

**Administrative Committee
on Coordination**

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ENGLISH ONLY

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENTREPORT OF THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS AND COASTAL AREAS
ON ITS FIRST SESSION

(Rome, 19-21 April 1994)

SUMMARY

At its first session, held at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) from 19 to 21 April 1994, the ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas made a number of decisions regarding its work plan and operational methods.

In reaching those decisions, consideration was given to the dual role of the Subcommittee in monitoring and facilitating the implementation of chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and in reporting through the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

The Subcommittee decided that both its implementation and its reporting functions should be structured in accordance with the programme areas of chapter 17. Responsibilities for each area were assigned to agencies that agreed to work as sub-task managers in collaboration with participating and associated agencies.

Noting that Governments were to report directly to the Commission on their implementation of Agenda 21, the Subcommittee agreed to focus its work on progress made in the implementation of chapter 17 through the United Nations system.

In regard to methods of work, the Subcommittee identified the types of action that each sub-task manager would be expected to undertake in meeting the terms of reference of the Subcommittee as applied to the assigned programme area.

In planning its inter-sessional work, the Subcommittee agreed on a draft outline for the report to be submitted in 1996 and a schedule to be followed by sub-task managers in developing initial chapters in time for its second session, to be held in late January 1995 at the headquarters of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) in Geneva. A third session was scheduled for late 1995, preferably to be held at United Nations Headquarters.

The Subcommittee also identified a number of cross-sectoral issues that should be addressed within its reporting function to IACSD, including financing, capacity-building, trade, technology transfer and information. In that respect, the absence of some agencies was noted with regret; their possible involvement was nevertheless taken into account, subject to confirmation.

CONTENTS

	<u>Paragraphs</u>	<u>Page</u>
I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	1	4
II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS	2 - 27	4
A. Opening of the session	2 - 5	4
B. Review of terms of reference and composition	6 - 7	5
C. Assignment of tasks	8 - 12	5
D. Methods of work	13 - 23	8
E. Other matters	24 - 26	12
F. Adoption of the report	27	12

Tables

1. Assignment of responsibilities	7
2. Action expected to meet the terms of reference of the Subcommittee	9

I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE INTER-AGENCY
COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. The ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, 1/ having held its first session at the headquarters of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) from 19 to 21 April 1994, draws to the attention of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) the following recommendations for advice and decision:

(a) Having received the kind offer of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) to host its second session, the Subcommittee agreed to meet in Geneva, preferably during the third week of January 1995;

(b) In view of the need to have prepared the report on chapter 17 of Agenda 21 by early 1996 for submission to IACSD, the Subcommittee agreed that it should hold its third session in the latter part of 1995, preferably at United Nations Headquarters;

(c) Taking into account the very wide range of subjects encompassed in the consideration of oceans and coastal areas, the Subcommittee is of the view that they can best be addressed through a two-pronged approach similar to that adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; it is therefore proposed that the report consist of a policy makers' summary of 10 pages followed by a substantive report of 70 pages.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

A. Opening of the session

2. Mr. P. J. Mahler, Special Adviser to the Director-General/Acting Director-General for Environment and Sustainable Development, welcomed participants to FAO and provided guidance on the Subcommittee's responsibilities as task manager. Mention was made of its dual role in both monitoring and facilitating the implementation of chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and reporting through IACSD to the Commission on Sustainable Development. Emphasis was placed on the responsibility of the Subcommittee to identify cross-sectoral subject areas and issued that should be drawn to the attention of the Commission for appropriate decision and action at the intergovernmental level. While recognizing that the report to be produced by the Subcommittee in 1996 would include a summary of ongoing activities and inter-agency collaboration, Mr. Mahler urged members to give due attention to concrete proposals that would contribute to a more effective implementation.

3. Upon the proposal of the United Nations, seconded by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), the Subcommittee unanimously elected Mr. S. Garcia, Director of the FAO Fisheries Resources and Environment Division, as its Chairperson through 1996.

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4. The list of participants is contained in annex I. A new item, "Any other matters", was inserted in the agenda, which was adopted as modified and is contained in annex II.

5. The Secretary presented the list of documents as well as the proposed timetable for the meeting, which was agreed upon with modifications introduced to make more efficient use of the time available. A brief overview of the agenda was made to identify issues that required particular attention.

B. Review of terms of reference and composition

6. The Subcommittee, having reviewed its terms of reference, agreed that its members should be notified by the Secretary of any matters requiring policy decisions early enough to allow for full consideration by the relevant authorities of the agencies and appropriate guidance of their representatives, especially in regard to staff and budget implications.

