

**Administrative Committee
on Coordination**ACC/1995/21
11 December 1995

ENGLISH ONLY

INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (IACSD)REPORT OF THE ACC SUBCOMMITTEE ON OCEANS AND COASTAL AREAS
ON ITS THIRD SESSION(Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) headquarters, United
Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),
Paris, 28-30 August 1995)

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

1. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) Subcommittee on Oceans and Coastal Areas, 1/ having held its third session at the headquarters of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) from 28 to 30 August 1995, draws to the attention of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD) the following:

(a) Having considered the wishes of IACSD at its sixth meeting in regard to the format of the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 17 of Agenda 21 and an addendum, as well as the need to submit a draft text to the secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat by 1 November 1995, the Subcommittee agreed upon adjustments to its work plan and timetable;

(b) Based on the substantial progress made during the session in developing the draft text and related recommendations, the Subcommittee decided to confer the responsibility of finalizing the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 17 of Agenda 21 to an editorial group composed of the Chairman, Secretary and any members who wished to participate. Bearing in mind that some further elaboration would be required through correspondence with members, and information available regarding a meeting of task managers to be held in New York in late November, it was agreed that the editorial group would meet in Rome during September 1995 and, if required, would hold a second consultation in October to finalize the draft text and recommendations;

(c) Reiterating its view that the constraints of documentation production should be balanced by the breadth of subjects to be dealt with in regard to oceans and coastal areas, the Subcommittee was of the view that some latitude in the page limitations was required for both the Report of the Secretary-General and its addendum. It estimated that the core report would have to be in the order of 10 pages and the addendum about 35 pages;

(d) Having received information that the responses to questionnaires to be sent by the secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat to Member States and major groups would have a deadline of late November 1995, whereas the draft report was required by 1 November, the Subcommittee considered that unfortunately it would have little opportunity to make use of the responses. The Subcommittee assumed that the integration into the report of such information, when available, would be done by the secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat;

(e) In recalling that its mandate also included responsibilities to report and make recommendations to ACC, through IACSD, and taking into account the numerous related meetings to be held prior to and in conjunction with the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 2/ the Subcommittee agreed

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to hold its fourth session at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), London, at the end of May 1996.

II. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

A. Opening of the session

2. On behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO, the Assistant Director-General and Executive Secretary of IOC, Mr. G. Kullenberg, welcomed participants and recalled that the basis for establishment of the Subcommittee had been laid during two previous sessions held at UNESCO headquarters. The first session, a special session of the Intersecretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography (ICSPRO), had taken place in September 1992 under the joint chairmanship of the Director-General of UNESCO and the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). This was followed in August 1993 by an inter-agency consultation convened by the secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat which, having considered the proposals made by ICSPRO in regard to the need for an ACC subcommittee to deal with chapter 17 of Agenda 21, 3/ agreed upon draft terms of reference that were subsequently endorsed by ACC. Recalling the considerations that had led to the designation of the Chairman and Secretary, as well as the progress made within the Subcommittee in assigning lead responsibilities to agencies for the programme areas of chapter 17, Mr. Kullenberg expressed the view that a firm basis had been established for improved inter-agency cooperation. In concluding, he emphasized that the work accomplished to date had resulted in a wealth of ideas and material which the Subcommittee could now reformulate within the revised guidelines to produce a strong and convincing report of the Secretary-General on chapter 17 of Agenda 21, and associated recommendations that would lead to improved implementation of Agenda 21.

3. In his opening remarks, the Chairman recalled that the members of the Subcommittee had a shared vision as to how they did and would work together, with discussions that had always gone beyond the strict sense of mandates, in striving towards a common will to produce more than just another report. Since its establishment, the Subcommittee has developed positions, identified concerns of mutual interest, demonstrated accomplishments and proposed ideas that would stimulate high-level governmental interest and decision. Thus, while the original concept for the report and subsequent work has indeed evolved, the objective has remained the same. Noting that the evolution of guidance and instructions was a source of frustration, the Chairman emphasized that the whole of the post-United Nations Conference on Environment and Development process and that of the Commission on Sustainable Development constituted a collective experience through which Governments were refining their views as to the information and advice they needed. He thus encouraged the members to concentrate on the challenge currently at hand of amalgamating previous work in a form that met the requirements of the Commission on Sustainable Development and at the same time served as a vehicle to pass forward the messages deemed important.

