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INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEETING ON THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION
FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

First meeting

Montreal, Canada, 26-30 November 2001

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION, 1995-2001

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to paragraph 77 of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) should, inter alia, convene periodic intergovernmental meetings to review progress on implementation of the Programme of Action.
2. In response to UNEP Governing Council decision 20/19B, the Executive Director of UNEP convened the Expert Group Meeting¹ to Prepare the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting on Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. The Expert Group Meeting was held in The Hague from 26 to 28 April 2000.
3. The Expert Group Meeting recommended, inter alia, that the reporting process should be an integral component of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action; that emphasis should be placed on information exchange and questions should be posed in such a way as to elicit information rather than to produce a comprehensive assessment report; that the reporting process should assist Governments and the international community in advancing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action; and that national and regional reports should incorporate indicative examples reflecting both successes achieved and barriers encountered in implementing the Programme.

* UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/1.

¹ See document UNEP/GPA/EG.1/8.

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4. The Expert Group Meeting also supported the proposal of the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office that the review process should focus on five main areas: binding and non-binding agreements at the national and regional levels; voluntary agreements involving the private and public sectors; capacity-building; innovative financing and use of economic instruments; and sharing experiences through reporting and through the further development of the Clearing-House Mechanism.
5. To facilitate the review process, the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office developed a reporting format, in line with the above recommendations, which requested Governments, regions and stakeholders to report on initiatives taken, barriers encountered and opportunities identified in implementing the Global Programme of Action.
6. The Global Programme of Action underlines the importance for States of providing regular progress reports on their efforts to implement the Programme. As it is part of a non-binding agreement, it contains no mandatory reporting requirements. Governments, regions and stakeholders which have submitted reports have done so on a voluntary basis to share experiences and expertise with others. In keeping with the recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting, the reports do not seek to provide comprehensive overviews of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels. Rather, the reports highlight innovative and interesting examples that could be replicated elsewhere.
7. This review identifies some major achievements, some barriers encountered and opportunities distilled from the reports received up to 15 August 2001. It highlights a few representative examples of successful initiatives undertaken by Governments and other stakeholders at the local, national, regional and global levels. The accomplishments reported give an indication of how much progress has been made in implementing the Global Programme of Action at the various levels. Together with document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3, which reports on the activities of the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office during the period 1996-2001, this document provides an account on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action since its adoption in 1995.
8. A comprehensive compilation and analysis of the reports received, including those received after 15 August 2001, will be made available at the Intergovernmental Review Meeting as a background document². This will be an important source of information on experiences in implementing the Global Programme of Action. Also, all reports are available on the Global Programme of Action Clearing-House Website at www.gpa.unep.org. Governments, regions, stakeholders and international organisations are invited to continue to share their experiences and expertise in implementing the Global Programme of Action and also to submit reports, should they not have done so, preferably before the Intergovernmental Review Meeting.
9. The Review Meeting is urged to consider the reported barriers, opportunities, and accomplishments in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action. Specifically, it is urged to consider what action needs to be taken at the local, national, regional and global levels in order to address the barriers and opportunities identified in the reports and also how the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office can help facilitate such action.

II. MAIN CONCLUSIONS

10. Based on the reports received so far, we can conclude that the Global Programme of Action has gained considerable impetus over the last five years, particularly since the establishment and full staffing of the Global Plan of Action Coordination Office in The Hague. Progress has been achieved to varying degrees in the various areas. If we are to make a fair assessment of the progress achieved, we should note that implementing the Global Programme of Action is an iterative process in which each step builds upon the one before and in which the guidance provided by the Global Programme of Action is continuously revisited and

² UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/INF/10.

refined, leading to incremental action to protect coastal and marine environments from land-based sources of pollution and resource degradation.

