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<b>Document title</b>	Information on the joint UNEP/EC expert workshop on Regional Ocean Governance
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## Background

On 9-10 November 2015, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Commission (EC) organized a joint expert workshop on Regional Ocean Governance at the UN House in Brussels with key representatives from the international and regional ocean governance organizations including Regional Seas and fisheries Conventions and Instruments. The objective of the workshop was to share the knowledge and lessons learnt from regional ocean governance experiences in different marine regions globally and identify key elements that will inform and facilitate further work on ocean governance at all levels. The meeting was conducted within the framework of a strengthened EC-UNEP Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2015.

The agenda and summary of the workshop are attached to this document.

The input by UNCEP to the EC public consultation on ocean governance can be found at: <http://www.unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/water/regionalseas40/Meetings/UNEP-ECWorkshoponOceanGovernance/tabid/1060722/Default.aspx>.

## Action required

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

## Summary of the

### JOINT UNEP/EC WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE

9-10 November 2015, Brussels

On 9-10 November, The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the European Commission (EC) organized a joint expert workshop on Regional Ocean Governance at the UN House in Brussels with key representatives from the international and regional organizations involved in the oceans and their resources, including Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and Regional Fisheries Bodies. The objective of the workshop was to share the knowledge and lessons learnt from regional ocean governance experiences in different marine regions globally and identify key elements that will inform and facilitate further work on ocean governance at all levels. The meeting was conducted within the framework of a strengthened EC-UNEP Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2015<sup>1</sup>.

Key messages from the discussions:

1. There is an urgent need to strengthen the capacities and effectiveness of existing regional institutional mechanisms worldwide, including the UNEP Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, as important vehicles to implement, monitor and review the UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14<sup>2</sup> and other SDGs related to oceans at national and all other levels. Mainstreaming and implementation of SDG 14 and related SDGs within the existing ocean governance frameworks is crucial. The advantage of a regional approach for SDG implementation is its capacity to facilitate country implementation and harmonization of country actions targeting specific marine ecosystems.
2. It would be useful to complement existing attempts at mapping of regional mechanisms, processes, actors and their mandates in the field of oceans governance.
3. Regional mechanisms should re-invigorate efforts to ensure implementation of existing agreements, as well as strengthen and reinforce cooperation, coordination, communication, cross-fertilization, and sharing of best practices and information across different sectors and geographical areas/management levels. Multiple regional mechanisms have a role to play in the review and follow up of SDG implementation. Ocean specific regional review and follow up mechanisms may be developed through the existing institutional frameworks. Regional institutional frameworks can serve as effective implementation mechanisms for global oceans-related conventions, such as IMO conventions, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Convention on Migratory Species with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as the overarching legal framework within which all regional arrangements as related to Oceans must be made and implemented.
4. Policy interaction among the existing regional frameworks is of importance for a holistic approach to ocean governance.

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<sup>1</sup> EC-UNEP MoU Annex Chapter 4, "Protecting biodiversity and ensuring sustainable management of natural resources".

<sup>2</sup> [Conserve and Sustainably Use Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development;](http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/)  
<http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

