



**First Intergovernmental Review (IGR) Meeting of the GPA
26 – 30 November 2001
Montreal, Canada**

GPA IGR Newsletter #2

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1) Feedback on Newsletter #1

Dear reader,

We were very gratified to receive the many positive notes of appreciation on the first GPA IGR Newsletter – a big ‘thank you’ to all those who took the time to write, especially to those who made topic suggestions which we will try to incorporate into this and future newsletters. It was particularly encouraging to see that so many GPA supporters from around the globe are deeply interested in the IGR!

Please don't hesitate to contact us at gpa@unep.nl with your further suggestions and ideas for improving the dissemination of information on the GPA and the IGR.

2) Preparation of Documents

The preparation of the meeting and information documents has been the core activity of the GPA Coordination Office over the last several months. Most of the documents have now been drafted and are entering the final stages of production, which includes editing by professional UN editors at the United Nations Office in Nairobi (UNON). UNON translators will then translate the documents into Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish and Russian. The documents will then be printed and disseminated to Governments and other meeting participants.

Additionally, all of the IGR meeting documents will be made available on the GPA clearing-house in the IGR meeting section (<http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr>). Most documents

will first be posted in English, but other languages will follow as soon as they are returned from translation. The following documents will be posted within the next week:

- Provisional list of documents (UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/INF/1)
- Provisional agenda (UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/1)
- Annotated provisional agenda (UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/1/Add.1)
- Improving the implementation of the Global Programme of Action through improved coastal and ocean governance (UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/7)
- Building partnerships and financing the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/8)

3) The Montreal Declaration

One of the principle outputs of the ministerial / high-level session of the IGR will be a declaration, known as the “Montreal Declaration”, to be adopted by Governments in concurrence with major stakeholders and groups at the IGR. The proposed declaration will address the major action items that the participants consider important to forward the implementation of the GPA. These actions could include statements on major achievements, the future, coastal and oceans governance, financing the Global Programme of Action, and sustainable development.

The Montreal Declaration will be discussed and the text finalized during the IGR meeting. For this reason, it is not considered to be an official working document. A draft version of the Montreal Declaration has been prepared by the GPA Coordination Office and can be viewed on the GPA clearing-house IGR site at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/documents>. The declaration will also be available in the other UN languages of the meeting (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish) in the near future.

4) Voluntary Initiatives Workshop

The GPA Coordination Office, in cooperation with the International Institute for Infrastructural, Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering (IHE) and the UNEP Division of Technology, Industry, and Economics (DTIE), is hosting a 2-day workshop on voluntary initiatives for water protection as a tool for implementation of the GPA. The workshop, scheduled for 11 – 12 October 2001 in The Netherlands, will review lessons learned with voluntary initiatives and detail activities in areas that include water supply and wastewater treatment, tourism, and agriculture. Parallel working groups will develop specific recommendations with regard to the feasibility of voluntary initiatives, identify key stakeholders and their roles, define the role of UNEP and the GPA in the development of voluntary initiatives, and develop relevant elements for inclusion in the GPA multi-stakeholder workprogramme for 2002 – 2006. Further information will soon be available on the GPA clearing-house (<http://www.gpa.unep.org>).

5) Hotel Reservations and Information on Montreal

We are pleased to report that blocks of rooms, at special meeting rates, have been reserved for GPA IGR participants at 3 hotels within walking distance of the IGR meeting facilities. All confirmed attendees will shortly be sent a package of Information for Participants, which will include a Hotel Reservation form. The Hotel Reservation form can also be downloaded from the GPA IGR site at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/participants.htm>. Please note that the form will be available in French and Spanish in the near future.

As November is a very busy time for hotels in Montreal, the block bookings and special rates are only guaranteed if booked before **1 October 2001** – efforts are being made to extend this deadline but that may not be possible. All participants are therefore urged to complete and send the form, to Tourism Montreal as indicated on the form, as soon as possible.

The GPA IGR site also contains additional information on the meeting, on Montreal, transportation, weather and other useful information for participants. Please visit the GPA IGR site at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/participants.htm>.

6) Pre-Registration

A Pre-Registration form is now available on the GPA clearing-house IGR site at <http://www.gpa.unep.org/igr/participants.htm>. It would be appreciated if all attendees could complete the form and return it to the GPA Coordination Office by **1 November 2001** to help facilitate the preparations for the IGR. The Pre-Registration form will also be available in French and Spanish, and it will be sent to participants as part of the package of Information for Participants.

7) Contacting the GPA Coordination Office

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