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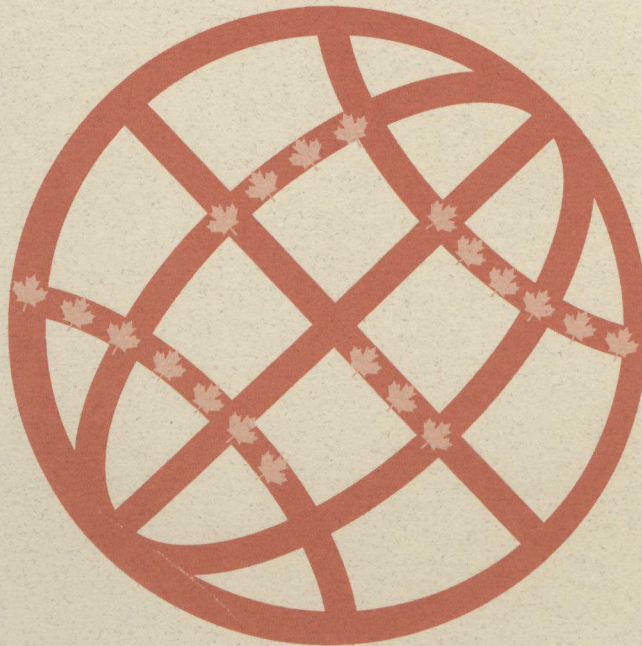
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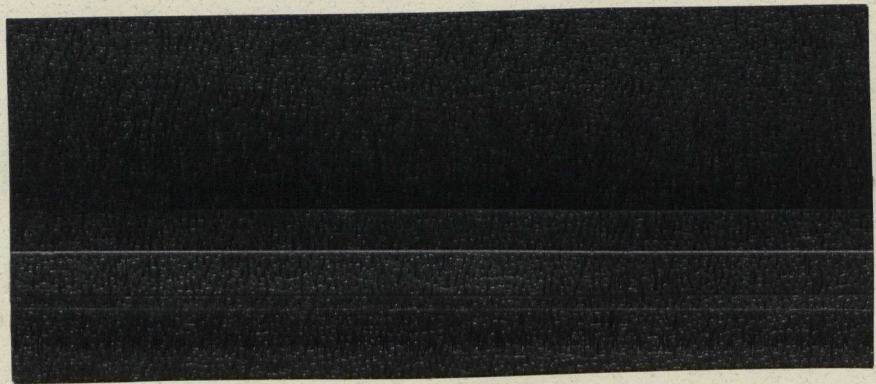
**TOWARDS ENHANCED OCEAN SECURITY  
INTO THE THIRD MILLENNIUM**

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) and  
Global Legislators Organization for a  
Balanced Environment (GLOBE).

January 31 - February 2, 1998.

**1001.1E**





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ACOPS

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA

AND

TOWARDS ENHANCED OCEAN SECURITY  
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REPORT  
OF THE CONFERENCE

TOWARDS ENHANCED OCEAN SECURITY  
INTO THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

Dept. of Foreign Affairs  
Min. des Affaires étrangères

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**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA**

**AND**

5 March 1998

Dear Colleagues,

**GLOBAL LEGISLATORS ORGANISATION FOR A  
BALANCED ENVIRONMENT (GLOBE)**

I would like to thank you once again for your attendance at our Stockholm Conference 'Towards Enhanced Ocean Security in the Third Millennium'. It is with the greatest pleasure that I now enclose a copy of the Final Report. Please note that the Stockholm Action Strategy (which contains Part A: Stockholm Action Strategy on Ocean Security, and Part B: Portfolio of Action Processes) is enclosed in Annex 1.

I sincerely hope that you found the conference of interest and use, and I look forward to hearing any comments which you may wish to share. Please note that you have had a chance to read the report, including the Action Strategy, at the various meetings and working groups where you did not participate. Please note that the report will be published by the Swedish Parliament in the near future. Copies of the report will be sent to you as soon as they are available.

**REPORT  
OF THE CONFERENCE**

**TOWARDS ENHANCED OCEAN SECURITY  
INTO THE THIRD MILLENNIUM**

The report will be published by the Swedish Parliament in the near future. In addition, we have also begun considerations of how to address other issues raised during the conference.

I would also like to ask you if you require any additional copies for submission to your government, academic institution, regional organisation, or other relevant body in your country. If you do, I would be most grateful if you could let us have details of your requirements and a telephone number.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Secretary

The Swedish Parliament, Stockholm, 31 Jan. - 2 Feb. 1998



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5 March 1998

Dear Colleague,

## **ACOPS/GLOBE Conference Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium, Swedish Parliament, 31 January – 2 February 1998**

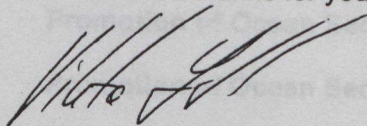
I would like to thank you once again for your attendance at our Stockholm Conference "Towards Enhanced Ocean Security in the Third Millennium". It is with the greatest pleasure that I now enclose a copy of the Final Report. Please note that the Stockholm Action Strategy (which contains Part A: Stockholm Action Strategy on Ocean Security, and Part B: Portfolio of Action Proposals) is enclosed in Annex I.

I sincerely hope that you found the conference of interest and use, and I look forward to hearing any comments which you might have now that you have had a chance to read the report, including the debate in the working groups where you did not participate. Please note that a book on the conference will be published by the Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (MISTRA) later this year. Details will be sent to you as soon as they are available.

You may also be interested to know that in the course of 1998, ACOPS will commence implementation for the Stockholm Action Strategy at the regional level in the Russian Federation and in sub-Saharan Africa. Concrete measures that will be undertaken in those regions will be reviewed at a conference in Moscow to be convened in the autumn and in Cape Town (30 November - 4 December), respectively. In addition, we have also begun considerations of how to address other issues in the portfolio of proposals.

I would also like to ask you if you require any additional copies for submission to your Government, scientific institution, regional organisation, or other relevant body in whose work you participate. I would be most grateful if you could let us have details of any such submission and/or response.

With renewed thanks for your cooperation.



Viktor Sebek  
Executive Director





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## 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.

## MESSAGES

4. Messages in acknowledgement of the Conference's contributions were received from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden, the Prime Minister of Sweden, leading political figures from the Russian Federation, the Republic of the Seychelles, the Republic of South Africa, and the United States, as well as from the Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG, ACOPS' President and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and Dr. Mario Soares, Chairman of the IWCO, and former President of Portugal.
5. His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden welcomed both organisers and participants to this important Conference. He expressed his interest in protection of the environment and stated that he was pleased that the ACOPS/GLOBE Conference would set scientific knowledge into political action in this regard. His Majesty the King also stated that he would be interested in learning more of the outcome of the Conference, and conveyed his best wishes for success.
6. Mr. Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden, expressed his pleasure that the City of Stockholm was host to this Conference, in particular since the Baltic Region had the potential to become the fastest-growing region in Europe for years to come if the goal of peaceful co-existence, socially stable economic development and successful environmental policies in the region could be attained. The Prime Minister extended his best wishes for the success of the Conference.
7. Mr. Gennadii Nikolaevich Seleznev, President of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, wished the ACOPS/GLOBE Stockholm Conference success in achieving its laudable aims, and hoped that the productive work carried out by ACOPS/GLOBE in the Russian Federation would continue.
8. Mr. France Albert René, President of the Republic of the Seychelles, had high expectations that the Conference would be successful in developing concrete proposals for policies and actions to implement the recommendations of the Potomac Declaration.
9. Mr. Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa, thanked ACOPS for appointing Mr. Peter Mokaba, Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, to the position of ACOPS' Vice-President from South Africa. President Mandela also pointed out the important steps that South Africa had taken in the framework of environmental resources management since ACOPS' Washington Conference on Oceans and Security, and wished success to the participants of this Conference.
10. Mr. Al Gore, Vice-President of the United States of America, acknowledged ACOPS' efforts aimed at creating a space for discussing solutions for the problem of pollutants that affect the coastal and marine environment, and extended his best wishes for a successful and productive Conference.
11. Mr. Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, presented the participants at the Conference with three challenges: to establish a global ocean data base in order to develop a virtual ocean model; to work towards the designation of an International Biodiversity Year (IBY); and to perform cost-benefit analyses of environmental activities in order to maximise the return from environmental investments and to determine the effectiveness of current policies. Finally, he commended the participants of the Conference for their work towards the goal of enhancing ocean security.

12. The Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG, ACOPS' President and a former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, applauded the United Nations' decision to declare 1998 to be *International Year of the Oceans* and stressed the important role that NGOs such as ACOPS had to play in bringing home the message of protection of the oceans and their resources. He also thanked Congressman Curt Weldon, ACOPS' Vice-President from the USA, for his role in the promotion of the concept of ocean security, both nationally and globally.
13. Dr. Mario Soares, Chairman of the IWCO, expressed the view that it was essential for mankind to form a new relationship with the environment, especially with regard to future generations, as it progresses towards the third millennium. He hoped that by being visionary in objectives and pragmatic in approach, both the beauty of the oceans and their resources could be more fully available for the benefit of mankind.

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE

### Saturday, 31 January 1998

#### Opening of the Conference

14. The Plenary Session was chaired by Prof. Per Wramner. Ms. Paula Caballero, Director of Internexos, Colombia, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy, was rapporteur for the session. The Conference Agenda is attached as Appendix I.
15. At the opening ceremony, Prof. Wramner noted that, having begun the process initiated at the Washington Conference in the US Congress, it was quite fitting to continue ACOPS' work in the Swedish Parliament. Stating that many ministers and high-level participants were attending the meeting, he urged that the collective political weight be used to enhance the cause of oceans worldwide through the concept of ocean security. Participants then heard the following statements (Annex III contains keynote speeches and statements presented at the Conference):
16. Ms. Birgitta Dahl, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, and member of the United Nations High Level Advisory Board on Sustainable Development, opened the Conference by stressing the need to find a common ground for working towards sustainable development, and for developing workable goals and commitments, and concrete actions. She stated that the concept of ocean security was very constructive and should aid in the identification of strategic key areas, one of which was water. She recalled that not only was 1998 the *International Year of the Oceans*, but that the 1999 session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) would concentrate on water issues. Although recent meetings such as the Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the Kyoto Conference were characterised by a gloomy sense of resignation and disappointing results, Ms. Dahl urged participants not to despair given that there was evidence of progress towards sustainable development. Key actors such as ACOPS and GLOBE needed to concentrate on fields of strategic importance and could form the basis for further action. She then highlighted four points of the report of the High Level Advisory Board:

- 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

ethic in the relationship between humanity and the seas, reflected in the rational and sustainable use of the oceans and its resources, and in the creation of the necessary conditions for a more equitable sharing between North and South of the benefits derived from the seas. Finally, he asserted that the Commission supported the creation of a World Forum on Ocean Issues, which would debate fundamental questions regarding the oceans. Similarly, the creation of a World Ocean Observatory structured around a network, which would provide periodic analyses regarding the state of the oceans to the Forum, would be very timely.

19. Congressman Curt Weldon, Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Research and Development of the Committee on National Security, House of Representatives, Congress of the USA, Chairman of the GLOBE International Working Group on Oceans, and ACOPS' Vice-President from the USA, affirmed that the Washington Potomac Declaration was a blueprint for the sustainable use of the oceans into the next millennium. The goal of the Washington Conference, that of raising the level of awareness about ocean issues, was fully accomplished as reflected in unprecedented media attention and polls that indicated the high priority the American public today ascribed to ocean research and issues. Similarly, a document signed by over 16,000 marine conservation biologists from over 65 nations that summarised the threats to the ocean's well-being, recognised that the living sea was in trouble and that there was need for decisive action. Mankind could help fulfil this objective by taking concrete actions to implement the Potomac Declaration. Congressman Weldon went on to enumerate many illustrative examples of concrete actions undertaken in the United States. He said that the budgets for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and for other marine research institutions had been increased, as well as for Arctic research. At the end of 1997, Congress had passed a coral reef conservation act, which foresaw the provision of financial assistance for projects aimed at promoting research and conservation of coral reef resources. He added that other US agencies were also making significant contributions to further the focus of the Washington Conference. He described the activities undertaken by the US Geological Survey (USGS), as well as by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition, the military sector was making more data available to the scientific community and many efforts had been carried out to better coordinate oceanographic research, at all levels and among all sectors of society. He warmly referred to cooperative initiatives undertaken with Russia, including, among other issues, the declassification of defence assets. The Russian Duma had proposed a new initiative for addressing Arctic issues, and new initiatives for dealing with nuclear wastes were also appearing. He thus affirmed that success in the implementation of the Potomac Declaration could be measured in concrete actions. He concluded by saying that the oceans were a catalyst that would foster relationships and partnerships among nations in the twenty-first century, in order to solve the most complex problems that confronted mankind as a world community.

## TOWARDS OCEAN SECURITY: THE GLOBAL APPROACH

### Working Group A: The Role of Science

20. This session was chaired by Dr. Bruce Molnia, Office of the Chief Geologist, USGS, and member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention, in the absence of Prof. Erik Arrhenius due to illness. Rapporteur for this session was Dr. J. Michael Bowers, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Canada, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention.
21. The first paper was presented by Dr. Ljubomir Jeftic, Chairman of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention, and entitled *Scientific Research on the Oceans*. His thesis was that oceanic problems remained the same - only their frequency and diversity had increased. Further, many of these problems could not be addressed by individual national actions and required international cooperation. Dr. Jeftic moved immediately to his recommendations under the respective headings of:
  - integrated management of coastal and marine zones;
  - multi-disciplinary research;
  - ecosystems research;
  - climate change and carbon cycle; and
  - interaction between scientists and managers.
22. The second paper was presented by Dr. Bowers under the title *Marine Data Gathering and Observation Systems*. The recommendations in this paper were assembled in two categories: long-term actions and short-term actions. The long-term actions reflected the need for an integrated comprehensive approach to ocean observations and the short-term measures involved reconsideration of existing monitoring programmes.
23. The next paper was presented by Prof. Jilan Su, Director of the Second Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration, China and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management, under the title *Enhanced Mitigation and Adaptation Capability in Developing Countries from Impacts of Climate Change in Coastal Zones*. He quoted the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) conclusion regarding the balance of evidence suggesting a discernible human influence on climate. This paper again reflected the requirement for interdisciplinary approaches among the social and natural sciences – a theme and conviction common to most of the papers in this session.
24. The subsequent paper on *Utilisation of National Security Data for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development* was delivered by Lt. Cmdr. Robert Edson, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Environmental Security, USA and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention. He drew attention to the very nature of defence-related data that were invariably restricted and, in some cases, classified at higher levels. However, many of these data were directly relevant to environmental conditions and were, therefore, implicitly useful to a wider marine environmental community, both scientific and managerial. He concluded with a plea for continued re-evaluation of defence-related data in the interests of making them available for release to the community at large.



25. The next paper entitled *Public and Environmental Awareness and Education* was presented by Mr. John Waugh, Senior Programme Officer, Washington DC Office, IUCN – the World Conservation Union, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy. He referred to the substantial influence of an aware public on policies favouring environmental protection and sustainable development. In this context, reference was made to "green labelling" or "eco-labelling" and the specification of marine protected areas as vehicles for satisfying public aspirations for participation in environmental protection measures.
26. Prof. Gunnar Kullenberg, Executive Secretary of IOC of UNESCO, Paris, then presented his paper on *Global Oceans Research: the Role of IOC of UNESCO*. He noted that the *International Year of the Oceans* had the objective of encouraging governments to take marine environmental protection seriously. He spoke in favour of the previous speaker's emphasis on promoting environmental education and public awareness. He then went on to specify the role and areas of interest of the IOC. He concluded by recommending restructuring of the agencies involved in marine matters: enhanced cooperation among agencies was easy to voice but there was little evidence that such pleas resulted in substantive action. The key to this was the level of resourcing of ocean-related activities at the international level. Finally, he argued in favour of using existing mechanisms rather than the development of new ones.
27. The next presentation was made by Dr. Donald Anderson, Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA, on *Marine Biotoxins and Harmful Algal Blooms: a Growing Threat to Seafood Safety and Coastal Development*. This paper drew attention to the nature and diversity of algal blooms, both nuisance and toxic, in the coastal marine environment. There was a need to tackle the underlying science and monitoring requirements in an integrated fashion partly through the development and application of long-term global monitoring programmes.
28. The final paper for this working group entitled *Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA)*, was presented by Dr. John Pernetta, Senior Programme Officer, GEF Coordination Unit, UNEP and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management, and Dr. Laurence Mee, Coordinator, GEF/UNDP Black Sea Environment Programme, and Chairman of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy. The paper stressed the novel features of this assessment in relation to previous assessments namely that its emphasis lay on root cause analyses and their multi-sectoral nature, covering both marine and fresh waters. The major challenges to the further execution of GIWA was the identification of co-financing, ensuring the participation of competent agencies and individuals as well as the acquisition and analysis of socio-economic and policy information.
29. A subsequent intervention was made by Ms. Linda Wiessler-Hughes of the US National Intelligence Council regarding developments in the USA in response to the Potomac Declaration's recommendation for improved use of national security activities towards the betterment of the environment. A number of specific actions and categories of information relevant to this objective were described. It was concluded that these developments represented a clear and concrete response to the agreement reached in Washington, D.C., at the previous ACOPS' conference which had concluded with the Potomac Declaration.

30. The session was then opened to the floor for comments and questions regarding the presentations, and suggestions for relevant action regarding the topics addressed. Several questions were raised regarding the causes of algal blooms and the communication of science to the public. In connection with the latter topic, several comments were elicited regarding both the willingness of scientists and the methods of natural science communication with other sectors of society especially the general public and the social science and policy sectors. There was, it appeared, a consensus that current mechanisms of communication and collaboration among natural science, social science and policy sectors were inadequate – a topic which was clearly within the mandate of ACOPS to address. It was also accepted that a precursor to such communication and collaboration was the ability, and indeed requirement, that the relevant sector was able to present its information in a form and language amenable to fostering understanding and communication among the disciplines. Another major topic of discussion arising from the substance of the presentations was the declassification and dissemination of military data to the wider community, especially the marine scientific community. It was noted that there would inevitably be some continuing restrictions on such data for a variety of reasons but it seemed that there was some reasonable appreciation of the defence and the intelligence communities' willingness to consider the release of data of no subsequent military or security value. Finally, a plea was made to understand the reliance of developing countries on less sophisticated techniques for the acquisition of data than those used in either the defence or scientific activities of developed countries. Although there was no direct response to this intervention, it was clear from several developing science and policy initiatives that this situation was recognised and could, in many cases, be accommodated without compromising programme objectives.

## **Working Group B: Integrated Management of the Oceans**

31. This session was chaired by Dr. Stephen Lintner, Principal Environmental Specialist, Land, Water and Natural Habitats, World Bank and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy. Dr. Stjepan Keckes, Member of the IWCO and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy, acted as Rapporteur for this session. Participants heard the following presentations:
32. Dr. Mee's paper, *Sustainable Development, Poverty, Wasteful Consumption and Ocean Security*, highlighted issues related to sustainable development, poverty, wasteful consumption and ocean security, stressing that identification and recognition of root causes of these issues were the basic requirements for solving problems associated with them. For instance, today there were approximately 20 million "environmental migrants" fleeing from poverty brought about by the destruction of their traditional homelands and life-styles as a result of unsustainable development. Wasteful over-consumption patterns in the developed world, where about 20% of the world's population consumes 80% of natural resources, was a root cause of many global environmental problems. While scarcity of financial resources in most developing countries remained one of the main constraints to better environment protection, much could be achieved by improved public awareness about the extent of environmental problems, their linkages with consumer patterns and everyday lifestyles, and the options available for mitigating such problems. In this context, education at all levels deserved the most urgent attention.

33. Dr. Geoff Holland, Chairman of IOC of UNESCO and Chairman of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management, presented a paper entitled *Management of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems*. He spoke about a need for better management of marine and coastal ecosystems, focusing on ocean margins where most of the biological productivity, and the major part of the anthropogenic activity and impact occurred. The poorly understood complexity of coastal zone environment was stressed and the consequent need for a precautionary approach in all human interventions in this zone was advocated. Additional research, data and reliable information would be needed for a better understanding of the intricate linkages between environmental processes and socio-economic activities to improve the capacity for more rational management of marine and coastal ecosystems.
34. Ms. Paula Caballero's paper, *From Root Causes to Root Linkages: Towards Integrative Policy Recommendations for Ocean and Coastal Security into the Third Millennium*, analysed the linkages between various root causes of environmental problems, stressing that almost all issues affecting the security of the oceans were land-based and required integrative policies for their solution. The devolution of authority to local entities and the provision of basic population needs were advocated as major factors which might decisively contribute to the solutions of problems where both environmental and human-related problems were multidisciplinary, interjurisdictional, multisectoral, and intimately interconnected. Ten specific recommendations were made, intended to enhance integrating policy approaches.
35. Dr. Armin Lindquist, Former Assistant Secretary-General of the UN, and Head of FAO'S Department of Fisheries, presented the paper entitled *Sustainable Fisheries Management*. Attention was drawn to the present status and past trends in marine catches, the status of various commercially important fish stocks, and the problems associated with their exploitation on the continental shelves, exclusive economic zones and the high seas. Particular reference was made to problems related to the exploitation of highly migratory species and straddling stocks. The need for action to achieve sustainable management of fisheries resources was stressed, particularly in the fields of: improved scientific advice; application of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, including the precautionary approach promoted through the Code; strengthening the mandates, competence and responsibilities of regional fishery bodies; improved control and surveillance of fishery activities; and enforcement of agreed rules for action in the case of emergencies.
36. Mr. John Karau, Chief of Marine Environment Division, Environment Canada, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy, emphasised in his paper *Governance – Involvement of all Sectors of Society* that the coastal zone is the area of highest resource use conflict and was a critical habitat that was heavily stressed by human activities. Consequently, there was an urgent need for improved governance through involvement of all sectors of society in integrated coastal zone management, which appeared as the most appropriate mechanisms to resolve conflicts among a variety of coastal uses, to determine the most appropriate use of coastal resources and to allocate the use of resources. As an example, guidelines developed in Canada for a participatory approach to integrated coastal zone management were presented.
37. Dr. Viktor Sebek, Executive Director, ACOPS, in his paper *International Cooperation: The Myth and Reality*, highlighted the areas of marine environment protection and management. He noted with satisfaction the growing cooperation between science and policy sectors which had led in recent decades to vastly improved multilateral arrangements and agreements designed to enhance the protection and management of marine and coastal environment and their resources. However, in spite of such positive developments, the cooperation and coordination between and among the organisations,

programmes and agreements promoted by the UN family system, as well as those outside of this system, was, in fact, not satisfactory and had led to a fragmented, highly sectoral approach to problems requiring concerted action of all interested parties. A set of twelve recommendations on how to remedy the situation was presented.

38. Mr. Jonathan Hobbs, Coordinator of UNEP's Industry and Environment Cleaner Production Programme, presented a strategy for managing land-based sources of marine pollution based on promotion of "cleaner production". The strategy consisted of shifting the focus of action from pollution control to pollution prevention. He presented a set of recommendations to directly involve the public and private sectors in environmental management programmes through the adoption of cleaner production as a basic element in their management of industrial facilities.
39. Mr. Trygve Meyer, Director of INTERTANKO and ACOPS' Vice-Chairman, reviewed the approaches and measures taken by the shipping industry in the field of maritime safety. Issues which were highlighted included those related to political and economic security, shipping, flag and port states, safety of navigation, piracy, armed robbery, terrorist acts against shipping, illicit trafficking of drugs, and transport of migrants by ships. The adherence of states to agreed multilateral agreements regulating shipping activities, and the enforcement of their provisions, were advocated as measures that could considerably contribute to, and improve, maritime safety of shipping operations.
40. Senhor Rui Manuel Godinho, Deputy Mayor of Lisbon and ACOPS' Vice-President, described the impressive range of prospective measures for the control of marine pollution in Portugal. Although these measures had been developed for Portugal, they contained many elements that could be widely applicable in environmental and socio-economic situations similar to those prevailing in Portugal. He also noted the interest of Portugal in hosting an international body associated with management of the marine environment.

## **Development of the Stockholm Action Strategy**

41. Prof. Wramner informed participants that there had been a change in the proposed agenda, and requested Dr. Mee to present the draft text of the Stockholm Action Strategy. Dr. Mee stressed the importance of developing an implementable strategy for action, not merely a political declaration, which would constitute the outcome of the Conference. Thus the draft contained independent, detailed proposals on the basis of which it would be possible to undertake action in the various regions and countries. He invited participants to study the draft strategy that consisted of a declaratory statement (Annex I, part A) and a series of initial proposals (Annex I, part B). He underlined that the draft was a flexible document, which provided a basis for subsequent discussion. There would be an opportunity to introduce modifications or new proposals. Dr. Mee then requested that the authors of each proposal provided a brief explanation.