7. The question of the distinction between the respective responsibilities of agency focal points and representatives at Subcommittee meetings was clarified as follows:

(a) Members were defined as those United Nations bodies that had indicated their interest in participating in the work of the Subcommittee;

(b) Focal points were defined as the individuals designated by members as being responsible for communication within their organization and as the interface with the secretariat during the inter-sessional period. Focal points might or might not represent the agency at meetings of the Subcommittee;

(c) Representatives at sessions of the Subcommittee were to be appointed by each member, bearing in mind the desirability of continuity whenever possible.

C. Assignment of tasks

8. The Chairperson referred to the general description of the functions of task managers contained in the report of IACSD on its second session (ACC/1993/24) and the more specific terms of reference for the Subcommittee contained in annex IV to the same document. It was agreed that the information and advice provided by Mr. Mahler (see para. 2 above) formed a useful basis for a more detailed discussion of the specific tasks to be undertaken by members.

9. There was an extensive exchange of views regarding the definition and assignment of tasks that would meet the terms of reference of the Subcommittee (see table 1) in regard to both implementation and reporting functions. Noting that Governments were to report directly to the Commission on their implementation of Agenda 21, the Subcommittee agreed to focus its work on progress made in the implementation of chapter 17 within the United Nations system. The Subcommittee decided that both implementation and reporting functions would be structured in accordance with the programme areas of

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chapter 17 and envisaged three levels of agency involvement in carrying out assigned responsibilities, as follows:

(a) Sub-task managers: assumed responsibility for leading the work required to monitor, review and report to the Subcommittee on progress made in implementation of the programme area of chapter 17 to which they have been assigned;

(b) Participating agencies: had indicated an interest in being closely involved and contributing to the work of the sub-task manager;

(c) Associated agencies: had indicated their general interest in a programme area and their willingness to contribute to the work of the sub-task manager as might be required.

10. Thus, for each major programme area sub-task managers would assume leading roles in collaborating with participating agencies that wished to be directly involved and calling upon associated agencies for advice and assistance, as required. The results of the work undertaken by the sub-task managers would be presented to the Subcommittee as a whole for decision.

11. The representatives of the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) expressed their interest in being associated with the work of the Subcommittee in all the programme areas. It was emphasized, however, that their functions in lending or providing funding should be borne in mind when addressing concrete proposals.

12. The Subcommittee agreed to the assignment of responsibilities contained in table 1.

Table 1. Assignment of responsibilities

Programme area	Sub-task managers	Participating agencies	Associated agencies
A			
Integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas, including exclusive economic zones	United Nations/UNEP	WMO, IOC, IAEA, FAO, Habitat, UNESCO, [WTO] <u>a/</u>	IMO, World Bank, UNDP, ITU
B			
Marine environmental protection			
Sea-based pollution	[IMO	[WMO, IOC, IAEA] <u>a/</u>	FAO, United Nations, World Bank, UNDP
Land-based pollution	UNEP]		
C			
Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources of the high seas	FAO/United Nations	UNEP	UNDP IOC World Bank
D			
Sustainable use and conservation of marine living resources under national jurisdiction	FAO	UNEP	UNDP World Bank IOC United Nations
E			
Addressing critical uncertainties for the management of the marine environment and climate change	IOC	WMO, IAEA, FAO	World Bank UNDP UNEP
F			
Strengthening international and regional cooperation and coordination	ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas	UN, WMO, FAO, UNESCO, IOC, IMO, IAEA, ITU, [UNCTAD, UNIDO, ILO, WHO, IFAD] <u>a/</u>	World Bank UNDP
G			
Sustainable development of small islands	United Nations	WMO, UNESCO, IOC, FAO, IMO, IAEA, UNEP, Habitat, [WTO] <u>a/</u>	World Bank, UNDP, ITU

a/ Subject to confirmation.

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D. Methods of work

13. The Subcommittee also identified the types of action that each sub-task manager would be expected to undertake in meeting the terms of reference of the Subcommittee as applied to their assigned programme area, which are recapitulated in table 2.

14. The exchange of information regarding the planning of meetings was considered to be of particular importance. As a recent example, the Subcommittee expressed its regret that a Global Environment Facility (GEF) workshop on elements of operational strategy for the protection of international waters (Nairobi, 21-22 April 1994) had overlapped with the current session. As a result, several members had not been able to attend the consultation. UNEP was requested to report on the results of the workshop.