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B. Agenda, timetable and documentation

4. The Secretary presented the draft agenda, documentation and a proposed timetable for the session which was adjusted taking into account the fact that the draft agenda had been developed prior to receipt of the revised instructions regarding reporting procedures. The list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report; the agenda, as adopted, is contained in annex II.

C. Overview on reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development

5. Information received from the Director, Division for Sustainable Development of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, based upon the decisions made by IACSD at its sixth meeting, was made available to participants and supplemented by clarification provided by the representative of the secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

6. Members exchanged views regarding the implications of the revised instructions with respect to their work, especially within the context of producing the draft report of the Secretary-General on chapter 17 of Agenda 21, with concrete recommendations and appropriate justification for this, amplified by an addendum. Reiterating its view that the constraints of documentation production should be balanced by the breadth of subjects to be dealt with in regard to oceans and coastal areas, the Subcommittee indicated that it was of the view that some latitude in page limitations was required for both the report of the Secretary-General and its addendum. It estimated that the core report would have to be in the order of 10 pages and the addendum about 35 pages.

7. Having received information that the responses to questionnaires to be sent by the secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat to Member States and major groups would have a deadline of late November 1995, the Subcommittee considered the fact that, unfortunately, it would have little opportunity to make use of those responses. The Subcommittee assumed that the integration into the report of such information, when available, would be done by the secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

D. Review of the draft report

8. Based upon the information and revised guidance provided by IACSD and the secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, the Secretary presented a preliminary compilation of material provided to date within an adjusted perspective. It was noted that an attempt had been made to reconcile the revised instructions with the proposals and texts agreed upon by the members at the second session of the Subcommittee, and to point out areas where new text needed to be developed.

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9. The Subcommittee undertook a review of the proposed report, indicating areas for improvement and providing guidance for the next drafting stage. Particular attention was given to the development of recommendations, the thrust and content of which were agreed upon pursuant to agenda item 4 (a).

10. The Subcommittee noted that IACSD at its sixth meeting in Geneva, July 1995, had advised that there would be no need for a separate section G on small island developing states (SIDS) in the draft report of the Secretary-General on chapter 17, as there would be a separate report on coastal zone management in SIDS under the SIDS agenda item at the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) has been designated as task manager for the preparation of this report. In addition, a report of the Secretary-General (A/49/425 and Add.1) submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session already included detailed information on action taken by the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States. ^{4/} With this in view, the Subcommittee will only undertake to ensure that SIDS-related considerations, as related to oceans and coastal areas, are properly reflected within programme areas A through F.

11. Emphasizing the considerable work involved in developing the expanded reports, the Subcommittee requested that the member organizations of ICSPRO consider how this material might best be used within the framework of reporting to the United Nations system.

E. Suggestions for action leading to improvement of joint programming and implementation

12. Under this agenda item, the Subcommittee discussed the recommendations from the Subcommittee to the Commission on Sustainable Development. In referring to the instructions received from IACSD, the Subcommittee recognized the need to differentiate between major policy recommendations for decision by the Commission on Sustainable Development and other suggestions for action to be taken, including those directed to Governments, non-governmental organizations and other major groups. Due recognition was also given to the need to reflect in the addendum the rationale leading to each recommendation, with a clear identification of the issues being addressed and proposed action.

13. Having noted the guidance of IACSD regarding the structure for recommendations, the Subcommittee expressed its preference that the next stage of drafting retain the programme area classification. At the same time, it was recognized that the meeting of task managers which the Chairman would attend (tentatively scheduled for November 1995) would offer the opportunity to harmonize the format of reports of the Secretary-General being prepared for the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

1. Outlines for cooperative programme frameworks

14. The representatives of UNEP and IMO made brief presentations of progress achieved in further developing the concept of the cooperative programme framework (CPF), and provided examples as to how the concept of such frameworks could be applied to programme areas A and B (i).