## **Oceans and Coastal Areas: Improved Governance**

42. Mr. Ulf Svensson, Assistant Under-Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Sweden, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy, explained that discussions had ensued regarding the need to establish a broader framework for addressing the management of marine and coastal areas, taking as a model the success of the IPCC as well as ongoing work on ocean issues in various intergovernmental organisations. Mr. Ole Kristian Holthe,

Special Adviser/Ambassador, Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, noted that the CSD already acted as a coordinating body and affirmed that the idea of a panel was premature. Dr. Holland agreed that there was no need for additional levels of management when existing levels were not used fully. However, the fact that the issue was so often raised, indicated that something was not working. Therefore a dialogue should be maintained and pressure put on the CSD to work on how existing organisations dealing with oceans could be better coordinated. Dr. Ellen Hey, Senior Lecturer, Erasmus University, Netherlands, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy, responding to concerns over the lack of an overarching body, suggested that a Conference of Parties (COP) of the UNCLOS could operate as an interim mechanism. Dr. Mee, noting that consensus was unlikely, suggested that ACOPS' Advisory Boards study this issue in the context of the successes and failures of regional and global programmes. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

### **Application of National Security Data and Systems to Environmental Issues**

43. Dr. Jetic explained that cooperation should go beyond the simple exchange of data. He noted that many military sectors were seeking new fields for activity and that environment could certainly be one of these fields. Dr. Lindquist affirmed that the fisheries issues should also be included in this sphere of cooperation in the high seas. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

### **Assessment of International Waters at the Global Level**

44. Dr. Pernetta recalled the presentation made in the morning on GIWA, and affirmed that there was a potential role for ACOPS within this framework. Mr. Karau welcomed the proposal but asserted that the Working Group of the Arctic Council should be considered as a partner. Dr. Gunilla Bjorklund, Researcher, Swedish Environment Institute (SEI), recalled that GIWA included freshwater systems and so provided a comprehensive assessment of this resource, and stressed that it was essential to keep this element. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

### **Year 2001, the International Biodiversity Year (IBY)**

45. Dr. Mee recalled that the original proposal for the IBY had been put forward by Speaker Newt Gingrich. Four projects were proposed that sought to address basic considerations such as the potential loss of existing information, use of modern observational tools, and use of modern media to heighten public awareness regarding natural ecosystems. Mr. Svensson, noting that biodiversity itself was a long-term process, recommended that a decade, not a year, should commemorate this field. Prof. Harald Rosenthal, Institute for Marine Science, University of Kiel, Germany, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resource Management, urged that a clear definition of the term biodiversity be developed. Dr. Hey asserted that the human dimension should be incorporated, including indigenous or traditional knowledge in coastal areas. Mr. Holthe informed participants that the year 2001 already had another designation. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

### **Community Projects Networking**

46. Dr. Bewers informed participants that the proposal stemmed from ACOPS' experience in successfully networking communities in the Baltic, as well as its continued involvement in the Arctic and now, in sub-Saharan Africa. The proposal reflected the understanding that networking was only efficient if fully cognisant of regional issues and concerns at regional level. Mr. Normunds Riekstins, Director of

Latvia's National Board of Fisheries, said that the experience of Baltic coastal cities indicated that local networks generated from the outside did not work, which augured ill for this ACOPS' initiative. Mr. Anders Engstrom, Mayor of Kalmar, however, offered the existing experience of the Union of Baltic Cities, which had recently undertaken new projects in coastal management. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

### **Sustainable Tourism.**

47. Mr. Terry Jones, Director of Multilateral Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Planning, Republic of the Seychelles, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy, recalled that tourism was the largest and fastest growing industry in the world, and a very important sector for many countries. However, although tourism depended on a clean environment, it also posed a threat. ACOPS, aware of importance of this issue, had held several workshops, and both the forthcoming Cape Town Conference as well as the workshop proposed by Princess Chulabhorn would address this issue. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

### **The Enhancement of Training of Marine and Coastal Policymakers.**

48. Dr. Mee voiced concern that coastal and marine management policymakers were often been trained on an *ad-hoc* basis, inadequate for addressing such complex, cross-sectoral issues. Thus there was a perceived need to create an experts' network on Marine and Coastal Area Policy, that would involve a consortium of universities in Europe and North America, and which could be extended in response to requirements. ACOPS would have an important role to play given its important cross-sectoral experience. Mr. Riekstins asserted that not only policy but also the sustainable use of marine resources should be included. Dr. Hey mentioned the merits of long distance education and of possible cooperation with the UN University in Japan. Mr. Thomas Laughlin, Deputy Director, Office of International Affairs, NOAA, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy, questioned a proposal that might potentially change ACOPS' traditional sphere of work. Dr. Mee asserted that ACOPS would only be an intellectual resource, but would not actively develop the consortium. Various participants stressed that sustainable use and management decisions should be culturally sensitive in order to be relevant, and questioned the usefulness of a uniform approach, based largely on the experience of developed countries. Mrs. Cecile Guidote Alvarez, Coordinator of EarthSavers, Republic of the Philippines, suggested that it would be valuable to identify universities in developing countries with which partnerships could be established.

### **Improving Environmental Education**

49. Ms. Olga Maiboroda, Liaison Office for ACOPS' Russian Team, noted that the Potomac Declaration included this mandate, and that the proposal was an attempt to focus on a specific issue that could introduce environmental education to places where it did not exist, and to enhance where it did. The proposal contemplated the development of nature education centres that would serve as a medium for developing and distributing educational materials, as well as training courses. Both children and adults would have access to direct contact with natural processes and phenomena. Responding to concern voiced regarding the importance of cultural considerations in such education, Dr. Mee asserted that the proposal envisioned a decentralised, community-based approach. Dr. Holland said that ACOPS could act as a catalyst for heightening awareness of ocean issues, and informed the participants that Canada had developed three programmes for improving environmental education

and suggested that these could be used as models. Mrs. Alvarez noted that education in schools should be complemented with other mediums, and stressed the need for a comprehensive education programme that developed a broad strategy of environmental literacy. A working group was created to prepare a draft proposal.

50. Dr. Mee noted that the remaining proposals referred to specific actions in four regions, and would therefore be developed and discussed in the corresponding working groups. However, he stressed that ACOPS could be a catalyst for regional partnerships through its strong network of Vice-Presidents, as well as by engaging leading experts in relevant fields. This comparative advantage should be reflected in all proposals. He urged participants not to recommend the creation of new structures, but rather to concentrate on the development of partnerships and the identification of strategic areas. He hoped that this advantage would be reflected when proposals for next sections were presented. Proposals should be succinct, detailing what was required, who would do it, and how. Funding viability was another important consideration. He reminded participants that any additional proposals should be formulated in order to be distributed and discussed.

### Sunday, 1 February 1998

## **TOWARDS OCEAN SECURITY: THE REGIONAL APPROACH**

51. The Plenary Session was chaired by Prof. Wramner, and Ms. Caballero acted as Rapporteur.
52. Mr. Svensson gave a presentation on *Lessons Learned from the Ministerial Intermediate Meeting in Bergen on Environment and Fisheries in the North Sea*. This meeting for Ministers for Fisheries and Environment of the North Sea region was held on 13 - 14 March 1997 in Bergen, Norway. The aim of the meeting was to ensure sustainable management of the ecosystems of the North Sea and to that end, to agree on a further integration of fisheries and environment protection management. The negotiations of the Statement of Conclusions agreed upon at Bergen were carried out by representatives from both the fisheries sector and the environment side. Such joint negotiations were necessary for action to ensure a sustainable management of marine ecosystems, but were complicated because they involved actors who were basing their decision-making on different parameters. The North Sea negotiations were further complicated by the fact that fisheries policies in the European Union was a common policy while environment policies were within the competence of the EU member states. The success of the negotiations was a consequence of an awareness of the common interests of the fisheries and environment protection management for integrated management. Another reason for the successful outcome of the Bergen Conference was the joint assessment by the two administrative structures of the situation in the North Sea, the resources and the threats to the marine environment and the natural resource base as well as of available management options. Both the preparations of the Assessment Report on Fisheries and Fisheries Related Species and Habitat Issues and the negotiations of the Statement of Conclusions were carried out with active involvement of the scientific community, the private sector, environmental NGOs and other parts of the civil society. A major reason for progress was the full respect of the principle of sector responsibility for integrating environmental concerns and management objectives in sector policies. Joint guiding principles, management objectives and strategies were agreed upon jointly by the two administrative structures while sustainable actions by the fisheries sector was agreed upon within the sector.

53. Mr. Calestous Juma, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, stated that he was delighted to join the Conference and to share the experiences which had so far been gained in the efforts to promote the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. The *International Year of the Oceans* marked an important step in efforts by the international community to conserve and sustainably use the earth's living marine resources. The Convention on Biological Diversity had been at the forefront of championing the need to address this issue. Marine and coastal biological diversity encompassed marine and coastal living species. Marine and coastal habitats, such as mangroves, coral reefs and sea grass beds, performed critical ecological services. The concern of the Convention on Biological Diversity was that human activities around the world were depleting marine and coastal living resources and degrading their ecosystems in ways that were harmful and sometimes irreversible. Coastal areas, which supported essential habitats and breeding grounds for many of the world's commercial and recreational fisheries, were facing tremendous land and water-use pressures. In response to these and many other concerns, the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed on a global mandate on marine and coastal biological diversity. The Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Biological diversity was adopted as a new global consensus on the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biological diversity. The Jakarta Mandate focused on five areas: integrated marine and coastal area management; marine and coastal protected areas; sustainable use of marine and coastal living resources; mariculture; and alien species. A draft programme of work covering these programme elements had been prepared and would be presented to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties to be held in Bratislava, Slovakia on 4<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 1998. In view of the importance of the oceans and their relevance to the work of the Convention, he invited the President of the ACOPS/GLOBE Stockholm Conference to share the results of this Conference with the Bratislava Conference.

### **Working Group C: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Baltic Sea**

54. This session was chaired by Dr. Svante Bodin, Assistant Under-Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sweden. Dr. Hey acted as Rapporteur for this session.
55. The following presentations were made:
- Dr. Tapani Kohonen, Executive Secretary, Baltic Marine Environment Commission/Helsinki Commission (HELCOM), and Dr. Göran Persson, Executive Director, Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (MISTRA), presented *Economic, Environmental and Food Security Issues in the Baltic Sea*;
  - Admiral Igor Kasatonov, First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, Chairman of Section No. 2 on Sea and Ocean Studies in the Russian Federation Committee on Science and Technology, and ACOPS' Vice-President from the Russian Federation, and Prof. Vladimir Tetelmin, Deputy Chairman, Committee on Ecology of the State Duma of the Russian Federation, and Coordinator of ACOPS' Russian Programme presented *Analysis of the Potomac Declaration in the Baltic Sea of the Russian Federation*;
  - Mr. Lauri Vaarja, Director-General, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Environment, Estonia, Mr. Normunds Riekstins, Deputy State Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture in the Field of Fisheries, and Director of the National Board of Fisheries, Latvia, Dr. Imantas Lazdinis, Minister for Environmental



Protection, Lithuania and Prof. Maria Dragun-Gertner, Adviser to the Minister, Ministry for Transport and Maritime Economy, Poland, presented their individual components on *Analysis of the Potomac Declaration from the National Perspective*. Mr. Riekstins presented a paper entitled *Latvia's Path to Responsible Fisheries: the First Steps*; Dr. Lazdinis presented *The Problems of the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in the Lithuanian Baltic Sea Coastal Zone*; and, on behalf of Mr. Eugeniusz Morawski, Minister for Transport and Maritime Economy, Poland, Dr. Dragun-Gertner presented *Polish Progress Towards Sustainable Development in the Marine and Coastal Area*.

56. Dr. Bodin then explained the situation in the Baltic Sea region which had been developing rapidly through, for example, the opening up of new markets, economic cooperation and integration, and the removal of barriers to the exchange of people and goods. About 80 million people lived in the region, and more than ten countries were involved in the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea. The history of environmental cooperation was long and a number of institutional frameworks had been established to cope with the problems of protecting the fragile ecosystems of the Baltic Sea and to manage its natural resources. The Helsinki Convention and its associated Commission, and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission were legal frameworks to that end. More recently an initiative to elaborate an Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region with the goal of long-term sustainable development for the whole region had been launched, and would be ready for adoption in June 1998. The long and successful cooperation in the region, through formal and informal networks had made it possible to deal with most environmental problems of the Baltic Sea by both legal and concrete actions. Still the goals had not been reached. The restoration of the ecological balance of the Baltic Sea was still a long way ahead in the future. More actions were needed by all actors. Institutions should be made more efficient and cooperate more effectively with each other. In this context, however, lessons could be learned from the long (over twenty years) experience available in the Baltic Sea region.

#### **Working Group D: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Arctic Seas**

57. This session was chaired by Mr. Leo Larsen, Deputy Director General of the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environment and Energy. Prof. Vitaly Lystsov, Head of Division of the Kurchatov Institute, Russian Federation, Chairman of ACOPS Arctic Working Group and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention, acted as Rapporteur for this session.
58. About 50 participants were present during this Working Group, at which two comprehensive reviews were presented: the first, by Mr. Chris Cuddy, Chief, Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, Canada, was entitled *Economic, Environmental and Food Security Issues in the Arctic Seas* and the second by Prof. Lystsov and Dr. Jeftic, on the *National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Arctic Region of the Russian Federation from Land-based Activities (NPA-Arctic)*.
59. Both reviews clearly showed that the Arctic environment, including its marine part, was under serious threat because of human activities, both within and outside the Arctic. Peculiarities of the natural conditions in the Arctic were such that its ecosystems were especially fragile and formed a specific filter for pollutants transported by air and water over many thousands of kilometres.

60. One of the greatest threats to the security of the marine environment was the impact of persistent organic pollutants (POPs) from distant sources. Another concern was widespread radioactive contamination from past atmospheric nuclear weapons testing, from releases directly into the marine environment, from European nuclear reprocessing plants and from river releases from nuclear industrial combines of the former Soviet Union. Although the Arctic people are generally exposed to higher levels of radionuclides than people in temperate zones, the pathway of contamination was through terrestrial and not ocean ecosystems.
61. A significant threat was also connected with heavy metals pollution, the sources of which could be described as "hot spots", for example, metal smelters, mines etc.
62. Prof. Lystsov, in his presentation, described the so-called "impact zones", where the greatest concentration of "hot spots" occur. The impact zones on the Kola Peninsula, at the Northern Dvina Estuary, in the basins of the Ob and Enissey Rivers, near Norilsk city and some others were considered. He also presented a pollution management matrix, where for priority pollutants, principle pathways, known or suspected effects on humans and the environment, a status of information and management, management actions required and uncertainties to be resolved, had all been discussed.
63. Dr. Jetic, in his presentation, formulated a strategy and principles which would be used in the elaboration and implementation of the NPA-Arctic. He stressed the necessity for the formulation of a costed and targeted NPA-Arctic fully coordinated with the Regional Programme of Action (RPA).
64. To achieve this, long-term political commitment on the highest political level would be necessary. At the level of regional and local authorities, particular projects would need to be implemented. Existing capacity for environmental management should be re-evaluated and increased.
65. In parallel, a review and modernisation of legislation for environmental protection should be provided.
66. After the presentation of the review papers, a lively discussion followed.
67. Different proposals to a phased approach to the RPA were formulated, as well as additional proposals to international aspects of NPA-Arctic of the Russian Federation.
68. As a result of the working group discussion, the following recommendations for enhancement of ocean security in the Arctic region were formulated.
69. To attain ocean security in the Arctic Region, effective RPAs, as well as corresponding National Programmes of Action (NPA) of circumpolar countries should be formulated and successfully implemented. The implementation of these programmes should be based on the following principles:
  - a precautionary and anticipatory approach to environmental protection;
  - protection of human health with special emphasis on the health and well-being of the indigenous population;

- integrated coastal areas management, harmonised as appropriate with river basin management, land-use plans and environmental impact assessment of all new activities;
- integration of the protection of the marine environment into relevant general environmental, social and economic sustainable development policies; and
- social and industrial development harmonised with rehabilitation and preservation of the environment.

70. The following action strategies were advised:

- the Regional Programme of Action should be finalised according to GPA principles in its first phase and presented for adoption by the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in September 1998;
- the second phase of RPA should be initiated and developed in the format of Agenda 21 for the Arctic Seas, modified as appropriate to reflect the specific social and economic conditions of the Arctic;
- an Arctic Seas partnership conference attended by all circumpolar countries was recommended for the year 1999;
- the ACOPS' Conference urged all circumpolar countries to finalise their respective National Programmes of Action in order to provide the best possible basis for the second phase of the RPA (Agenda 21);
- the NPA-Arctic for the Russian Federation should be finalised according to the schedule presented at the Conference. This should be based on a two-fold approach of ownership at all levels reflecting the needs of the recipient and on coordinated international cooperation (bilateral donors, international financial institutions etc). Because of the vast dimension of the problems, a phased approach and strict prioritisation were indispensable;
- the NPA-Arctic for the Russian Federation should be presented to a stakeholders conference in 1999;
- to ensure the involvement of all appropriate parties, a networking approach was recommended, e.g. networking among countries for the exchange of information, among indigenous people, among different private and public industries;
- promotion of programmes for environmental education, information about the Arctic and awareness raising campaigns were recommended;
- the development and implementation of legal instruments, codes of conduct, guidelines, special Arctic standards and rules for nature use should be promoted; and
- preparedness for accidents and emergency situations such as oil spills or radionuclides releases in the Arctic should be increased.

## Working Group E: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Western Indian Ocean

71. This session was chaired by Mr. Jones. Dr. Peter Cook, Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management acted as Rapporteur.
72. Mr. Peter Mokaba, Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism of the Republic of South Africa and ACOPS' Vice President, presented a major paper on Western Indian Ocean Issues, in a very comprehensive and thought provoking manner, and analysed the Potomac Declaration in the context of the Western Indian Ocean. The paper also incorporated the views of ACOPS' Vice-President from the Republic of the Seychelles, Mr. Jeremie Bonnelame, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Bernardo Ferraz, Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Mozambique.
73. In summary, the paper and the subsequent discussion concluded that there were major difficulties in implementing existing international and regional conventions and agreements concerned with the ocean and coastal environment. It was also noted that there were numerous programmes and action plans, at both the global and regional levels, and supported by various international and bilateral agencies, which were often duplicated. It was therefore generally agreed that rather than formulate new programmes or new action plans, there was an urgent need for the improved implementation of existing programmes, and that this could only be achieved by better national and regional coordination and improved cooperation, particularly at the regional level.
74. The important conclusion was that African countries should individually and collectively determine the agenda of priorities for Africa, and that international and bilateral agencies should then be invited to work in partnership with the countries of the region in order to implement these priorities.
75. Deputy Minister Mokaba also analysed the failure in implementing international and national agreements. He suggested the following factors:
  - lack of political will;
  - lack of capacity;
  - lack of funds;
  - lack of commitment;
  - lack of technology;
  - the North-South political divide; and
  - conflict of national priorities impacting on labour, industry and the economy.
76. It was pointed out that virtually all the littoral states of the Western Indian Ocean were developing countries which gave the area a particular character, and a particular need to work together. However, existing regional conventions, agreements, programmes and action plans had met with only very limited success.
77. At the same time it was accepted that it was not just the countries of the region which had a stake in the Indian Ocean as a great many other countries used it as a vital trade route. This issue was being addressed through the creation of broader cooperative links through the newly established Indian Ocean Rim Association. This initiative involved many Indian Ocean countries, including small island states. It was noted that these small island states were especially dependent on tourism and fisheries, which were in turn very much dependent on the health of the marine environment.

78. Following on from this, it was agreed that the recommendations of the Potomac Declaration with respect to economic, environmental and food security, and cooperation in research and between defence establishments were highly relevant.
79. The Potomac Declaration was seen as a call to do things in a new and more effective manner. In this regard, it was noted that there was a SMART way to proceed, whereby actions should be **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant** and **Timebound**. To this end it was suggested that there was an urgent need for :
- a review of existing agreements; and
  - an audit of existing programmes and donors.
80. This would provide the basis for better coordination, rationalisation, integration, organisation and management in the future, and for the improved implementation of existing and future agreements, programmes and action plans.
81. It was pointed out that many of the implementation problems in the Western Indian Ocean region were evident in other parts of Africa, thus reinforcing the importance of Africans being involved in the development of future plans and ensuring better inter-regional arrangements before involving donor agencies in partnership with African countries. It was only through this that there would be full implementation of existing and future agreements. The discussion extended to the consideration of Latin America and the South Pacific, where many of the same problems emerged in terms of implementing existing agreements.
82. There was wide support for the concept of an audit of existing programmes and mechanism in order to establish a new way forward. The situation in terms of non-implementation of existing agreements was seen as critical with one eminent member of the group commenting that "the international aid agencies are undermining the whole system because they have their own agendas, often competing agendas, and their attitude to many countries is "take it or leave it!"
83. As a step towards addressing this important issue, ACOPS would assist in the organisation of a series of three major conferences over the next two years, to be held in Mozambique and South Africa, and culminating in a partnership conference, which would represent a process aimed at creating a new partnership for the development and management of the ocean and coastal environment in Africa.
84. An important aspect of this process would be to promote inter-regional cooperation in Africa, through the additional participation of West African countries, with the aim of strengthening the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions.
85. To this end it was agreed that African regional organisations (such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) etc.) should become involved in the process of identifying a new agenda for Africa.
86. Finally, there was extensive discussion on the role of ACOPS itself in changing the current situation. ACOPS was seen as having a very significant role both in terms of being an "honest broker" and because of its political (yet informal) muscle.

87. It was suggested that ACOPS could usefully focus on the development of a unifying agenda that identified: priorities for implementing regional conventions; and specific activities within particular sectors (such as fisheries and tourism) that integrated sound economic practices with poverty reduction and job creation.
88. ACOPS was also seen as having a role in stimulating inter-regional exchanges specifically related to climate change and sustainable tourism, because of the critical importance of these issues, not only in the African region, but also in the Pacific.
89. Finally, it was suggested that there was also a need to take a fresh, perhaps even radical, look at the role of ACOPS in the third millennium.

## **Evaluation of the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) Project**

90. Dr. Mee expressed condolences for the death of Prof. Wramner's mother, and informed participants that he had been asked to act as Chairman. Ms. Paula Caballero acted as Rapporteur.
91. Dr. Pernetta made a brief presentation of GIWA. Its main objective was to develop a comprehensive strategic assessment that might be used to identify priorities for remedial and mitigatory action in international waters, designed to achieve significant environmental benefits at national, regional and global levels. Although other assessments had been undertaken, GIWA had distinctive features that justify it. First, it was comprehensive, encompassing both marine and freshwater resources; and secondly, it focused on causal chain analyses of root causes in the process of identifying problems. The framework was based on 23 principal issues identified by leading experts, grouped into five major concerns. An expert group considered the geographical framework, which would encompass freshwater catchments in combination with the receiving marine water body. Sixty-six sub-regions were grouped into nine mega regions for management purposes. Four operational phases were envisaged, culminating with the dissemination of the finished work. Dr. Pernetta expressed appreciation to the Swedish Government and the City of Kalmar for offering to host the core group, which would permit the project to move forward. He added that three main challenges remained: assembling participants; securing co-financing; and, regrouping of socio-economic data. Within four years, the international community would have a strategic assessment that would provide a framework for setting priorities and for the identification of more sustainable approaches to resource use. Moreover, this would permit the further development of protocols for analyses of causes and for setting information baselines for measuring the state of the marine environment into the future.
92. In response to an enquiry, Dr. Pernetta affirmed that GIWA could provide crucial information for the implementation of the Convention on Biodiversity. Similarly, it was clarified that GIWA would have a close relationship with the CSD. Mr. Holthe questioned the apparent obstacles to the start up of this project, and Dr. Pernetta explained that there was simply a need for a set of completed Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with the co-sponsors before funding was made available. This was a time-consuming process, given the many agreements that should be concluded, but he assured participants that there were no fundamental problems.

93. Dr. Mee then requested participants for their assistance in identifying ways in which ACOPS could act as a catalyst in the framework of the GIWA process.

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POTOMAC DECLARATION: ACTION TO PROMOTE OCEAN SECURITY AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL**

### **Promotion of Ocean Security in the Baltic Sea**

94. Dr. Svante Bodin presented the results of the working group on actions to promote ocean security in the Baltic Sea. He asserted that from the morning's discussion it was evident that although there was already a great deal of cooperation, there was still room for further action. The need for greater exchange of information between institutions and organisations involved in the sustainable use of this resource was recognised, as well as the need to strengthen activities at the national level. This included the need for more cooperation to integrate environmental protection measures with fisheries considerations. Economic sectors should integrate environmental concerns and should take responsibility for furthering the objective of sustainable development in their sectors. He affirmed that there was also a need for generating more comprehensive recommendations through greater integration of the natural and social sciences. Priority research areas were identified: sources, sinks and effects of nutrients; the interaction between fisheries and environmental protection; non-point sources and promotion of approaches to solve the problem of nutrient leakage from non-point sources; and import of exotic species into the fragile Baltic ecosystem. He added that participants had highlighted the Baltic Agenda 21 as an example of how openness and public access to information could be achieved. However, there was a need to mobilise the necessary funding for promoting environmental education. Finally, he noted the need to modernise existing monitoring systems in order to better assist in policymaking. He added that the significant political changes recently undergone in the region clearly indicated that greater cooperation would be possible in the future.
95. Given the parallels between the Baltic and Black Seas, Dr. Mee suggested that a future activity of ACOPS could be to transfer experiences from the Baltic Sea to other regions that faced similar problems and issues.

### **Promotion of Ocean Security in the Arctic Seas**

96. Mr. Larsen commented on the draft proposals for actions to promote ocean security in the Arctic Seas. He described the three papers presented during the morning session, and the subsequent discussion that focused on three strategic issues. First, the need to finalise a Regional Programme of Action, in line with the GPA. Secondly, the need to develop a second RPA which would become a modified Agenda 21 for the Arctic, with special emphasis on sectoral integration. It was fundamental to effectively integrate economic considerations, including those in the energy sector. Thirdly, the Russian Federation was urged to finalise its NPA in the framework of the GPA given that all national reports were essential for the development of an RPA. The Russian national programme should include two elements: local ownership at all levels and participation of the international community in this process in a fully coordinated manner. It was recommended that an Arctic marine partnership conference be held in 1999, in which both the Arctic Council and ACOPS could play an important role. Similarly, once the Russian NPA was finalised, a stakeholder

conference could be held to analyse ways and means of implementing it. With regard to networking, the working group considered this was an excellent idea that could contribute to a more efficient exchange of information at all levels, including among indigenous peoples and companies. Finally the need for guidelines and/or codes of conduct was stressed, in order to improve the security of diverse operations in the Arctic, such as transportation and hazardous activities. Mr. Cuddy added that insufficient attention had been given to the issue of emergencies in the Arctic region.

## Promotion of Ocean Security in the Western Indian Ocean

97. Dr. Peter Cook informed participants of the results of the working group that had addressed the question of the promotion of ocean security in the Western Indian Ocean. He asserted that both the presentation and the ensuing discussion underlined the current difficulties in implementing existing programmes, as well as the need for greater national and regional coordination of these programmes. It was also felt that African countries should be more involved in future plans for Africa, and that this would permit donor agencies to develop partnerships with them. It was noted that given that most of the region's countries were developing, this should constitute a special incentive for greater cooperation, although existing agreements had met with limited success. However, South Africa's nomination to the Presidency of the Non-aligned Movement should focus attention on the region. Mr. Jones added that it had also been felt that the Potomac Declaration was seen as a call to undertake actions in a more efficient manner, characterised by specific actions, clear time frames, measurable outcomes, and achievable goals. He affirmed that there had been a clear call for an audit of existing programmes and donors, in order to achieve better organisation and integration as well as improved management. This review process would be addressed at a series of meetings that would begin in Maputo in mid-1998, followed by the ACOPS/South African Government Cape Town meeting (30 November – 4 December 1998), and then another meeting in Maputo in 1999 with respective donors. The issue of non-implementation was considered critical.
98. Finally, there was extensive discussion about the role of ACOPS itself. It was seen to have a significant role, and it was suggested that it could focus on the development of a unifying agenda that identified priorities for the implementation of regional conventions as well as strategic areas that integrated sound economic practices with poverty reduction and job creation. Similarly, ACOPS could promote regional exchange regarding crucial issues such as climate change and sustainable tourism.
99. Mrs. Guidote added that a communication strategy was also an essential ingredient to any plan of action. Mr. Jones then affirmed that the conference process described, in which ACOPS was a key partner, was a unique opportunity to analyse existing action programmes and the involvement of multilateral and bilateral donors, as well as to identify reasons for failures and gaps. The process should permit African countries to determine their agendas in accordance not only with existing commitments agreed to at the regional and global level, but also with national priorities. In response to concern voiced over the coordination and organisation of this conference process, Mr. Jones explained that the proposal was in the process of being finalised.