11. In the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, particular progress has been achieved in identifying problems and the action required to address them at both the national and regional levels, and in furthering the objectives of regional cooperation. These objectives includes the identification and assessment of problems; establishment of priorities for action; identification of management approaches; and identification of strategies to mitigate and remedy adverse impacts of land-based activities. Also, considerable progress has been achieved in developing legally binding agreements on land-based activities at the regional level in two regions.

12. There has been somewhat less progress in mobilizing financial resources, and in capacity-building at the national level. Progress was weaker yet in the areas of mobilizing activities, exchanging experience and expertise at the national and regional levels, and in developing the necessary institutional arrangements, particularly arrangements for coordination between sectors and sectoral institutions at the national level.

13. In ranking the priorities assigned to the various Global Programme of Action marine pollution source categories, it is obvious that most reporting countries give top priority to the source category "sewage", followed by "nutrients," "oils", "heavy metals" and "litter" in that order. This is in accordance with the priorities identified in regional workshops of Government-designated experts held between 1996 and 1999 under the auspices of the Coordination Office and within the context of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. The reports contained little information about achievements in the area of physical alterations to and destruction of habitats, though this source category was singled out for priority action at the regional workshops.

14. Many of the challenges which the Global Programme of Action has met since its inception have been faced by almost all Governments that reported on barriers to effective implementation. Such barriers include limited public and political awareness of the degradation of the marine environment attributable to land-based activities; a lack of appropriate legislation and enforcement mechanisms; inadequate capacity at all levels of government; and a lack of financial resources.

15. All countries reported on the development of new instruments for environmental protection. These varied from general environmental legislation to specific regulations controlling discharges and introducing environmental taxes, environmental quality criteria and emission standards. An increase in the use of environmental impact assessments and in reliance on coastal management practices is also evident from the reports. Practically all land-based activities are targeted to varying degrees by these new instruments. Among the most targeted sectors of land-based activities are "chemical industry" and "water management", followed by "urban development" and "agriculture". Tourism, aquaculture, harbours, mining and road transport also received attention in some countries or regions. However, very little information has been reported as to the effectiveness and the efficiency with which land-based activities were addressed by those various instruments.

16. Generally speaking, the success and the degree of implementation of the Global Programme of Action in a country depends on the availability of a strong and coordinated institutional structure, including a viable national programme of action on land-based activities, and on the availability of resources both human and financial. In some cases, over and above the traditional approaches to addressing land-based activities, innovative initiatives which altered normal practice were successfully introduced.

17. A number of experiences in the area of municipal wastewater management showed that public-private partnerships and voluntary agreements involving the private sector can improve the quality of sanitation services while protecting the coastal and marine environment from pollution from domestic and urban wastewater discharges. Public-private partnerships also proved to be useful, in some cases, in effectively mobilizing new and additional resources and in advancing government action in the field of policy formulation, including regulation and legislation and the setting of goals and targets.

18. Funding for projects in all areas pertaining to the Global Programme of Action remains the main barrier to implementing it. Very little progress was reported on new and additional funding or on the use of innovative or non-conventional ways and means to fund implementation at the national and regional levels. Financial arrangements with international financing institutions for protecting the marine environment from land-based activities have been used effectively in a number of cases to enhance Governments' efforts in implementing the Global Programme of Action at the national and regional levels. However, support for the Global Programme of Action has not been mainstreamed in the programme of work in the World Bank portfolio, nor has it been made an explicit part of the funding requirements: the objectives and approaches of the Global Programme of Action have not been taken into consideration in the allocation of funds. This may be indicative of a lack of mainstreaming of the objectives of the Global Programme of Action in the work programmes of other financial institutions also.

III. BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED

19. The barriers to effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action reported to the Coordination Office in the national and regional reports submitted by Governments and the regional bodies concerned can be grouped into four main clusters: financial and economic barriers; technical barriers; managerial and institutional barriers; and legal and policy barriers. Limited capacities at the local, national and regional levels are important in all of these. Also, the reports show that the more traditional "command and control" approaches were often predominant in Governments' views on how to deal with the barriers to addressing land-based activities.

