



## Economic and Social Council

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**High-level segment: annual ministerial review**

### **Statement submitted by International Ocean Institute, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council**

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

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\* E/2011/100.

**Statement\***

In the field of education, International Ocean Institute works towards achieving the United Nations Millennium Development Goals and through its women, youth and the sea programme, specifically addresses the goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education in environmental education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, ensuring environmental sustainability, and enhancing global partnerships for development.

The programme objectives are to enhance the capacity and participation of women and youth from developing countries in ocean and coastal affairs and to help ensure environmental sustainability. Since 2000, it seeks to address the needs of coastal communities in developing countries and to enhance the role of women and youth by increasing their abilities to sustainably develop and manage ocean and coastal resources.

The projects achieve their aims by providing training, education and capacity development tailored to the circumstances of the target community and perceived needs. The main focus is on grass-roots work in poor and disadvantaged coastal communities emphasizing knowledge transfer and empowerment of vulnerable women and youth groups to achieve sustainable and self-sufficient relationships with their community and surrounding environment.

International Ocean Institute also provides specialized programmes under its OceanLearn capacity-building and training mechanism; foremost among them are the two flagship courses in Canada and Malta. These were conceived and designed in response to identified needs for training of mid-career professionals, particularly from developing and transition countries, in disciplines, functions and interests impacting the sustainable management of oceans, seas and coasts.

The International Ocean Institute Training Programme on Regional Ocean Governance for the Mediterranean, Black, Baltic and Caspian Seas has been delivered annually in Malta since 2005; primary focuses of the programme are interregional comparisons and exchange of experiences between participants from diverse coastal States bordering these regional seas. The Regional Seas training model has been sufficiently successful to warrant its extension to cover other regional seas worldwide and International Ocean Institute is currently expanding its training to other country clusters.

International Ocean Institute, through its diverse activities and OceanLearn programmes, addresses the challenges of implementing internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education by contributing to achieving the Millennium Development Goals as the only multilaterally agreed targets and by providing focused training addressing the nexus between climate change, populations, policy and the oceans.

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\* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.