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**PROGRESS REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF
ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM
LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES**

Note of the Executive Director

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* UNEP/GC.22/1.

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I. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2002-2006 PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

1. In its decision 21/10 of 9 February 2001, the Governing Council, inter alia, requested the Executive Director to organize the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in November 2001; encouraged the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to further develop, through the Global Resources Information Database (GRID), cooperative programmes to share environmental data through a web-based geographic information system; requested the Executive Director to pay due attention in the UNEP work programme to activities aimed at addressing the negative effects of sewage, physical alteration and destruction of habitats, nutrients and sediment mobilization on the marine, coastal and associated freshwater environment; and requested the Executive Director to submit a progress report on activities of UNEP as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action to the Governing Council at its twenty-second session.

2. In addition, at its seventh special session held in Cartagena from 13 to 15 February 2002, the Governing Council in decision SS.VII/6, endorsed the 2002-2006 programme of work proposed by the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, with a focus on assisting countries to develop enabling environments for multi-sector partnerships and innovative financial arrangements through regulatory, legislative, institutional and financial reforms, thus making the strategic transition from planning to actual control of pollution and coastal degradation. The Governing Council also requested the Executive Director to submit the outcomes of the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, held in Montreal from 26 to 30 November 2001, to the governing or organizing bodies of relevant organizations, programmes, and processes to enable them to actively participate in the realization of the objectives of the Global Programme of Action, particularly at the national, subregional and regional levels.

3. The attention of participants is also drawn to the progress report on the activities of the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office during the period 1996-2001¹, as submitted to the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting, and to a report on that Intergovernmental Review Meeting (GCSS.VII/4/Add 4), submitted to the Governing Council at its seventh special session/Global Ministerial Environment Forum, annexed to which are the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Environment from Land-based Activities, the conclusions of the Co-chairs of the Montreal meeting, the Declaration of the Global Legislators Organizations for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) and statements by the International Council for Local Environment Initiatives (ICLEI) and non-governmental organizations present at that meeting.

4. Given that documents UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3 and GCSS.VII/4/Add.4 contain detailed information on the progress in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action as at February 2002, and that these documents have been reviewed by Governments, UNEP submits herewith an update to these progress reports, detailing further progress on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action since February 2002.

5. The Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has been actively engaged in furthering the implementation of the approved programme of work for the period 2002-2006. Special attention has been accorded to:

(a) Wide dissemination of the results of the Montreal meeting as requested by the Governing Council at its seventh special session;

(b) Developing a costed and detailed 2003-2006 programme of work in line with the outline of the programme of work presented at the Montreal meeting (UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/6);

(c) Promoting closer cooperation between the freshwater and coastal as well as ocean communities, including developing the Integrated Coastal Area and River Basin Management (ICARM) programme;

(d) Focusing programme delivery on assisting relevant authorities, particularly in developing countries, to mobilize necessary resources, including domestic resources, and to develop enabling environments for action to address priority land-based sources of pollution and coastal degradation;

(e) Setting the objectives of the Global Programme of Action into the mainstream of the work programmes and budgets of local and national authorities, the regional seas programmes and action plans, relevant financial institutions, private sector organizations and the civil society;

(f) Assisting, in the framework of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the Cape Town Declaration on an African Process for the Development and Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa, in developing its programme of intervention for submission at the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

(g) Developing an enabling component of the UNEP Global Environment Facility (GEF) policy as it relates to the Global Programme of Action;

(h) Enhancing and expanding the Global Programme of Action Clearing-house Mechanism, to perform outreach activities and raise awareness, particularly at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

6. In pursuance of Governing Council decision 21/10, the implementation of the Global Programme of Action followed the 10 activity clusters as detailed in the programme of work approved at the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting (UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/6 and annex), with particular emphasis on the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater sponsored by UNEP, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), the Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats programme and the support to national governments in developing and adopting national programmes of action to implement the Global Programme of Action.

