



Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission

Heads of Delegation
Helsinki, Finland, 18-19 June 2019

HOD 56-2019

Document title	High-Level Segment during HELCOM 41-2020
Code	2-5
Category	CMNT
Agenda Item	2 - Update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan
Submission date	28.05.2019
Submitted by	Executive Secretary
Reference	Outcome of HELCOM 40-2019, para 7.2

Background

As agreed in the BSAP update strategic plan, HELCOM 41-2020 (4-5 March 2020) will include a High-Level Segment. It is proposed that it will focus on the update of the Baltic Sea Action Plan, and will be held in a debate style and concluded with an outcome document.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to consider and agree on the topics for the High-Level segment of HELCOM 41-2020.

Initial ideas for topics of the High-Level Segment (could be combined or form separate topics for a debate)

1) Review progress and agree on the updated BSAP structure

The Meeting could be informed of and discuss the progress on the BSAP update, including maintaining the same high ambition level of the current BSAP, as mandated by the 2018 HELCOM Ministerial Meeting.

The Contracting Parties and Observers could exchange views on which actions and measures should be strengthened, or which potential new actions and measures should be considered for the updated BSAP.

A proposal for the amended structure of the updated BSAP will be finalized for endorsement by HOD 57-2019 (December 2019). The proposal will consist of the goals, ecological objectives and management objectives. (cf. document 2-4). The High-Level segment could adopt the structure of the BSAP.

2) UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2020-2030

HELCOM 40-2019 approved the proposal to develop a HELCOM science agenda, concomitantly with the update of the BSAP. The agenda is to outline existing and foreseen HELCOM regional science needs. The development of the agenda will be the opportunity to provide regional input to the BANOS CSA process.

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Meeting further agreed that the science agenda will function as a good contribution to support processes under the UN Decade of Ocean Science and pointed out that HELCOM could make a voluntary commitment on contributing to the UN Decade of Ocean Science for next UN Ocean Conference in June 2020.

The High-Level Segment could a) elaborate on what Contracting Parties could do to have the HELCOM science plan implemented and b) highlight concrete policy and implementation milestones that should be supported by the plan/can be foreseen to be achieved with the help of the Plan. The agreement to develop the science plan and these two elements could form a HELCOM voluntary commitment to the UN Conference, which could be further developed and detailed while finalizing the BSAP.

3) HELCOM voluntary commitments to the 2020 UN Ocean Conference

HELCOM 41-2019 agreed that the update of the BSAP to support implementation of SDGs will be a HELCOM commitment to the next UN Ocean Conference. The Meeting suggested that another HELCOM commitment (apart the one on the UN Decade for Ocean Science) could include cooperation and sharing experiences in carrying out holistic assessments and implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan including the analysis of sufficiency of measures with other Regional Seas Conventions.

The High-Level Segment could agree on concrete text proposals for the HELCOM voluntary commitments.