20. The financial and economic barriers are principally: inadequate or non-existent investment in marine environmental protection; inadequate or ineffective allocation of funds for municipal wastewater treatment; and Best Available Technology (BAT) that is either very or even prohibitively expensive for developing countries.

21. The most commonly reported technical barriers are a lack of technical capability and trained personnel, a lack of awareness of and scientific knowledge about problems resulting from land-based activities among policy-makers and stakeholders; a lack of understanding or awareness among the public concerning the impact of their activities on the marine environment; the use of outdated production techniques that result in excessive discharges of wastewater that do not meet environmental standards, and a lack of suitable monitoring equipment.

22. Most of the managerial and institutional barriers reported by Governments involve a lack of coordination and integration, at the national level, in the development and management of the coastal zone and its resources. The high concentrations of population, industry and transport links along narrow coastal strips and the intense interactions between competing and often conflicting development activities make renewable resource systems in the marine environment and coastal areas particularly vulnerable to degradation. Here, the general lack of comprehensive land-use planning or enforcement is a fundamental barrier. A lack of information on which to base decision-making, generally low managerial skill levels and a lack of specifically environmental management skills in private enterprises have also been reported as important barriers. Also, low or non-existent levels of public participation in marine environmental management were also reported as a barrier to making such management effective.

23. The legal and policy barriers are attributable mainly to the relatively low priority given by some countries to environmental conventions, treaties or framework agreements: Governments are either not convinced of the need for legally binding instruments to address land-based activities, or their commitment to tackling pollution from those activities is more or less inadequate. In some other countries, even where environmental legislation and regulations exist a major barrier is poor or absent enforcement, which makes them largely ineffective. A few reports indicated that the legislation on land-based activities was either too general or too outdated to address specific or current problems from those activities.

24. Several reports mentioned lack of coordination between agencies and sectoral authorities at various levels of government as a policy barrier because legislation covering environmental issues may involve various organizations, for example, in relation to enforcement and compliance. Another important barrier - which was pointed to in some reports as a key barrier - is a lack of political will, determination or initiative on the part of Government, mostly but not only in developing countries. Many developing countries, for legitimate reasons, pay much more attention to economic development issues, with environmental protection taking a back seat.

IV. OPPORTUNITIES IDENTIFIED

25. Several opportunities were identified with the potential to instigate and support effective action to address negative impacts of land-based activities and enhance the effectiveness of measures taken in that respect. A few examples of the opportunities that were highlighted in the reports received so far are given below.

26. The introduction and adoption of Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) was viewed by several of the reporting countries as an important policy step towards implementing the Global Programme of Action at the national level. ICAM covers all activities and discharges along the coastal zone and it includes a participatory planning process, establishes priorities for action and supports all stages of developing and implementing national programmes of action. It was noted also that establishing linkages between management of river basins and management of the marine environment offers further opportunities.

27. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process also represents an opportunity, particularly in areas where planning is lacking. Environmental appraisal committees, particularly when their membership includes representation from a wide cross-section of agencies which evaluate EIAs, can offer a tremendous opportunity for increasing awareness in key government agencies about environmental issues.

28. The initiation and implementation of major national projects on municipal wastewater management, and the participation of the private sector through public-private partnerships, have proved to be significant opportunities that can support effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action. Involving the private sector in water supply and sanitation and developing long-term concessions for providing these services have shown encouraging results in several countries in several regions.

29. Increased recreational use of water and nature is in itself an opportunity for increasing awareness of the importance of clean water and for providing business opportunities (particularly in tourism). By swaying opinion amongst policy-makers and investors it increases the likelihood of investments being allocated to the restoration and protection of bodies of water and the natural environment, and to sustainable waste management.

30. It was mentioned also that the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development, to be held in South Africa in 2002, could offer a unique opportunity to raise political awareness about all environmental issues, including the impacts of land-based sources and activities on the marine environment.

V. ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS INDICATORS OF PROGRESS

A. Binding and non-binding agreements at the national and regional levels

31. The development and adoption of legally binding agreements at both the regional (regional conventions and protocols) and the national levels (national legislation, administrative rules and standards and so on) are important elements in the process of environmental protection. Binding agreements reflect

the commitment of Governments to adopting policies and taking the necessary steps to address the issue of land-based activities, and increase the likelihood of enforcement and compliance.

32. In this connection, the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has prepared an overview³ of binding (“hard-law”) and non-binding (“soft law”) agreements in support of the implementation of the Global Programme of Action in all 17 Regional Seas regions.

33. The introduction of non-binding agreements at the national level (such as national strategies or national programmes of action) or at the regional level (for example, through regional programmes of action) is as important as binding agreements for promoting regulatory policies and protective measures, including those taken by local Governments and communities, and for enhancing the capacity to carry out such policies and sustain such measures. Progress has been achieved in applying both binding and non-binding agreements in order to implement the Global Plan of Action.

1. Binding agreements

34. Almost all reporting countries have provided details on one or more legally binding agreements at the national level, such as national legislation or regulations, or standards used as management tools. These instruments deal with land-based activities and control emissions or effluents that impact the marine environment and associated water bodies in a particular country. Some countries have also passed Coastal Area Management legislation to control future or ongoing development activities in coastal areas and to ensure the sustainable and wise use of coastal areas and resources.

35. In some countries, the reports showed that the general framework for environmental management is very comprehensive, covering every conceivable aspect of the environment, such as the geosphere, the hydrosphere, the atmosphere and material and immaterial values such as social and cultural components.

36. At the regional level, an important achievement in connection with the Global Programme of Action was the successful development and negotiation of three legally binding agreements. The first of these, the revised Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea, was adopted in 1996. The second, the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region, was adopted in 1999. The third, the draft Convention for the Protection and Sustainable Management of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific, was endorsed by high-level, Government-designated experts in August 2001 and is expected to be adopted at a Conference of Plenipotentiaries in late 2001 or early 2002 (see also document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3).

37. Seven Regional Seas are now covered by legally binding protocols or detailed regional legal regimes on land-based sources or activities: Wider Caribbean (CAR/RCU), Mediterranean (MEDU), South East Asia Pacific (CPPS), Black Sea (BSEP), Kuwait (ROPME), North East Atlantic (OSPAR) and Baltic (HELCOM).

38. The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), adopted by the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in May 2001, is a positive development for the Global Programme of Action. The POPs Convention directly addresses one of the nine source categories by seeking to prevent the adverse effects of the various POPs at all stages of their life cycle. Similarly, the 1998 Rotterdam Convention on Prior Informed Consent Procedures for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade is an important step towards implementing the actions at the global level recommended in Chapter IV of the Global Programme of Action.

³ UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/INF/2.

2. Non-binding agreements

39. Since the adoption of the Global Programme of Action in 1995, UNEP and its Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, in association with other partners, have been supporting or initiating regional efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action at the regional level. In the beginning those support activities consisted in convening and following-up a series of regional workshops of Government-designated experts and in preparing regional programmes of action, in the form of non-binding agreements, to address land-based activities. Varying degrees of progress have been achieved through these regional efforts, which are detailed in document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/INF/2.

40. The Global Programme of Action requests States, in accordance with their policies, priorities and resources, to develop or review national programmes of action within a few years. To date, at least 13 countries (including countries in Africa, Asia, North America, South America, and West Asia) have developed or are in the course of developing national programmes of action (further details are given in document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3). The available information shows that additional cross-sectoral and intersectoral action in the coming years will be needed to fulfil the objectives of Chapter II of the Global Programme of Action, which require action at the national level.