7. In its implementation of the UNEP/WHO/UN-HABITAT/WSSCC Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, in accordance with the recommendations of the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has given focus to the further development of the normative component of the Global Programme of Action, in particular the development of a guidance document on municipal wastewater management and the supporting knowledge base Sanitation-Connection (SANICON). At the regional level, efforts to share experience and expertise in best practices and procedures, and identify pilot areas where the practical implementation of the guidelines could be tested have continued.

8. Activities and efforts relating to the Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats programme have concentrated on the legal, economic and scientific aspects of major infrastructure works impacting on the coastal environment, in particular as they relate to tourism, aquaculture and mining developments. Draft guidelines have been developed and are being reviewed by a wide group of stakeholders, while the results of regional studies will be reviewed at major regional meetings in early 2003, involving diverse groups of relevant stakeholders.

9. The Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, with the financial support of Belgium, is currently assisting Egypt, Nigeria, United Republic of Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Yemen to develop pilot national programmes of action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities. To assist these and other countries in this process, the Coordination Office has developed a handbook, *Development and Implementation of National Programmes of Action*, which is available on the Clearing-house Mechanism web site. The handbook outlines a comprehensive but flexible framework for including the Global Programme of Action in the mainstream of national policies, programmes and plans, as well as relevant institutional and budgetary frameworks. National programmes that are developed using the guidance provided in the handbook will be dynamic, iterative and nationally endorsed processes that call for the phased implementation of priorities within a cross-sectoral, participatory framework.

10. The Global Programme of Action Coordination Office has been actively engaged in the further enhancement and expansion of the Clearing-house Mechanism, including a major re-development of the Oils programme, in partnership with the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency; the re-development of the Physical Alteration and the Destruction of Habitats programme; and ensuring close collaboration with UNEP.Net initiatives and other related networking and information management initiatives. In response to Governing Council decision 21/10 on the sharing of environmental data through a web-based geographic information system, efforts are underway to develop prototype web-based geographic information system applications related to physical alteration and destruction of habitats.

11. Cooperation with the regional seas programmes has been enhanced, thus supporting the implementation of the components of the regional seas programmes and action plans that deal with land-based sources of pollution.

12. UNEP acknowledges with thanks the continued support provided by the Government of the Netherlands in hosting the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office. The Netherlands has agreed to a renewal and extension of the host agreement governing the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for an indefinite period from 2003. UNEP also wishes to express appreciation for the support provided by a number of countries to the implementation of programmes and activities of the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, including Belgium, Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Finland, Japan, Sweden, Netherlands, Norway and United States of America.

II. GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION INPUT TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

13. Following the outcome of the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting and the endorsement of the 2002-2006 work programme by the Governing Council at its seventh special session (decision VII/6), UNEP and the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, placed major emphasis on providing substantive input into the preparation and running of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including into the Plan of Implementation², the water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity (WEHAB) papers, type two partnership proposals as they pertain to the Global Programme of Action, and ensuring a coordinated contribution of the coastal, ocean and islands community to the Summit. The Global Programme of Action Coordination Office actively participated in the preparatory process, including meetings for the World Summit held in New York and Bali.

14. UNEP, in collaboration with a large number of partners, in particular the Center for the Study of Marine Policy of the University of Delaware, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC), formed an Informal Coordinating Group on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, to achieve synergy and effective implementation of actions at and following the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Global Programme of Action Coordination Office led the development of the successful H2O Pavilion Hilltops to Oceans in the WaterDome at Johannesburg, involving 23 organizations, and coordinated a high-profile oceans event on 2 September 2002 at the WaterDome. In addition, the three core partners, UNEP, the Center for the Study of Marine Policy of the University of Delaware, and UNESCO/IOC, produced a well received *Guide to Oceans, Coasts and Islands* for delegates at the Summit, highlighting the coasts, oceans and islands agenda at the Summit. The Coordination Office conducted and facilitated the holding of a number of side events at the Summit, including those by GLOBE, UNESCO/IOC, International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN), the Mountain programme, the UNEP Collaborating Centre (UCC) on Water and Environment/Denmark, the Mediterranean region and several UNEP programmes relating to water, and lent support to the preparation and launching of several type two partnerships.