## Development of the Stockholm Action Strategy

100. Dr. Mee presented the revised draft of the Stockholm Action Strategy, which included two additional items: Marine Science – Sustaining our Oceans; and, Contributing to the Development of Corporate Environmental Management Processes. Participants then analysed the new text and the proposed items and amendments. Finally, Dr. Mee gave a summary of the afternoon session. He stated that although there were great differences between the various regions, a clear pattern emerged of problems which related to root causes and the ways these were addressed by mankind. He asserted that GIWA was a way of examining these patterns and causes and therefore very important. The need for increased community and stakeholder participation was also underscored, and it was noted that priorities should be set at this level, not imposed by external actors. External support should come in response to perceived need. The renaissance in the African programme was linked to community involvement because governments were now more committed to environmental protection. Finally, he referred to the need for environmental education and training.

**Monday, 2 February 1998**

### MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

101. The Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG opened the meeting by recalling King Carl XVI Gustaf's great interest in marine issues and protection and conservation of the environment. He expressed his pleasure that the Head of State had sent ACOPS a message of welcome indicating interest regarding the conference and its outcome. He reflected on the appropriate venue for this meeting given Sweden's acknowledged interest in the problems of conservation, which included extensive aid to the developing countries. He asserted that the presence of so many ministers was an honour for ACOPS. The following statements were then heard:

#### Opening Statements

102. Mr. Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden, stated that it was a great honour for Sweden and the Swedish Government that ACOPS had chosen to arrange its important conference in Stockholm and noted the wide political support of the concept of oceans security as was witnessed in the messages to the Conference. Despite the fact that, without the sea, humans would not exist, mankind was threatening the environment of the oceans more than ever, and that pressure was increasing at an alarming pace. In many places, the ecological capacity of the seas had already been overstepped, and plundering and poisoning the seas, mankind's common heritage, had to be stopped. ACOPS, with its broad, interdisciplinary expertise, played an outstanding role in these endeavours. Last year the Potomac Declaration was adopted and now it was being transforming into a practical programme of action. The Potomac Declaration was a powerful document that proceeded from awareness - an awareness that should be obvious. The crisis in the oceans, both in terms of resources and ecology, could only be solved if sustainable development was created at all levels in our countries - ecologically, economically, socially and culturally. No dimension could or should be omitted. Mr. Persson welcomed ACOPS' proposal for University Courses in marine policy and noted that Kalmar University was willing to

play a role in this context. He also welcomed the initiative of a global assessment of the waters and stated that he was proud that the old Baltic City of Kalmar would host the Secretariat of this important effort. He then presented his vision for the Baltic region, now that the Berlin Wall had fallen and the Baltic Sea was slowly reverting to its normal historical and ecological sustainability. The recent changes were giving hopes for the future and determination to turn the Baltic region into one of Europe's fastest economically growing areas. The broad approach taken was the linchpin of the work of the special Advisory Council for Baltic Sea Cooperation that was initiated in Sweden and one billion Swedish kronor was being spent on student exchanges, training in democracy, and support programmes for small enterprises. The Summit in Visby in 1996 charged Mr Persson with the task of coordinating an Agenda 21 process in the region, and the countries on the Baltic rim were now working together within seven sectors of society to prepare a stringent programme of action, Baltic Agenda 21, which was due in June to be approved by Foreign Ministers and would later be presented to the Heads of State and Government. This had been unthinkable only ten years ago. Today it was being done – foes had become friends, hostility had turned to creativity. Mankind had gone from mutual suspicion to common ambition, and was cooperating to unite economic development and ecological sustainability.

103. Mr. John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Transport, Environment and the Regions, United Kingdom, affirmed that his close involvement with the sea had convinced him of the importance of protecting it. He noted that although human impact on the oceans had grown, so too had our awareness of the problem. At the onset of the UN *International Year of the Oceans*, a review of the "seven main threats" of the oceans was warranted. Mr. Prescott affirmed that first, and with regard to shipping, tougher procedures and measures were called for, and secondly, that sound legislation on dumping needed to be applied. Thirdly, the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) should be assigned priority status, and proper follow-up ensured, including the development of a global instrument on persistent organic pollutants (POPs). Fourthly, fisheries should be made sustainable in the long term, and measures, such as the phase-out of high-seas drift nets, advanced. There was also a need for adequate solutions, both nationally and for areas beyond national jurisdiction, that addressed the growing pressures of marine mineral exploitation; this included the issue of the responsible disposal of offshore installations. The sixth threat was that of coastal development, and in this context ACOPS' work in linking tourism and sustainability was welcomed. Similarly, the Washington GPA provided a framework for tackling the impacts on the marine environment from physical development, by promoting integrated coastal zone management. The final threat addressed by Mr. Prescott was that of climate change. Rising sea levels would disrupt the lives of millions and could have dramatic effects on marine life and fisheries. He asserted that the European Union had played a major role in securing agreement at the Kyoto Conference, and that under the current UK Presidency, the process would advance. He concluded by reminding participants that seven-tenths of the planet was sea, and noted that this was the scale of the task faced in tackling these seven threats to the seas. Hard work was required on all fronts in order to protect the richness of marine life. Stockholm was an opportunity for making the commitment to carry through this work. He stated that nothing less would do to protect the seas.
104. Her Royal Highness Prof. Dr. Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, President, Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI), Thailand, and ACOPS' Vice-President from South-east Asia, noted that this Conference marked the beginning of the *International Year of the Oceans*. She asserted that although a long road had been travelled, more needed to be done. The Conference emphasised the determination to strengthen political will for ending environmental degradation. Although existing legislation addressed many

issues and concerns, the environment was still allowed to deteriorate. She said that, as a scientist, she saw evidence that *homo sapiens* could self-destruct. The environment was evidently on the international agenda, but not sufficiently high on it to initiate concrete, comprehensive, sustained action. Only by acting now could the worst case scenario be avoided. She added that in many developing countries, poverty was a serious impediment to environmental progress, and that it should be tackled as a root cause. She cited many practices and problems, which signalled the need for action. Short-term gains had been chosen at a tremendous future cost. She stressed that today military strength did not guarantee security and that protection of the environment should be included. This relationship between security and environment had been emphasised by ACOPS, and the Princess appealed to all world leaders to encourage intersectoral cooperation at the global, inter-regional, regional, national and local levels. She went on to say that economic progress could not take place at the expense of the environment, and that this applied particularly to the area of tourism, which had a double-edged relationship with the environment. Referring then to the work undertaken by the CRI, and affirming that education and public awareness were vital, she informed the participants that training and information dissemination were among its priorities. The CRI's specific objectives were: to promote research which would improve people's quality of life; to educate and train high calibre personnel; to join local and foreign scientists to discuss and solve emerging problems; and to identify, catalyse and mobilise resources for research and development in science and technology. In recognition of the many activities undertaken by the CRI, UNEP had designated it as the UNEP Centre of Excellence for Environmental and Industrial Toxicology in 1990. She concluded by saying that because environmental degradation in one part of the world had repercussions elsewhere, it was in our common interest to promote genuine international cooperation.

105. Dr. Soares highlighted the convergence of ideas between the Potomac Declaration, the work in the Stockholm Conference and the conclusions arrived at in the IWCO. This echo reflected that the same concerns were shared. He welcomed the change in attitude that was evident in the repeated calls for a transition from a sectoral approach to a multidisciplinary and integrated one. The IWCO had studied the recommendations and work of the various organisations and agencies concerned with the sea, as well as relevant legislation, and had arrived at the conclusion that what was required was the necessary political will to actually implement these instruments on a global scale. He deplored the duplication of efforts and mandates. He considered the need for an informed and active public opinion, capable of exerting timely pressure that the necessary measures might be implemented. He asserted that it was not possible to transfer into the next century problems that have been allowed to increase with great disregard for future generations. The IWCO wanted to contribute to increasing this awareness regarding issues concerning ocean management and governance, and would publish a report to be presented during EXPO '98. The Commission hoped to establish an Independent Forum of tripartite nature and broadly represented, which would meet every two or three years to consider ocean issues in depth. A World Observatory for Ocean Affairs would also be established as a functional structure based on network arrangements to provide support to the Forum through periodic analyses of the state of ocean affairs. He concluded by noting the similar interests that ACOPS and the Commission shared, and by expressing a desire for future cooperation between both organisations to further those shared objectives.
106. Lord Callaghan thanked the preceding speakers for the time devoted to ACOPS and turned the meeting over to ACOPS' Chairman, Prof. Wramner.

## Implementation of the Potomac Declaration: Action to Promote Ocean Security at the Global Level

107. Prof. Wramner requested Dr. Sebek to present a framework of the output of the working groups. He noted that, on the basis of background papers and of the discussions, a set of recommendations had been developed (Annex II). Dr. Jettic presented a selection of the recommendations of working Groups A and B. Dr. Sebek informed participants that a second product of the Conference's proceedings was the Stockholm Action Strategy on Ocean Security which had been drafted and would be circulated, along with specific proposals. The rapporteur informed the participants on the state of the Conference report.
108. Ms. Annika Ahnberg, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Sweden, stated that fisheries sector was the socio-economic sector with the biggest stake in the environment, and noted that the food security and employment of millions of subsistence fishermen in developing countries was threatened, which was one of the most serious of all the global food security concerns. The accelerating degradation of the marine environment was causing serious threats to the regeneration and reproduction of fish stocks. Eutrophication, toxic algae, organic contaminants and POPs were areas of particular concern. Decisive action must be taken by the major socio-economic sectors whose activities had repercussions on fisheries. Each sector should take responsibility for the protection of the marine and coastal environment. In this context, and as Minister for Agriculture, she informed the participants of work undertaken in Sweden to combat nitrogen and phosphorous compounds leakage, an example of the contribution of the agricultural sector, coordinated by Sweden, into the integrated multisectoral efforts to build an Agenda 21. She noted that another important step was the development of an integrated approach to management, involving all stakeholders. She recalled the burgeoning world coastal population and the associated problems of poverty. Reference was also made to unsustainable consumption and production patterns. She went on to speak of overfishing worldwide, and said that in Sweden steps had been taken to develop sustainable fishing. She spoke of the Bergen Conference and the process initiated in 1997, which had ushered in a new paradigm for fisheries management. Among the important measures were the integration of environmental objectives into fisheries policies; new technical measurements and measures; establishment of zoning policies; and the introduction of the ecosystem approach. She added that critical ecosystem processes would be identified and protected, and referred to commitments made at Bergen to focus on habitat protection. At a global level the implementation of relevant, existing instruments was crucial, as well as the establishment and strengthening of regional fisheries organisations. She concluded by asserting that only through cooperation would it be possible to ensure the environmental, economic and food security of the world.
109. Hon. David Anderson, Minister for Fisheries and Oceans, Canada, reminded participants that oceans played a dramatically important role in the Canadian economy, and that fisheries had played a key part in Canadian history for over half a millennium. However, today both the oceans and fisheries were in growing trouble. He noted that too much was taken out of the oceans, and too much put back into them in the way of pollutants. He stressed that his priority was conservation and sustainable fisheries, and that he was, therefore, pursuing a major strategy of fisheries restructuring combined with changes in policies and management practices both domestically and internationally. Basically, this meant major reductions in the

fleet. In the end, both the Atlantic and Pacific fleets would be reduced by at least 50%. He emphasised that a smaller fleet was essential for achieving sustainable fisheries. Internationally, Canada continued to advocate greater conservation and enforcement measures and instruments such as the Convention on Straddling and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. The application of the precautionary approach and the establishment of regional fisheries organisations were encouraged. Canada was also working on more selective harvesting practices. However, the problem of fish not returning to fishing grounds was faced, although this did not respond to fishing, but to changing ocean conditions. This underlined the need for greater scientific research. He then went on to describe the Pacific Salmon Treaty with the USA, and noted that although both countries had excellent relations and shared many characteristics, the intractable nature of allocation issues had led to unresolved disputes. He said this reflected the need to tailor solutions to fisheries problems in accordance with specific circumstances. He then went on to speak of the Canadian Oceans Act, which had as its primary objective the coordination of their ocean strategy. The Ocean Strategy would set the course for Canada's management of its ocean resources into the next century and reflected the thinking in the conference's background papers. He said that the *International Year of the Oceans* was an unprecedented opportunity to rally public opinion to the cause of the oceans. In this framework, Canada had prepared an Ocean Charter, which should be given the widest distribution to make it a truly global commitment to action. He concluded by reaffirming Canada's commitment to working with other nations and NGOs to protect the world's oceans.

110. Mr. Johannes Nakken, Deputy Minister for Fisheries, Norway, asserted that environmentally-sound management of marine resources and pollution control was a high priority in Norway. In the case of the Arctic and Baltic regions, the challenge was to approach these regions as ecosystems that demanded an integrated resource management system at both the local, national and regional level. He noted that, given the importance for Norway of the fisheries sector, the prudent management of stocks was decisive. He went on to say that Norway was, in cooperation with the other Nordic countries, further developing the understanding of the implementation of an ecosystem approach to marine management practices. Referring to special concerns and problems in the Arctic region, he described several initiatives that furthered cooperation and the use of standardised and comparable methods and procedures in this area. The Arctic Council, established in 1996, had already presented extensive reports on the state of the environment there and had developed guidelines. A Regional Plan of Action for land-based activities was being developed. Norway also participated in a project on environmental legislation and rules for offshore petroleum activities in Russian Arctic areas, among other initiatives. In addition, a Norwegian-Russian agreement on nuclear safety cooperation was under negotiation. In the framework of the Arctic, Mr. Nakken underlined the important role ACOPS had to play in advocating a policy of sound, sustainable resource management as a basic strategy for ocean security. Work should not concentrate on the establishment of new initiatives and programmes, but on the coordination, support and implementation of what had already been started and agreed.
111. Prof. Jose Mariano Gago, Minister for Science and Technology, Portugal, stated that ACOPS' activities had received international acclaim. Although there was some concern regarding the role played by science and technology in the acquisition of better knowledge of the oceans for development and management purposes, this component was still treated marginally. This concern was reflected in the Potomac Declaration, but concrete measures were necessary to reinforce national and regional capacities for monitoring the oceans. The oceans were a new science and technology frontier, but although recognised politically, were not so on the scientific policy agenda. Ocean research should be like space research, not sectoral but an open challenge to all. Economic and political conflicts in this area could at least be reduced

and made a source of positive action through rational international scientific cooperation. He then referred to initiatives and efforts undertaken by other organisations in this area. Referring to the EUREKA Initiative, he informed the participants that the international public would be introduced to it during EXPO '98, highlighting scientific progress related to the oceans. He concluded by stressing the need for an intersectoral, interdisciplinary approach to the issues of the ocean, and said that NGOs had a particularly important role to play.

112. Dr. Molnia spoke on behalf of Congressman Weldon who was unable to attend the meeting. After conveying the Congressman's regrets, Dr. Molnia asserted that the passage of the National Oceanographic Partnership Act in 1996 was a turning point for ocean sciences and education in the USA given that it enabled the coordination of research and the creation of key partnerships with a broad range of sectors from society. During the coming years, Congressman Weldon would concentrate efforts on three areas: using his role in Congress to promote an increasingly unified domestic policy on ocean issues; continuing to play an international role; and addressing the issue of nuclear contamination. Dr. Molnia went on to describe the progress achieved at the national legislative level. He conveyed Congressman Weldon's belief that this was an exciting time for ocean sciences and education, and stressed that the oceanographic community should continue to convey the importance of marine research to key policy makers and work to increase scientific research. The principles clearly outlined in the Potomac Declaration and the Stockholm Action Strategy provided direction towards new partnerships covering geographic areas from the coastal zone to the deep sea.

## **Implementation of the Potomac Declaration: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Baltic Sea and Arctic Seas**

113. Dr. Bodin and Mr. Larsen presented summaries of the proceedings and conclusions of working groups C and D.
114. Ms. Anna Lindh, Minister for Environment, Sweden, noted that, although significant progress had been made in addressing the pollution problem in Lake Mälaren, the Baltic Sea was still one of the most polluted water bodies in the world. She described apparently pristine settings which, however, harboured deep, underlying problems such as chemical pollution, oil spills, and advanced eutrophication. She asserted that these problems could only be addressed, indeed in every part of society, as the way forward towards sustainable development. It was in the context of these considerations that, in 1996, Ministers of Environment had decided to develop an Agenda 21 for the Baltic Region, an initiative that had been, and still was, unique. This Regional Agenda 21 was based on the concept of sector integration, with broad participation from different groups. She said that her vision was to have a cleaner Baltic Sea within one generation. Highlighting especially important aspects, she affirmed that environmental concerns had to be integrated into decision-making at all levels, that broad public participation should be ensured, and that there should be good cooperation between fishery and environment sectors. She expressed her full support for the GIWA initiative and for her pride that the City of Kalmar was designated as the seat of the core team. She concluded by stating that the work undertaken in the Baltic Sea constituted a laboratory for the future, "pointing the way how to make sustainable development happen".

115. Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Environment of Finland, expressed his gratitude to ACOPS and GLOBE for arranging this Conference, and to the Government of Sweden for their strong support for the arrangements. He presented a short summary of Finnish policy in the field of marine environment protection. Prevention of pollution of the seas was a cornerstone in Finnish environment policy and Finland had realised at an early stage that national measures should be combined with international cooperation and international agreements to reduce the input of pollutants to the marine environment. Accordingly, about thirty years ago, Finland had established bilateral cooperation with its closest neighbours, the Soviet Union and Sweden, in order to protect the Gulf of Finland and the Gulf of Bothnia, respectively and after the political changes in Eastern Europe, Finland cooperated with the Russian Federation, and with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. The cooperation with Sweden continued in a fruitful way. There was also a traditional cooperation between Finland and the other Nordic countries. In the wider international field Finland had played an active role both in regional and global organisations. Finland had initiated a process that led to the creation of the Helsinki Convention. Finland was also a Party to the Oslo Convention, had been an active observer to the Paris Commission and had ratified the OSPAR Convention on the Northeast Atlantic. The cooperation between the eight Arctic States had been based on a Finnish initiative, which led to the so-called Rovaniemi Process, and later to the formation of the Arctic Council. In the EU context the Nordic dimension concept was based on a proposal presented by the Prime Minister of Finland. In the regional context the Finnish Government considered regional cooperation on the protection of the marine environment very important and hoped that the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP could be strengthened. He also expressed his satisfaction with the input of ACOPS to the strengthening of the Regional Seas Programme of UNEP. Looking into the global instruments he mentioned that Finland was a Party to the London Convention 1972, the MARPOL 73/78 Convention and to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In the Finnish view the global regulations on the sulphur content of fuel oil were far too lax and Finland regretted that the North Sea could not be given the status as a SO<sub>x</sub> Emission Control Area, but welcomed the decision to give the Baltic Sea such a status.
116. Mr. Gudmundur Bjarnason, Minister for Environment, Iceland, recalled his country's commitment to the protection of the marine environment, as had been evidenced by the last preparatory meeting for the development of the GPA which was held in Reykjavik in March 1995. He informed the participants that Iceland was currently developing its own National Programme of Action. He also said that the Russian NPA would be a major contribution to the fulfilment of the GPA and of vital importance for the Arctic Regional Programme of Action. Although the Arctic was, as a whole, clean environment in comparison with other areas, a solution should be found to existing problems. He asserted that he was encouraged by the comprehensive and ambitious scope of this programme. He went on to stress the need to reduce and eliminate degradation of the marine environment by radioactive contaminants and persistent organic pollutants (POPs). He urged other members of the Arctic Council to "take the Russian initiative as encouragement to implement their NPAs to protect the marine environment from land-based activities".
117. Ms. Mary Simon, Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Canada, stated that, from the onset, the Arctic Council, of which she was Chairman, had recognised the close linkage between the quality of the land and marine environment, and the well-being of Arctic residents, especially indigenous peoples. One of the most serious threats was toxic contamination of living resources from pollutants. Other areas of concern included contamination from nuclear activities and from other mostly energy sector activities. The integration of Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) programmes into the strategy, such as the Arctic Monitoring and Assessment

Programme (AMAP) would enable it to address these priority issues. Moreover, the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Programme (PAME) was developing a regional programme intended to foster circumpolar cooperation. It had greatly benefited from ACOPS' Russian programme. She underlined the need for a holistic approach in order to ensure the success of efforts to restore and maintain the health of Arctic seas, which was consistent with the Potomac Declaration. She added that the issue of poverty, addressed in the Declaration, was of concern in the Arctic where the population faced high unemployment levels and the erosion of traditions. She concluded by welcoming the Stockholm Action Strategy, and stressed her support of the need for networking around the Arctic. Closely related to this initiative was the proposal to improve public awareness and education about marine issues.

118. Mr. Lauri Vaarja, Director General of the Fisheries Department, Ministry of the Environment, Estonia, conveyed the apologies of Minister Reiljan for being unable to attend the conference, and assured participants that it was an honour for Estonia to be present. Recalling the statement presented by Ms. Birgitta Dahl, he asserted that the years of analysis were over, and that the time for action had arrived. In the case of fisheries, the solution would be to follow the principles laid down by international fisheries agreements and policies. Those considered most important were detailed: to remove direct or indirect subsidies to the fisheries sector; to make fishing rights payable; and to put small pelagics to better use, that is, for human rather than industrial consumption. He recognised that the principles were difficult to follow, but asserted that they deserved further consideration. He added that in Estonia the Ministry of the Environment had responsibility for fisheries, an arrangement worthy of replication as it reflected an integrative approach.
119. Prof. Vladimir Tetelmin, Deputy Chairman of the Committee for Ecology of the State Duma and Coordinator of ACOPS' Russian Programmes, informed participants that a Joint Declaration of the Deputies of the State Duma of the Russian Federation and ACOPS concerning Collaboration for the Development and Implementation of the National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities in the Arctic Region of the Russian Federation (NPA-Arctic) had been signed on this day in the City of Stockholm. The Declaration recognised the peculiarities of Arctic ecosystems and stated that the implementation of the programme would serve as the Russian Federation contribution to the practical implementation of relevant international agreements. Both Parties manifested their readiness to address marine environmental destruction, to support the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), and to accept and endorse the Arctic Regional Action Programme in the framework of the Arctic Council. This initiative and the considerable contribution of ACOPS to the elaboration of the NPA-Arctic were acknowledged. Finally the Parties stated that they would use all available methods to attract investments to the NPA-Arctic both nationally and internationally.
120. Mr. Vladimir Goman, Chairman of the Committee of the North of the State Duma, spoke about the Advanced Technology Research Project for Nuclear Waste (ATRPNW). Referring to growing concern over radioactive waste generated by various activities, he considered that the treatment and disposal of these wastes called for additional efforts by the international community. In this framework the joint Declaration of Cooperation between the US Congress and Russian Duma representatives was signed, which was designed to promote the sharing and propagation of advanced technologies for processing, storing and dumping nuclear waste. The open-ended Goman-Weldon initiative sought to unite leading politicians and personalities to explore solutions and assess the current situation. Criteria for evaluation had been agreed upon. A key point for the implementation of the project was the establishment of an international non-governmental institution that would



coordinate horizontal information flows and present up-to-date information to all countries concerned. The Declaration also called for holding regular forums. This initiative was unanimously approved by the State Duma in June 1997. Various actions had been undertaken at a national level with a view to ensuring the implementation of the project. Simultaneously in the USA, a resolution had been submitted to the US Senate with the backing of key members. Early adoption of the resolution was expected. Congressman Weldon intended to present a similar resolution to the US House of Representatives. As a first step towards its implementation, an Internet database on radioactive waste treatment technologies had been established. Mr. Goman concluded by asserting that this initiative was in line with the principles of the Potomac Declaration.

121. Prof. Wramner welcomed the participation of Mr. Jorge Illueca of UNEP to the Conference and invited him to present a statement.
122. Mr. Jorge Illueca, Assistant Executive Director, UNEP, referred to the Stockholm Conference of 1972, where warnings were issued regarding marine degradation, and said that this process was now evident. The Stockholm Conference was a sobering reminder of the difficult state of the oceans, and offered an important opportunity to reflect on the issues and propose solutions. He stated that for 25 years, UNEP had assigned priority to the integrated management of water resources. For over 23 years, the Regional Seas Programme had worked with governments, and two new programmes would shortly be launched. This reflected the realisation that a sea-by-sea approach was more attainable than a centrally driven programme. Moreover, these programmes had respected national priorities, and actual implementation of activities was in the hands of coastal states; UNEP acted only as a catalyst. Mr. Illueca then spoke about the GPA, which emphasised integrated management approaches and harmonisation with river basins. Among other elements he also acknowledged linkages between public health and the health of marine ecosystem. The GPA was in its early days and a concerted effort was needed to ensure success. He informed participants that eight regional workshops had been held to determine priorities within its framework, and that during 1998 four more workshops would be held. In addition, preparations for a clearing house had begun, and the Coordinating Office in The Hague would soon be fully operational. He went on to describe other operational elements and developments of the GPA. He also recalled that the GPA called for regular reviews of state of the marine environment, and that an intergovernmental review of the GPA was being planned for 1999. Mr. Illueca underlined that the GIWA initiative also represented an important process in the identification of priorities in the field of international waters, and was an important step towards the full implementation of the GPA. Finally, he referred to the difficulties generated by financial constraints. In conclusion, he affirmed that UNEP needed to count on the continued support of ACOPS.