41. At the regional level, regional programmes of action are important implementation tools, supporting countries' compliance with and fulfilment of their obligations under regional agreements or protocols on land-based activities. Details of the development and implementation of regional programmes of action in 12 out of 17 regions are given in document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3. For the remaining five Regional Seas, States have still to decide whether they wish to establish regional programmes of action or to proceed with addressing land-based activities on the basis of existing legal and institutional arrangements. Further support action will be required to facilitate the preparation of regional programmes of action in regions that wish to establish and adopt them.

B. Voluntary agreements and the involvement of the private sector

42. Voluntary action may take the form of commitments by individual companies or groups of private entities, particularly in the industrial sector. Examples include codes of conduct adopted unilaterally at the national or international level, agreements between stakeholders on environmental performance targets and the establishment of effective self-regulatory mechanisms. Voluntary initiatives of this kind support existing regulatory measures and environmental policy instruments, they do not replace them. Voluntary initiatives by the private sector have proven effective in facilitating the implementation of environmental policies and management practices.

43. Several national and regional reports submitted to the Coordination Office showed that noteworthy progress had been achieved. In the East Asian Seas Region, the role of the private sector in the area of municipal wastewater treatment has been growing, with some indications of success. Several countries have chosen to transfer the provision of sanitation services to private operators. For Governments, this is an alternative to a State-managed system and a response to the problems of meeting urgent needs and keeping up with the rapid pace of urban, industrial and commercial development. In many East Asian countries, private enterprises are obliged to build facilities to treat effluent to a required standard before discharging it into public sewers. Industries with similar needs are encouraged to build common facilities for wastewater treatment. The State is required to monitor the performance of these enterprises.

44. Similarly, in the South Asian Seas Region, a new partnership, the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility, has attracted wide support from the public, and also financial support from the Asian Development Bank. It is one of the largest regional initiatives for promoting public-private partnerships.

45. Within the context of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development has set up a working group on industry in an effort to develop a dialogue with key industrial associations in the region. The aim is to encourage industries in the Mediterranean countries to adopt pollution prevention and eco-efficiency approaches and to circulate information to their members in support of the Mediterranean Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities.

46. In the Arctic Region, following the development and adoption of the Russian National Programme of Action for the Arctic, good prospects exist for private sector/business involvement through a Partnership Conference. The implementation of this National Programme of Action is being supported by the Arctic Council's programme for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) and the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Seas (ACOPS) through the provision of technical, scientific and financial assistance. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is financing the first phase of implementation and partnership-building.

47. At the national level, a project in Sri Lanka for the relocation and modernization of tanneries is a unique socio-economic partnership with the private sector promoted by Government (Ministry of Industries). The Government, the private sector and the donor community are jointly funding the project. Amongst the results of the project will be the construction of treatment facilities in the form of a common effluent plant that meets all discharge standards; the re-use of the treated effluent; and the establishment of a safe landfill for the solid waste.

48. Several projects to implement the Global Programme of Action at the regional level have been reviewed and the lessons to be learned have been distilled, particularly with regard to political structure or form of convention; the methodological approaches required, such as strategic action planning, setting regional emission standards, and identifying hot-spots; and the need for stakeholder involvement. In addition, these regional projects were assessed on how well they instigated effective national action to address land-based activities. Regional approaches to implementing the objectives of the Global Programme of Action and the lessons learned from those regional projects are described in document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/INF/5.

C. Capacity-building

49. Building national and regional capacities is crucial to the successful, effective implementation of the Global Programme of Action. Several of the regional reports, and some reports by partner organizations, give specific examples of useful and promising initiatives in this area.

50. The initiatives reported varied in objective and scope, from initiatives focusing on a specific source category or specific target group to initiatives addressing a wider range of substances or target audience. Also, most of the capacity-building activities were undertaken in the context of a regional capacity-building initiative, or a project or programme with a specific component or components aimed at enhancing the technical and/or institutional capacity to address one or more of the Global Programme of Action source categories.