15. In recalling that the idea of cooperative programme frameworks had been developed as a first step towards joint programming, the Subcommittee stressed that continuation of this approach should be based on the expectation of real and practical benefits and that the approach should not become merely a theoretical exercise. To this end, the Subcommittee spelled out the purpose of the cooperative programme framework, and the crucial role of the sub-task managers responsible for coordinating elements of the programme, in the following terms:

- (a) A CPF should engage in:
 - (i) Pursuing activities identified as benefiting from an inter-agency approach but not covered by existing cooperation mechanisms;
 - (ii) Bringing together bodies of the United Nations system and the specialized agencies and financial institutions on projects and programmes for which lack of funding is an impediment to progress;
- (b) The sub-task manager responsible for coordination of the CPF in a programme area should:
 - (i) Liaise with focal points in other organizations with regard to identifying gaps and weaknesses in the current programme, and develop the CPF accordingly;
 - (ii) Communicate these developments to the Subcommittee as a basis for discussion on measures that may be taken to rectify the situation.

16. The Subcommittee agreed that this subject should be a priority item in the agenda of its fourth session and requested the representatives of UNEP and IMO to develop the proposed outlines in more detail with precise indication of action required to begin implementation of the cooperative programme frameworks for programme areas A and B (i). The Subcommittee also encouraged other sub-task managers to apply the concept to the programme areas for which they had assumed lead-agency responsibility and to report on progress made at the fourth session. One possible area would be programme area B (ii) dealing with the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities. UNEP will assume the lead in the preparation of such a cooperative programme framework following the adoption of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Environment from Land-based Activities in Washington, D.C., in October/November 1995.

17. Recalling that one of the underlying purposes of cooperative programme frameworks was to mobilize all possible resources within the United Nations system, the Subcommittee emphasized the importance of close involvement of the

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World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in this exercise so that their views regarding the funding required for implementation would be adequately taken into account.

2. Clearing-house for the Global Programme of Action
for the Protection of the Marine Environment from
Land-based Activities

18. The representative of UNEP took advantage of the presence of agencies to provide information and solicit an initial reaction to proposals being made regarding the establishment of a clearing-house for data and information relevant to the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, which had been developed in direct response to Agenda 21 (programme area B (ii), as reflected in paragraph 17.37 (f) of Agenda 21).

19. The Subcommittee received this information with interest, but noted that a more formal proposal regarding the project and the possible responsibilities of participants would be required so that Members could assess the implications. The Subcommittee requested that the representative of UNEP initiate as early as possible correspondence with members with a view to procuring their reactions to the proposal so that those reactions could be taken into account during the forthcoming Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt a Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, to be held in Washington, D.C., 23 October-3 November 1995. The representative of UNEP was requested to report on this matter to the Subcommittee at its fourth session.

F. Adjustments to the work plan, format and time schedule
for preparation of the report of the Secretary-General
on chapter 17 of Agenda 21

20. Consideration of this agenda item took into account discussion under agenda items 2 and 3, in particular the wishes expressed by IACSD and the views and constraints of the members of the Subcommittee with the common objective of producing the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 17 in due time. The Subcommittee recalled that through its mandate it also had responsibilities to report through IACSD to ACC on other matters, with priority needing to be given to consideration of proposals that would further enhance inter-agency collaboration in monitoring and facilitating implementation of chapter 17. The Subcommittee took due note of the possibility that a statement from ACC on matters before it, including those related to oceans and coastal areas, might be addressed to the Commission on Sustainable Development.

21. Based on the substantial progress made during the session in developing the draft text and related recommendations, the Subcommittee decided to confer the responsibility of finalizing the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 17 of Agenda 21 upon an editorial group, composed of the Chairman, Secretary and any members who wished to participate. Bearing in mind that some further elaboration would be required through correspondence with members, and

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information available regarding a meeting of task managers to be held in New York in late November, it was agreed that the editorial group would meet in Rome during September 1995 and would, if required, hold a second consultation in October to finalize the draft text and recommendations.

22. Noting that the texts presently available (both expanded reports and executive summaries) had been widely circulated among Members, the Subcommittee agreed that further work should concentrate on missing elements so that the editorial group could be most effective. Further input and revised contributions from members are reflected in the updated list of responsibilities as presented below:

23. All members were requested to send to the Secretary by 8 September:

(a) Their contributions to the expanded report with respect to programme area F, as solicited in the letter of the Secretary of 10 July 1995;

(b) Their revisions of the addendum in support of recommendations.