## **Implementation of the Potomac Declaration: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Western Indian Ocean**

123. Mr. Jones made reference to Deputy Minister Mokaba's paper on Analysis of the Potomac Declaration in the Western Indian Ocean, which reflected the positions of both Minister Ferraz of Mozambique and Minister Bonnelame of the Seychelles. The paper identified major difficulties for the implementation of international agreements. It was noted that numerous programmes and action plans at global and regional levels were often duplicated. In general, it was agreed that, rather than create new programmes, existing ones had to be implemented. This would, in turn, require better coordination between relevant organisations, programmes, and actors. He reported

that the working group had stressed that African countries should individually and collectively determine their agenda priorities, and that only then should donor agencies be invited to work in partnership. The focus adopted in the Potomac Declaration, establishing a linkage between food, environmental and economic security, was overwhelmingly supported by participants as a concept that underlined key issues for the African continent. The increased cooperation between the military and environmental sectors called for during the Washington Conference was also deemed very relevant for the region. Participants identified an urgent need to review existing agreements and audit existing programmes in order to attain greater integration and rationalisation of activities. As set forth in the Potomac Declaration, it was necessary that actions be relevant and measurable. Mr. Jones then presented a list of recommendations that issued from the working group's discussions.

124. On behalf of Mr. Cheikh Cissokho, President of the National Assembly of Senegal and ACOPS' Vice-President from the West African Region, Mr. Bakary Kante, Director of Environment, Senegal, and member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy, conveyed his apologies for his inability to attend the conference due to parliamentary duties, and read out a statement. Mr. Cissokho therein asserted that the Government of Senegal attached the highest importance to the protection of the environment and recalled Senegal's active participation in various international organisations and conferences. However, he highlighted the discrepancies that existed at an international level between agreements subscribed by the international community and the progressive deterioration of the marine environment. He said that in Africa there was a need to demonstrate that environmental protection was not a crusade against development but that, together with adequate fisheries management, it could help development. Moreover, economic prosperity could serve to prevent environmental flash points resulting from military conflicts. He affirmed that Africa was tired of conflict. With a view to paving the way towards peace, Senegal gave its full support to the concept of economic, environmental and food security as a vehicle for combating the continuing degradation of the coastal and marine environment. He congratulated ACOPS and Congressman Weldon for their vision in advancing this concept. He went on to express support for the proposed Cape Town Conference and pledged to coordinate the participation of francophone countries. He outlined the expectations linked to this conference including the exchange of experiences, and the compilation of information regarding the state of the oceans. He made a firm plea to the international donor community to honour commitments made at Rio with a view to avoiding the explosion of environmental flash points. He concluded by affirming that organisations such as ACOPS had a very important role to play as a catalyst. He asserted that by the time of the Cape Town Conference, it would be possible to show that many of the general concepts developed in the Washington and Stockholm Conferences had been translated into practice.
125. Minister Bonnelame considered the preceding days' discussions frank and thought-provoking. He said that the emphasis placed on protection of the environment at a regional level had many positive results, given that he attached great importance to regional cooperation in the management of marine resources and coastal areas. He reminded participants of the active participation of the Seychelles in regional and international processes, conferences, organisations, and programmes. He therefore found it encouraging to note the high level of consensus that was manifested concerning the need to improve the effectiveness of coordination and cooperation between both countries of region, and with donors and other agencies assisting in the implementation of various programmes and action plans. He also underlined the perceived need for inter-regional cooperation in Africa, as well as the fact that Africa should set its own agenda. In this context, South Africa clearly had a key role to play given its strategic geographic position straddling two oceans. Therefore he

considered it appropriate that, with the assistance of ACOPS, South Africa should host a conference on inter-regional cooperation. Prior to this, the conference to be held in Mozambique on sub-Saharan marine and coastal zone management was also of great importance. He trusted that these meetings would result in concrete actions that served to improve the implementation of existing programmes and of the Nairobi Convention. He said that it was evident that many countries in the region now understood that the concern over the environment was not a luxury. Indeed, given the limited resources of many developing countries, conservation and preservation of the environment was even more critical to economic and food security, as was reflected in the Potomac Declaration. He concluded by noting that, nonetheless, countries could not guarantee the security of their own environment without the cooperation of other countries at regional and global levels.

126. Deputy Minister Mokaba welcomed the Conference's accomplishments and noted that its deliberations were centred on the issue of good environmental governance. He said that there were many causes for environmental degradation in general, but it was critical to note that failures in coordination could lead to environmental degradation. Therefore, a major recommendation was that no additional programmes should be developed, but rather that work should be undertaken to improve existing programmes and objectives. He emphasised that the issues had already been identified, and that at present the issue was implementation. He asserted that his country's conception of integrated coastal zone management, as well as the goal of enabling people to lead sustainable lives, were shared visions. Therefore it had been necessary to look at why there were constraints to this goal. With regard to international agreements and processes, he said that the aim of ACOPS could not be to hold more meetings, but to promote greater action; and meetings should only be held to review accomplishments. He referred to the need to manage human behaviour and to effect the necessary changes to modify erroneous habits. He underlined that this was the paradigm shift that needed to be understood. This approximation should be transmitted to all other concerns.
127. Minister Ferraz suggested that there was a need to find a new way of looking at cooperation. He noted that environmental problems did not have frontiers, and that therefore environmental solutions should not have frontiers either. Countries, people, and institutions should make efforts to jointly analyse their problems and solutions. He asserted that so far as the oceans were concerned, the preceding considerations carried even greater weight. He said, by way of example, that integrated coastal zone management programmes should be carried out by all concerned and by neighbouring countries, because actions by a single country were evidently not effective. He informed of possible plans to hold a conference on the coastal and marine environment to compare and share experiences regarding the implementation of actions, as well as to secure partnerships to assist in the integrated management of the seas. He affirmed that existing programmes in the region should be reviewed, as should relevant policies. Efforts should be undertaken to harmonise them. In order to accomplish these objectives, assistance was needed.
128. Prof. Nizar Tawfiq, President of the Meteorological and Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) of Saudi Arabia, Secretary-General of the Programme for the Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), and Vice-President of ACOPS, sent a message to the Conference expressing his regret at being unable to attend, which was read out by Dr. Sebek. Prof. Tawfiq said that because of recent conflicts in the region, Saudi Arabia had reasons for promoting environmental protection within the concept of ocean security. He affirmed that countries in both regions had agreed to promote inter-regional cooperation, as was agreed during the Jeddah conference of 1995 organised in conjunction with ACOPS. He summarised recommendations contained in the background papers to the

Stockholm Conference which he endorsed, and which included the eradication of poverty, the enhancement of shipping security, the promotion of south-south inter-regional cooperation, and the absence of ties between aid and trade. He concluded by stating that his government attached the greatest importance to work undertaken by relevant UN agencies, but that NGOs could also play an important role. He maintained that countries from both the African and Asian seaboard of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden could benefit from the catalytic role of ACOPS, its political leaders and its Advisory Boards of leading technical experts.

## Endorsement of the Stockholm Action Strategy

129. Prof. Wramner requested Dr. Mee to present the revised draft of the Stockholm Action Strategy on Ocean Security as well as the Portfolio of Action Proposals. Dr. Mee asserted that it was remarkable that within only three days, both documents were ready to be presented for implementation to either countries or relevant organisations, at both the regional and national level. He said that this was the power of working with an NGO. He suggested that discussion of the Portfolio should not be opened, but rather, that inputs be given in writing. He opened the two-page Action Strategy for discussion, recommendations and editorial changes.
130. Many substantive recommendations were made. The need to stress the importance of implementing existing conventions, as well as the issue of safer shipping and of toxic algae blooms, were highlighted for inclusion. Similarly, a recommendation was made to include the recommendations from the working groups, including a specific mention of the ATRPNW programme. These points were noted for inclusion in the final document, those referring to Arctic issues to be consigned to a new section. The need to integrate technical and social research was also pointed out, and it was incorporated in the relevant paragraph. It was also recommended to include a statement saying that renewable living resources could be used in a sustainable manner. In the section on nuclear disposal sites, it was noted that what was required was not "mitigation" but rather, an "improvement in radioactive waste treatment".
131. Turning to issues of education and awareness, it was underlined that formal education programmes should be complemented with creative communication programmes that promoted a broader environmental literacy. In this context, it was also noted that the objective was not simply to develop courses but curricula and programmes. The educational needs of older people were also mentioned. After this it was also recommended that the Strategy specify whether it was suggesting the designation of a year or a decade on biodiversity. Regarding this last point, however, it was noted that ACOPS, as an NGO, could only present a general proposal to the Secretariat and Contracting Parties of the Convention on Biodiversity.
132. It was considered that the issues of poverty and equity, given their fundamental importance, merited a specific and independent reference. It was suggested to include a sentence on poverty and over-consumption as primary root causes of environmental degradation. In addition, a suggestion was put forth, in light of Dr. Soares' speech, to include a reference to the peaceful uses of the oceans, and the advisability of establishing a world forum on ocean affairs. Finally, the last paragraph was amended to state that the lessons derived from ACOPS' remarkable success in the Arctic and Asian regions, should be applied to other regions such as Africa.

133. After noting these recommended changes, Prof. Wramner presented the document to the Ministerial Segment for approval. He noted that it should contribute to the implementation of existing agreements, but underscored that a great deal of action was needed. He said that ACOPS' Vice-Presidents would have to present the Strategy in their respective regions and carry out specific activities in order to ensure its development. The Stockholm Action Strategy on Ocean Security was then endorsed.

## Closure of the Conference

134. Prof. Wramner affirmed that ACOPS would continue to cooperate with the Russian Duma, UNEP, and the IWCO, the Convention on Biological Diversity and other international organisations and bodies. He expressed hopes that when ACOPS met again in Lisbon during EXPO '98, it would be possible to report on the success of the different initiatives on ocean security launched in Stockholm. Prof. Wramner declared the meeting closed. Ambassador Fraser took the floor to express his appreciation, on behalf of all participants, to Lord Callaghan, Prof. Wramner, Dr. Sebek and other colleagues for making the Conference an outstanding success. He also expressed admiration given that Prof. Wramner had continued his duties on behalf on the Conference despite undergoing a time of bereavement. He trusted that all participants would soon meet again to work towards advancing such important objectives as ocean security and protection.

STOCKHOLM ACTION STRATEGY



## ANNEX I

### STOCKHOLM ACTION STRATEGY

This Annex contains Part A, Stockholm Action Strategy on Ocean Security, and Part B, Portfolio of Action Proposals.

#### PART A: STOCKHOLM ACTION STRATEGY ON OCEAN SECURITY

From 21 January to 3 February 1988 in the Parliament of Sweden, a joint Conference was organised by the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) and the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE). The Conference, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG, President of ACOPS and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, was entitled "Towards Enhanced Ocean Security and the Third Millennium". It brought together government ministers, senior policymakers, legislators, scientists, representatives of the defence sector and representatives of civil society.

### ANNEX I

## STOCKHOLM ACTION STRATEGY

Messages of support for the work of the Conference were received from the Ministry of Defence, Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and many senior political leaders including Prime Minister Olaf Palme of Sweden, President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, President Francis Albert Rey of the Philippines, President of the State of Israel, Yitzhak Rabin, House of Representatives, Al Gore, Georgia, and Chairman of the Independent States Commission on the Oceans and former President of Portugal, Dr. Mário Soares.

The primary objective of the Conference was to develop concrete proposals for policies and actions to implement the recommendations of the 1987 Polaruit Declaration. Towards Enhanced Ocean Security and the Third Millennium. In responding to this challenge, the Conference prepared a strategy of practical actions, which are detailed in the current document.

During the ministerial segment of the Conference, all speakers re-emphasized, at a political level, the messages that had been discussed during the technical sessions. They re-affirmed that poverty and over-consumption are prime root causes of environmental degradation. The need for collective action and better coordination of governmental and non-governmental programmes was stressed. The problems of persistent, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), and-based sources of pollution, oil spills, marine safety, ocean disposal of wastes, climate change, coastal area management, education and training were all mentioned. ACOPS welcomed these endorsements of the direction of its strategic plans. Several speakers expressed their concern regarding nuclear waste management and encouraged states to support programmes aimed at enhancing environmental security of oceans, such as the Advanced Technology Research Project on Nuclear Waste Management. ACOPS also welcomed the statement from the Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, Dr. Soares, that addressed many of these issues and his invitation to ACOPS for cooperation in the follow-up of the Commission's recommendations for the establishment of a forum to periodically review issues related to ocean governance and the peaceful use of the world's oceans.





## ANNEX I

### STOCKHOLM ACTION STRATEGY

This Annex contains Part A: Stockholm Action Strategy on Ocean Security, and Part B: Portfolio of Action Proposals

#### **PART A: STOCKHOLM ACTION STRATEGY ON OCEAN SECURITY**

From 31 January to 2 February 1998, in the Parliament of Sweden, a joint Conference was organised by the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) and the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE). The Conference, under the Chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG, President of ACOPS and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, was entitled "Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium". It brought together government ministers, senior policymakers, legislators, scientists, representatives of the defence sector and representatives of civil society.

Messages of support for the work of the Conference were received from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden and from senior political leaders including Prime Minister Göran Persson of Sweden, President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, President France Albert René of the Seychelles, Vice President Al Gore of the United States of America, President of the State Duma of Russia, Mr. Gennadii Nikolaevich Seleznev, Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Mr Newt Gingrich, and Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans and Former President of Portugal, Dr. Mario Soares.

The primary objective of the Conference was to develop concrete proposals for policies and actions to implement the recommendations of the 1997 Potomac Declaration: Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium. In responding to this challenge, the Conference prepared a strategy of practical actions, which are defined in the current document.

During the Ministerial segment of the Conference, all speakers re-emphasised, at a political level, the messages that had been discussed during the technical sessions. They re-affirmed that poverty and over-consumption are prime root causes of environmental degradation. The need for collective action and better coordination of governmental and non-governmental programmes was stressed. The problems of overfishing, persistent organic pollutants (POPs), land-based sources of pollution, oil spillage, marine safety, ocean disposal of wastes, climate change, coastal area management, education and training were all underlined. ACOPS welcomed these endorsements of the direction of its strategic plans. Several speakers expressed their concern regarding nuclear waste management and encouraged states to support programmes aimed at facilitating environmental security of oceans, such as the Advanced Technology Research Project on Nuclear Waste Management. ACOPS also welcomed the statement from the Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, Dr. Soares, that addressed many of these issues and his invitation to ACOPS for cooperation on the followup of the Commission's recommendation for the establishment of a Forum to periodically review issues related to ocean governance and the peaceful use of the world's ocean.

The approach of ACOPS, in developing the Strategy, recognises that existing international arrangements for cooperation between relevant actors in many cases are working poorly and that efforts to solve environmental problems are often inadequately focused. Considerable resources are consumed in the creation of parallel and overlapping administrative structures. Existing agreements and conventions remain largely unimplemented and this failure must be addressed. The importance of cultural values is recognised, and education programmes, including the use of media and the arts, will be pursued.

Starting from a basis of interdisciplinary research, the ACOPS' strategy is based on promoting well-coordinated global and regional partnerships. It places emphasis on integration, at local, national, regional and global levels, of concerns for the marine and coastal environment into strategies and policies of socio-economic sectors adversely affecting coastal and marine ecosystems. It gives special weight to close collaboration, and an active and transparent dialogue between fisheries, and marine and coastal environment protection agencies and amongst international organisations at both regional and global levels.

Participants in the Conference reiterate their deep concern with the continuing degradation of the world's ocean and coastal ecosystems. They consider this situation as an important threat to human security. They invite Governments, donors and international organisations to examine the following practical actions towards improving environmental security in the world's oceans and coastal zones. Full details of these actions are elaborated as part of the Conference proceedings.

ACOPS will continue to pursue and promote the principles laid down in the Potomac Declaration and will, *inter alia*:

- examine mechanisms and processes needed to improve the dialogue amongst governments, policymakers, and civil society as well as existing organisations dealing with ocean issues;
- consistent with national security considerations and resource availability, encourage states to use the capacity of their military and intelligence organisations towards environmental security in partnership with their civilian counterparts;
- assist and facilitate participation of countries in, and the early implementation of, the Global International Waters Assessment especially in its regional development;
- support, with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, a recommendation for a year or decade of international effort on biodiversity;
- promote the development of local authority networks, involving full public, private and governmental participation, to strengthen community involvement in achieving sustainable management;
- in recognition of the growth and importance of tourism, especially in many developing countries, promote development of this industry in an environmentally sustainable manner;
- encourage higher education training programmes for marine and coastal policymakers by establishing new postgraduate courses and promoting cooperation amongst them;
- accepting that education of the young is especially important for changing societal values, pursue the advancement of environmental education at all levels by promoting mechanisms such as the establishment of nature centres linked to formal education;

- support and encourage regional and global marine research and monitoring programmes, including data management, recognising that knowledge and information form the cornerstone of wise decision-making for environmental policies and programmes and in the identification of emerging issues, an immediate initiative would be research into harmful algal blooms;
- actively encourage improved performance on the part of corporate organisations through the environmental management process; and
- participate in ongoing international processes addressing trade in living marine resources with the objective of ensuring sustainability and the preservation of marine ecosystems.

The achievement of the above strategy will be enhanced by efforts at regional levels. ACOPS has had remarkable success in the Arctic and Asian regions and these programmes will continue to be pursued closely and the lessons learned applied to other priority regions such as Africa.

*Stockholm, 2 February 1998*

## PART B: PORTFOLIO OF ACTION PROPOSALS

### 1. Oceans and Coastal Areas: Improved Governance

Oceans and coastal areas suffer from mismanagement which primarily results from lack of effective international cooperation and inappropriate policies and actions taken at national level. At the heart of the problem are: sectoral approaches to the management and exploitation of resources; inadequacies in development policies and management measures; insufficient understanding of, and insight into, natural, social and economic processes; and, above all, examples of poor governance on all hierarchical levels (global, regional, national, local).

In spite of a large number of global intergovernmental organisations (e.g., IOC, FAO, IMO, UNEP), coordinating mechanisms (e.g., CSD, ICSPRO), programmes (e.g., GOOS, GPA/LBA, GIWA), and agreements (e.g., UNCLOS, London Convention, CBD, UNFCCC) dealing wholly or partially with marine and coastal environment, there is no overarching body, mechanism or programme which would, in an integral way, consider issues related to governance of oceans and coastal areas (including associated drainage basins), management of their resources, and the scientific basis on which a rational long-term management of these resources can be firmly based.

Against this background, ACOPS' Advisory Boards are invited, before the 1999 Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), to examine:

- the need for, and potential benefits from, an improved dialogue between governments, policy-makers, and the civil society and its organisations including the private sector, resource managers, natural and social scientists, and various user groups (e.g. fisheries, maritime transport and trade, tourism, oil and gas industry) while emphasising the necessity of establishing clear objectives for the dialogue; and
- feasible options for mechanisms and all processes through which such dialogue could be initiated and maintained including options on step-by-step processes for the establishment of such mechanisms.

## 2. Application of National Security Data and Systems to Environmental Issues

Military and intelligence establishments have been collecting data that can be invaluable to civilian environmental problems (e.g. sustainable use of living and non-living resources). Examples of this application are: earthquake prediction; disaster information; forest fires; monitoring of volcanoes; climate change; large scale environmental assessments; sea surface; sea temperature; wave climate; vegetation; deforestation; desertification; and quantification of the Arctic ice pack, etc. Imagery from intelligence satellites, put up much earlier than commercial satellites, can be used to show how desert boundaries, vegetation, and polar ice have changed with time. Sharing of defence information has also proven an effective way to build good will and strengthen international relations.

The environment is also important to national security as environmental degradation can impact a nation's economy, social stability and regional behaviour. Therefore data exchange and research should be bi-directional, representing a cooperation between defence and civilian institutes and facilities.

Proposals for action:

- consistent with national security considerations and resource availability, states should consider declassification of certain military data which might be of importance for the understanding of marine and coastal systems, and environmental protection;
- states are encouraged to establish regional and/or bilateral agreements on cooperation between defence, environmental, and marine natural resource sectors, which embrace institutions and facilities, as well as data exchange and interpretation;
- where appropriate, states are encouraged to redirect defence institution measurement systems and capabilities, particularly excess capacity in these areas, toward the resolution of environmental issues;
- consistent with national policies, countries should encourage cooperation between the military and regional fisheries and environment management agencies;
- civilian and defence institutes and agencies should work to find dual benefits for the sharing of the national security data, i.e., the data release should have significant advantages for the defence institutes and agencies as well, thus increasing the possibility of resources being made available for data release; and
- states should be encouraged to engage in a self-analysis of national security data with the goal of assessing its application to environmental issues. Potential exists in this area for an informal international discussion group to investigate this issue and facilitate its implementation.

### 3. Assessment of International Waters at the Global Level

The Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) was approved recently as a Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded project to assess, regionally and globally, the status and problems of the marine and freshwater environment, including their resources.

In accordance with Article 5 of the Potomac Declaration support should be provided to the early implementation of GIWA.

The potential implications of successfully completing GIWA are far-reaching in that it is intended to serve as the rational basis for the management of marine and freshwater resources.

ACOPS was involved in the formulation of GIWA and assisted in making the arrangements that led to the establishment of GIWA's Core Team in Kalmar, Sweden. ACOPS should therefore facilitate, through its regional presence, greater political awareness of this activity and where possible assist in raising the required co-financing.

As an extension of, and a supplement to, the activities presently promoted and supported by ACOPS, and in close consultation with the Arctic Council and its AMAP Working Group, ACOPS should assume a key role in GIWA's Arctic component, and in facilitating the participation of the Russian Federation.

#### 4. A Coordinated International Effort on Biodiversity

A year or a decade of effort on biodiversity would focus world attention on changes in biodiversity observed in many stressed ecosystems, and the consequences of those changes. There is a need to clearly define biodiversity and an international effort would a) improve our understanding on the ecological meaning and b) develop sound measures on the utility of biodiversity indicators for environmental management of marine and coastal habitats in which biodiversity is to be protected.

The international effort will encourage coordinated action by a wide range of experts. It would be fully supportive of the Convention for Biological Diversity and other global and regional on-going programmes. The actions would not be restricted to fostering scientific research but should extend to the improvement of public awareness of the intrinsic value biological diversity and the need for its conservation irrespective of perceptions of potential economic value.

If there were an International Biodiversity Year (IBY) or equivalent, there would be a need for special emphasis on marine biological diversity. This is an area where our current understanding is particularly poor and where our baseline, against which changes can be monitored, is weak. It should be recognised that much of the existing information on marine biological diversity is fragmentary and held in poorly networked and under-financed institutions. It is ironic that many institutions that have a long tradition of expertise in this field, are facing closure and the results of years of dedicated investigations are being lost. It is unfortunate that many institutions that have a long tradition of expertise in taxonomy and traditionally provide the basis to identify species richness in ecosystems do not have the support needed to provide the necessary knowledge. ACOPS recommends that support be given to such institutions, in order to maintain and improve local and global competence in this field. Urgent international action is required to establish networks that help to identify and compile biodiversity information using modern informatics technology to assist specialists in this field. Furthermore, modern observational tools, including underwater systems previously only available to the defence industry, can be deployed to observe plants and animals in their natural environment and to help to understand their functional role in the ecosystem. These systems have an additional benefit. They provide beautiful and fascinating images of living organisms which help to promote better public understanding of ocean life and the need for its conservation.

The IBY or equivalent should be taken to the UN General Assembly by the Parties on the Biological Diversity Convention. The Convention Secretariat could then establish an appropriate coordinating mechanism. Examples of specific sub-projects on marine biological diversity are the following:

##### **Defining the role of biodiversity for environmental management:**

- The development of scientific criteria on the ecological principles of biodiversity, its proper definition under given ecological scenarios and its usefulness and limitations in environmental management needs urgent attention. Of particular concern is the often expressed view in the public domain, at political and environmental administrative levels and even among ecologists, that low diversity indicates unfavourable environmental conditions while high diversity indicates a "healthy" ecosystem. This is not necessarily true. A further concern relates to the fact that the term *biodiversity* seems to be used in conservation initiatives as applying virtually exclusively to *free-living animals and plants*. For example, parasites seem to be ignored or regarded as *threat* to the conservation of endangered species. However, parasites and disease agents are the most diverse species and are an integral part of our biosphere. Furthermore, disease agents and parasites provide a continuous "challenge" to host

species thereby improving their fitness for survival (competitiveness, resistance, immune responses), thereby fostering biodiversity. Introduced species also are a component of the diversity of ecosystems and their impacts must be considered. A broadened view is necessary towards a realistic appreciation of biodiversity characteristics in ecological management and the international effort should take the lead in properly delineating the problems, constraints and opportunities.

#### **The creation of an international marine biological network:**

- A number of local and regional networks exist such as the Baltic Marine Biologists (BMB) and others that address biodiversity at a species level. Many are dealing with systematics (taxonomy), a traditional area in biology which unfortunately no longer receives much attention and support, although it takes decades to build the expertise. The science of "systematics" describes the seemingly chaotic diversity of forms of life by determining the principles underlying this chaos. It is therefore necessary with dwindling resources, to maintain and fund, not only the capacity and expertise in this area but also to find ways to train young scientists. This will ensure that the basis for biodiversity assessments is maintained. Networking could be one of the options, if properly designed, to cross-link the expertise of taxonomists with the ecologists' needs to better define biodiversity issues for environmental management and protection purposes.

#### **The promotion of research expeditions and the application of modern technology to the study of marine biological diversity:**

- Conventional methods in taxonomic characterisation of species and strains in modern biodiversity studies need to be supplemented by the inclusion of modern molecular biology techniques and the international effort should attempt to provide a forum for effective cross-linking of these conventional and modern disciplines. There also needs to be support for programmes to collect samples from poorly studied ecosystems, such as the mid and deep ocean, to ensure that organisms are properly classified.

#### **The transfer of information on biological diversity to the public domain:**

- This aspect, currently sadly neglected, should be financed as an intrinsic element of all scientific research projects in this field. An example of this is making available video footage on living marine organisms (routinely collected by expeditions) to environmental educators and the public media. Information transfer to the public should be a requirement of funding agencies developing these activities.

#### **The use of modern media to "connect" the public with natural ecosystems:**

- An example would be the establishment of a televised marine environmental observatory. The next decade will witness the development of multi-channel digital television which will offer tens of new channels to viewers. The objective of the current proposal is to establish some fixed camera locations, for example in coral reefs which would transmit images of natural ecosystems to the general public. The principle is one of natural human curiosity, the desire to know more about the images being presented and the fascination with the natural environment. Increased feelings about remote ecosystems would encourage the public to take actions towards protecting them. The marine environmental observatory could be sponsored by commercial companies under the condition that the images were not interrupted for advertising (advertising could be discreetly placed in a corner of the image, for example). Information should be available on the current threats to the observed environment and the measures necessary to deal with them.



