48. *Recommends* that, in view of the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, in its deliberations on the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea at its third meeting, the Consultative Process organize its discussions around the following areas:

(a) Protection and preservation of the marine environment;

(b) Capacity-building, regional cooperation and coordination, and integrated ocean management, as important cross-cutting issues to address ocean affairs, such as marine science and transfer of technology, sustainable fisheries, degradation of the marine environment and safety of navigation;

49. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure more effective collaboration and coordination between the relevant parts of the Secretariat of the United Nations and the United Nations as a whole, in particular in ensuring the effectiveness, transparency and responsiveness of the mechanism for coordination on ocean issues,¹⁷ and also requests the Secretary-General to include in his report specific suggestions on initiatives to improve coordination, in particular at the inter-agency level, in accordance with Assembly resolution 54/33, and encourages all United Nations bodies to help this process by drawing to the attention of the Secretariat and the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination those areas of their work which may, directly or indirectly, affect the work of other United Nations bodies;

50. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of heads of intergovernmental organizations, the specialized agencies and funds and programmes of the United Nations engaged in activities relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, drawing their attention to paragraphs of particular relevance to them, and underlines the importance of their constructive and timely input for the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and of their participation in relevant meetings and processes;

¹⁷ The mechanism for coordination at this time is the Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, the status of which is currently under review as part of the reform of the machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination as a whole.

51. *Invites* the competent international organizations, as well as funding institutions, to take specific account of the present resolution in their programmes and activities, and to contribute to the preparation of the comprehensive report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea;

XV. Trust funds

52. *Recognizes* the importance of the trust funds established by the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/7 for the purpose of, respectively, assisting States in the settlement of disputes through the Tribunal,¹⁸ and assisting developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, in the preparation of submissions to the Commission in compliance with article 76 of the Convention,¹⁹ in defraying the cost of participation of Commission members in the meetings of the Commission,²⁰ and in attending the meetings of the Consultative Process;²¹ and invites States, intergovernmental organizations and agencies, national institutions, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions as well as natural and juridical persons to make voluntary financial or other contributions to these trust funds;

XVI. Fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly

53. *Decides* to devote two days of plenary meetings at the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, on 9 and 10 December 2002, to the consideration of the item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea” and the commemoration of the twentieth year anniversary of the opening for signature of the Convention, and encourages Member States and observers to be represented at the highest possible level;

54. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, including other developments and issues relating to ocean affairs and the law of the sea, in connection with his annual comprehensive report on oceans and the law of the sea, and to provide the report in accordance with the modalities set out in resolution 54/33;

55. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”.

¹⁸ Resolution 55/7, para. 9.

¹⁹ Ibid., para. 18.

²⁰ Ibid., para. 20.

²¹ Ibid., para. 45.

ANNEX V

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