24. In recalling that its mandate also includes responsibilities to report and make recommendations to ACC, through IACSD, and taking into account the numerous related meetings to be held prior to and in conjunction with the fourth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 2/ the Subcommittee agreed to hold its fourth session at the headquarters of IMO, London, at the end of May 1996.

G. Other matters

25. The representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) referred to the recent meeting of the Expert Group on Indicators of Sustainable Development, organized by the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat, New York, 25 to 26 July 1995, and circulated the list of indicators relating to chapter 17 of Agenda 21 together with the draft format for methodology sheets. Since the expert meeting had charged FAO with preparing methodology sheets related to oceans, FAO invited cooperation of other agencies represented at the meeting in some of the subjects. Tentative agreement was reached that IMO might contribute to "Discharges of oil into coastal waters", UNEP to "Releases of nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) into coastal waters", IOC to "Algae index" and IMO, the United Nations and UNEP to "Participation in maritime treaties/agreements". Contributions should be sent before the end of September to Mr. J. Tschirley, Environment and Sustainable Development Coordinating Unit (SDDE), FAO, Rome.

26. The attention of the Subcommittee was drawn to the draft outline of the report of the Secretary-General on financial resources and mechanisms to be submitted to the inter-sessional ad hoc open-ended Working Group on Finance and Consumption Patterns and the 1996 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (document ACC-SC/21.17-III/INF.5). This draft outline includes a subsection on financing the protection of the oceans (chapter 17). The Subcommittee recalled that it would include proposals related to financing in the draft version of the report of the Secretary-General on chapter 17 and hoped that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the

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United Nations Secretariat, as task manager for the preparing of the draft report on financial resources and mechanisms, would take into account such proposals.

27. The secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat drew to the attention of the Subcommittee the fact that the Government of Turkey had expressed interest at the third session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in organizing an expert consultation in regard to chapter 17 and had subsequently requested the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat to suggest topics not already covered by other forums. The Subcommittee recognized the importance of such national initiatives, but underscored the necessity of advance planning and careful evaluation of topics to be considered within the context of both regional and technical aspects. Mention was made of the numerous meetings related to oceans and coastal areas that had taken place recently or were being planned for the Mediterranean. The Chairman was requested to transmit a reflection of this discussion to the secretariat of the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat through correspondence so that the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat could take such material into account in its response to the Government of Turkey.

H. Adoption of the report

The Subcommittee adopted the report on its third 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; Internet: N.Philippon@unesco.org; telex: 20 44 61; telephone: (33.1) 45 68 39 86 and 45 68 39 83.

2/ The Working Group of Task Managers (November 1995); the Ad Hoc Intersessional Working Group on Sectoral Issues of the Commission on Sustainable Development (26 February-1 March 1996); the Panel on Oceans and Atmosphere of the Commission on Sustainable Development to be held during the session of the Commission itself (tentatively scheduled for 18 April-3 May 1996).

3/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

4/ Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of
Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994
(United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. I,
resolution 1, annex II.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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 A. Rogers
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	R. Vogel
United Nations Environment Programme	M. Gerges
United Nations Development Programme	P. Reynolds

Specialized agencies and related organizations

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	H. Naeve
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	G. Kullenberg G. Glaser D. Troost
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission	G. Kullenberg
World Bank	C. G. Lundin
World Meteorological Organization	M. Krasnoperov
International Maritime Organization	J. Wonham D. Du

Annex II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the session:
 - (a) Opening statements from the host agency and the Chairman;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (c) Timetable and documentation.
2. Overview on reporting to the Commission on Sustainable Development.
3. Review of the draft report.
4. Suggestions for action leading to improvement of joint programming and implementation:
 - (a) Recommendations from the Subcommittee to the Commission on Sustainable Development;
 - (b) Outlines for cooperative framework programmes;
 - (c) Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.
5. Adjustments to the work plan, format and time schedule for preparation of the report.
6. Other business.
7. Adoption of the report.