51. The capacity-building initiatives at regional level undertaken in the interests of the Strategic Action Programme of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) are exemplary, providing for regional "Training of Trainers" activities in the area of technical information and advice on the environmentally sound operation of sewage treatment facilities. In these training sessions, modern training techniques are employed and a training package is given to the trainees at the end of each session. The experience gained from the first series of sessions will be used in a second regional training course for practitioners from Mediterranean countries. Also, a number of national training courses for operators of sewage treatment plants are planned for 2001-2003. These national training courses are to be given by staff trained at the regional courses.

52. Activities using the same “training of trainers” approach are planned in the areas of best environmental practices and clean production techniques for priority target industries in the region. Through the Clean Production Regional Activity Centre, based in Barcelona, Spain, the Mediterranean Action Plan is currently assisting businesses in applying cleaner production techniques, with priority to pollution prevention at source and the minimization of waste flows.
53. Through the Mediterranean Action Plan, UNEP is also pursuing an innovative initiative to build regional capacities in the area of compliance with and enforcement of legislation for the control of land-based pollution. This is being undertaken in cooperation with the World Health Organization and the International Network for Environmental Compliance and Enforcement with the aim of establishing an informal regional network for exchanging information on regional environmental protection and on networks of professionals involved in compliance issues.
54. In the West and Central Africa Region, the work undertaken under the Gulf of Guinea Large Marine Ecosystem Project (GOG-LME) has contributed considerably to building the capacities of the participating countries in areas directly related to the Global Programme of Action, particularly with respect to waste minimization and management. For example, the marine debris/solid waste monitoring activities on Cameroon’s beaches have increased the monitoring capacities of that country and yielded information on the types and quantities of waste relating to major activities such as tourism and fisheries.
55. Another innovative capacity-building initiative has been taken by the Global Programme of Action Coalition for the Gulf of Maine (GPAC) in the United States of America, and aims to provide networking and capacity-building amongst communities involved in environmental monitoring in the Gulf of Maine watershed through the Coastal Network of the Gulf of Maine. The initiative’s products include a database of monitoring activities, additional monitoring protocols and several other capacity-building, networking activities.
56. The experience of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) in promoting and building national and regional capacities in the Baltic Sea Area is also worth mentioning. The work is being undertaken mainly through the HELCOM Programme Implementation Task Force and the Monitoring and Assessment Group. The activities include technical workshops, training programmes, guideline development and intercalibration and quality assurance procedures for stakeholders at the national, municipal and local levels.
57. The capacity-building initiatives implemented in the East Asian Seas Region by UNEP and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) through the GEF-funded Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) have been particularly successful. One such initiative is the Malacca Straits project, which has been reported as successful in providing a transparent and reliable mechanism to bring together scientists, geographers, engineers, economists and decision-makers from the three littoral States of the Malacca Straits in partnership on the issues, priorities and required actions to manage and protect that sub-regional sea area. The initiative was also successful in putting together a multidisciplinary, multisectoral team of stakeholders from the States, which are now well equipped to proceed with the further development and implementation of the action plans for the Straits. Other capacity-building projects within this same PEMSEA framework include demonstration sites for developing, testing and implementing Integrated Coastal Management and several other projects on providing the authorities in the area with sustainable mechanisms for preventing and managing marine pollution off their coasts.
58. The full involvement of non-governmental organizations in capacity-building for the Global Programme of Action is essential. The International Ocean Institute (IOI) is offering several opportunities for capacity-building relevant to the Global Programme of Action. Several IOI Operational Centres give courses for local and regional authorities, on Integrated Coastal Management and on land-based sources and activities and economic and legal frameworks for addressing them. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has developed a guidance document for non-governmental organizations on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, whereas Greenpeace is assisting local non-governmental organizations in

analysing the environmental and social risks posed by certain aquaculture developments, and in building local capacities in support of sustainable alternatives to monoculture activities.

59. Further information on capacity-building efforts in support of the Global Programme of Action is given in documents UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3 and UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/INF/10.