## 5. Community Projects Networking

Promotion of public involvement in decision-making, especially at local levels and ensuring the adoption of precautionary and ecosystem approaches for the sustainable management of the marine environment, its resources and amenities, requires a strategy for local area management.

Local marine and coastal area management activities can only proceed in a comprehensive and holistic manner if the legitimate concerns and aspirations of regional communities are recognised and specified. Accordingly, the establishment of community project networks at the regional level is required to ensure that collective interests are identified and characterised within a regional framework for local area management.

It is recommended that local authority networks within regional contexts be developed and used to delineate comprehensive regional interests (government, commercial, fisheries, environmental protection, resource development, land planning, socio-economic development, etc.) that can lead to the development of regional frameworks for enabling local area management. This would ensure that regional concerns and aspirations be taken into account in decision-making at local levels for environmental protection and sustainable marine resource development purposes.

ACOPS should promote networking in the three marine regions of its current interest, namely the Baltic, the Arctic and sub-Saharan Africa as demonstrations of the value of networking for:

- accelerating the development of local community coastal area management; and
- deriving regional perspectives for ensuring the compatibility of local community management objectives with regional concerns and aspirations.

In this context, ACOPS should also promote the use of existing networks such as the Union of Baltic cities where these provide a basis for such regional activities.

## 6. Sustainable tourism

Tourism is the world's largest and fastest growing industry. In many developing countries tourism contributes significantly to national economies, both in terms of generation of foreign exchange and in providing employment opportunities. Furthermore, the preservation and sensitive development of its indigenous heritage and the traditional cultures, coupled with the appreciation of the country's historical features and natural resources, is an extremely important by-product of the growth in tourism.

The tourism industry tends to be concentrated in coastal areas, and therefore has a direct impact on the marine and coastal environment. At the same time, the industry is very much dependent on the existence of a pristine environment. The promotion of sustainable policies and practices in the tourism industry is therefore critically important to the economic security of those countries where the tourism industry contributes significantly to the national economy.

In a world that is increasingly aware of the need for environmental responsibility, eco-tourism offers developing nations in particular, a unique opportunity to combine both income and employment generation, while at the same time making a contribution towards the conservation and the protection of the environment.

In recognition of the above, ACOPS, in partnership with the Government of the Seychelles, organised a Workshop on the Sustainable Development of Tourism in the Eastern and Southern African Region, in October 1996. The primary aim of the Workshop was to develop a set of recommendations for the sustainable development of the tourism industry. An important outcome of this Workshop was the development of a portfolio of national project proposals, designed to share the common objective of the generation of revenues that could be reinvested into environmental enhancement. It should survey or identify the existing wealth of outstanding and unique marine parks and reserves, that could be nominated for affirmation as a UNESCO World Heritage site - as is the case of the Philippines where the Tubbataha Reefs site has been so designated.

In recognition of both the economic and environmental value of ensuring sustainable tourism, similar workshops should be encouraged to be held throughout the world, and donor communities need to be encouraged to play an active role as well as funding of relevant projects.

In addition, ACOPS should support the proposal to organise workshops on the sustainable development of the tourism industry in the South-east Asian Region, tentatively scheduled for early 1999 in Thailand, and in the South Pacific Region.

The use of modern media to "connect" the public with natural ecosystems:

- An example would be the establishment of a televised marine environmental observatory. The next decade will witness the development of multi-channel cable television which will offer tens of new channels to viewers. The objective of the current proposal is to establish some live camera locations, for example in coral reefs which would transmit images of natural ecosystems to the general public. The principle is one of natural human curiosity: the desire to know more about the images being presented and the fascination with the natural environment. Increased feelings about remote ecosystems would encourage the public to take actions towards protecting them. The marine environmental observatory could be sponsored by commercial companies under the condition that the images were not interrupted for advertising (advertisements could be discreetly placed in a corner of the image, for example). Information should be available on the current threats to the observed environment and the measures necessary to deal with them.

## 7. The Enhancement of Training of Marine and Coastal Policymakers

In view of the complexity of decisions needed for improving the protection of the marine environment, it is essential to count on well-trained policymakers. Most officials engaged in designing and implementing policies to sustainably use and protect the marine and coastal environment have obtained their training on an *ad-hoc* basis, often through experience with their peers or by attending the many meetings and workshops organised in this field. This approach encourages a continuation of the sectoral nature of governance and is also inefficient and time consuming. The availability of postgraduate courses in environmental policy is currently extremely limited and their scope is far from comprehensive. The objective of this proposal is to create a new system of Master's courses in marine and coastal policy based upon existing institutions complimented with stronger linkages to the private sector, scientific institutions, governmental and intergovernmental bodies and to independent organisations within civil society. It builds on initiatives such as the Erasmus Programme of the European Union, the Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE) of the USA and the IWLearn programme of UNDP.

In Europe, the Master's course on Marine and Coastal Area Policy will be launched on a pilot basis in the year 2000. The initial network will develop in close cooperation with the ACOPS Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management. It will be available for decision-makers from all parts of the world, particularly developing countries and those in economic and political transition. The universities involved could include those in Plymouth, UK (as network coordinators); Kalmar, Sweden; Tromso, Norway; Rotterdam, the Netherlands; and Lisbon, Portugal. The newly established training programmes of the UN University in fisheries, which are hosted by Iceland, should be involved in this process. The courses would involve a wide range of cross-sectoral expertise. In Plymouth, for example, the proposal will involve close cooperation of the University, the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom and the Plymouth Marine Laboratory. It will include private sector companies, government regulators and representatives of civil society and the defence sector. Together with the other universities in the network, it will develop course elements which will include an analysis of the implementation of regional and global policies and measures relevant to protection of the marine environment and its sustainable use. Furthermore, it will examine the ethical basis of policy-making including risk assessment, the precautionary approach and societal values. The results of GIWA and other regional assessments will be employed to give graduates a broad knowledge base on the root causes of environmental degradation and the practical tools available for addressing them. The role of ACOPS and its Advisory Boards in this initiative is pivotal as a source of expertise. ACOPS would be invited as an active partner in the preparation of the pilot phase of this programme.

In order for this approach to be successful, active support will be required from all sectors involved, particularly from the host countries at the pilot phase. It is hoped that similar programmes can be established in other regions of the world and gradually linked to form a strong network. Early involvement would be encouraged with the Consortium on Ocean Research (CORE) (USA) to fully involve US academic institutions. A system for linking educational institutions in this field is already being established through the IWLearn and TrainSeaCoast programmes of UNDP for which limited funding has been released.

ACOPS will encourage an application to donors, including the EU for the establishment of the initial network. It would be based on existing centres of excellence and specialisation relevant to marine policy. Those centres contributing existing courses or modules will also be allowed to send students to the other centres, for the completion of degree studies with specialisation. In this way the donors would contribute to the production of well-educated marine policy makers with international experience and connections. Funds would go to the provision of stipends, travel funds and exchange of information between participating centres. Particular attention would be paid to transferring the experience of this network and adapting the courses to problems in other regions of the world, in close liaison with ACOPS' Vice-Presidents.

## 8. Improving Environmental Education

Environmental education is a process that deepens ecological understanding, increases public environmental awareness, and encourages individual and collective responsibility towards protecting the environment. Effective environmental education can bring about desirable changes in human attitudes and behaviour. It can awaken human curiosity and interest to observe, experience, understand, and protect their natural and cultural environment. Notwithstanding, environmental education is still largely lacking in the formal education system. The integration of environmental education into national school curricula is an urgent task that must be undertaken by all governments, if their commitment to sustainable development is a serious one.

Governments are encouraged to use the opportunity of the International Year of the Oceans to upgrade school curricula related to environmental education, and in particular to ocean environment. It is recommended to draw from the experience of UNESCO Baltic Schools Programme by linking up with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

It is proposed that the Regional Seas Programme develops an inventory of "best practices" in educational tools for public schools that accommodates regional differences. UNEP could consider doing this on a global scale.

Ministries of Environment and Education are called upon to cooperate on the development of local and regional nature study centres; particularly those devoted to marine and coastal issues. Examples like the Field Studies Council (UK) suggest that nature centres provide important and much needed contribution to the formal education process. Such centres serve as a medium through which environmental education materials are developed and distributed; teacher-training courses are organised and delivered; and most importantly, children and adults receive access to learning about the environment by direct contact with natural processes and phenomena.

Marine research institutions are advised to develop and deliver public educational programmes aimed at all age groups, including publication and dissemination of accessible-language materials on the issues of the marine and coastal environment.

Governments are encouraged to start and support awareness-raising programmes like "Coast-Watch," "River Watch," "Adopt-A-Stream" for schools, NGOs, and the general public.

Sufficient national and international resources must be allocated for the production of informative materials and public awareness campaigns on linkages between human lifestyles (over-consumption, wastefulness, etc.) and the impact on the marine and coastal environment. The involvement of creative media (arts, music) and mass media in this work must be promoted and supported.

Governments are advised to direct their attention and support to involvement of indigenous peoples and their knowledge in the field of environmental management, especially as it pertains to marine and coastal environment. The Polar Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia might be an example of an institutional arrangement of this approach to education.

## 9. Marine Science and Information: the Cornerstone of Wise Decision-making

The Potomac Declaration states that scientific research should be directed towards the understanding of marine and coastal ecosystems, thus providing a basis for policies and action for their conservation and sustainable use. This is a clear recognition that marine science is an integral part of marine and coastal ecosystem management, for without scientific information, we cannot make proper decisions. Despite decades of research, however, there is much we still do not understand about the oceans. We must continue to maximise our use of existing information, but we must also initiate and sustain new studies that focus on fundamental biological, chemical, and physical processes that regulate the ocean environment and its ecosystems.

It is vital that we understand the magnitude of natural versus human-mediated ocean variability. This requires basic and strategic research on fundamental processes, as well as long-term monitoring to document the nature and magnitude of environmental and biological change. In many cases, we do not have sufficient baseline information on key processes and variables, and as we accelerate our usage and manipulation of the ocean, that baseline is changing.

It is therefore urgent that we undertake coordinated interdisciplinary studies of the marine environment. These require a significant and sustained level of effort and commitment. Such programmes must accommodate the unique and different problems and needs of developing countries, while advancing the state of knowledge using advanced research techniques. Developing countries must be provided the training and resources to be fully involved in these programmes and aware of the implications of their marine policies and programmes. It is also important that young researchers be trained to sustain these activities.

These needs for marine research and data span all field and disciplines. A specific global example affecting many nations follows.

### Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

One compelling problem affecting our coastal oceans is the expanding problem of harmful algal blooms, commonly called "red tides". These represent a serious and growing threat to coastal fisheries resources and economic development throughout the world. Today, virtually every coastal state is threatened by harmful and toxic algae, in many cases over large geographic areas and by more than one species. Impacts of these phenomena include mass mortalities of wild and farmed fish and shellfish, and human illness and death.

In many developing countries, the nature of the threat from HABs is poorly understood, and even in developed countries very limited. Linkage to human activities such as pollution, aquaculture development, overfishing, and coastal modifications are critical unknowns in this regard. One framework for action exists in the form of the IOC International Harmful Algal Bloom Programme.

### Proposal for action

ACOPS should urge:

- as a first step, formulate and implement an international science plan that focuses on the environmental and physiological factors which underlie HAB phenomena. This might be accomplished through a coordinated set of national programmes supported by those states with the appropriate resources and capabilities, or if appropriate donors are identified, it could be a multinational initiative. One example of such a programme is ECOHAB, a U.S. programme on the Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms. The IOC, SCOR (the Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research) and the

European Union all are interested in the development of an international ECOHAB programme, so co-sponsorship of this activity is possible; and

- once the fundamental mechanisms are better understood, conduct an assessment of HAB problems specific to different regions of the world and help individual states to define coastal monitoring, management, and mitigation strategies that will minimise impacts and reduce the incidence of these phenomena. This activity could interface directly with GIWA.

## 10. Facilitating the Integration of Marine Issues in the Corporate Environmental Management Process

The Potomac Declaration has identified basic principles for action to achieve environmental, food and economic security in the oceans. However, the Declaration was less specific in identifying the available means of delivering these goals within existing institutional and legal frameworks and over acceptable time-intervals.

The Valdez Principles and similar initiatives have recognised that corporate organisations are best placed to address unsustainability issues because they have an important influence upon:

- rates of utilisation of renewable and non-renewable resources;
- development of markets for consumer goods and services;
- allocation of financial and human resources; and
- levels of emissions to the air, discharges to water and disposal of other wastes on land and at sea.

In addition, corporate organisations support a major share of scientific and technological research, and they identify education and training needs for the workplace.

The attitudes of industry and commerce to environmental concerns, including those related directly and indirectly to the oceans, have evolved in response to increasing stakeholder pressures. These include new regulatory standards and market based instruments. Consequently, there is an increasing acceptance of the need for environmental probity as a pre-requisite for corporate gain.

To improve environmental performance new management standards, tools and concepts have been developed and applied in many industrial sectors. For example, life cycle analysis, product stewardship, producer responsibility, generic and individual management systems (ISO 14001, EMAS) and market-led initiatives such as eco-labelling schemes. These are intended to support governmental commitments towards environmental protection programmes. Considerable progress has already been made by UNEP and UNIDO in promoting cleaner technologies and these developments will not be duplicated in this initiative.

Working as stakeholders within frameworks recognised by industry and commerce, such as national and international standards' organisations, ACOPS will facilitate the integration of marine issues in the corporate environmental management process. For example, in the:

- content of environmental policy statements and subsequent definition of environmental improvement goals and targets;
- identification and dissemination of "best practice" and "best available techniques";
- definition of relevant environmental performance indicators and their measurement and publication through corporate reporting mechanisms;
- delivery of awareness raising activities, education and training requirements; and
- assessment of significant environmental aspects, effects or impacts.

This approach will also provide a means of achieving the objectives of sustainable tourism.

## 11. Fisheries, Multilateral Agreements, and the Trade Regime

Options for the enforcement of international agreements regulating fisheries are somewhat limited. The vast international market that drives fishing does provide some concrete options for the control of fisheries. This international market is governed through an international trade regime.

Some nations have attempted to impose trade sanctions unilaterally to protect endangered species, arguing that under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, countries are allowed to take measures to protect animal life and health, and to protect natural resources. Such unilateral measures have been rejected by appeal panels of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) as being inconsistent with trade provisions.

However, there is an increased interest in applying trade measures to enforce multilateral agreements. The WTO's Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) is now considering circumstances in which trade measures could serve environmental issues, including enforcement of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs). On the other hand there is concern in some quarters that the trade rules will weaken environmental protection, through for example, limiting environmental protection options at the national level.

ACOPS should work to positively influence ongoing international processes addressing trade and management of living marine resources in favour of sustainability and the protection of threatened ocean resources. In partnership with IUCN - the World Conservation Union, ACOPS should organise a high-level symposium of trade and environment officials to review the relationship between the objectives of the trade regime and international marine environmental protection measures, and discuss ways to promote consistency between the two objectives. The meeting should be structured to have catalytic effect upon trade and environmental protection strategies. The results of the symposium could be submitted to the WTO and the United Nations for further consideration.



## 12. Enhancement of Ocean Security in the Arctic region

As is now widely acknowledged, the Arctic environment plays a crucial role in the stability of the Earth's biosphere. Peculiarities of natural conditions in the Arctic are such that its ecosystems are especially fragile and have unusual responses to contaminants transported to the region by air and water. It should be noted that activities outside of the Arctic are the main sources of certain hazardous substances affecting the marine environment. One of the most important considerations is the protection of the Arctic marine environment from detrimental consequences of land-based activities.

To reach this goal an effective Regional Programme of Action, as well as corresponding National Programmes of Action of circumpolar countries should be formulated and successfully implemented. The implementation of these programmes should be based on the following principles:

- a precautionary and anticipatory approach to environmental protection;
- protection of human health with special emphasis on the health and well-being of the indigenous and other northern people;
- integrated coastal areas management, harmonised as appropriate with river basin management, land-use plans and environmental impact assessment of all new activities;
- integration of the protection of the marine environment into relevant general environmental, social and economic sustainable development policies; and
- social and industrial development harmonised with rehabilitation and preservation of the environment.

The ACOPS' Conference recommends the following action strategies:

- the Regional Programme of Action (RPA) should be finalised according to GPA principles in its first phase and presented for adoption by the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in 1998;
- a second phase of RPA should be initiated and developed in the format of Agenda 21 for the Arctic Seas, modified as appropriate to reflect the specific social and economic conditions of the Arctic;
- in support of an RPA (Phase II) an Arctic Seas conference attended by all circumpolar countries is recommended for the year 1999;
- all circumpolar countries should finalise their respective National Programmes of Action in order to provide the best possible basis for the second phase of the RPA (Agenda 21);
- the NPA-Arctic for the Russian Federation should be finalised according to the schedule presented at the Stockholm Conference. This should be based on a two-fold approach. First the NPA-Arctic should have ownership at all levels in the Russian Federation. Secondly, the NPA-Arctic should assist with coordinated international cooperation (bilateral donors, international financial institutions etc). Because of the huge dimension of the problems the phased approach and strict prioritisation are indispensable;

- the NPA-Arctic for the Russian Federation should be presented to a stakeholders' conference in 1999;
- to ensure the involvement of all appropriate stakeholders in Arctic Ocean security, a networking approach is recommended, e.g. networking among countries for the exchange of information, among indigenous peoples, and among different private and public enterprises;
- promotion of activities for environmental education, information and awareness raising campaigns about the Arctic Seas are recommended;
- the development and implementation of legal instruments, codes of conduct, guidelines, special Arctic standards and natural use rules should be promoted; and
- circumpolar cooperation and national measures related to preparedness for emergency situations such as the accidental release of radionuclides, oil or other hazardous substances in the Arctic should be increased.

### **13. Enhancement of Ocean Security in the Baltic Sea region**

The Baltic Sea region is developing rapidly through, i.e. the opening up of new markets, economic cooperation and integration and the removal of barriers to the exchange of people and goods. About 80 million people live in the region. More than ten countries are involved in the protection of the marine environment of the Baltic Sea. The history of environment cooperation is long and a number of institutional frameworks have been established to cope with the problems of protecting the fragile ecosystems of the Baltic Sea and to manage its natural resources. The Helsinki Convention and its associated commission and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission are legal frameworks for that end. More recently an initiative to elaborate an Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region with the goal of long term sustainable development for the whole region has been launched. It will be ready for adoption in June, 1998. The long and successful cooperation in the region, through formal and informal networks has made it possible to deal with most environmental problems of the Baltic Sea by both legal and concrete actions. Still the goals have not been reached. The restoration of the ecological balance of the Baltic Sea is still a long way ahead in the future. More actions are needed by all actors. Institutions must be made more efficient and cooperate more effectively with each other. In this context, however, lessons could be learned from the long-term (over twenty years) experience available in the Baltic Sea region.

Based on presentations by invited speakers and proposals made by the participants of the working group it is proposed that the following actions be taken:

#### **General proposals for overall coordination and integration:**

- all relevant institutions at national, regional and international levels should participate in the development of clear objectives that are incorporated into long-term programmes of action that provides for a phased implementation of such programmes by incorporating a step-by-step approach which integrates investment and facilitates flexibility. This includes coordination of the activities of the various regional and international institutions involved in attaining a sustainable use of the Baltic Sea;
- integration of environmental concerns into the economic sectors of society. Such concerns should be included at the early stages in their decision-making process. The economic sector should take responsibility for achieving sustainable development within their sectors; and
- strengthening the coordination of the activities of the institutions involved at the national level, primarily within national governments.

#### **Within this overall framework the following actions should be pursued:**

- integration of food security considerations into policies for the sustainable use of the Baltic Sea, in particular into policies related to the utilisation of fisheries resources for products for human consumption. In this process all fish stocks should be included;
- enhance environmental education and public awareness, especially within the framework of the implementation of the HELCOM JCP and the Baltic Agenda 21, and mobilise the necessary funding for this purpose;

- institutions at all relevant levels should be so organised, and where necessary reorganised, so as to be able to address the urgent problems faced in the Baltic Sea. E.g. the new structure, among others, allows ICES to more adequately address the inter-action between fishing activities and ecosystems. A similar approach should be explored for the cooperation between HELCOM and the IBSFC. The organisations should also become more effective;
- integration of natural sciences with the social and economic sciences with the objective of formulating multidisciplinary strategies and concrete recommendations that are relevant for management of the Baltic Sea. In this regard it was stressed that integrated, multidisciplinary and focused scientific research programmes should be established. The following priorities were identified:
  - research that focuses on the sources, sinks and effects of nutrients as well as cost/effective measures, including algal blooms;
  - research that focuses on the inter-action between fisheries and ecosystems;
  - research that focuses on non-point sources and that promotes integrated approaches to this problem; and
  - research that focuses on alien species;
- modernisation and strengthening of monitoring systems with the objective of improving their relevance to decision-making in all countries in the catchment area of the Baltic Sea. This is particularly important in order to ascertain the successes and failures, and thus lessons to be learned, from policies that have been implemented;
- open, transparent and participatory processes for the development and implementation of policies should form the basis for all cooperation in the region. As an example the process for the development of the Baltic Agenda 21 was noted. The process for the development of the Baltic Agenda 21 involves all relevant sectors and, through its website, provides access to all relevant documentation, including draft documents. (<http://www.ee/baltic21>); and
- close cooperation between civilian and military institutions in order to attain the sustainable use of the Baltic Sea:
  - in this context the role of the military sector in the Russian Federation was discussed. The initiatives towards close cooperation between the military and civilian sectors in the Russian Federation were welcomed, as were the initiatives to make the military sector itself more environmentally conscious and involved, e.g. through the use of ecological passports for naval bases; and
  - international initiatives towards enhanced cooperation in this regard were also discussed and welcomed.

#### **14. Enhancement of Ocean Security in the African Region**

Today sub-Saharan Africa seems to be the most "neglected" part of the world when considered from the standpoint of UNCED's call for comprehensive cooperative programmes addressing the full complexity of problems associated with marine and coastal environment. In spite of a number of programmes and agreements which may be considered as striving to achieve this goal, none of them could be deemed as even remotely adequate.

Based on presentations by invited speakers and proposals made by participants of Working Group E, the following proposals were made:

- urgent action should be taken to strengthen existing regional conventions in Africa, namely the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, and to improve the coordination and implementation of existing regional programmes and action plans. In this it is essential that African countries individually and collectively determine an agenda of priorities for Africa;
- to this end, there is an urgent need to undertake a review/audit existing conventions, agreements, programmes and action plans in the region, which should also include an analysis of the factors that have prevented their successful implementation. This review/audit should also identify the existing involvement of international agencies and bilateral development partners in the region, as well as the gaps in existing arrangements. On the basis of this review/audit, African countries should collectively set an agenda for future action on the ocean and coastal environment;
- international and bilateral agencies should be invited to work in partnership with the countries of the region in order to implement the priorities determined by Africa;
- special attention should be given to analysing the impact of global climate change on the African continent, with a view to proposing appropriate actions at the regional and continental level;
- special attention should also be given to the promotion of sustainable tourism in Africa, which should be one of the issues addressed at the proposed Cape Town Conference; and
- efforts should be made to involve African regional organisations (such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), etc.) in the process of identifying a new Agenda for the Ocean and Coastal Environment in Africa.

#### **Sub-Saharan Africa**

ACOPS should assist the Government of South Africa in the organisation of a Conference in Cape Town (30 November - 4 December 1998), with the aim of promoting improved inter-regional cooperation in Africa in the implementation of programmes and action plans for the development and management of the marine and coastal environment. The objective of this Conference will be as follows:

- to review and critically evaluate:

- the state of the marine and coastal environment in the sub-Saharan Africa (coastal states from Mauritania to Somalia, and the African island States in the Indian and the Atlantic Ocean), including the main causes of their deterioration, taking into account the issues and priorities identified by the Maputo PACSICOM meeting (June/July 1998);
  - the status of national policies and policy responses, including the "best practices" relevant to their development and protection of coastal and marine areas of the sub-Saharan Africa;
  - the support provided by "donors" to the solution of identified problems and their causes;
  - the existing and evolving multilateral programmes and arrangements relevant to the development and protection of coastal and marine areas of sub-Saharan Africa, including their status, achievements and shortcomings; and
  - the options for the ways and means for strengthening cooperation of sub-Saharan African countries, primarily through better coordination of existing programmes and arrangements; and
- to formulate and adopt the strategy which may lead to improved development and protection of coastal and marine areas of the sub-Saharan Africa and to avoid the present fragmented and poorly co-ordinated approach to solution of their problems.

## Annex II

### Recommendations

#### Recommendations of Working Group A: The Role of Science

- Communication among natural scientists, social scientists, policy formulators, political decision-makers and the public at large should be improved.
- AGOPS should continue its commendable promotion of a dialogue among and between the policy and scientific sectors of society at the global level. The challenge is to increase the depth and detail of this dialogue, to foster the formulation of practical, objective and scientifically defensible, rather than purely simplistic and inadequately evaluated, actions representing a truly credible balance among the economic development, cultural preservation and environmental sustainability aspirations of society.
- The scientific community has a responsibility to provide simplified explanations of marine processes and conditions in particular, to facilitate and improve the communication and objectivity in public perceptions of marine environmental issues, their relative importance and the effectiveness of measures to counter environmental degradation.
- The systematic effects of marine pollution, as a result of the exploitation of living resources and physical and chemical disturbance of the coastal marine environment should be evaluated.
- The extent to which eutrophication, shifts in nutrient ratios and associated consequences at the primary production level are causally related requires more intensive investigation.
- Agencies involved in ocean surveillance and monitoring should adopt a global perspective towards the construction of comprehensive observation systems to serve a broader array of ocean information client communities.
- A database should be developed for marine toxic information that contains details of chronic and acute toxicities and their human responses.
- Physiological indicators should be researched that can be used as biomarkers of marine toxic agents and their effects on humans.
- Increased research is required on the ways, transfer rates and mechanisms of intercontinental, transoceanic, long-range and distribution of high toxins other marine toxic pollutants.
- Efforts to re-evaluate existing criteria and intelligence data with a view to increasing the amount of information available to the marine environmental scientists and marine science communities should be continued.