15. The Plan of Implementation, adopted at the Summit makes specific reference to the Global Programme of Action in its paragraphs 32 and 52 (e), namely:

(a) Paragraph 32:

“Advance implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, with particular emphasis in the period 2002-2006 on municipal wastewater, the physical alteration and destruction of habitats, and nutrients, by actions at all levels to:

“(a) Facilitate partnerships, scientific research and diffusion of technical knowledge; mobilize domestic, regional and international resources; and promote human and institutional capacity-building, paying particular attention to the needs of developing countries;

“(b) Strengthen the capacity of developing countries in the development of their national and regional programmes and mechanisms to mainstream the objectives of the Global Programme of Action and to manage the risks and impacts of ocean pollution;

“(c) Elaborate regional programmes of action and improve the links with strategic plans for the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources, noting in particular areas which are subject to accelerated environmental changes and development pressures;

“(d) Make every effort to achieve substantial progress by the next Global Programme of Action conference in 2006 to protect the marine environment from land-based activities.”

and

(b) Paragraph 52 (e):

“Effectively reduce, prevent and control waste and pollution and their health-related impacts by undertaking by 2004 initiatives aimed at implementing the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in small island developing States;”

16. The WEHAB paper, *A Framework for Action on Water and Sanitation* makes numerous references to the crucial linkages between the fresh and coastal as well as marine environments, the need to incorporate the principles of integrated coastal area management within integrated water resource management, and the need to implement the Global Programme of Action. In particular, the chapter on the frameworks for action reflects the agreements of the Montreal Declaration with an emphasis on integrated coastal area and river-basin management, national programmes of action and wastewater emission targets.

III. SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN ON MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

17. In the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/9/annex.I), adopted at the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, concern was expressed about the widespread poverty, particularly in coastal communities of developing countries, and the contribution that the conditions of poverty make to marine pollution through, for example, lack of even basic sanitation; and how marine degradation generates poverty by depleting the very basics for social and economic development.

18. In the Montreal Declaration, countries also committed to improve and accelerate the implementation of the Global Programme of Action by strengthening the capacity of local and national authorities with relevant financial and other resources to identify and assess needs and alternative solutions to specific land-based sources of pollution; to formulate, negotiate and implement contracts and other arrangements in partnership with the private sector; to obtain and utilize sound scientific information to engage in integrated decision-making, with stakeholder participation; and, to apply effective institutional and legal frameworks for sustainable coastal management.

19. Through the Montreal Declaration, the Intergovernmental Review Meeting welcomed the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater and urged UNEP to finalize the document as a tool for implementing the objectives of the Global Programme of Action.

20. The Governing Council at its seventh special session, in decision SS.VII/6, calls on Governments, the private sector and the international financial community to enhance the financing and implementation of innovative, appropriate and sustainable approaches to wastewater management by, inter alia, further integrating wastewater management with water supply objectives, promoting water re-use and demand management, and applying alternative approaches with regard to financing, partnerships, technology, institutional and managerial arrangements.

21. The World Summit on Sustainable Development urges all stakeholders, in its Plan of Implementation, to advance the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities and the Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, with particular emphasis on, among other issues, municipal wastewater. The World Summit also agreed to halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who do not have access to basic sanitation, which would include, inter alia, integrating sanitation into water resource management strategies.

A. The Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater

22. The Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater is a joint initiative of the UNEP Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, WHO, UN-HABITAT and WSSCC. Cooperation is ongoing with many other international and regional organizations, donor agencies, financial institutions and development assistance agencies. It is also a focal area in the UNEP/GPA 2000-2006 programme of work, developed in response to regional meetings held in the period 1996-1999, which identified sewage as the major pollution source category in most of the UNEP regional seas.