D. Innovative financing and use of economic instruments

60. In the sections dealing with financial resources, the Global Programme of Action recognizes that mobilizing financial resources is an indispensable foundation for the development and implementation of national and regional programmes to protect the marine environment from land-based activities. It is essential, therefore, for innovative financing mechanisms to be identified and explored. Opportunities include direct international financing under bilateral or multilateral agreements, and loans from regional development banks and other financial institutions.

61. Reports from several countries in the Caribbean, Latin America, Europe, Africa and Asia contain information about methods of raising funding, such as user charges, polluter charges, local and national taxes imposed on the use of certain products and fees for certain tourism activities and also on financial incentives such as tax relief on certain favourable activities. Funding by development banks and grants from foundations, in addition to national funding is commonly used in those regions to support Global Programme of Action activities. Apart from State funding, other forms of financial arrangements such as grants and concessionary assistance, multilateral loans and export credits were used. The information from the Baltic Sea Region exemplified the way that the countries in a region use various economic instruments, both State and non-State.

62. Nevertheless, the reports received by the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office provide very little information on the use of innovative financing. One country in Latin America reported on the introduction of a tax for municipal wastewater treatment that is set as a function of household income: households with the lowest incomes enjoy free service while higher-income households pay a greater share of the costs.

63. For the South Asian Seas region, it was reported that financial support for projects to protect the coastal and marine environment from land-based activities comes mainly as grants from bilateral or multilateral donors. Such funding was provided both to governmental and non-governmental sectors in the member countries in the region and was helpful in implementing projects relevant to the Global Programme of Action and also the Regional Programme of Action.

64. At the global level, the World Bank, together with its International Finance Corporation, emerges as a potential key player in activities of relevance to the Global Programme of Action because of its wide experience of innovations in financing. A study commissioned by the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office showed that in over 165 projects world wide in the World Bank portfolio various types of innovative financial arrangements were used. Some of these innovative approaches were used in several projects, including projects concerning the Aral Sea, the Baltic, the Black Sea, the Caspian, the Wider Caribbean, the Gulf of Aqaba, the Indian Ocean, the Mediterranean, the Mesoamerican Reefs, the Nile Basin, the Red Sea and the Senegal River Basin. The study was prepared for a joint World Bank/UNEP workshop on promoting sustainable financing for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (The Hague, 9-11 July 2001). The study, and the recommendations from the workshop concerning innovative financial mechanisms, can be found in document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/INF/7.

65. Several regional and national projects implementing the Global Programme of Action receive financial assistance from GEF for their incremental costs. Document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/INF/6 gives details of these projects.

E. Sharing of experiences through reporting and the further development of the Clearing-House Mechanism

66. Mobilizing and exchanging experience and expertise of relevance to the Global Programme of Action, which includes facilitating effective scientific, technical and financial cooperation as well as capacity-building, is an essential component of the Programme itself. States have therefore agreed to cooperate in the development of the Global Programme of Action Clearing-House Mechanism as the key to facilitating such exchanges and cooperation and hence to furthering the objectives of the Programme. A summary of the progress achieved and possible ways forward can be found in document UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/INF/9.

67. The submission by Governments, regional bodies and partner organizations of reports on their implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting is an important contribution to the further development of the Global Programme of Action Clearing-House Mechanism.

68. One related initiative which was reported is the European regional network on water, EUROWATERNET, established by the Finish Environmental Institute in cooperation with 13 regional environment centres in Europe. EUROWATERNET operates in support of certain issues of relevance to the Global Programme of Action and is based on the current national monitoring networks of the European countries. It is designed to provide information on water quality and quantity at the European level, and will be developed in the future to meet the requirements of the European Union Water Framework Directive.

F. Concluding remarks

69. The information in this document is designed to give a bird's-eye view of the national, regional and stakeholder reports received during the preparation of the First Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities. The full reports are available on the Global Programme of Action Clearing-House Website and an extended summary will be made available.

70. UNEP takes this opportunity to thank all those that submitted contributions.
