

BACKGROUND

1. In recent years, there has been an increasing appreciation of the contribution of the oceans to global security, including economic, food and environmental security. However, despite the existence of a plethora of international and regional conventions, treaties, programmes and action plans, the world's marine and coastal regions remain highly vulnerable to the activities of humankind. To a large extent this is due to ineffective coordination, and weak global and regional partnerships. The designation by the United Nations of 1998 as the *International Year of the Oceans* has therefore provided an opportunity to re-focus the attention of the international community on the urgent need to further intensify cooperative efforts aimed at reversing the degradation of the ocean and coastal environment, and at promoting the sustainable management of ocean resources.
2. The Conference *Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium* was co-organised by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) and the Global Legislators' Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE), and was undertaken with the assistance of: ACOPS' Chairman, Prof. Per Wramner, also Director General of Sweden's National Board of Fisheries, and ACOPS' Nordic Office; Mr. Carlos Pimenta, Member of the European Parliament and President of GLOBE, and the GLOBE European Office; the Governments of Canada, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom; the Navy of the United States of America; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC of UNESCO); the City of Kalmar and the City of Stockholm; the Swedish Parliament; the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (MISTRA); and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). The Conference was held in the Swedish Parliament, Stockholm, from 31 January to 2 February 1998.

PARTICIPANTS

3. The Conference was attended by: Mr. Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden; Mr. John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, Transport and the Regions, United Kingdom; Her Royal Highness Professor Dr. Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand; the Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG, ACOPS' President and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Dr. Mario Soares, Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans and former President of Portugal; Ms. Birgitta Dahl, Speaker of Swedish Parliament; 200 governmental and other participants from Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Kiribati, Latvia, Lithuania, Mozambique, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the Seychelles, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, including 19 Ministers and Deputy Ministers; representatives of the following organisations: Independent World Commission on the Oceans (IWCO); International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); IOC of UNESCO; UNEP; the Commission of the European Union; members of the European Parliament and GLOBE; representatives of ACOPS and other non-governmental organisations (NGOs); and representatives of the scientific community and private sector. A list of participants appears in this report as the Appendix II, and a list of acronyms appears as Appendix III.