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**Economic and environmental questions:
sustainable development**

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.



Statement

The International Ocean Institute, established in 1972 as an international, non-profit, non-governmental body with consultative status at the United Nations and some of its specialized agencies, works to uphold and expand the principles enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The organization works towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and, through its programme on women, youth and the sea, 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 organization, in cooperation with its partners, publishes an annual world ocean review. For the 2010 edition, the authors presented generally accepted scientific knowledge from their specialist fields of research. Most of the authors are engaged in interdisciplinary research in a cluster of excellence on the theme “the future ocean”, which investigates aspects of ocean changes. The ten chapters of the review include the world oceans, global climate drivers; how climate change alters the ocean chemistry; the uncertain future of the coasts; last stop: the ocean — polluting the seas; climate change impacts on marine ecosystems; exploiting a living resource: fisheries; marine minerals and energy; maritime highways of global trade; medical knowledge from the sea; and the law of the Sea — a powerful instrument.

On 8 June of each year, the organization joins the rest of the maritime world in celebrating World Ocean Day. World Ocean Day began on 8 June 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and is a yearly opportunity to honour the ocean, which connects us and sustains us with its bounty and which is such an important component of the world’s climate conditions. This is a day to reflect on the crucial role that the ocean plays in our lives as well as on the ways to build much greater awareness of the oceans and of how our lives depend on them and the important ways we can help to protect them. The organization’s global network responded with enthusiasm to the invitation to commemorate this day by organizing a diverse range of scientific and cultural activities for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.
