

## **SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

**26 to 30 November 2001, Montreal, Canada**

*This 2<sup>nd</sup> Announcement, after further consultation and review, refines the preliminary proposals made in the 1<sup>st</sup> Announcement with regard to focus and organization. A draft annotated provisional agenda and workplan will be circulated with the 3<sup>rd</sup> Announcement.*

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) was adopted by 108 Governments and the European Commission in November 1995 at an Intergovernmental Conference in Washington DC, USA. The GPA targets major threats to the health, productivity and biodiversity of the marine and coastal environment resulting from human activities on land. The GPA proposes an integrated, multi-sectoral approach, premised on serious commitment for action at all levels: local, national, regional and global.

At the request of the Governing Council of UNEP (Decision 20/19 of 1999), an Expert Meeting was convened on 26-28 April 2000 in The Hague, the Netherlands, to prepare for the 2001 Intergovernmental Review Meeting (IGR). The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office is implementing the preparatory activities as defined in the expert meeting report<sup>1</sup>. The IGR will be hosted by the Government of Canada in Montreal, 26-30 November 2001.

**Purpose:** To mainstream the GPA, engage support and enlist high-level commitment in order to give a substantial impetus to the implementation of the GPA through:

- Defining realistic targets, activities and responsibilities;
- Devising feasible financial, institutional and technological arrangements;
- Securing commitments from *key partners* – Governments, international and regional governmental and non-governmental organizations, including the UN organisations, Regional Seas and Convention secretariats, the private sector, international financing institutions, regional banks and commissions, civic society and other major groups.

**Strategy/key issues:** Examine progress to date; ensure full participation of concerned partners; seek policy advice and endorsement for new approaches, practices and procedures from high-level government officials; and turn them into realistically and innovatively financed work programmes for GPA partners, based on the preparatory work conducted by the Regional Seas and other key partners.

It is proposed that the discussion will focus on two main issues, central to mainstreaming the GPA:

- Improving the governance structure relating to the implementation of the GPA; and
- Levering in the necessary resources for implementing the GPA

Discussions on the above issues could centre on how the Regional Seas could enhance their role on the implementation of the GPA, as "regional leaders", and how that might facilitate obtaining additional resources, including from public-private partnerships, and underpinned by national action and cooperative activities with other bodies and partners. As an example of this, the Review Meeting will also highlight the GPA Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater and the next steps.

#### **Specific Outputs:**

- **Ministerial Declaration on the GPA**, possibly supplemented by statements from other partners and by annexes illustrating best practices in ocean governance and financing the GPA;
- **Endorsement by the High-level segment**, of the *Recommendations for Decision-Making on Municipal Wastewater*, as general guidance to manage urban wastewater world-wide in accordance with national policies and plans, together with agreement that a similar approach be used to address other GPA pollutant source categories;
- **Realistic, focussed 2002-2006 work programmes**, undertaken by Governments, key partners and the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office, that move forward GPA implementation. The programmes should include: specific targets, priorities and activities; pragmatic and innovative financing strategies; and definition of appropriate actors;

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<sup>1</sup> All documents are available from the GPA clearing-house, <http://www.gpa.unep.org/documents>

- **Sharing of experience and expertise** in order to provide examples of best practices and approaches, building on national and regional preparatory activities and continuous information exchange through the further development of the GPA clearing-house mechanism.

**Structure:** More than 500 participants, representing governments and a wide range of stakeholders, will exchange views and experiences over five working days in plenary and parallel sessions, supplemented with expert panels. Presentation and discussions will fall within six interlinked thematic sessions:

- **Session 1: Review of accomplishments of GPA implementation 1995-2001.** The opening session will set the scene for the Review with a succinct overview of GPA implementation since 1995 as an aid in charting the path for the future. The global assessment on land-based activities prepared by the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP) and the results of the regional preparatory processes will be presented.
- **Session 2: GPA Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater** and its associated **Recommendations for Decision-Making on Municipal Wastewater.** Municipal wastewater discharges are one of the most significant threats to sustainable coastal developments worldwide. Pathogenic organisms in domestic wastewater-contaminated marine and estuarine waters cause massive transmissions of infectious diseases to bathers and consumers of raw and undercooked shellfish, with a global economic impact recently estimated at US\$ 10 billion per year (GESAMP 2001). The GPA Strategic Action Plan, prepared in response to the above by UNEP, the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, will be presented and discussed at this session.
- **Session 3: Improving ocean governance in the context of the protection of coastal and marine areas from land-based activities.** This session will consider (i) how to improve cooperation and delivery between global and regional environmental Conventions; (ii) intra-regional cooperation among UN and other organisations; (iii) the role of civil society and local governments; and (iv) river basin commissions/efforts and coastal zone management. This session will draw in particular on Regional Seas programmes and consider how coordinated regional approaches provide realistic opportunities to improve the delivery of global mandates on the one hand, and enhance effectiveness and economies of scales of national efforts on the other.
- **Session 4: Costed GPA work programmes 2002-2006.** Work programmes, negotiated with partners, and developed by the GPA Coordination Office, governments, regional organisations and other stakeholders, will be presented for consideration and comments. The emphasis of the discussions will be on what can be done, leading to realistic 2002-2006 work programmes and a menu of successful approaches that can be incorporated in GPA-related activities. It is anticipated that the IGR will map out and agree upon the steps that need to be taken in the ensuing years.
- **Session 5: Building partnerships and financing the implementation of the GPA.** This session will build upon, *inter alia*, the deliberations of a World Bank/UNEP workshop convened in July 2001, in The Hague, the Netherlands, and frame the topic in the context of the UN Initiative on Financing for Development and other relevant activities. It will consider a blend of traditional and innovative financial arrangements, review lessons learned, barriers and identify replicable best practices. Recommendations will be developed on how to enhance the public sector capabilities for working with the International Financial institutes, the private sectors and non-governmental organisations, and on how to engage and commit the International Financial Institutes, the private sector and other stakeholders to the implementation of the GPA.
- **Session 6: High-level Segment.** The first segment of this session will invite Ministers or their representatives to respond to the preceding debates and to address the further GPA implementation within the framework of ocean governance. The second segment will focus on financing the implementation of the GPA. It is proposed that this session comprise facilitated discussions of the two key issues and related questions (see above). "Non-papers" will be prepared well in advance of the meeting to stimulate discussion and enhance the opportunities for real progress. It is expected that the commitment and concrete steps on how to forward ocean governance and finance the GPA will be summarised and adopted in the form of a Ministerial/High-level Declaration.

The meeting report, including the Declaration and work programmes, will be submitted to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Ministerial Environmental Forum of the UNEP Governing Council, with a request to consider how the report and the deliberations of the IGR might be used by the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

**The UNEP/GPA Coordination Office invites you to visit the GPA clearing-house at [www.gpa.unep.org/igr](http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr) for further information on the meeting.**