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Implementation of the resolutions of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which are relevant to the Regional Seas programmes

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- 1. The second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)¹ was held at the UN Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 2016.
- 2. The United Nations Environment Assembly Member States adopted twenty five resolutions at the session. Among several resolutions that are related to the work of the Regional Seas programmes, four resolutions are considered to particularly important: (1) 2/10: Oceans and seas; (2) 2/11: Marine plastic litter and microplastics; (3) 2/12: Sustainable coral reefs management; and (4) 2/18: Relationship between the United Nations Environment Programme and the multilateral environmental agreements for which it provides the secretariats.
- 3. For those Regional Seas programmes in which Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are participating, it is encouraged to pay attention to the resolutions 2/4: Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 4. These resolutions are included in UNEP/WBRS.18/Inf.XXX. The strategy for the implementation of the four resolutions (2/10, 2/11. 2/12, and 2/18) is described in Annex. Responding to the requests by Member States, UNEP will bring the resolutions to the attentions of the governing bodies of the Regional Seas programmes accordingly. The UNEP secretariat underscores the importance of several paragraphs in these resolutions and these are indicated by <u>underlined</u> sentences.
- 5. Regional Seas secretaraits are requested to bring necessary action to their own governing bodies, and as necessary request necessary action or decision by the parties/member states at the next session of these governing bodies

¹ http://web.unep.org/unea

Annex: 2/10 Oceans and Seas

Number	Operational Paragraph	UNEP Action	Regional Seas Action
1.	Requests the Executive Director to include oceans-related aspects regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets in United Nations Environment Programme activities, in cooperation and coordination with relevant global and regional fora, agreements and organization, consistent with international law, and to report to the next Environment Assembly;	 Incorporation of activities within the PoW projects (321.1, 321.2 and 322.1); UNEP moving towards the implementation of the RSSD; Synergies discussion should be organized between UNEP and CBD/CMS/IWC; Mapping of UNEP contribution to ocean-related SDGs; and Synergies with Global Coral Reef Partnership activities responding to EA/2/12 OP 6, 12). 	Coordination with the Regional Fisheries Bodies through the Seoul Meeting.
2.	Calls for continued cooperation and coordination among all relevant global and regional fora and organizations on marine issues, including the Food and Agriculture Organization, the International Maritime Organization, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the International Seabed Authority, the International Whaling Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme, to deliver coherently on Sustainable Development Goal 14 and its interrelated targets;	 Participation in UN-Ocean; Participation in the Advisory Panel for the Fiji-led Conference through convening and participation in the informal working groups; Implementation of the MOU with FAO, IMO, UNESCO, WMU, IAEA; Collaboration in ICRI and GCRMN (particularly project 321.2 activities responding to EA/2/12 OP 4 on private sector collaboration in relation to coral reef fisheries in consultation with FAO); Collaboration with CBD (MSP, mainstreaming and marine debris), CMS (marine debris and 	 Participation of UN organisations in the global meeting of the regional seas; and Regional seas and regional fisheries bodies cooperation

3.	Invites the Executive Director to provide the necessary input for the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development to be organized in June 2017, as appropriate;	connectivity) and IWC (marine debris); and Development and presentation of partnerships for the Fiji-led conference, including ongoing partnerships such as GCRP Submission of an official paper to the Prepcom and the main conference; Leading/participating in IPWGs of the Advisory Panel; Development of and presentation of partnerships, including ongoing partnerships such as GCRP, GPML, GPNM, GWI, GPA, Regional Seas, 10YFP, UNEP-Live	Prepare input based on the discussion at the GMRS18.
4.	Calls on Member States who have not yet done so to consider acceding to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, to promote its rapid entry into force;	No action needed	No action
5.	Invites Member States and regional seas conventions and action plans, in cooperation, as appropriate, with other relevant organizations and fora, such as regional fisheries management organizations, to work towards the implementation of, and reporting on, the different ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets.	 See also activities responding to EA/2/12 OP 6, 12 Development of regional seas indicators in association with the SDG indicators Regional coordination mechanisms of SDG14 implementation (under the EC project) 	 Cooperation between regional fisheries bodies and regional seas, as highlighted in the Seoul meeting; Dialogues will be further developed in the specific regions: OSPAR, Med, Black Sea, Western Indian Ocean, West Africa, PERSGA; and Starting dialogues: Pacific, Bay of Bengal, ROPME.