5. Oceans governance will benefit from wider and more inclusive engagement of key stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society organizations. This may require innovative approaches such as community based monitoring.
6. Various activities and mandates for oceans governance defined and implemented at national, regional and international levels should be coherent and complementary, contributing collectively to the implementation of SDG 14 and other relevant SDGs.
7. Regional level frameworks should facilitate and coordinate implementation at national level including by strengthening the coherence of institutions and processes.
8. Successful models of cooperation between the regional seas conventions and action plans and regional fisheries bodies can serve as good examples for objective-driven inter-sectoral cooperation; notably the Oslo and Paris Conventions – North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (OSPAR – NEAFC) model started with practical dialogue between the two sectors and resulted mutually supportive work on objectives on for example blue economy, Ecosystem based approach, food security, and climate change.
9. The Ecosystem Approach is a useful underlying principle for operational inter-sectoral cooperation, encompassing all three pillars of sustainable development.
10. Enhanced mapping of human activities and uses in the oceans may be a useful tool to promote inter-sectoral cooperation.
11. Land-based resources use (including Sustainable Consumption and Production) and pollution, as well as linkages between ocean-based and land based-economy merit further consideration in ocean governance.
12. The application of Economic Valuation of Ecosystems and Natural Capital Accounting (according to System of Environmental -Economic Accounting guidelines) provides a useful source of information for ocean governance.
13. Consistency between the ocean-related SDGs and associated targets and existing regional oceans targets, such as targets on Good Environment Status, regional seas Ecological Objectives, etc. should be ensured in their respective implementation processes.
14. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) has demonstrated value added of applying a regional marine approach for sustainable development objectives and may be replicated in other marine regions. Access to ("big") data, transparency and coherence is key to ensure effective monitoring of oceans-related commitments, including the SDGs.
15. There are a number of useful existing tools available for strengthening ocean governance, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), Maritime Spatial Planning (MSP), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as well as capacity building, stakeholder processes and regional and national strategies.
16. Blue economy was mentioned as one of the drivers for a more structured approach to ocean governance, also outside the EU.
17. Existing initiatives and processes to strengthen regional oceans governance, for example in Europe and in Africa, can mutually benefit from closer cooperation and information-sharing among each other.
18. Global arrangements and regional instruments should be mutually reinforcing.



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**UNEP/EC Workshop on  
Regional Ocean Governance**  
Brussels, Belgium  
9 – 10 November 2015

*Provisional Agenda*

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## JOINT UNEP/EC WORKSHOP ON REGIONAL OCEAN GOVERNANCE

9-10 November 2015, Brussels

### Background:

UNEP has the mandate to coordinate regional seas conventions and action plans and administers seven of them worldwide (Caribbean Region, East Asian Seas, Eastern Africa Region, Mediterranean Region, North-West Pacific region, Western Africa Region and Caspian Sea). UNEP assists the regional seas member countries in pursuing regional ocean governance for regional sustainable development, and promotes partnership between/among the RAPs/RSCs, Regional Fishery Bodies, Large Marine Ecosystem mechanisms, regional economic commissions and other sectoral and political mechanisms.

In June 2015, the European Union initiated a public consultation on the topic of international Ocean Governance, which was closed on 15 October 2015.

A set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit, and UN member states are now expected to initiate work towards their implementation. The discussion on Oceans governance therefore needs to take full consideration of the Ocean related SDGs, including SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. Furthermore, the UN General Assembly has adopted a resolution on the development of an international legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on Law of Sea to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. Some of the regional seas have already started working on area-based management or initiated studies on issues relevant to biodiversity in these areas.

UNEP has also promoted green economy in oceans and associated sectors, which can serve as a theoretical input to the current blue economy/growth discussion and to related initiatives in different regions of the world. The European Union has been promoting the blue growth.

In the Mediterranean, the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP), which is one of the regional seas programmes administered by UNEP and to which the EC is a Party, has enjoyed a long standing cooperation with the EC. Particularly, the MAP is implementing the Ecosystem Approach project in synergy with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. MAP has developed a close link with the General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean and Union for the Mediterranean, and has contributed to implementing the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy.

Moreover, oceans governance is identified as one of the priority areas listed under the recently agreed UNEP-EC MoU Annex (paragraph 6, Chapter IV).



Objectives of the joint UNEP-EC workshop on oceans governance:

- To share the experiences from regional ocean governance experiences in different marine regions to contribute to the development of effective ocean governance strategies

Expected outcomes:

- Substantive contribution to the European Commission Communication on International Ocean Governance under preparation ;
- Contribution to a wider ocean governance strategy ;
- Exchange of views on regional governance frameworks, based on work under the regional seas, in particular related to marine spatial planning and monitoring mechanisms; and
- Preparation of a list of joint action by UNEP and European Commission