## ANNEX II

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- the state of the marine and coastal environment in the sub-Saharan Africa (coastal states from Mauritania to Somalia, and the African island States in the Indian and the Atlantic Oceans), including the main causes of their deterioration, taking into account the issues and priorities identified by the Maputo PACSICOM meeting (June/July 1986);
  - the status of national policies and policy responses, including the "best practices" relevant to their development and protection of coastal and marine areas of the sub-Saharan Africa;
  - the support provided by "donors" to the solution of identified problems and their causes;
  - the existing and evolving multilateral programmes and arrangements relevant to the development and protection of coastal and marine areas of sub-Saharan Africa, including their status, achievements and shortcomings; and
  - the options for the ways and means for strengthening cooperation of sub-Saharan African countries, primarily through better coordination of existing programmes and arrangements; and
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## ANNEX II

### RECOMMENDATIONS



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- The scientific community has a responsibility to provide simplified explanations of marine processes and conditions to permit increased discrimination and objectivity in public perceptions of marine environmental issues, their relative importance and the effectiveness of measures to counter environmental degradation;
- The systematics of the manner in which marine ecosystems are perturbed as a result of the exploitation of living resources and physical and chemical disturbance of the coastal marine environment should be evaluated;
- The extent to which eutrophication, shifts in nutrient ratios and associated consequences at the primary production level are causally related requires more intensive investigation;
- Agencies involved in ocean surveillance and monitoring should adopt a global perspective towards the construction of comprehensive observation systems to serve a broader array of ocean information client communities;
- A database should be developed for marine toxin information that contains details of chronic and episodic exposures and their human responses;
- Physiological indications should be identified that can be used as biomarkers of marine toxic exposures in animals and humans;
- Increased attention to the pathways, transfer ratios and mechanisms of bioaccumulation, transformation, degradation and elimination of algal toxins within marine food webs is warranted; and
- Efforts to re-evaluate classified military and intelligence data with a view to increasing the amount of information available to the marine environmental protection and marine science communities should be continued.

## Recommendations of Working Group B: Integrated Management of the Oceans

- International community is aware of the problems and has provided a diversity of instruments to cope with them and recommendations made in the presentations are therefore straightforward. However, their implementation is complex and the question is "How do we take action?";
- Among the major forces affecting the marine and coastal environment are: population growth, poverty, unsustainable consumption patterns and use of resources, and pollution;
- Impacts of the failure to address poverty, sustainable development, problems of governance and corruption should be recognised and addressed;
- Some of the more important instruments contributing to improved environment protection and resource use are the Global Plan of Action for Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities; the several regional seas conventions, the Potomac Declaration, and the International Year of the Ocean;
- Incorporation of global issues into national agendas is difficult although large assemblies of common local problems become regional and global problems; shared vision is essential to tackle global and regional problems;
- The solution of many problems requires short-term sacrifices for long-term goals; root causes should be addressed rather than their symptoms and manifestations;
- The goal should be to optimise the use of resources, rather than maximising their use; the precautionary approach should be applied rigorously and comprehensively, and preventive actions should be favoured over restorative ones;
- Adoption of a more comprehensive approach and the horizontal and vertical linkages should be evaluated and recognised;
- Environmental issues should be integrated into the planning and budgetary allocation processes given that a diversity of action is needed at various levels;
- Stakeholder participation and broad-based partnership are critical to successful programmes of action as they allow power and responsibility to be shared; and
- The "walls" between "environment" and traditional resource and social sectors need to be torn down.

## Recommendations of Working Group C: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Baltic Sea

- Food security considerations should be integrated into policies for the sustainable use of the Baltic Sea, and in particular into policies related to the utilisation of fisheries resources. All fish stocks should be included in this process;
- Environmental education and public awareness should be enhanced, especially within the framework of the implementation of the HELCOM JCP and the Baltic Agenda 21, and (mobilise) the necessary funding for this purpose should be mobilised;
- Institutions at all relevant levels should be organised, and where necessary reorganised, so as to be able to address the urgent problems faced in the Baltic Sea (e.g. the new structure, among others, allows ICES to more adequately address the interaction between fishing activities and ecosystems. A similar approach should be explored for the cooperation between HELCOM and the IBSFC. The organisations should also become more effective);
- Natural sciences should be integrated with the social and economic sciences with the objective of formulating multidisciplinary strategies and concrete recommendations that are relevant for management of the Baltic Sea. In this regard it was stressed that integrated, multidisciplinary and focused scientific research programmes should be established. The following priorities were identified:
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  - research that focuses on non-point sources and that promotes integrated approaches to this problem; and
  - research that focuses on alien species;
- Monitoring systems should be modernised and strengthened with the objective of improving their relevance to decision-making in all countries in the catchment area of the Baltic Sea. This is particularly important in order to ascertain the successes and failures, and thus lessons to be learned, from policies that have been implemented;
- Open, transparent and participatory processes for the development and implementation of policies should form the basis for all cooperation in the region. As an example, the process for the development of the Baltic Agenda 21 was noted. The process for the development of the Baltic Agenda 21 involves all relevant sectors and, through its web-site, provides access to all relevant documentation, including draft documents. (<http://www.ee/baltic21>);
- Closer cooperation should be encouraged between civilian and military institutions in order to attain the sustainable use of the Baltic Sea. The initiatives towards close cooperation between the military and civilian sectors in the Russian Federation were welcomed, as were the initiatives to make the military sector itself more environmentally conscious and involved, e.g. through the use of ecological passports for naval bases; and
- International initiatives towards enhanced cooperation in this regard should be encouraged.

## **Recommendations of Working Group D: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Arctic Seas**

- The Regional Programme of Action (RPA) should be finalised according to GPA principles in its first phase and presented for adoption by the Arctic Council Ministerial Meeting in September 1998;
- The second phase of RPA should be initiated and developed in the format of Agenda 21 for the Arctic Seas, modified as appropriate to reflect the specific social and economic conditions of the Arctic;
- An Arctic Seas partnership conference attended by all circumpolar countries is recommended for the year 1999;
- The ACOPS' Stockholm Conference urges all circumpolar countries to finalise their respective National Programmes of Action (NPAs) in order to provide the best possible basis for the second phase of the RPA (Agenda 21);
- The NPA-Arctic for the Russian Federation should be finalised according to the schedule presented at the conference. This should be based on a two-fold approach of ownership at all levels reflecting the needs of the recipient and on coordinated international cooperation (bilateral donors, international financial institutions, etc). Because of the huge dimension of the problems the phased approach and strict prioritisation are indispensable;
- The NPA-Arctic for the Russian Federation should be presented to a stakeholders conference in 1999;
- To ensure the involvement of all appropriate parties, a networking approach is recommended, e.g. networking among countries for the exchange of information, among indigenous people, among different private and public industries;
- Promotion of programmes for environmental education, information about the Arctic and awareness raising campaigns are recommended;
- The development and implementation of legal instruments, codes of conduct, guidelines, special Arctic standards and rules for nature use should be promoted; and
- Preparedness for accidents and emergency situations such as oil spills or radionuclides in the Arctic should be increased.

## **Recommendations of Working Group E: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Western Indian Ocean**

- Urgent action should be taken to strengthen existing regional conventions in Africa, namely the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions, and to improve the coordination and implementation of existing regional programmes and action plans. In this regard, it is essential that African countries individually and collectively determine an agenda of priorities for Africa;
- To this end, there is an urgent need to undertake a review/audit of existing conventions, agreements, programmes and action plans in the region, which should also include an analysis of the factors that have prevented their successful implementation. This review/audit should also identify the existing involvement of international agencies and bilateral development partners in the region, as well as the gaps in existing arrangements. On the basis of this review/audit, African countries should collectively set an agenda for future action on the ocean and coastal environment;
- International and bilateral agencies should be invited to work in partnership with the countries of the region in order to implement the priorities determined by Africa;
- ACOPS should assist the Government of South Africa in the organisation of a Conference in Cape Town (30 Nov - 4 Dec 1998), with the aim of promoting improved inter-regional cooperation in Africa in the implementation of programmes and action plans for the development and management of the marine and coastal environment. The objective of this Conference will be as follows:
  - (a) to review and critically evaluate:
    - the state of the marine and coastal environment in the sub-Saharan Africa (coastal states from Mauritania to Somalia, and the African island States in the Indian and the Atlantic Ocean), including the main causes of their deterioration, taking into account the issues and priorities identified by the Maputo PACSICOM meeting (June/July 1998);
    - the status of national policies and policy responses, including the "best practices" relevant to their development and protection of coastal and marine areas of the sub-Saharan Africa;
    - the support provided by "donors" to the solution of identified problems and their causes;
    - the existing and evolving multilateral programmes and arrangements relevant to the development and protection of coastal and marine areas of sub-Saharan Africa, including their status, achievements and shortcomings; and
    - the options for the ways and means for strengthening cooperation of sub-Saharan African countries, primarily through better coordination of existing programmes and arrangements;
  - (b) to formulate and adopt the strategy which may lead to improved development and protection of coastal and marine areas of the sub-Saharan Africa and thus avoid the present fragmented and poorly coordinated approach to solution of their problems;

- Special attention should be given to analysing the impact of global climate change on the African continent, with a view to proposing appropriate actions at the regional and continental level;
- Special attention should also be given to the promotion of sustainable tourism in Africa, which should be one of the issues addressed at the proposed Cape Town Conference; and
- Efforts should be made to involve African regional organisations (such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Indian Ocean Commission, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), etc.) in the process of identifying a new agenda for the Ocean and Coastal Environment in Africa.

## ANNEX III

### MESSAGES AND STATEMENTS

#### A. MESSAGES

##### Message from His Majesty King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden

Ever since the UN Conference in Stockholm 1972, I have given much thought to the protection and conservation of the environment. I am also a firm believer in human ingenuity and in man's capacity to develop appropriate technologies to meet the demands for environmental protection and sustainable use of resources. With this in mind, I have since 1992 regularly invited scientists, and decision-makers from aid agencies, industry and trade, to a Royal Colloquium at Ulriksdal's Palace in Stockholm, to discuss measures and possible solutions to preventing further depletion of marine resources and degradation of the marine environment. I am therefore pleased that your conference brings up Ocean Security in the framework of science, institutions and technology. I am also pleased that you have covered tropical as well as temperate zones. I have put much emphasis on the need to strengthen different societal sectors in natural resource management, the closing of nutrient cycles, as well as the importance of basic scientific information. I am pleased that these elements in moving from scientific knowledge to

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Agency, the pollution in coastal zones caused by human activities is threatening the fisheries in many parts of the world. This is a problem that should be addressed during the International Year of the Oceans 1999 as declared by the United Nations. Therefore it is a great pleasure for me to convey my best wishes to the organizers ACOPS and GLOBE, as well as to the participants of the 1998 ACOPS/GLOBE Stockholm Conference. I am also, indeed, looking forward to learning more about the outcome of your efforts.





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Already, the pollution in coastal zones caused by human activities is threatening the fisheries in many parts of the world. This is a problem that should be addressed during the International Year of the Oceans 1998 as declared by the United Nations. Therefore it is a great pleasure for me to convey my best wishes to the organisers ACOPS and GLOBE as well as to the participants of the 1998 ACOPS/GLOBE Stockholm Conference. I am also, indeed, looking forward to learning more about the outcome of your efforts.

**Message from Göran Persson**  
Prime Minister of Sweden

It is an honour for me to greet all the participants of the 1998 Global Conference of the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea and the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment.

To me it is of special value that the ACOPS/GLOBE conference *Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium* is held in the city of Stockholm, on the shores of the Baltic Sea. Since November 1989 when the Berlin Wall came down, like so many other people I have had the vision of the Baltic Sea as a symbol of peaceful co-existence, socially stable economic development and successful environmental policies. Peace, democracy, prosperity, welfare and a sound environment have been self evident to some European countries after the Second World War but certainly not in the history of the Baltic region. However, few other areas in the world have been so positively affected by the cessation of the Cold War. The Baltic Sea region has the potential to become the fastest-growing region in Europe for many years to come.

The preconditions for economic growth in our region are unique and it is through economic integration that sustainable, common security will be created. There are, however, threats that could disrupt positive development. These threats include organised crime and social tensions, as well as environmental problems. To tackle the latter, the Ministers of Environment of the Baltic Sea region in 1996 adopted a declaration which comprises an Agenda 21 involving the Baltic Sea States including Norway and Iceland. The objective of Baltic 21 is sustainable development.

The Baltic Sea has generated cooperation. When launched in 1992, the Baltic Sea Joint Comprehensive Environmental Action Programme was a major achievement. Six years later we can clearly see that our efforts have paid off. Investments and other remedial activities have been initiated in the majority of the 132 so-called "hot spots", sources of severe pollution and emissions in the Baltic Sea catchment area. There is still a long way to go, but I am very optimistic. Our goal - a Baltic Sea in ecological balance - is within reach.

In this context the ACOPS/GLOBE Conference will be of great importance to those who advocate that the principle of protecting the environment and promoting human progress are not incompatible goals.

I extend my best wishes for the success of the 1998 Global Conference.

**Message from the Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG**

President of ACOPS and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom

The United Nations declared the year 1998 to be the "International Year of the Oceans". We in ACOPS warmly applaud this decision, which presents an important opportunity to all who are actively concerned to conserve the health of our seas and oceans.

The world's oceans serve manifold and sometimes conflicting purposes – international trade, fishing, tourism, oil extraction, dumping of our wastes. These and other uses all make demands upon the environment of the oceans, affect their wellbeing, and in the long run, shape the health of people throughout the world. There is still an inadequate appreciation of this among the public at large and Non Governmental Organisations such as ACOPS have an important part to play in bringing home to legislators and to people throughout the world the seriousness of the unprecedented demands that are now being made on the resources of the seas and oceans.

Our purpose must be nothing less than to create, as part of the normal thinking of all, the understanding that the many varying uses to which we put the world's oceans should be viewed as a whole whenever policies are being developed, and that these should be integrated and reconciled in order to preserve the integrity of the environment.

ACOPS owes a great debt of gratitude to its United States Vice-President, Curt Weldon, who is promoting in the USA and internationally, the concept of "ocean security". As many of you know, ACOPS' Washington Conference on this topic owed its success to the imaginative way in which bridges are beginning to be built between the legislative and executive branches of nations, between countries of the northern and southern hemispheres, and amongst a broad spectrum of Government departments. This bridge building, which ACOPS attempted to initiate in Washington, has now begun but will be a long haul.

As part of its practical programme, ACOPS is trying to take the "Potomac Declaration" the next logical further step by identifying the ways in which its proposals should be implemented. This ambitious goal will require the constant support of legislators, as well as Governments, and I am delighted that this Conference is co-sponsored by the Global Legislators Organization for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE).

We have begun by selecting two important geographical areas in which the evolution of such a process can be monitored, namely the oceans and seas of the Russian Federation bordering the Baltic and the Arctic; and also the Western Indian Ocean. ACOPS' largest regional programmes are in those regions. It has already been decided to arrange next-step meetings in Moscow in May 1998 and in Cape Town in November 1998, to ensure that the momentum we expect to galvanize in Stockholm is not lost. These events are being organized jointly with the Governments of the Russian Federation and South Africa, respectively.

I am therefore most pleased that the political support for the present conference has been secured through messages from leaders such as the Prime Minister of Sweden, Mr. Göran Persson; Presidents Nelson Mandela of South Africa and Albert Rene of the Republic of the Seychelles; as well as the Vice-President of the United States, Al Gore; and Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Newt Gingrich, both of whom took part in ACOPS' Washington Conference in May 1997. The support has been further extended through the expected presence in Stockholm of some thirty ministers and other high level officials. I am especially glad that my own country has signalled its support by sending to the conference the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. John Prescott, to lead a team from Britain.

We also need the support of technical experts to evaluate the issues of economic, food and environmental security in an objective manner. It is most encouraging that the ACOPS/GLOBE Stockholm Conference has succeeded in attracting the attention of so many top political leaders and leading experts, many of whom have joined the ACOPS pool of expertise: the three Advisory Boards.

I look forward to participating in the most challenging task ACOPS has ever undertaken, both at the Stockholm Conference and in its follow up. ACOPS has the good fortune to be assisted by a remarkable group of Vice-Presidents drawn from the continents and countries whose borders touch every one of the world's oceans. Our Vice-Presidents have undertaken the obligation to try to pilot the implementation of our global programme in their respective regions. I thank them all for their invaluable help and particularly I thank Professor Per Wramner, our Chairman, and express my warmest thanks to the Swedish Government for their hospitality. As Prime Minister Persson has noted elsewhere in this programme, the end of the Cold War gives us the chance to improve the quality of life of deprived people throughout the world and this opportunity must not be missed.

The dawn of a new millennium requires us to redouble our determination that our generation should act as wise custodians of the planet's resources to enhance the security of the world's population, and to use the infinite blessings of our oceans and seas in order to alleviate poverty and protect the inheritance of future generations. I earnestly hope that this ACOPS/GLOBE conference will make an important contribution to that end.

**Message from Nelson Mandela**  
President of the Republic of South Africa

It is a pleasure to convey my greetings to you all on this occasion.

Since your last Conference, our country has made important strides in the area of environmental resources management. We have adopted the first democratic national policies in this area. These include the Environmental Management regarding the Sea Fisheries, and the Integrated Pollution Control and Waste Management policies.

We have promulgated South Africa's first Environmental Impact Assessment regulations and guidelines, thereby pinning our colours to the mast of environmentally sustainable development for our country. We have also launched a nation-wide consultative process to develop policy on Integrated Coastal Management. In addition, we have opened a new Sea and Weather observation station in the Cape. These developments signify the importance South Africa attaches to the concept of sustainable development.

As you assemble in Stockholm to consider the weighty issues of development challenges in the third millennium, enhanced ocean security will, indeed, prove to be one of the most important challenges to sustainable development.

About 1.8 million South Africans live around the coast and are dependent on marine resources for their livelihood. The marine environment forms part of our food security, economic security, and communication, trade and transport medium. Protection of the seas, and the environment is for us of utmost importance.

On behalf of the people and government of South Africa, I wish to express our appreciation that ACOPS has chosen Cape Town as the venue for the next conference in December.

May I also take this opportunity to thank ACOPS for honouring our country by electing our Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism to the position of Vice-President of ACOPS. I am confident that he will serve us all well.

I wish you every success in your deliberations.

**Message from France Albert René**  
President of the Republic of the Seychelles

It is a great pleasure to convey my best wishes to the organisers and participants of the 1998 ACOPS/GLOBE Conference: Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium.

An estimated 30 percent of the world's population live in the Indian Ocean Region, and depend heavily on the resources of the ocean for their livelihood. In common with other countries in the region, the Seychelles depends on the oceans for its economic and food security. For example, we depend directly on the marine environment for sustaining our fisheries and tourism industries and, despite the growth of air transport, the Indian Ocean remains our major lifeline and means of communication with the outside world.

In view of our symbolic relationship with the ocean, we are very much committed to the protection and conservation of the marine life environment. In this regard, we also recognise the critical importance of regional and international cooperation. This is illustrated by the fact that the Seychelles hosts the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) of the *Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment in East African Region* (the Nairobi Convention) and the Headquarters of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC).

Our region faces many challenges in ensuring ocean security into the next century, including those associated with limited human, technical and financial resources, the widespread existence of poverty, heavy foreign debts and limited capacities for monitoring and enforcement within exclusive economic zones.

The designation of 1998 as the International Year of the Oceans has provided the global community with an ideal opportunity to address issues associated with the future of the oceans. In this context, ACOPS showed considerable vision in organising the 1997 Washington Conference on Oceans and Security, which adopted the *Potomac Declaration on Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium*. My Government is proud to be associated with this initiative through the Seychelles' Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jeremie Bonnelame, in his capacity as ACOPS' Vice-President from the Eastern African Region.

It is my hope that this follow-up Conference will be successful in developing concrete proposals for policies and actions to implement the recommendations of the Potomac Declaration, and I await the outcome with high expectations.

**Message from Al Gore**  
Vice-President of the United States of America

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to send my greetings to everyone participating in the Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) Conference "Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium". While I regret that I cannot attend this Conference in person, I wish to express my best wishes for a successful and productive event.

Protecting our oceans and marine sources from pollutants and other threats is a goal that all nations must share, I am pleased that ACOPS recognises the need to discuss a solution to these problems. The President and I consider the health and viability of our marine resources a top priority, and you can be assured that this Administration will continue to support the protection and maintenance of the diversity and high productivity of oceans throughout the world.

Again, please accept my best wishes for a productive event. I wish everyone continued success in the future.

**Message from Gennadii Nikolaevich Seleznev**  
President of the State Duma of the Russian Federation

Allow me to greet all who have gathered in Stockholm for the ACOPS/GLOBE Conference and to wish you success in achieving the laudable aims of this Conference. Our planet could very well be called Ocean rather than Earth, since the ocean covers more than two thirds of its surface. This is why ocean security is so central to the future security of all earth dwellers.

Russia welcomes and actively supports the "International Year of the Ocean" initiative in 1998. It is in the oceans that the major questions of economic, ecological and military security decide themselves.

The State Duma of the Russian Federation, through its representatives, takes part in the work of ACOPS/GLOBE. We value very highly the fact that six large conferences have already taken place in the Commonwealth of Independent States with the help of ACOPS. Precisely a year ago in St. Petersburg a conference was held on the protection of the Arctic seas from land-based pollution sources.

The significance of the Arctic for Russia cannot be stressed too highly. The Arctic seas are an important source of marine food products, and the shelf zone is potentially significant for oil and gas. Therefore the State Duma of the Russian Federation considers it is essential to mobilise forces for the production of a "Russian National Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities" (NPA-Arctic). In this connection, the State Duma and the Government of the Russian Federation are working together.

The results should be increased security of the oceans and the shore zone along all the thousands of kilometres of Russia's northern coast. The NPA-Arctic will be an organic part of our country's federal programme "the Global Ocean".

The other seas, including the Baltic and the Black Sea, are also the subject of our very great attention and care.

I wish great success to this conference in Stockholm and active continuation of the fruitful work of ACOPS/GLOBE in Russia.



## **Message from Newt Gingrich**

Speaker of the House of Representatives, United States of America

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the work that the many participants in the ACOPS/GLOBE Stockholm Conference on Oceans and Security have done to further the cause of the world's oceans and their role in economic and environmental well-being. The oceans of the world are indeed one of our greatest, but least understood resources.

As I commented at the May 1997 Conference in Washington, DC, we know remarkably little about our vast oceans, and we must commit ourselves to fully understanding the role our oceans play in the global environment. At the Oceans and Security Conference, I challenged the oceans' community to consider undertaking three initiatives, and I present this same challenge to you, the participants in the Conference "Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium".

First, I challenge you to develop a global data base about the oceans, with the ultimate goal of developing a virtual ocean model. A project of this sort could last many years, but the results, if successful, would be an order of magnitude increase in our knowledge of the oceans.

Secondly, I call on you to work towards the development of an International Biodiversity Year (IBY), patterned on the International Geophysical Year. A more comprehensive understanding of the complex nature of the Earth's biosphere is essential to rational and effective environmental conservation.

And finally, I call on all of our countries to perform cost-benefit analyses of our activities in the environmental sector. This will permit us to maximise the return from our environmental investments and also permit us to determine the effectiveness on many of the policies that we employ to manage our resources.

Again, I commend all of the participants in the Stockholm Conference for their work towards enhancing ocean security, and I look forward to seeing the results of this and subsequent conferences.

## **Message from Mario Soares**

Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans

I would like to thank you for this opportunity of addressing the ACOPS/GLOBE Conference, introduce the Independent World Commission on the Oceans and share with you some ideas on the questions related to our oceans, which are a significant part of the challenges that confront our society at the turn of the century.

Indeed, it is essential that in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we establish a new relationship between humanity and the environment, taking into account the responsibilities we have towards future generations.

The Independent World Commission on the Oceans, over which I preside, is a part of a long line of independent commissions dedicated to the struggle for the equality and dignity of people and for the right to economic development within the framework of a society concerned with the well-being of future generations.

One of the primary objectives of the Commission is to impress upon public opinion the importance of preserving the oceans, their rational management, and peaceful uses. Those responsible should be mobilised, in their respective fields, to adopt a new vision of the oceans, ensuring their integrity while guaranteeing their sustainable development.

However, it is not the intention of the Commission to propose miracle cures. What is intended is to launch an appeal to all concerned with issues of the sea, and the general public, to make maritime issues an integral part of their reflections, and that they adopt a new vision, in fact a new set of ethics, that would be in the service of relations between humanity and the marine environment. This humanistic vision would allow for the creation of a global system for the regulation and administration of the oceans that would address the needs of the next century.

With this purpose in mind, we are in the final stages of preparing the Commission's Report which will be formally approved during our Final Session, from the 31<sup>st</sup> of August to the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1998. This Session will take place during EXPO'98, in Lisbon, dedicated to the "Oceans, a Heritage for the Future". The Report will then be presented for discussion by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

We should be visionary in our objectives and pragmatic in our approach, taking measures that, while they do not solve all problems, they will at least encourage participation, transparency of information and access to knowledge, extensions of the rule of law, and accountability on the part of those acting on behalf of governments, international institutions and market forces. By pursuing this path, we believe that the resources and the beauty of the oceans will be more fully available than ever for the benefit of all the peoples in the world.

## A. STATEMENTS AT THE OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE

### Opening Address by Mrs. Birgitta Dahl

The Speaker of the Swedish Parliament

Mr Chairman, Mr. President, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a very constructive idea to convene the GLOBE/ACOPS Conference on Enhanced Ocean Security here in Stockholm already at this early date of 1998. This will hopefully make it possible to develop concrete proposals for policies and action:

- for the International Year of the Oceans;
- for the Lisbon Conference on "Oceans and Society on the Threshold of the Third Millennium";
- for the 1998 session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; and
- for the 1999 session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, the CSD, which will concentrate on the issue of water.

I have looked through the impressive list of participants and I can only congratulate the organisers to having attracted such a number of people in key positions for our common efforts to secure sustainable development in connection with our oceans.

I have also looked through the background material for the conference. My personal reaction was an extremely positive one - not least in the light of the fact that the priorities that were outlined there to a very large extent were almost identical with those that were made by the United Nations High Level Advisory Board, which I had the privilege to chair.

The more we stand on common ground when we evaluate the situation of sustainable development and the steps we ought to take, the better are our prospects for success. The better are our prospects to convince other crucial actors that further action is needed and what forms of action there should be.

The main conclusion and the main recommendation of the High Level Advisory Board were simple: The years of analysis are basically over:

- now is the time for action;
- now is the time for common action;
- now is the time to identify strategic key areas and start working within them (and one of our three key areas was water);
- now is the time to concentrate on well defined, workable goals; and
- now is the time to transform creative thinking into positive and practicable commitments.

And - as a final memento, a quotation from the High Level Advisory Board Report - "The proposals are extensive enough, and even if only partly implemented, sufficient to set the world on a path of sustainable development. But there is no reason why all these areas of policy cannot be acted upon simultaneously".