6.	Requests the United Nations Environment Programme to step up its work, including through its Regional Seas Programme, on assisting countries and regions in the application of the ecosystem approach to managing the marine and coastal environment, including through enabling inter-sectoral cooperation in integrated coastal zone management and marine spatial planning;	 MSP guidelines to be published; MSP experience sharing platform possibly combined with Blue Solution platform ICZM and governance work; EbM pilot activities (Mekong Delta); MSP pilots (Western Indian Ocean, Adriatic, West Africa); and activities responding to EA/2/12 OP 11, 12. 	 Implementation of the Ecosystem Approach to Regional Seas; and Pilot regional ecosystem approach work (Mediterranean, ROPME).
7.	Also requests the United Nations Environment Programme to provide, upon request from the Member States, technical advice on the designation, establishment and active management of marine protected areas and on the application of other spatial management measures in cooperation with competent international and regional forums and organizations, including, as appropriate, multilateral environmental agreements, and regional forums and organizations, including, as appropriate, multilateral environmental agreements, and regional fisheries bodies;	 MPA governance work MPA tool in the regional ocean governance (Caribbean decision support system) under the 10x20 initiative MPA database under the World Database of Protected Areas and SDG indicator on MPAs (14.5) Support to the countries in establishing MPAs (Dominican Republic, Haiti, some Mediterranean countries) activities responding to EA/2/12 OP 4 (private sector MPA management), 6 (Aichi 10), 7 (MPAs), 11 (planning tools), 12 (national or regional measures or action plans) 	 Application of tools in the Caribbean and the Pacific; and Advancing Regional MPA network.

0	Encourages member States, individually and jointly and	Camp as 7	Camp as 7
8.	Encourages member States, individually and jointly and also within regional bodies, to designate and actively manage marine protected areas and take other effective area-based conservation measures, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information, with a view to achieving the related global targets, in particular where significantly less than 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas are so far being conserved, or where protected areas lack effective and equitable management, connectedness or ecological representativeness;	Same as 7	Same as 7
9.	Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to continue to participate in the process initiated by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 69/292 on the negotiations on the development of an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction;	 An official Regional seas paper to be submitted to Prepcom; A side event on the regional seas to be organized; and Area-based management tools review. 	Different regional seas to participate in the discussion and side event.
10.	Notes the document on the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017–2020 and requests the Executive Director to communicate the Strategic Directions to conferences of the parties, intergovernmental meetings or other governing bodies of the relevant regional seas conventions and action plans;	 Bringing the RSSD to the COP and other regional seas governing bodies; and Inclusion of specific UNEP action in the PoW 	Submit the RSSD to their respective governing bodies.
11.	Requests the Executive Director, through the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Seas Programme, to reinforce cooperation, coordination, communication and sharing of best practices and information among the existing regional seas conventions and action plans across different geographical areas, in line with the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017–2020;	 Development of an experience sharing platform; InforMEA pilot activities to be completed; and GCRP: exchange of tools and approaches for coral reef planning and management (e.g. replication of Green Fins, regional approach to GCRMN reporting, economic 	Regional seas information sharing platform, starting with the SIDS information sharing platform (blue economy and marine litter).

		instruments); sharing of CC resilience data and planning tools through coral reef theme on UNEP-Live	
12.	Invites member States that have not done so to consider becoming Parties and/or Members to regional seas conventions and action plans, and encourages the United Nations Environment Programme, through its Regional Seas Programme, to support initiatives of such	UNEP sending notes and as necessary mission to those states that have not participated in the regional seas.	 Revitalisation of the NEP; Resuming the discussion of SWAT; and
	Member States in that regard;		 <u>Each regional seas to invite non</u> members to join (Timor Leste, Burunei darsalaam, DPRK, Myanmar, Honduras, Suriname, <u>EU, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Sao Tome i Principe, etc.)</u>
13.	Encourages the contracting parties to existing regional seas conventions to consider the possibility of increasing the regional coverage of those instruments in accordance with international law	Through the PROG, CPPS and Abidjan Convention are supported for the process of the parties on this issue	Each regional seas is to bring this issue to the discussion of the Parties.
14.	Acknowledges and expresses support for the strategic partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization in the context of the 2030 Agenda, particularly for the implementation of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns;	 Implementation of the MOU between UNEP and FAO; Incorporation of the ocean related items in the MOU. 10YFP sustainable food systems programme 	Regional seas and regional fishery bodies cooperation
15.	Supports the United Nations Environment Programme's contribution to the activities of marine ecosystem restoration, and in particular to ecosystem management and restoration in coastal regions, nature-based solutions to climate adaptation and the creation of sustainable jobs and livelihoods in coastal regions, including through multi-stakeholder partnerships;	Mangrove restoration and associated livelihood programme (Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Abu Dhabi, Ecuador) Implementation of the blue carbon project manual Linkage with the GEF restoration	

16.	Encourages the United Nations Environment Programme to provide scientific support, in cooperation with relevant organizations, programmes and forums, to increase understanding of – and thus help in avoiding – abrupt, accelerating, or irreversible environmental	Ocean acidification monitoring; Coral reef indicators through GCRMN 2/12 OP 14; consultation /collaboration with IOC-UNESCO and IAEA, including through SDG
	changes with potentially significant global consequences, for example through thawing of the permafrost of the seabed and melting of sea ice and glaciers;	14 Conference IPWG; Impacts of coastal permafrost melting in coastal ecosystems in polar seas; Downscaled climate model projections for coral bleaching conditions (PoW 321.2, 2/12 OP 11)
17.	Requests the Executive Director to assess the effectiveness of the United Nations Environment Programme's 2011 marine and coastal strategy and, on the basis of that assessment, submit a proposal for its update, revision or replacement for consideration by the Environment Assembly at its next session.	Internal process for review to be started

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