

- the need for a holistic approach to the management of marine and coastal areas, that took into account all relevant aspects of development such as social, cultural, economic and environmental considerations;
- the need to further integrate fisheries and environmental protection and conservation measures, at the local, national, regional, and global levels. Work should be carried out at the most appropriate level;
- the need for a more active role for civil society, which required the provision of adequate education and information. In Sweden, for example, environmental education had been integrated into all levels of the curriculum, and children from the earliest age were instilled with an environmental conscience, developing sustainable habits from the outset and often teaching their own parents; and
- the need for the defence establishment to share its scientific and technical capabilities with other sectors of society.

She concluded by noting that sustainable development depended on joint action and constructive cooperation, and wished participants success in the work to be undertaken.

17. Mr. Robin Teverson, Member of the European Parliament, and Member of the GLOBE International Working Group on Oceans, emphasised that the topics addressed at this conference were vital, particularly at the onset of the *International Year of the Oceans*. Referring to the vastness and riches of the oceans, he noted that man has largely taken them for granted, and only now fully understood that the oceans constituted one of the most important links of the world environment. However, legislators should strive to work against abuse of the oceans. For example, although the fisheries crisis was globally recognised, millions of dollars were spent to subsidise overfishing. As precious resources were depleted, the potential for international conflict increased. Mr. Teverson thus welcomed the ministerial segment of the Conference given that it was a vital link towards effective action. He expressed concern over the dichotomy that as understanding of complex ocean systems increased, so too did the capacity to destroy them. He concluded by stating there was still time for our oceans, and hoped that over the next three days good intentions would move towards action. "We are the people and ours the generation that must offer the oceans the protection and security vital for mankind's health and survival".
18. Dr. Mario Soares, who spoke in his capacity as Chairman of the Independent World Commission on Oceans (IWCO), welcomed the opportunity to address a conference with the participation of experts from many fields. He noted that although there were a plethora of organisations, both governmental and non-governmental that dealt with different aspects of the oceans, there were none that encompassed the complex and multifaceted problems of the oceans in an integrated manner. All relevant actors were inadequately informed and not very active given the vital importance of oceans for mankind's future economic and social development. These considerations led him in 1995 to accept the nomination as Chairman of the IWCO, whose leading objective was to increase awareness of the crucial importance of the oceans, as well as to suggest ways of improving ocean management and to further the pacific and sustainable use of the oceans. This latter goal was of growing importance in a world of burgeoning populations and economic expansion, in search of ever more ocean resources and services. It was clear, nonetheless, that a new approach was needed given the proliferation of sectoral proposals, sometimes contradictory, put forth by existing institutions. The hour had come for adopting an integrating, comprehensive approach, at both the legal and institutional level. It was necessary to create a new