Last year we experienced the United Nations General Assembly Special Session, which was envisaged as a follow-up to the Earth Summit in Rio 1992, and the Climate Change Follow-up Conference in Kyoto.

The media reports from both meetings were pretty gloomy and have triggered a debate that

has to a certain extent been characterised by forbearance and even resignation. I can see why - and I agree that the results were disappointing in comparison to our high hopes, which, in turn, were based on the realisation of the need for swift action. Our hopes were that these high-level meetings would serve as the point of entry into genuine concerted action.

The most discomfoting feature of the outcome is that the climate change conference did not rally around the Precautionary Principle. It is indeed worrying that the problem of greenhouse gasses, the warming of the earth, the rising of the sea level etc, etc, in this way must be considered as an exception from a common commitment, which we made already in Rio - in Principle 15 of the Agenda we did commit ourselves to apply the precautionary approach.

On the other hand, we must not lead ourselves into despair. I think, that, after all, the two important environmental meetings of last year actually can form a basis for further action in the important field of sustainable development and we should be strong enough to pursue this line in practical actions using all possible instruments.

But in order to attain our goals we will have to ensure that we all pull in the same direction. And there I would like to underline some points, relevant to oceans and the marine environment, that we emphasised in the report of the High Level Advisory Board and that have also been brought forward in the background documentation for this conference.

We need a holistic and integrated approach to the management of marine, coastal and watershed areas.

We have to take all relevant aspects of development into consideration - social, economic, cultural and environmental ones. These factors are interdependent. Every action will have to meet with the needs of the people and respond to environmental concerns.

An illustrative example of this is the following:

Several decades ago, when it was decided to do something about the polluted waters in and around Stockholm, we had to involve practically all economic activities in the region of the Malar Lake: Industrial production sites had to find new technical solutions in order to lower and eventually abolish emissions, agricultural traditions and cultivation methods had to be changed and people's sewage and waste-collecting systems had to be modernised. It took a long time, but today, as you can see just outside this very building, fishermen are catching salmon in the city waters of Stockholm.

One of the lessons we have learnt from that experience is that environmental consequences of all economic activities must be properly evaluated. The idea to support and strengthen ministries of the environment is certainly an important one. It should be as natural to consult the ministry of the environment about environmental implications of a new project or a new political reform as it is to consult the minister of finance concerning the budgetary implication.

We need to further integrate fisheries and environmental protection, conservation and management measures, locally, nationally, regionally and globally.

It is, of course, of great importance to ensure that work is carried out on the level that is the most appropriate one. We don't have to remind ourselves that this is the very idea of the Agenda 21.

Therefore, from the Swedish point of view, the environmental condition of the Baltic Sea and the North Atlantic is dependent on not only the national Swedish Agenda 21. It is complemented by local ones (and every Swedish local authority had elaborated its own Agenda 21), but also the Agenda 21 Programme of Work in the Baltic region.

We need a more active role for the civil society.

True! Individuals will have to make momentarily inconvenient decisions of changing their habits and life styles. This is the very basis for democratic decisions with bearing on environment. But that also means that people have to be sufficiently well educated and informed. Of course, governments carry a great responsibility for this kind of empowerment. But I would also like to point at one striking feature of how Swedish environmental opinion is formed.

Since the consciousness of environmental factors has to be integrated in all aspects of our lives, it was obviously important to include this concept in the education at all levels. Environmental knowledge has thus become an integrated part of the curriculum of all Swedish schools and universities.

But in the long-term perspective, the most important level is probably the lowest one:

All over this country enlightened nursery - and primary - school teachers are stressing the importance of everyday environmental consciousness and are making it natural to their pupils to economise with scarce resources and to dispose wisely of objects which are harmful to nature, for instance used batteries.

The kids understand that responsible conduct today is necessary for their own well-being in the future. Thus they have developed long-term sustainable habits of their own. But they are also apt to go home and make their parents behave the same way. This phenomenon of "children teaching adults" have proven to be very effective in fields and subjects that are new to both children and their parents.

The last point of the GLOBE/ACOPS background material that I would like to comment on is the need for the defence establishment to share its scientific and technological capabilities with other societal sectors.

Only a few hundred kilometres from here, in the former Soviet naval base at Paldiski, Swedish and Estonian military experts have jointly carried out dangerous and complicated work of disposing mines and other naval weapons. The same problems of how to dispose of dangerous equipment and residue are at hand in other former Soviet strongholds along the coast of all three Baltic States.

Further north in our region, in the Arctic waters north of the Kola Peninsula, there is so much scrap and debris that more than the entire Arctic area is genuinely threatened. These relics were considered modern arms and materiel only ten years ago. If nothing is done immediately, large areas of the Northern Hemisphere might risk contamination from leaking nuclear powered and armed submarines, for example.

We are all aware that the task to solve this problem is enormous and that it needs to be tackled in solidarity by all who risk being affected. But this requirement for joint action in no way lifts the general responsibility for the condition of the Barents Sea of the shoulders of the members of the Russian defence community. They will have to accept their fair share.

They - like defence communities in other parts of the world - should also direct their attention towards the future and put their special scientific and technological capabilities to the disposal of those civilian political and administrative bodies which are actively involved in securing the sustainable development in the management of our oceans. Another significant contribution could be in the field of monitoring environmental aspects of the oceans.

In this respect I am thinking of not only national organs, but also international ones like, for instance, the Barents Regional Cooperation, the Baltic Sea States Council, the Arctic Council and the Standing Committee of Parliamentarians of the Arctic Region, the Nordic Council and the Nordic Council of Ministers and their respective opposite numbers on the other side of the Baltic Sea: the Baltic Assembly and the Baltic Council.

Here, like in all other fields, sustainable development is dependent upon joint action and constructive cooperation.

With this in mind, I would like to wish you great success in your important work to make Enhanced Ocean Security a Major Contribution to Sustainable Development.

I declare open the GLOBE/ACOPS Stockholm Conference "TOWARDS ENHANCED OCEAN SECURITY INTO THE THIRD MILLENIUM".

## **Statement by Mr. Robin Teverson**

Member of the European Parliament and Member of the GLOBE International Working Group on Oceans

On behalf of Globe UK can I welcome you. I am delighted to be here, and to be one of those opening our conference. This meeting here in Stockholm may not have the profile of Kyoto; the Potomac Declaration may not have had the same exposure as, say, the Montreal Protocol did 10 years ago. But make no mistake, the subjects we are discussing over the next few days are just as vital. I want to remind you for a few minutes of just why that is. First of all let me relate one or two facts:

- over 99% of living space on earth is in the ocean;
- nearly three quarters of the planet is covered by our seas and oceans;
- up to one quarter of the world's marine catch is thrown back into the ocean dead or dying; and
- from a human habitation point of view, over one-third of the world's population lives within 50 kilometres of the coast.

To quote the Brundtland report, published some 11 years ago now, "In the Earth's wheel of life, the oceans provide the balance".

So our oceans are at the heart of both our planet's and mankind's health. And yet, it is still the part of our world most taken for granted. However, because of their vast nature, and despite our abuse, it is not too late to act. And it is that thought "it's not yet too late" that places a special responsibility on us gathered here in Stockholm at the beginning of the United Nations Year of the Ocean.

Let me tell you the reason that I became devoted to the cause of our Oceans. My electors live on a peninsula in the South West of the United Kingdom. They have a fishing industry. Like in so many coastal areas it is an industry that is slowly dying. Dying because of technology, dying because of over-exploitation.

So I took up the subject fishing. I started to explore the ways that sustainable fisheries can be created. That led me to ask a lot of questions. Simple questions I thought, but ones where our knowledge soon ran out. The lesson I learnt, and it was positively scary to me even then, was how little we know about the life cycles of some of our most familiar species, the impacts of species on each other, the ways our oceans work. But I know, I am preaching to the converted here when I say that the peaceful and sustainable use of our oceans must rank it as one of our most critical issues for man's future. It's no exaggeration to say that oceans are the most important link in our biologically diverse, and interdependent world. It is oceans that account for over 97% of the world's water, and are the source of rains. Only recently have we come to understand that oceans are a major sink for carbon from the atmosphere. They are vital in the way that they moderate the climate across our continents.

### **The Problems**

But what do we do to our oceans? Over-fish, pollute, dump, destroy habitats, extract, and cause climate change that affects every living organism.

The fisheries crisis is globally recognised. 60% of the 200 most commercially fished species are at their limit. Yet globally we spend tens of billions of dollars each year subsidising over-fishing. The European Union alone has a 1998 planned budget of some quarter of a billion dollars for the subsidy of international fisheries agreements. Across all nations the sum is massive, leading to over capacity and the potential destruction of not only our own fisheries, but those of the developing world as well.

And as precious natural resources deplete, so the potential for international conflict increases. We already see conflict between nations over marine resources, living and mineral. So far most of these have been solved amicably. It need not always be so.

Those of us who, like members of Globe, represent legislators, must strive to work against the abuse of our oceans, and maintain their security. This is why I particularly welcome the ministerial segment of this conference. We have to deliver action rather than mere intent. The Potomac Declaration will be judged by the extent that its aims are included in the work of our lawmakers.

### **International Year of the Oceans**

Now, it can be argued that the only reason why the current crisis of our oceans is not considerably worse, is that human technology has not developed far enough yet.

But as we all know, our knowledge of the oceans has increased spectacularly over the last fifty years, and the very technology that has given us that greater understanding is becoming the threat.

This is the dichotomy that we face: as the technology improves our understanding of the complex systems of the oceans, so the technology to destroy it improves.

Having used the resources of the land, we are now smacking our lips at the thought of the untapped richness of the oceans. From gold deposits to exotic and lucrative fish of the deep Antarctic, humankind is looking to exploit them. These are resources we couldn't have imagined were available to us a few years ago. This is why the Year of the Oceans is so timely.

### **Conclusion**

In recent years we have put into place the Law of the Sea, conventions on dumping, international treaties on migratory species, we have the FAO's code of conduct for responsible fisheries. So, if we decide, we can make progress, we can make the difference.

On behalf of Globe I thank our Swedish hosts and ACOPS for making this great coming together possible.

For our oceans there is still time. So, over these three days good intentions must move towards action. Our conference here in Stockholm must not limit itself to warm words and comfortable phrases. We are the people, and ours is the generation, that must offer our oceans the protection and security that is vital for mankind's health and survival. That is the responsibility of each one of us. Let's grasp it!



## **Statement by Dr. Mario Soares**

Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans and former  
President of Portugal

Madame Speaker, Mr. President of ACOPS, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like to express my gratitude for the invitation to address this Conference, made on behalf of ACOPS by my old and admired friend Prime Minister James Callaghan. I am particularly pleased and honoured, as Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, to be able to participate in this important conference on the oceans, held in the prestigious Swedish House of Parliament, organised jointly by ACOPS and Globe, both leading voices in this subject. It is heartening to see here so many world renowned experts in the scientific, technical, legal and political fields.

As you well know, there is a large number of organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, concerned with specific aspects of the oceans, such as the Law of the Sea and settlement of disputes, environment, scientific research and training, fisheries, maritime transport and tourism. However, no one organisation or body, with the partial exception of the United Nations General Assembly, has attempted to look in an integrated way at the complex, multifaceted problems of the oceans. Policy makers, economic agents and the public at large remain either ill-informed or indifferent to the vital importance of the world's oceans for the future of economic and social development and human welfare, besides their important role in the ecological balance of the planet.

It is from this perspective that I took on the challenge of presiding over the Independent World Commission of the Oceans, in Tokyo, December 1995. The Commission takes its place in a long series of independent commissions concerned with economic and social development, environment, peace, North-South relations, disarmament and human rights. Its purpose is above all to alert the public and world leaders to the crucial role of the oceans in the survival of our planet and to the dangers that threaten them. Besides suggesting ways of strengthening the legal and institutional framework for ocean governance at the national, regional and global levels, the Commission also wants to encourage more peaceful and sustainable uses of the oceans.

The Commission brings together 40 distinguished persons, scientists, economists, legal experts, diplomats and politicians that, due to their expertise and experience, are particularly aware of the multifaceted nature of the issues. It has been holding plenary sessions in several countries of the world: Japan, Brazil, the Netherlands, the United States of America, and South Africa. It will meet again, in a few days, in Morocco, upon His Majesty King Hassan II invitation. Finally on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September this year, it will present its Final Report in Portugal. The Commission has also organised a series of multidisciplinary study groups with the participation of outside experts of in-depth discussions devoted to the most critical ocean issues. As with previous commissions, the members act in their personal capacities, which allows them to take independent positions.

The Commission considers that the peaceful use of the oceans, in the framework of a responsible exercise of sovereignty by States, is of growing importance as an exploding world population and a growing seaborne economy exert ever-greater pressures of all kinds on a finite and fragile ocean space. This reality has led the Commission to give serious attention to the identification and adoption of new approaches aiming at preventing or resolving maritime disputes involving boundaries, sovereignty over islands and islets, and conflicting claims over resources, both living and non living.

The Commission is committed to promoting the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – the most comprehensive and sensible legal and institutional framework for the oceans ever devised and ratified by more than 130 states. It takes into account the respective roles of the General Assembly, the specialised agencies, the Commission on Sustainable Development, regional organisations and national Governments. It takes as its point of departure the need to fulfil the goals and objectives set out by the Rio Earth Summit, especially as embodied in Agenda 21, chapter 17, which is directed at policy for the oceans, and takes into account the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly.

The main task of the Commission is to deliver a clear and strong message, expressive of the underlying philosophy of its Members, to the general public and to the organisations and governments responsible for the future of the oceans. The Commission does not intend to override already existent organisations. It recognised their merit and the highly positive contributions they have been able to make, working within their particular constraints, towards the preservation of the oceans and rational use of their resources.

The Commission believes however, that an innovative approach is needed. The existing institutions, both at national and international levels, as well as the legal instruments adopted for the governance of the oceans and the management of their resources, attempt to find solutions for specific problems and needs that have made themselves apparent throughout the years. This type of ad-hoc attitude has led to a proliferation of sectoral proposals, occasionally contradictory. We feel that the time has come for launching a process leading to an integrated, coherent and, as far as possible, comprehensive approach at the institutional and legal level, representing the emerging relationship between society and the oceans.

We have to let a new set of ethics towards the sea and its resources permeate our collective conscience. This is the only way to achieve, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, already at our doorstep, a more rational and sustainable use of the ocean and its resources, living and non-living and the creation of the necessary conditions for a more equitable distribution of its benefits, between the North and South.

With our Report, we want to contribute towards a better public understanding of the ocean's problems, leading, to a higher level of democratic participation, and the broadening of civic responsibility in ocean management and stewardship.

The Commission believes that it would be useful to establish a World Forum on Ocean Affairs, made up of independent respected personalities, representing all parties concerned and governmental organisations. Such Forum would debate the fundamental issues in ocean affairs and would report directly to governments and the various national and international institutions concerned. It would not have any decision making power but would rely on the competence, impartiality and credibility of its members.

In this context, the Commission also considers timely the establishment of a World Observatory for Ocean Affairs, as a functional structure based on network arrangements, to provide support to the Forum and a periodic assessment on the state of ocean affairs. I believe that Portugal would be willing to host such an institution and thus contribute to further international cooperation. This would, in a specific way, follow up on the objectives of Expo 98, in Lisbon, dedicated to the theme of "The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future". Expo 98 represents, in a certain way, the political will of the Portuguese people: the return of Portugal to the Sea.

Thank you again for allowing me to address this Conference and I would like to wish you all the best for this important task.

## **Statement by Congressman Curt Weldon**

Chairman, Sub-Committee of Research and Development of the Committee on National Security, House of Representatives, Congress of the USA, ACOPS' Vice-President, and Chairman of the GLOBE International Working Group on Oceans

It gives me great pleasure to join everyone here in Stockholm for the ACOPS/GLOBE Conference. I would like to thank the Government of Sweden for welcoming us all to your country. In particular, I thank Prime Minister Göran Persson and Speaker Birgitta Dahl for your gracious hospitality. And of course, as always, I want to thank Lord Callaghan, Per Wramner, Viktor Sebek and the staff of both ACOPS and GLOBE for putting together yet another productive event.

As all of you know, we gather here this weekend to take concrete steps toward implementing the Potomac Declaration. There is much work that needs to be done and I look forward to working with you to implement a strategic plan to further pursue our mutual goal of protecting the world's marine environment.

As the US Vice-President for ACOPS, I would first like to thank all of you who participated and made the recent ACOPS' Conference on Oceans and Security in the United States a huge success. Working together, we not only produced an historic document, the Potomac Declaration, which serves as a blueprint for sustainable use of our ocean resources into the next millennium, but we also raised the level of awareness of the marine environment in the United States to an all time high. In part due to the high visibility which the ACOPS' Conference received, I want to share with you some astounding results of a recent poll which highlight American views toward the state of our world's oceans.

This particular poll was conducted by the Mellman Group for SeaWeb, a non-partisan, educational project of the Pew Charitable Trusts. When asked, eighty-five percent of those polled agree that the destruction of the oceans represents a threat to overall quality of life. Sixty percent of those believe that the condition of the ocean has got worse over the past few years. In addition, as a Member of Congress who has advocated the need to devote as many research dollars toward oceans as we have toward space over the last decade, I find this next statistic personally rewarding: When asked to choose between ocean exploration and space exploration, fifty-five percent of those surveyed believe oceans exploration should be a priority while only thirty-five percent chose space.

I want to stress to my friends that this poll was taken shortly after NASA's successful Mars probe which garnered significant press coverage in the United States. Still, most Americans support increased investment in ocean research. So the issues which we worked hard to promote last May in the United States – the importance of the world's oceans in the context of environmental, economic, and national security – are resonating with the American public.

In addition, to further bring home the importance of our world's oceans to the American public, I joined Dr. Elliot Norse of the Marine Conservation Biology Institute, a non-profit US based scientific organization, earlier this month on Capitol Hill to release an unprecedented statement signed by over 1,600 marine scientists and conservation biologists from over 65 countries on the future of our marine resources. *Troubled Waters: A Call for Action* summarizes the urgent threat to our oceans and urges the world's citizens and governments to recognize that the living sea is in trouble and to take decisive action now. On a side note, I want to say that this event received major media attention in the United States. The press conference was covered by two major US television networks, ABC and NBC, as well as by CNN Headline News and C-SPAN. I think this is important in that a few years ago such an event would probably not have drawn much attention. I believe this is further proof of the changing attitudes of most Americans towards the importance of our marine environment. More importantly, how can we help to address the perils to our world's oceans as

summarized in the Troubled Waters: A Call for Action statement? By taking concrete steps to implement the principles of the Potomac Declaration.

As we enter the International Year of the Ocean, or as it is being called "YOTO", I want to share with you some of the US initiatives being conducted which further the goals of the Potomac Declaration and address the health of our oceans as they relate to economic, environmental, and national security.

Shortly after Congress adjourned last November, the President signed into law legislation which increases funding for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the fiscal year 1998. For the first time ever, NOAA's budget exceeded the \$2 billion mark. In particular, Congress has increased funding for the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) by \$24.5 million. This increase is intended to further promote US efforts to restore the health of America's fisheries and to continue to protect marine species in threat of extinction. In addition, Congress approved almost \$30 million for marine environmental research which includes \$1.5 million to further NOAA's Arctic Research initiative.

Other highlights of the legislation include \$56 million to fund the National Sea Grant College Program. Congress also restructured the National Undersea Research Program (NURP) and provided \$15.5 million for FY'98 -- a \$10.1 million increase over the President's request. As many of you may recall, this is the same program that Congress recommended eliminating during Dr. Sylvia Earle's tenure as Chief Scientist at NOAA while at the same time providing millions of dollars for a space shuttle toilet.

In addition, in the closing hours of the first session of the 105th Congress, the House of Representatives passed the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1997. This legislation establishes a coral reef conservation assistance program with a dedicated fund in the US Treasury to allow the Department of Commerce to provide financial assistance for projects that promote the conservation, protection, research, and management of our coral reef resources. The measure is now pending before the Senate and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Hill during 1998 to ensure this important measure becomes law.

In addition to NOAA, other US agencies are also making significant contributions related to the theme of this meeting.

For example, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has conducted detailed sediment studies in the Los Angeles Harbor and has identified the location of many metric tons of DDT and PCBs. Continuing studies and modelling are determining pollutant transportation pathways and sediment budgets. In addition to sediment studies, USGS plays a lead role in understanding and predicting many hazards in the coastal zone ranging from volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, landslides, coastal erosion, and flooding. Real time determinations of many of the most severe hazards are being done with data monitoring systems that have only recently been made available for environmental purposes.

In addition, USGS works closely with NOAA in recognizing the need to consider entire ecosystems when restoring natural systems and utilizing ocean resources. USGS has several "Mature Biological Habitat" projects and together with NOAA provides research and mapping support for delineating and understanding geologic aspects of habitats and linking them to marine biota. Developing links between benthic geology and the use of those habitats by biota should be an international concern. Elsewhere, USGS is assessing the seafloor geological conditions and resources of several National Marine Sanctuaries offshore of California and Florida. This provides detailed information on the complex biological habitats present within the Sanctuaries.

The work conducted by both of these agencies is vital and should be considered over the next few days as we develop concrete proposals to further the Potomac Declaration. In addition to NOAA and USGS, a whole host of other governmental agencies are contributing to US oceanographic efforts, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Academy of Sciences, NASA, and the Department of Navy.

As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Research and Development of the House National Security Committee, I am sure it comes as no great surprise to anyone here that I hold a particular interest in the oceanographic work of the US defense and intelligence communities. For far too long, many Washington "insiders" have portrayed Members of Congress who support defense causes as anti-environmental and vice versa. I am here to tell you that times are changing. I am a strong proponent of the US military and also believe we should promote a philosophy of responsible environmental stewardship.

In drafting the Potomac Declaration, we all agreed that the need to focus and prioritize regional, national, and global efforts in scientific research was imperative. Much has been done in the US during 1997 to ensure that we better coordinate our oceanographic research efforts to ensure that we get the best bang for our buck.

Under the leadership of the Secretary of Navy, John Dalton, and the Administrator of NOAA, James Baker, we have seen the National Oceanographic Partnership Program (NOPP), which I introduced in 1996, prosper in its first full year of implementation. The NOPP has resulted in the creation of 11 unique partnerships bringing together representatives from academia, private institutions, industry, and the federal government to address a wide variety of oceanographic issues all of which ultimately impact the future of our national security, the advancement of our economic development, and the protection of our environment. I am also happy to report that Congress increased funding for the NOPP this past year.

As many of you know, I worked closely with Admiral James Watkins, President of the Consortium for Oceans Research and Education (CORE), in drafting the NOPP. Admiral Watkins formerly served as the Secretary of the US Department of Energy as well as the Chief of Naval Operations. In recent months, I have discussed at length with Admiral Watkins the opportunities available to expand the partnership concept internationally. I believe this is an excellent concept and one we should examine in developing steps to prioritize and coordinate international oceanographic research efforts in accordance with the Potomac Declaration.

Another issue which we will discuss this weekend is the shared data between our military and civilian communities. The declassification of military data in the post cold war era has dramatically increased the amount of data we have in determining environmental problems that can be used to promote sound marine policy. The United States and Russia have led this effort through cooperative programs like the Arctic Military Environment Cooperation (AMEC). I am glad that Lieutenant Commander Robert Edson from the US Department of Defense has joined us here in Stockholm to further discuss this issue. I look forward to his presentation later this morning.

I have worked closely with the US defense and intelligence communities to continue to promote the use of shared technologies. Using joint US-Russian cooperative programs as examples, we should work this weekend to encourage other nations to initiate a review of their sensitive data and examine ways in which classified information can be used to promote sustainable development in times of peace.

The Potomac Declaration also calls for concerted national and international action in the area of environmental education. There are many innovative programs currently underway within the US government to achieve this goal.

For example, a key program initiated by the Clinton Administration is Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment (GLOBE). GLOBE is comprised of students from over 4,000 schools representing 60 countries. GLOBE students collect environmental data and make a core set of observations then report their data via the Internet. Scientists from all over the world use the data in their research and provide feedback to the students to enrich their science education. Vice President Al Gore is the champion of the GLOBE program. On Capitol Hill, I have consistently fought to ensure Congress continues to fund this program despite the fact that some of my more conservative colleagues have tried to eliminate the program in a nearsighted attempt to save federal dollars.

In addition to the GLOBE program, funds from the National Oceanographic Partnership Program are being used to support educational training for both elementary and high school teachers in the United States to further promote environmental education in the field of oceanography. Finally, on a more basic level, legislators from all over the world should take every opportunity to encourage students to learn more about the oceans. For example, last year I spoke to a group of elementary school children in my district. They were so excited to hear about the oceans that they devoted an entire week out of the school year specifically for studying the marine environment. These are just a few examples of ways in which we can increase environmental understanding world wide.

It is an honor for me to present the Potomac Declaration to you here today. It is clear that we have a great deal of work ahead of us. I look forward to a successful conference and am confident we will develop a set of concrete proposals to implement the Potomac Declaration. But as you all know, our work will not be finished when we leave Stockholm. From here, we must take the proposals which we develop this weekend and implement them in specific geographic areas so that their progress can be monitored. I support the use of ACOPS regional programs in the Arctic Region and Indian Ocean to further this goal.

I would just like to say that I look forward to this next step. As most of you know, I am actively involved in various US-Russian collaborative efforts. Last year, I was asked by the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, to initiate the first ever Duma-Congress Study Group. In this capacity, my colleagues in the US Congress and I work closely with key Members of the Russian Duma on a number of important issues ranging from defense and the environment to education and housing. I also visited South Africa for the first time last fall and have begun to initiate key contacts in that region. As we discuss ways to better facilitate international cooperation, I hope the work I have already done in both Russia and South Africa will prove beneficial as we take decisive steps to implement the Potomac Declaration in these two very different areas of the world.

In closing, I would just like to reiterate that the United States is ready to expand our international cooperation in the oceans. Together, we can turn the challenge of the Potomac Declaration into an international success.

## B. STATEMENTS AT THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

### Opening Statements

#### Address by Mr. Göran Persson

Prime Minister of Sweden

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for Sweden and the Swedish Government that ACOPS has chosen to arrange its important conference here in Stockholm. I am glad also to have the opportunity to speak to such a distinguished audience.

