

Annex

Chairmen's Working Paper

(Revised version of document A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.6)

AGENDA 21

[GENERAL OBJECTIVES]

[1. The marine environment —including the oceans and adjacent coastal areas— forms an integrated whole that is an essential component of the global life support system. It should be viewed as a positive asset presenting opportunities for sustainable development. Management of its environmental quality and ecological integrity is a prerequisite for ensuring the sustainable use and development of its resources.

[2. Principles ofThe United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) provides [the international framework within which][basis] to pursue the protection and sustainable development of the marine environment. [UNCLOS] contains generally accepted rights and obligations of States with respect to the marine environment. Implementation of those rights and obligations constitutes the objective of this part of Agenda 21 dealing with the oceans.]

[2 The Law of the Sea Convention has introduced new global legal regime, although it lacks the necessary ratifications to enter into force, provides a solid legislative base to govern many international relationships and for ocean management. However, at least two levels need to be harmonized in the management of oceans and coastal areas. The first level is the coastal areas and Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs), where Governments have certain rights and responsibilities within national jurisdiction. The second level is the high seas, which require different cooperative arrangements at the global, regional and national levels. Legal and economically focused management regimes must be adjusted so as to incorporate both levels and to take account of political and administrative boundaries as well as the variety of physical and biological units being managed e.g. large marine ecosystems, marine catchment basins and species ranges. The oceans and coastal areas should be viewed as positive assets presenting opportunities for sustainable development. This requires an integrated approach at national, regional and international levels. The overall goal is to maintain the oceans as a functional part of the global life support system, as a productive resource, and as a current and future asset for multiple sustainable development and environmental benefits so as to meet the well-being of present and future generations.]

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Note: The underlined text corresponds to the new proposed texts by delegations.

The numbers at the end of the paragraphs indicate the original para. of doc. A/CONF.151/PC/42/Add.6.