23. The Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater has been prepared to promote concrete action at the local and national levels, aimed at addressing sewage as one of the major source categories impacting the coastal and marine environment, particularly by promoting the use of alternative solutions, including low cost technologies, appropriate financial mechanisms and partnerships, and creating an enabling environment for action.

24. The Strategic Action Plan aims to achieve these goals by promoting global consensus on best practices and procedures to address municipal wastewater through the implementation of three main components:

(a) A normative component that sets standards in the approach to municipal wastewater management;

(b) A demonstration component to help share experiences and that distributes up-to-date knowledge on best practices and procedures and promotes their replication;

(c) A capacity-building component that illustrates the guidance on municipal wastewater management and that supports the efforts of municipalities and States to address the serious public health problems, economic losses and the degradation of coastal ecosystems resulting from the disposal in coastal areas of inadequately treated municipal wastewater.

1. The normative component

25. The normative component of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater comprises the development of a globally accepted guide for local and national decision makers and professionals on appropriate and environmentally sound wastewater management systems.

26. The guide has three major sections, each of which utilizes an interlinked development process and adoption procedure: key principles for policy makers; checklists on best practices and procedures for decision makers, especially at the municipal level, complemented by background information and references to the global knowledge base and other sources of information; and regional annexes.

27. The key principles aim to set the standard in the approach to municipal wastewater management, by promoting global consensus on best practices and procedures to address municipal wastewater. Following the guidance suggested at the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office and crucial partners have revised the key principles. The revised key principles, detailed in UNEP/GC.22/INF/4, are presented to the Governing Council for further consideration and with regard to the possible endorsement of the approach to the development of guidelines for municipal wastewater management. The document details the following key principles for action:

- (a) Secure political commitment and domestic financial resources as absolute prerequisites for appropriate wastewater management;
- (b) Create an enabling environment for sustainable solutions at both national and local levels;
- (c) Develop integrated and demand-driven management systems combining the collection and treatment of wastewater with drinking water supply and the provision of sanitation services;
- (d) Prevent pollution at the source, use water efficiently and apply appropriate low cost technologies for wastewater treatment;
- (e) Make water users and polluters pay for services based on social equity and solidarity to reach cost recovery;
- (f) Use time-bound targets and indicators for environmental integrity as well as for public health or economic welfare to make actions successful;
- (g) Implement measures step by step while exploring alternatives to reach long-term management goals;
- (h) Involve all stakeholders through partnership from the very beginning to secure their commitment;
- (i) Link the municipal wastewater sector to other economic sectors, such as tourism, to ensure financial stability and sustainability;
- (j) Introduce innovative financial mechanisms, including private sector involvement.

28. The annotated checklists detail different approaches, infrastructures and tools that are available to practitioners and decision makers. They address, among others: integrated and stepwise approaches, enabling environment and sustainability, including regulations and legislation, institutional arrangements

and voluntary initiatives, innovative financing mechanisms, including private sector involvement and domestic resource mobilization, community participation, and appropriate technologies, including low cost alternatives for treatment techniques.

29. The regional annexes provide a subset of the annotated checklists, selected by the regions as being of particular relevance to their areas. They translate and complement the global guidance, addressing the specific priorities and needs of particular regions. Regional annexes are under preparation in the Wider Caribbean, South Pacific, and West Asia regions. The regional annexes are the results of ongoing consultations with national and local experts, private sector, international financial institutions, potential donors, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders, within the appropriate regional context.

30. The guide is backed by a continuously updated global knowledge base, which is an integral part of the Global Programme of Action Clearing-house Mechanism, and is linked to the Sanitation Connection database (SANICON) and other relevant clearing-house initiatives. The key principles and annotated checklists are distilled from the global knowledge base and further developed through expert meetings and regional consultations.

31. As a consequence of the ongoing implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, the checklists, the regional annexes and the global knowledge base evolve continuously, building on the consensus of the established key principles. The process and approach are detailed in UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/5 and were endorsed by the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Global Programme of Action.