15. The Subcommittee recognized that there were a number of cross-sectoral issues, including financing, capacity-building, trade, technology transfer and information, that should be addressed within its reporting function to IACSD. The absence of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) was regretted, especially with regard to the need to improve collaboration in the field of technology transfer and the specific interest of UNIDO in regard to regional centres for marine technology.

16. Following the presentation by each participant of their programmes, it was decided that a composite list be made of activities that were or could be carried out more effectively with the concerted action of two or more partners, including non-governmental organizations. The list would be used as the basis for the further elaboration of cooperative arrangements during the inter-sessional period, bearing in mind that effective collaboration was best achieved when founded on specific activities. It was also noted that the development of common strategies could evolve naturally as a product of that process.

17. The Subcommittee was conscious that there was a strong emphasis in chapter 17 of Agenda 21 on adopting a management approach to the many human activities that had a direct bearing on the sustainable utilization of coastal areas, the oceans and their living resources. The success with which management requirements expressed in chapter 17 were applied should ultimately be judged by the social and economic benefits accruing therefrom. In that context, it was stressed in paragraph 17.8 of Agenda 21 that priority should be given to information for management purposes and, more particularly, the development of socio-economic and environmental indicators. The representative of the World Bank informed the meeting that his organization had established a group to work on that issue in the area of forest depletion. It was noted that the World Resources Institute was similarly engaged on the issue and that work was also under way on environmental accounting. The Subcommittee agreed that it would be desirable to have before it at its second session a paper on the subject so that any gaps in regard to the subject areas of chapter 17 could be identified. It was proposed that the World Bank be approached by the secretariat to prepare such a paper.

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Table 2. Action expected to meet the terms of reference of the Subcommittee

Terms of reference of the Subcommittee <u>a/</u>	Action
Monitor and review progress in the implementation of chapter 17 and related matters of Agenda 21 and report thereon to IACSD	Periodic progress reports will be filed and implementation will be monitored at sessions of the Subcommittee
Prepare proposals to IACSD and other relevant bodies to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation and coordination, and facilitate such in the implementation of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, including financial means	Based on monitoring and review, gaps, difficulties and proposed solutions, including financial implications, will be identified. Probable focus will be areas at the interface between chapter 17 and other subject areas, such as freshwater, atmosphere and biodiversity
Consider and give effect to the possibilities and means of joint activities and programming for the implementation of chapter 17	The Subcommittee as a whole will identify ongoing and new opportunities for joint activities in which expanded collaboration would enhance implementation
Identify the needs for and facilitate the coordination of activities of the United Nations system relating to chapter 17	For implementation at the regional level, linkages between the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and regional bodies of other members will provide a viable framework for more effective collaboration. Activities at all levels will be reviewed to determine those of interest to more than one United Nations agency. Studies on areas of common concern will be commissioned. Will be considered at sessions of the Subcommittee
Interact with joint scientific and advisory bodies, such as the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP), which may provide the scientific basis for policy recommendations	Present practice of referring to GESAMP certain questions for advice, especially in the field of coastal area management, will continue. A listing of other potential advisory bodies will be prepared for each programme area

Terms of reference of the Subcommittee <u>a/</u>	Action
Enhance the exchange of information, including information on relevant intergovernmental agreements and decisions, existing and proposed programmes, operational activities, and cooperative and coordinating arrangements; and promote, where appropriate, harmonized and shared information systems	Each sub-task manager will keep all members aware of relevant meetings, projects, decisions and publications to avoid duplication and increase efficiency. The Secretary will arrange for the inclusion of members in relevant ICAM database systems. The use of ASFIS as a joint information system will be kept under review
Assist in the preparation of system-wide reports, as required, on developments with respect to oceans and coastal area issues and the implementation of Agenda 21 as regards the protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas, and coastal areas, and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources and related capacity-building	The Subcommittee will respond to any such requests as they occur

a/ ACC/1993/24, annex IV, para. 4.

18. The Subcommittee recalled the emphasis placed by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) on seeking innovative approaches to the attainment of sustainable development, which had led to a recognition of the importance of economic instruments in resolving outstanding environmental problems. In noting that important work in that respect was being carried out by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and that economic instruments could be expected to have an application to the various fields of activities covered in chapter 17, the sub-task managers were encouraged to consider the scope for applying such approaches to their work for each programme area. In particular, the participation of UNCTAD in the work of the Subcommittee should be sought.

