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| <b>Document title</b>  | Second Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue |
| <b>Code</b>            | 3-2  |
| <b>Category</b>        | INF  |
| <b>Agenda Item</b>     | 3 – Regional cooperation on Fisheries & Environment                |
| <b>Submission date</b> | 3.5.2018   |
| <b>Submitted by</b>    | Secretariat  |

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## Background

The second Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies on Accelerating Progress toward the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Sustainable Development Goals was convened by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, from 10 to 13 April 2018. The meeting was organized in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and many other international and regional partners.

The goal of the SOI is to facilitate dialogue to exchange experiences and to identify options and opportunities to enhance cross-sectoral collaboration among Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies, with a view to support their key role in facilitating achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting was attended by approximately 100 participants representing inter alia eight different Regional Seas Organizations from around the world, 13 Regional Fisheries Bodies, Large Marine Ecosystem programmes, United Nations organizations, other international organizations, Governments and institutions.

The meeting was a follow up on the first SOI meeting held in 2016, and it focused on concrete ways to enhance cooperation to improve the overall condition of marine biodiversity. The outcome of the SOI meeting (to be published on the [SOI website](#)) will include a roadmap to enhance cross-sectoral cooperation, synergies for effective delivery and inter-regional sharing of expertise through the SOI Global Dialogue.

The HELCOM Secretariat attended the meeting in Seoul, sharing its knowledge on ecosystem-based maritime spatial planning and harmonized implementation of the IMO MARPOL Convention to limit discharges of sewage and air emissions from ships. The meeting also provided a great opportunity for dialogue with other Regional Seas Organizations, Regional Fisheries Bodies and other stakeholders.

At the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting held in Brussels 6 March 2018, the HELCOM Ministers decided to update the Baltic Sea Action Plan in order to step up efforts to reach the SDGs and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the Baltic Sea. As demonstrated yet again at the SOI meeting, contributions by regional stakeholders such as fisheries bodies will be key to achieving these goals.

## Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information provided.