2. The demonstration component

32. The demonstration component of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater is conducted within the framework of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. Multi-stakeholder regional meetings have been held to review the draft guidelines and to consider the need to develop regional annexes. The meetings have also shared experiences and expertise, while follow-up processes involve the selection of candidate pilot projects to illustrate the innovative approaches advocated in the guide and to ensure replication and up-scaling in the region. The aim is to establish regular regional forums at which to exchange expertise and experiences.

3. The capacity-building component

33. The capacity-building component will involve the execution of pilot projects following the best practices and procedures advocated in the key principles and checklist components of the guidelines on municipal wastewater management. In close cooperation with other training initiatives, such as the Train-Sea-Coast Programme of the United Nations Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, the Global Programme of Action is also developing training modules and programmes to further disseminate the experiences and best practices from the pilot projects.

B. Progress in the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater

34. Following the outcome of the first Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action, and the endorsement of the approach to the development of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, the United Nations Environment Programme, and its Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, placed major emphasis on the continued development of the Guidelines for Municipal Wastewater Management and provided substantive input to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including:

(a) Publication of a guide, *Environmentally Sound Technologies for Wastewater Treatment*, jointly with the UNEP International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC);

(b) Participation in the AfricaSan Conference (Johannesburg, South Africa, 29 July – 1 August 2002), which resulted in a ministerial statement as well as an African Action Plan on Water and Sanitation, including wastewater treatment. The outcome of this high-profile conference was presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, and is to be forwarded to relevant structures such as NEPAD and AMCOW;

(c) Participation, through the South Pacific Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), in the high-level Pacific Regional Consultation on Water in Small Island Countries, convened by the Asian Development Bank and SOPAC (Sigatoka, Fiji, 29 July - 3 August 2002). The ministerial declaration and a detailed regional action plan call for a firm strengthening and implementation of integrated water resources Management including water supply, sanitation and wastewater treatment. It was agreed to support partnerships with the Caribbean and other small island regions, and to strongly support the issues at the third World Water Forum to be held in Japan in March 2003;

(d) Collaboration and active participation in global conferences and other forums organized by international and professional associations or other partners. These events provided opportunities for significant outreach to both the international and professional communities. Some of these events were: the WSSCC Global Forum (Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, November 2000); the UNESCO Conference on Urban Water Management (Marseille, France, June 2001); the International Conference on Freshwater (Bonn, Germany, 3 to 7 December 2001); and, the International Conference on Waste Water Management and its Effect on the Environment in Hot and Arid Countries (Muscat, Oman, 12 to 14 October 2002). The Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater and its implementation were presented at these conferences and participants were invited to contribute to the review of the guide on municipal wastewater;

(e) Preparatory work in the lead up to the third World Water Forum to be held in Japan, in March 2003, including sessions on water and sanitation and wastewater treatment. In cooperation with WHO, WSSCC and UN-HABITAT, a session on global initiatives on water and sanitation and wastewater treatment is being prepared. Other activities are being organized in close partnership with other partners including the SANICON core group and the Informal Coordinating Group on Oceans, Coasts and Islands.

35. The Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, jointly with partners, contributed substantially to the preparations for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, including input into the WEHAB paper, *A Framework for Action on Water and Sanitation*, stressing in particular in the need to assess the potential use of wastewater emission targets. Other activities included the active participation in various events that highlighted the issue of water and sanitation.

36. In response to the World Summit targets on sanitation, the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, jointly with WHO, UNICEF, UN-HABITAT and WSSCC, prepared and launched a report on the water supply and sanitation situation in the UNEP regional seas.

37. The Wastewater Emission Targets initiative is consistent with United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and seeks to move beyond the provision of guidance to a process of assessing the potential of global, regional, national and local wastewater emission targets to be reached within one generation's lifetime. Such targets may either relate to management objectives (issue oriented) or to emission reduction schemes in waste loads or concentrations (emission oriented).