Provisional Programme of the Workshop:

time	session	responsibilities
<b>9 November 2015</b>		
<b>0900 - 0930</b>	<b>Registration</b>	
<b>0930 – 1000</b>	<b>Opening session: International Ocean Governance: Opening and Welcoming</b>	Ulf Björnholm, Head of the UNEP Liaison Office to the EU Matjaž Malgaj, Head of Unit, DG ENV
0930-0940	Introduction: EU initiative on International Ocean Governance	Haitze Siemers, Head of Unit, DG MARE
0940-0950	Regional seas and international ocean governance	Michele Candotti, Chef de Cabinet, UNEP
0950-1000	Statement: European Commission	Marianne Wenning, Director, Directorate C, DG ENV, EC
<b>1000-1030</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
<b>1030-1245</b>	<b>Ocean governance at national, regional and global levels</b>	Facilitator: Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP
1030-1050	Existing regional level ocean governance frameworks – presentation of the UNEP paper	Julien Rochette, IDDRI
1050-1100	IMO conventions and regional implementation	Fredrik Haag, IMO
1100-1110	Implementation of the MARPOL Convention at EU	Anna Bobo Remijn, DG MOVE

1110-1120	level Regional fisheries bodies and regional ocean governance	Merete Tandstad, FAO
1120-1230	Discussion on the existing regional ocean governance frameworks and their mandates, efficiencies and coverage	
<b>1230-1400</b>	<b>lunch break</b>	
<b>1400-1550</b>	<b>Existing regional level ocean governance frameworks and their cooperation</b>	Facilitator: Matjaž Malgaj, EC
1400-1410	Ocean data for governance, including EBM/MSP	Alejandro Iglesias Campos, UNESCO-IOC
1410-1420	Cooperation between MAP and GFCM	Gaetano Leone/Tatiana Hema, MAP and Abdellah Srour, GFCM
1420-1430	Collective arrangements –OSPAR and NEAFC	Darius Campbell, OSPAR
1430-1550	Discussion on possible models for inter-sectoral ocean governance	
<b>1550-1610</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
<b>1610-1730</b>	<b>SDGs and incorporation of SDGs in regional ocean governance framework</b>	Facilitator: Hans Stielstra, EC
1610-1620	SDG implementation: roles of regional ocean governance	Sebastian Unger, IASS
1620-1630	SDGs and regional seas (results of the discussion at the 17 <sup>th</sup> Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans)	Irina Makarenko, Black Sea Commission
1630-1640	Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy	Gaetano Leone/Tatjana Hema, MAP
1640-1750	Discussion (on possible action of regional ocean governance in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs)	
<b>10 November 2015</b>		
<b>0900-0920</b>	<b>Re-cap from Day 1</b>	Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP
<b>0920-1100</b>	<b>Possible tools for integrated ocean governance</b>	Facilitator: Paulo Nunes, UNEP

0920-0930	Ecosystem approach	Gaetano Leone/Tatjana Hema, MAP
0930-0940	Maritime spatial planning – linkage with MSP/ ICM and MPAs	Monika Stankiewicz, HELCOM
0940-0950	Strategic Environment Assessment within ocean governance	Jihyun Lee, CBD
0950-1100	Discussion on how to use the tools for ocean governance	
<b>1100-1120</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break</b>	
<b>1120-1245</b>	<b>African Ocean Governance</b>	Facilitator: Christine Haffner-Sifakis, UNEP
1120-1135	African Ocean Governance strategy development and initiatives of Nairobi Convention	Dixon Waruinge, Nairobi Convention
1135-1150	Cooperation between regional fisheries bodies and regional seas in West, Central and Southern Africa	Merete Tandstad, CECAF
1150-1300	Discussion on the inter-regional cooperation on ocean governance	
<b>1300-1430</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>	
<b>1430-1600</b>	<b>Linking with global governance discussion</b>	Facilitator: Matthias Leonhard Maier, EC
1430-1440	International Process of biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction (through video conference)	Alice Hicuburundi, DOALOS
1440-1450	Regional/global interaction in the BBNJ context	Seppo Nurmi, DG MARE
1450-1500	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and marine litter	Takehiro Nakamura, UNEP
1500-1600	Discussion on linkage with global governance discussion	
<b>1600-1645</b>	<b>Coffee/tea break and formulation of draft conclusions</b>	
<b>1645-1730</b>	<b>Conclusions of the workshop</b>	Facilitator: Paulo Nunes, UNEP and Matjaž Malgaj, EC
<b>1730-1740</b>	<b>Closure of the workshop</b>	Matjaž Malgaj, Haitze Siemers EC and UNEP