19. Available information and models regarding the length and structure of the report [20-30 pages, including a summary of action prescribed within chapter 17, a description of the current inter-agency response and the identification of gaps and emerging issues] implied that the very wide range of subjects encompassed in consideration of oceans and coastal areas could best be addressed through a two-pronged approach similar to that adopted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, namely a policy makers' summary followed by a substantive report.

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20. Noting that it was expected to complete the report on chapter 17 for submission to IACSD in early 1996, the Subcommittee agreed on guidelines for the preparation of a first draft or expanded outline in time for consideration at its second session in early 1995, as described below.

21. Having reached agreement that the report on chapter 17 should follow the structure of the seven programme areas, with additions for cross-sectoral themes, such as capacity-building, and should interface with other chapters, as required, the Subcommittee decided that:

(a) For each of the seven programme areas, taking into account that certain areas were also subject to specific intergovernmental discussion (e.g., small islands, high-sea fisheries) the relevant sub-task managers should prepare, in collaboration with participating agencies, a draft report or expanded outline of about 10 pages, together with a policy makers' summary. Any member who wished to be associated should be included in the endeavour;

(b) Each report should contain the following elements:

(i) Introduction, including summary of major concerns and action set forth in chapter 17;

(ii) Summary of what was currently being done within the United Nations system to address those issues and why, supported by tabular material that could also eventually be used in the executive summary;

(iii) Identification of gaps;

(iv) Future directions;

(v) Proposals for decision by the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(c) During the inter-sessional period, the following schedule should be adhered to with the aim of producing an integrated first draft or expanded outline by November 1994:

1994

May/June: Sub-task manager sends assignments and an expanded outline to partners for comment and contributions;

July: Deadline for first submissions to sub-task manager;

September: Sub-task manager sends composite draft and policy makers' summary to partners, together with cross-references showing interface with other programme areas and relevance to other chapters in Agenda 21;

October: Deadline for comments from partners;

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November: Submission to the Secretary of expanded report or expanded outline, with policy makers' summary and tabular material;

December: Secretary sends first draft to all members;

1995

Late January: Second session.

22. Recalling the advice provided to task managers that had recommended the use of rapid communications as a tool for enhanced collaboration, the Subcommittee agreed to use electronic mail as its major means of inter-sessional communication. Those members not already linked to an electronic mail system, notably the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the United Nations Secretariat, were encouraged to make arrangements to do so as an urgent matter.

23. In regard to the interaction between the Subcommittee and other bodies, the Subcommittee agreed that the Intersecretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography (ICSPRO) could be used on a case-by-case basis. Noting the work undertaken by regional economic commissions and non-governmental and international bodies, each sub-task manager was encouraged to identify and contact such bodies as appropriate to their given programme area, particularly in facilitating and monitoring collaboration at the regional level.

E. Other matters

24. The question of a joint response to ocean-related disasters was raised. The Subcommittee recommended that sub-task managers consider contingency planning when preparing their draft reports.

25. Having received the kind offer of WMO to host the second session, the Subcommittee agreed to meet in Geneva, preferably during the third week of January 1995. The participation at that session of the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, UNIDO, UNCTAD and the World Tourism Organization should be actively sought.

26. In view of the need to have prepared the report on chapter 17 by early 1996 for submission to IACSD, the Subcommittee agreed that it should hold its third session in the latter part of 1995, preferably at United Nations Headquarters.

F. Adoption of the report

27. The Subcommittee adopted the report on its first session.

Notes

1/ The secretariat for the Subcommittee is provided by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through its Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC). Correspondence should be addressed to: Secretary, ACC Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, c/o UNESCO/IOC, 1 rue Miollis, 75732 Paris Cedex 15, France.
Fax (33.1) 40 65 99 76; telex: 20 44 61; telephone: (33.1) 45 68 39 86 and 45 68 39 83.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS a/

Chairman: S. M. Garcia
(Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)

Secretary: N. Philippon-Tulloch
(Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations
Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

United Nations, its entities and programmes

United Nations	J-P. Levy
United Nations Environment Programme	P. C. Schroder
United Nations Development Programme	P. Reynolds

Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	H. Naeve M. Lizarraga (alternate)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	G. Kullenberg
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	G. Kullenberg
World Bank	S. F. Lintner
International Telecommunication Union	J. L. Pereira-Filho
World Meteorological Organization	M. N. Krasnoperov
International Maritime Organization	J. Wonham
International Atomic Energy Agency	M. S. Baxter

a/ The following agencies have appointed focal points but were not represented at the meeting: International Labour Organization, World Health Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening.
2. Review of terms of reference and composition.
3. Assignment of tasks.
4. Methods of work.
5. Any other matters.
6. Adoption of the report.