38. Other objectives of the Wastewater Emission Targets initiative include efforts to facilitate recognition by Governments of the threats to human health, marine and freshwater resources and ecosystem integrity caused by increasing emissions of untreated wastewater into groundwater, freshwater, estuaries or coastal and marine areas; to recognize and apply the principle of common but differentiated responsibility; and to explore the application of global or regional economic instruments, such as water markets, pollution reduction trading mechanisms and multi-stakeholder water funds.

39. Governments and other stakeholders are invited to consider the possible use of Wastewater Emission Targets as additional management tools in setting priorities for action, allocation of resources and adequate progress reporting, with reference also to the World Summit agreed target on sanitation.

IV. FOLLOW-UP TO THE WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

40. In cooperation with the Informal Coordinating Group on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands, an 18-month action programme was developed and agreed upon to ensure expeditious follow-up to the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and the various type two initiatives in the field of coasts, oceans and islands. Specific activities that will be undertaken by the Informal Coordinating Group on Oceans, Coasts and Islands, of which the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office is part, include:

(a) An update to the *Guide to Oceans, Coasts and Islands* to reflect the adopted text, and to include all type two partnerships with summaries of actions, targets and time frames;

(b) An analysis of synergies, overlaps and gaps in how the type two partnerships on coasts and oceans respond to the Plan of Implementation;

(c) A programme of action to provide outreach and progress reports at relevant international meetings such as the Third World Water Forum in March 2003, including a reflection of the relevant World Summit outcomes on oceans, coasts and islands in the Global Programme of Action Clearing-house Mechanism and the Integrated Coastal Management Global Web Service sites;

(d) An analysis of knowledge and resources available and needed to implement the adopted Plan of Implementation at national, regional and global levels with respect to coasts and oceans;

(e) Development of a system to monitor progress in implementing the Plan of Implementation with respect to coasts and oceans;

(f) Convening an implementation conference in Paris in late 2003, in partnership with UNESCO/IOC and the University of Delaware, to review and report on progress and to identify further action to ensure the effective implementation of the relevant paragraphs on coast and oceans of the Plan of Implementation;

(g) Consolidate the informal multi-stakeholder network on oceans, coasts and islands by expanding the network of partners to incorporate major industry groups;

41. It is recognized that the follow-up to the World Summit targets for water supply and sanitation needs an internationally agreed instrument to address the environmental dimensions of water supply and sanitation in the context of integrated water resource management, as is advocated in the UNEP Water Policy. Also from an environmental point of view, an enabling environment, which may include legal issues, regulations, targets, strategies and action plans at regional and national levels, is a prerequisite to reach the World Summit targets.

42. Activities to be undertaken include the development of a UNEP strategy on how to address the environmental dimensions of water supply and sanitation. The strategy will contribute to the development of instruments in conjunction with the active involvement of other partner organizations, including WHO, United Nations Children's Educational Fund and WSSCC, to achieve the World Summit targets for water supply and sanitation.

43. The UNEP will build upon existing and ongoing work, such as the UNEP Water Policy and the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater, and take into account the current activities of the United Nations Secretary-General's Task Force on water supply and sanitation that was set up to coordinate the follow-up and related provisions of the Millennium Declaration, the Johannesburg Declaration on

Sustainable Development³ and the Plan of Implementation of the world Summit on Sustainable Development. These activities will be carried out in partnership with other appropriate United Nations agencies and international organizations, taking into account their respective areas of competence.

V. SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

44. The policy direction, strategy and programme of work of the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office for the period 2003-2006 are detailed in UNEP/IGR.1/6, the Montreal Declaration, and Governing Council decision SS VII/6 on the Global Programme of Action adopted at its seventh special session, and further enlarged in the proposed UNEP programme of work for 2004-2005 as it relates to the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office. In view of the outcome of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, its plan of implementation and the WEHAB paper, *A Framework for Action on Water and Sanitation*, the Governing Council might wish to consider further strengthening the following components:

- (a) Detailing the follow-up and contribution by UNEP, to the implementation of the Governing Council decision on the global assessment of the state of the marine environment (decision 21/13), in light of paragraph 34(b) of the World Summit's Plan of Implementation, which articulates a commitment to establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments;
- (b) Improving the scientific, management and institutional links between freshwater management and coastal as well as marine management (ICARM programme) in line with the water, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity paper on water and sanitation;
- (c) Encouraging the adoption of a holistic and environmental definition of "sanitation" that incorporates not only the provision of sanitation services, but all other components of the wastewater management process, including treatment, re-use, and re-allocation to the natural environment, as a contribution to the World Summit target for sanitation;
- (d) Developing a UNEP strategy paper on the environmental dimensions of water supply and sanitation in the context of integrated water resource management;
- (e) Stimulating the creation of an enabling environment with respect to the environmental dimensions of water supply and sanitation at the regional, national and local levels, which may include legal issues, regulations, targets, strategies and action plans at regional and national levels, as a contribution to achieving the World Summit targets, thereby building upon existing experience and expertise within and outside UNEP;
- (f) Developing, in cooperation with relevant programmes within UNEP and key partners, indicators to assess the impact of the provision of improved sanitation on the health and well-being of coastal populations and the environment, as a contribution to the World Summit target for sanitation;
- (g) Noting the key principles, outlining global consensus on innovative approaches to action, contained in the Guidance for Municipal Wastewater Management of the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater (UNEP/GC.22/INF/4);
- (h) Endorsing the Strategic Action Plan on Municipal Wastewater approach to further develop checklists and regional annexes, addressing the specific and newly emerging needs of the respective regions (UNEP/GC.22/INF/4);

(i) Encouraging the Executive Director, in partnership with appropriate United Nations organizations and regional programmes, to further explore the principle of using regional, national and/or local Wastewater Emission Targets as an additional management tool for priority setting, resource allocation and progress reporting, among others, to assist the follow-up to the World Summit target for sanitation;

(j) Strengthening the capacity of national and local authorities to move from the planning to the implementation of fully resourced public spending programmes, pollution monitoring and control regimes, market and/or fiscal incentives for pollution regulation and capacity-building initiatives;

(k) Applying, in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, particularly with regard to the need to mobilize and increase the effective use of financial resources to protect the environment, and the need to pursue at the national level, policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage initiative while protecting the environment;

(l) Encouraging the continuation of the work of the Informal Coordinating Group on Oceans, Coasts and Islands as an input to the monitoring by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the results of the World Summit and the effective implementation of type two partnerships;

(m) Requesting the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its next regular session, on preparations for the second Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action in 2006, including offers by Governments to host the intergovernmental review.

VI. SUGGESTED ACTION BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL ON THE GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT FROM LAND-BASED ACTIVITIES

The Governing Council may wish to consider the adoption of a decision along the lines suggested below.

The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decisions 21/10 of 9 February 2001 and SS.VII/6 of 15 February 2002,

Having considered the progress reports of the Executive Director on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action contained in documents UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3, UNEP/GCSS.VII/4/Add.4 and UNEP/GC.22/2/Add.2,

Acknowledging the Montreal Declaration⁴ and other outcomes of the first Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action held in Montreal in November 2001, and the consideration given to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action by the World Summit on Sustainable Development which met in Johannesburg in September 2002, specifically in paragraphs 32 and 52(e) of the Summit's Plan of Implementation and in the framework of action on water and sanitation, energy, health, agriculture and biodiversity,

Acknowledging the relevance of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development in March 2002, Monterrey, Mexico⁵, to the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, particularly with regard to the need to mobilize and increase the effective use of financial resources to protect the environment, and the need to pursue at the national level policy and regulatory frameworks that encourage initiative while protecting the environment, as also stipulated in the Global Programme of Action,

Recognizing that the Global Programme of Action is the only global action programme that addresses the linkages between freshwater, coastal and marine environments, and is therefore uniquely placed to: promote scientific, management and institutional links between the freshwater, coastal and ocean management communities; forward the principles of Integrated Coastal Area and River-basin Management; and facilitate improved multi-stakeholder communication and cooperation on freshwater, coastal and ocean issues at local, national and regional levels,

Welcoming with appreciation the support given by Governments to the 2002-2006 work programme of the Global Programme of Action Coordination Office, endorsed by the first Intergovernmental Review meeting and the seventh special session of the Governing Council,

1. Requests the Executive Director to address in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action the outcomes of the Montreal Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus and the World Summit on Sustainable Development as they relate to the objectives of the Global Programme of Action, and to submit a progress report on activities of the United Nations Environment Programme as secretariat of the Global Programme of Action to the Governing Council at its twenty-third session;

2. Further requests the Executive Director to continue to contribute to the work of the Informal Coordinating Group on Oceans, Coasts and Islands formed for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, with a view to providing input on the monitoring by the Commission on Sustainable Development of the results of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and creating synergies amongst the type two partnerships relating to coastal and marine issues;

3. Urges Governments and international organizations in a position to do so to further contribute to the Trust Fund for the Global Programme of Action, and urges the United Nations Environment Programme to mobilize new contributors;

4. Requests the Executive director to further promote the concept of Integrated Coastal Area and River-basin Management, and to facilitate, wherever possible, scientific, management and institutional links between freshwater management and coastal and marine management;

5. Urges Governments to improve multi-stakeholder communication and cooperation on freshwater, coastal and ocean issues at local, national and regional levels;

6. Adopts a holistic approach to sanitation and the implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development sanitation target, incorporating not only the provision of household sanitation services, but all other components of the water management process, including wastewater collection, treatment, re-use, and re-allocation to the natural environment;

7. Requests the Executive Director to develop a strategy paper on the environmental dimensions of water supply and sanitation in the context of integrated water resource management, and to cooperate with appropriate United Nations organizations and programmes to develop indicators to assess the impact of provision of improved sanitation on the health and well-being of coastal populations and the environment;

8. Notes the key principles of the Guidance on Municipal Wastewater Management⁶ of the United Nations Environment Programme, World Health Organization, United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, outlining global consensus on innovative approaches in municipal wastewater management, and endorses the approach to further develop checklists and regional annexes periodically, addressing the specific and newly emerging needs of the respective regions;

9. Requests the Executive Director to assess the feasibility of organizing, in cooperation with the partners of the joint Global Programme of Action of Municipal Wastewater Action Programme – the World Health Organization, the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council, and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the Task Force on Water and Sanitation of the Millennium project, and within the framework of the regional seas, regional consultations concerning the development, and thereafter possible implementation, of national and regional Wastewater Emission Targets;

10. Urges Governments to continue strengthening and accelerating their efforts in implementing the Global Programme of Action, as called for in United Nations General Assembly resolution 55/34 A of 20 November 2000, Governing Council decision SS.VII/6 of 15 February 2002, and paragraph 32 of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development;

11. Encourages Governments, wherever possible, to conduct their national activities in support of the objectives of the Global Programme of Action, within a regional framework, considering the efforts of neighbouring Governments and the respective regional seas programmes;

12. Urges Governments to involve international financing institutions, non-governmental organizations, private sector and other stakeholders and major groups, through partnerships, in efforts to implement the Global Programme of Action;

13. Requests the Executive Director to report to the Governing Council, at its next regular session, on preparations for the second Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action in 2006, including offers by Governments to host the intergovernmental review.

¹ UNEP/GPA/IGR.1/3.

² Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August to 4 September 2002 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1), chapter I, resolution 2, annex.

³ Ibid., resolution 1, annex.

⁴ GCSS.VII/4/Add.4, annex.

⁵ Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002 (United Nations publications, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chapter I, resolution 1, annex.

⁶ UNEP/GC.22/INF/4.