I am pleased to have the North, the South, the East and the West represented in the conference and I note the wide political support of the concept of oceans security as was witnessed in messages to the conference. I understand that the seminars and discussions held over the weekend were a great success. That is important. The prudent, far-sighted management of the oceans and coastal waters is one of the greatest challenges facing mankind.

Two-thirds of Planet Earth consist of sea.  
Life was born in the sea billions of years ago.  
Without the sea we would not exist.

The oceans regulate the climate and the weather, they water our forests and fields. The green algae in the oceans produce 70 per cent of the oxygen we breathe, the oceans produce proteins we need for survival and they are crucial for the existence of hundreds of thousands of animal and plant species. Half of the world's population lives today in a 100 kilometre-wide zone along the world's coasts.

And still - mankind is threatening the environment of oceans more than ever.

And the pressure is increasing at an alarming pace. Marine environments are being destroyed. Stocks of fish are being depleted. Plants and animals are disappearing - in both the northern and southern hemispheres. This in turn causes more poverty, disease and social misery. In the long-term it could well lead to social inequality and political tensions, perhaps even violence.

In many places, the ecological capacity of the seas has already been overstepped.

We must stop plundering and poisoning the seas, mankind's common heritage.

That is why it is so important that 1998 has been proclaimed as the UN year of the Ocean.

ACOPS with its broad, interdisciplinary expertise plays an outstanding role in these endeavours. Last year you adopted the Potomac Declaration. And now you are transforming these visions into a practical programme of action.

The Potomac Declaration is a powerful document which proceeds from an awareness - an awareness that should be obvious:

The crisis in our oceans, both in terms of resources and ecology, can only be solved if we create sustainable development at all levels in our countries - ecologically, economically, socially and culturally. No dimension can or may be omitted.

With a growing world population the sea will have to be utilised intensively in order to meet the needs of mankind. It will take wisdom and political responsibility. More so than has so far been the case.

Toxic emissions, overfishing, the loss of biodiversity, oil spills - the problems of our ocean make grim reading. But that must not leave us hopeless. To a large extent we have the technology. We have the new resource-efficient eco-based technology.

We also see signs of burgeoning popular commitment: methods that strengthen and develop the complex diversity, eco-cycles and capacity of the earth's ecological system has to be developed and used.

There is a need for a common global and regional strategy.

We need global research and assessment.

I therefore welcome ACOPS proposal for University Courses in marine policy and I note that Kalmar University is willing to play a role in this context. I also welcome the initiative of a global assessment of the waters and I am proud of that the old Baltic City of Kalmar will host the secretariat of this important effort.

Let me speak on a more personal note. I have strong commitment, a vision, for the Baltic region. We have taken the first steps in making this vision real.

Nine nations share the coast of the Baltic Sea. Two hundred and fifty rivers flow into this, the world's largest stretch of brackish water. 140 million people live in its catchment area.

During the entire post-war era it constituted an almost impenetrable barrier between the peoples of the East and West. The sea divided people. And people misused the sea.

Now, following the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Baltic Sea is slowly reverting to its normal historical and ecological sustainability. It is again a stretch of water that unites the people living along its shores. But it is still almost as over-fertilised and polluted as before with its 100,000 square kilometres of dead sea bottom, loaded with heavy metals and toxins.

But also is the ecological sense, and the change has been dramatic and important. Now we can - and we shall - save the Baltic Sea.

These two changes - that only ten years ago seemed so far fetched - give us hopes for the future and determination to turn the Baltic region into one of Europe's fastest economically growing areas! It is evidently within reach, and it is not accomplished in contradiction to ecological sustainability. Quite the contrary - the strive for ecological sustainability is one of the key driving forces in reaching strong economic growth. It encourages investments. It strengthens technological development. It is a key to increased personal exchange, business and trade.

The very thing that nature and rising generations demand of us at the same time presents the greatest opportunity of all time to create a new wave of economic progress. This in turn paves the way for prosperity, stability and peace.



This broad approach is also the linchpin of the work of the special Advisory Council for Baltic Sea Cooperation that we have initiated in Sweden. One billion Swedish kronor is being spent on student exchanges, training in democracy, support programmes for small enterprises, IT projects, district heating plants, sewage treatment and Agenda 21 processes. The concept is simple but effective: common ecological and economic sustainability generates jobs, prosperity, social cohesion, peace and stability.

This is the result of a determined and intense work. In 1990 my predecessor and his Polish colleague took the initiative for the so-called Baltic Sea Declaration. It was a joint programme of concrete measures to clean up emissions from about 130 hot spots in the area.

The Summit in Visby on Gotland in 1996 charges me with the task of coordinating an Agenda 21 process in the region. The countries on the Baltic rim are now working together within seven sectors of society to prepare a stringent programme of action. Each country is responsible for preparing one or two matters. Finland and Lithuania on matters relating to forestry, Russia and Sweden on industry, while Germany and Latvia concentrate on the transport sector. And so on.

In each sector, common objectives are set up, along with a programme of practical action indicating time frames, finances and the actors responsible. In June this Baltic Agenda 21 is due to be approved by our Foreign Ministers and will later be presented to the Heads of State and Government.

This work on Baltic Sea matters is one of the most stimulating tasks I have as Prime Minister. We have had two summits with the Heads of States from all the nations around the Baltic Sea.

Take a moment to think of what these meetings represent in history. Think for a second about what these meetings mean for democracy, for peace and for prosperity - in the word's widest sense.

A democratically elected Russian Head of State work in close cooperation with a Bundeschancellor that heads a united Germany. And both parts sit down and are ready to take action for a better future together with freely elected Heads of the Baltic States and Poland.

This was unthinkable only ten years ago. Today we are doing it. Foes have become friends. Hostility has turned to creativity. We have gone from mutual suspicion to common ambition. We cooperate to unite economic development and ecological sustainability.

I shall be following the works of ACOPS with great interest, now and in the future.

Good Luck!

**Mr John Prescott**

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Transport, Environment and the Regions, United Kingdom

Thank you for the opportunity to address this important conference.

My commitment to protecting the seas comes from personal experience. Before I went into politics, I earned my living at sea - sailing on great ocean liners around the world. I also qualified as a diver in the North Sea and Mediterranean, though I did not fully appreciate what a living ocean meant until I dived off the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, which contrasted vividly with diving in the Mediterranean, where all I saw was a plastic cup and an empty coke can!

In Parliament, I represent Hull, once a major fishing port and still closely linked to the sea via its sea trade.

It is this - my close involvement with the sea - that convinces me of the importance of protecting it - for our seas have been used and abused for too long.

I am proud, Mr. President, that you, as a Labour ex-Prime Minister, gave me my first job as a transport spokesman. Your commitment to protecting the sea also comes from your first-hand experience.

When you founded ACOPS in 1952, you were far-sighted to see the coming importance of protecting the seas as the world changed.

Human impact on the sea has indeed changed. Ships have become bigger, and so the potential for oil pollution increased. Offshore oil and gas have become world-wide businesses. Fishing has been transformed. New chemicals threaten our seas. And there is growing demand for sea bed mining.

But the world is also now much more aware of the influence we have on the sea - and how the sea affects us. To plead ignorance is now unacceptable. That is a crucial change if we are to increase public support to tackle environmental problems.

Every day we read in the newspapers about the effects of climate change - rising sea temperature and levels, polar ice caps melting, and the effects of El Niño.

"The seven seas" is an English phrase to refer to all the world's oceans and seas. At the start of the UN International Year of the Oceans, I want to review the "seven main threats" to the seven seas, and what more we ought to be doing about them.

Most important of all, and as ACOPS has often called for, to get nations that are signatories to Conventions to implement them - not just sign them!

Of my seven threats, I begin with my old occupation - shipping.

A generation ago, states agreed measures to fight the harm that supertankers could do. Since then, we have expanded the rules to protect the sea from ships. For example, broader requirements for compulsory insurance.

Too many states have sold their flags - allowing many "flag of convenience" shipowners to

ignore the rules and pollute the seas.

Port states have had to take up the challenge. In Europe, we have a memorandum of understanding on port state control. Under the UK Presidency, we intend to toughen the procedures.

The second threat is from dumping waste at sea. Since 1972, the London Convention has regulated this world-wide.

In 1983, as a Member of Parliament I campaigned to stop dumping of radioactive waste - I swam down the River Thames to deliver a protest to 10 Downing Street, because the UK Government under Mrs. Thatcher was refusing to prevent it. I am very pleased to say that one of my first actions as the new Secretary of State for the Environment in a new Labour Government last year was to drop the opt-out on this dumping.

So we do have sound legislation on dumping. But again, we need to encourage more states to apply it.

Discharges and emissions from the land are the third threat - making up 70% of marine pollution.

I am well aware of the concern of OSPAR members about radioactive discharges from Sellafield and Dounreay. Our Environment Agency is proposing new tougher controls and we are reporting back to OSPAR on this.

More generally, action on land-based pollution at 'regional level is a priority'. But we need a global framework. The Global Programme agreed in Washington in 1995 gives us that framework. We need to put flesh on that framework. Some states need help to prepare plans. We need to get international agencies to give proper priority to this work. And we need to ensure a follow-up. No programme just happens: we need continuing work.

We also need to deal globally with POPs - "persistent organic pollutants" - that spring from the use of chemicals in the tropics, which work their way to the Arctic and accumulate in humans and sea-mammals there. The Washington Global Programme gave the initiative for a global convention, now endorsed by the UNEP Governing Council. We need to carry that through.

Sea fishing is mankind's oldest way of using the sea. But over-fishing is our fourth threat.

Too frequently, we have treated fish stocks as inexhaustible. We can now track down and catch larger numbers of fish in less time than ever before. Too many of the world's fish stock are being exploited in an unsustainable way.

Fish continues to be an important source of protein for much of the world's population - and especially for the poor in many developing countries. To protect food security, we need to make all fisheries sustainable for the long term.

Since 1992 we have seen UN agreements start to map what needs doing. We have to follow them up. These require us to integrate environment and fisheries policies. North Sea Fisheries and Environment Ministers last March agreed on steps to tackle this. The UK Presidency will now review progress within the EU.

We will also seek to phase out high-seas drift-nets to protect dolphins. We hope other

regions will see the need for similar solutions.

The fifth threat is marine mineral exploitation.

We have created new offshore oil and gas industries. As the world develops, pressures to exploit marine mineral reserves will become even stronger.

Sadly, we have not yet resolved the problems.

For the areas beyond national jurisdiction, the International Seabed Authority must develop a robust system to reconcile access to these resources with effective protection.

For areas within national jurisdiction, we need effective local solutions. There is wide agreement among experts on what should be done. We need to take action on that agreement.

That must include how to withdraw in a responsible way when exploitation is complete. We cannot view the seabed as a vast and easy dumping ground. I very much welcome the announcement made by *Shell* last week that they have proposed a land-based option for the disposal of the *Brent Spar*.

*Brent Spar* is unique. But the lessons from that will help us arrive at an international agreement on the future disposal of offshore installations. We must continue to work hard to reach a common agreement in these negotiations currently underway within OSPAR, and in which those here at this conference can play a crucial role.

My sixth threat is coastal development. Over half the world's population lives within the coastal zone. And ever larger numbers of us want to spend holidays by the sea.

I therefore welcome the Seychelles conference organised by ACOPS that linked tourism and sustainability.

The Washington Global Programme provides a framework to tackle impacts on the marine environment from physical development, by promoting integrated coastal zone management.

My seventh and last threat comes from climate change.

As the earth warms up, sea levels will rise disrupting the lives of many millions of people living in coastal areas and threatening the very existence of some island nations. And we cannot yet easily predict the impact of climate change on ocean currents - where changes might have very dramatic effects on marine life and fisheries.

You will all have followed the UN Conference on climate change at Kyoto conference closely. That represents a successful first step won through hard negotiation. But we must develop and build on the promise of Kyoto if we are effectively to tackle climate change. European Union nations will now draw up programmes of practical measures to meet their targets.

The European Union played a crucial role in securing agreement at Kyoto. That force of fifteen nations acting in unison can play a major role in protecting our oceans. And under the UK Presidency, we hope to start that process.

## Conclusion

We are all committed to safeguarding the world's biodiversity. Seven-tenths of the planet is sea. That is the scale of the task we face in tackling these seven threats to the seas.

To get a full solution to protecting the richness of marine life, we have to work hard on all these fronts. What we need to take home from Stockholm today is the commitment to carry through all this work.

Nothing less will do to protect the seas.

## Opening Statement by HRH Prof. Dr. Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol of Thailand

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to have an opportunity to address this landmark conference. Among other things, this conference marks the beginning of "The Year of the Oceans". Stockholm is also a perfect city for us to meet for this special occasion. Not only is Sweden located on the shores of the Baltic Sea. From the beginning, Sweden has been at the forefront in our quest to clean up our planet. In our fight against environmental degradation, we have travelled together on a long and difficult road. But together, our hard work has made a difference. Yet, much more needs to be done. We have come a long way but we still have a long way to go. This conference serves to emphasise our firm determination to strengthen the political will to end environmental degradation in the oceans and in the world at large.

Background papers for this conference have highlighted a paradox. On the one hand, the world's societies have demonstrated clear awareness of the importance of sustainable development. There appears to be a consensus that environmental degradation in the oceans and on land must be stopped. We have encouraged international and domestic legislation to protect our planet Earth, including its oceans. And we have succeeded to a substantial degree. As we look around, we find an increasing number of international treaties, ranging from those regulating the forests and desertification to those relating to the protection of the Ozone Layer as well as the oceans. The Climate Change Agreement has just been adopted in Kyoto and now awaits ratification. Yet, on the other hand, it is clear that we continue to allow the environment to deteriorate. As a scientist, I see much evidence that suggests that Homo Sapiens can self-destruct. And self destruct we will if we process with unsustainable development. I have often asked myself the following questions: Why do rational human beings behave in this seemingly irrational manner? Why is there insufficient political will to translate our awareness of the problem into concrete and sustained action?

The protection of the environment, including the ocean environment, is definitely on the international agenda. The question is where is it on the agenda. Do we see it as a highest priority? The answer is clearly no. At present, the protection of the environment is just not yet high enough on the international agenda to initiate concrete, comprehensive and sustained action. We humans have done well in reacting to immediate and obvious crisis. We must do as well when we react to danger which may not be immediate and may not be obvious, but is potentially deadly, nevertheless. If we act now, we can prevent the worst case scenario from becoming a reality. Renewed emphasis must be placed on public awareness, environmental education and true political will.

In many developing countries, poverty is a serious impediment to environmental progress. We must tackle the problem at the root causes rather than just the symptoms. In regions such as Asia, economic progress is being achieved with large groups of the population destroying the oceans as well as the land. Last year's forest fires serve as an example. Desertification now creeps inland from the oceans, threatening to join with deserts proper in view of large-scale coastal erosion. The massive destruction of mangrove forests in Bangladesh has now rendered the population in coastal areas even more vulnerable to floods. Deforestation and pollution, as well as cyanide and dynamite fishing are slowly threatening to kill off the burgeoning tourist industry which could otherwise feed millions of people in developing countries. Moreover, a mixture of vacuum-cleaning fishing and subsidies in developed countries are threatening fish stocks. Mercury and other poisons are destroying our maritime lives and possibly human lives if we eat the affected seafood. In addition, biodiversity has been threatened by numerous irresponsible activities. Indeed, as a scientist, I explained in my paper presented to the ACOPS' Manila conference in December

1996 that the destruction of biodiversity can deprive mankind of valuable cures to many serious illnesses.

This picture is not rosy. Although not immediate, apocalypse is a real possibility if humankind continues to pursue such a suicidal development. Short term gains have been chosen at a tremendous future cost. We must put a stop to this. We must work together and prevent the worst case scenario from taking place. It is not too late, but time is running out.

No society can remain secure if it allows its environment to deteriorate. The protection of the environment must be viewed within the framework of security enhancement. The narrow view of security, as containing only the military element, is clearly anachronistic. In today's world military strength alone will not make a society secure.

ACOPS has done much to emphasise the relationship between security and the protection of the ocean environment. Peoples from all countries, all sectors and all levels must work together for the sake of our mutual security. I appeal to all world leaders to encourage inter-sectoral cooperation at the global, inter-regional, regional, national and local levels. We are privileged to have with us here today, leaders from all sectors of the world's societies, including political leaders responsible for foreign affairs, defence, science and technology, transport, the environment and fisheries. Let us work hand in hand to strengthen further the inter-sectoral approach to environmental protection. Let us act now to prevent new environmental crisis and to end present ones. A firm political will is indispensable. We must not allow environmental degradation to threaten our security, or to threaten our very survival. When ACOPS organised its East Asian Conference on the protection of the environment in Manila, I was impressed by President Ramos' firm determination to promote debates amongst his various cabinet ministers who would not normally discuss environmental issues. This process must be continued.

No one can doubt the importance of economic progress for any society. But economic progress must not be at the expense of the environment. Development can be sustained only when the environment is protected. Indeed, the protection of the environment will contribute much to our long-term development. This applies even to the area of tourism. As we all know, tourism generates much income for any society. In many unfortunate instances, the tourism industry has contributed to marine environmental degradation. This has harmed the societies in question and has harmed the tourism industry itself. The tourism industry cannot survive without an environment that can attract domestic and foreign tourists. Discussions on ways and means to promote the sustainable development of tourism should therefore be welcomed and encouraged.

Mr Chairman,

Political, economic and social changes cannot be promoted by legislation alone. Education and public awareness are vital. The Chulabhorn Research Institute (CRI), an autonomous multidisciplinary research institute of which I am President, places great importance on capacity building in environmental toxicology, methodology and management. It gives priority to raising public awareness and information dissemination on environmental issues and concerns. In our educational and training activities, we see it as essential to involve representatives from the private industrial and manufacturing sectors, and to communicate to them the advantage of the long-term promotion of clean energy. CRI's ultimate goal is to utilise science and technology to improve the quality of life, which naturally includes the protection of the marine as well as the land environments.

CRI's specific objectives are as follows:

First, to promote and to conduct basic as well as applied research of national and international importance, in particular, those which will improve the people's quality of life. This includes research on ways and means to protect the environment, with a special focus on the study of environmental toxicology and pollution control.

Second, to act as the centre for educating and developing high calibre personnel in the field of science and technology, thus contributing to the much needed human resources development. This includes academic training and scientific exchange.

Third, to bring together local and foreign scientists to discuss and to solve emerging problems, to promote scientific exchange and to act as a centre for international cooperation. This includes the convening of small scale meetings as well as large conferences. For example, the Princess Chulabhorn Science Congress series have been organised every 4 to 5 years with over 1,000 participants from over 44 countries. In 1992, the theme of the Congress was "Environment, Science and Technology: The Challenges of the 21st Century". In 1995, we focused on "Water and Development". In 1999, to mark the 72<sup>nd</sup> birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, we look forward to holding the Princess Chulabhorn Congress with the theme, "Chemicals: Effects on Environment and Health".

The Fourth objective of CRI is to identify, catalyse and mobilise resources for research and development in science and technology.

In addition to these four main objectives and in order to help alleviate poverty, CRI has devoted much energy to improve the quality of life for villagers in rural Thailand. This includes a programme on the restoration and integrated development of flood affected area in southern Thailand as well as a programme on reforestation, community development and sustainable management of natural resources.

In 1988, the International Programme on Environment and Industrial Toxicology (IPEIT) was established. IPEIT's goal is to assist human resources development in developing countries by providing education and training as well as strengthening research capability in environmental toxicology and biotechnology under the International Centre for Environmental and Industrial Toxicology (ICEIT) which was created in 1990. In recognition of the activities that CRI has undertaken, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) designated ICEIT as the "UNEP Centre of Excellence for Environmental and Industrial Toxicology" in 1990.

Mr Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to emphasise that, in our global village, no society can effectively isolate itself from the rest of the world. Environmental degradation in one part of the world can have detrimental impacts elsewhere. It is therefore in our common interest to promote genuine international cooperation. I am hopeful that this conference in Stockholm will enable us to send a clear message to the international community that there must be a firm and sustained political will to enhance ocean security as we move towards the third millennium.

Thank you very much.



## **Statement by Dr. Mario Soares**

Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans and former President of Portugal

Mr. President of ACOPS and distinguished friend James Callaghan, Mr. Prime Minister of Sweden, Illustrious representatives of GLOBE, Ladies and Gentlemen

Allow me to thank you, once again, for inviting me to participate in this Conference "Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium", and to congratulate the organisers – ACOPS and GLOBE – for the excellent work produced and the quality of the interventions that were made here. The analyses and ideas on question of Ocean security, put forward during this Conference, are extremely important and valid.

I noticed and would like to underline right now, the great convergence of ideas between the Potomac Declaration, the present work of the Stockholm Conference and the conclusions we have been reaching in our Independent World Commission on the Oceans, along these two years. Our report, as I had the opportunity of mentioning before, is being finalised and will be approved during the forthcoming meeting in Rabat, sponsored by His Majesty King Hassan II.

We should not be surprised with this outcome because we all started out with the same concerns and performed complementary analyses: the strong will to establish the necessary conditions for security and the peaceful uses of the Oceans; awareness of the need to protect the environment in order to maintain the balance of marine ecosystems; the necessity of managing both living and non-living resources in a rational manner, aiming at sustainable development; a more equitable and cooperative sharing, between developed and under-developed countries, of scientific knowledge and technologies for ocean exploration; the establishment of a system of Ocean governance, considering the Oceans as a whole, such as it was proposed by the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

I was also very pleased to note that some of the participants in this Conference underlined a growing change of attitude, translated into a different approach for ocean affairs: the withdrawal from a traditional sectoral approach in order to face ocean affairs in a multi-disciplinary and integrated way.

This is also the point of view of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans. As a matter of fact, our Commission has studied, throughout our time together, the measures, recommendations and the work of the different organisations and agencies concerned with the Sea. We have also examined the international agreements and treaties and reached the conclusion that all that very important and valid work is embodied with excellent ideas and the best of intentions. What is needed, though, is the political will of States and, therefore, of the international organisations concerned, to implement their instruments on a global scale.

We see only too often the duplication of efforts and mandates, as well as the functions performed by those organisations, representing an enormous waste of human effort and resources.

I believe that this state of affairs is partly caused by the lack of an informed and active public opinion, both at the national and at the international levels, capable of exerting an effective pressure at the appropriate time and place, and thus ensure that the problems faced by the oceans are solved within a reasonable time span.

The world we live in is changing fast. Globalisation has taken hold of the economy, information technology and knowledge. We live in a complex society, predominantly

democratic for most countries. Public opinion has an important role because it is the main agent for applying pressure on decision makers to implement the measures that are so needed. To be efficient, in a democracy, this is the only way.

The issues concerning the Oceans are of vital importance to the future and they must be approached globally just as so many other issues concerning us at the end of the millennium. We cannot remain passive, transferring to the next century the problems we have allowed to grow, by omission, and with such an enormous human and social disregard for the future generations.

The Independent World Commission on the Oceans, acting within its mandate wants to make a contribution to an increased awareness by the world public opinion, political decision makers and economic agents, of the issues concerning Ocean management and governance, in an integrated and multi-disciplinary manner. The Report, published in different languages, will be publicly presented at the Lisbon meeting for the first time on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, during of EXPO'98, dedicated to the theme "The Oceans, an Heritage for the Future".

Expo 98 will take place in Portugal, during the International Year of the Oceans and the celebrations of the V centenary of the discovery of the maritime way to India by the Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama. With such events, Portugal wants to return to the seas or better still, to ocean affairs, which have so deeply marked our History, throughout the centuries.

Apart for the Report to be presented to the United Nations General Assembly, later this year and, we hope, widely debated, the Commission would like to promote the establishment of an Independent Forum, of a tripartite nature and made up of personalities from government, private enterprise connected to the sea, environmental organisations and the civil society as a follow up to its conclusions. This Forum would meet every two or three years to consider ocean issues in depth – being totally independent from vested interests.

A World Observatory for Ocean Affairs would also be established, as a functional structure based on network arrangements, to provide support to the Forum in the form of objective periodic synthesis of the state of Ocean affairs. The Portuguese Government is prepared to host such an institution.

I would like to end my address by thanking you all for your excellent work and appealing to concerted action in support of the noble cause of the Ocean. For our own survival, it has to be better preserved and respected.

## Statements at the Global Panel

### Statement by Ms Annika Åhnberg

Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Sweden

Fishery is the socio-economic sector with the biggest stake in the environmental, economic and food security of the world's oceans. The marine and coastal ecosystems, with their living marine resources, constitute the natural resource base of the world's fisheries.

The food security of tens of millions of small-scale subsistence and semi-subsistence fishers in the coastal areas of developing countries is threatened by the degradation of the marine and coastal ecosystems, including the collapse of major fish stocks. This is one of the most serious of all the global food security concerns. Their economic security is at risk through the loss of jobs in fisheries and the prospects of migration to poverty in the big cities, in many cases absolute poverty.

In the developed countries the degradation of the natural resource base of fisheries constitutes a threat to the economic security of the fisher population, that risk losing their employment. The situation in Canada, where 40 000 fishers lost their jobs with the collapse of the cod fisheries outside Newfoundland and 30 000 other fishers also have lost jobs are tragic cases in point.

There are growing concerns in the fishing community around the world about the ongoing and accelerating degradation of the marine environment which is causing serious threats to the regeneration and reproduction of fish stocks. Vital habitats, such as spawning grounds and nursery areas of major fish stocks are degraded by physical destruction and pollution.

Eutrophication may cause particularly serious problems, including reduced recruitment of fish in nursery areas, mass mortality of fish and harmful algal bloom. The toxic algae may lead to mass mortality of fish and to alteration and degradation of fish habitats. Organic contaminants, including a number of substances with hormone-like effects may impair the ability of fish to reproduce. Persistent organic pollutants, with their highest concentration at the top of the food chain, as well as other substances, and toxic algae in shell-fish, may cause serious health risks to people through fish consumption.

From the fisheries side there is a strong interest that decisive action is taken to combat these problems. They are caused by activities of major socio-economic sectors, including energy, transport, tourism, urban development and agriculture. Each sector must take its sector responsibility to avoid causing adverse effects on the marine and coastal ecosystems. The concerns for the marine environment must be integrated into the relevant socio-economic sectors, they must take their sector responsibility for the protection and enhancing of the marine and coastal environment.

Let me in this context speak in my capacity of minister of agriculture. Intensive work is taken in Sweden to combat the leakages of nitrogen and phosphorous compounds from agriculture and thereby eutrophication. It includes development of new farming techniques and programmes for information, education and training as well as demonstration projects. A reduction of 25 % of the leakage of nutrients from agriculture has taken place between 1985 and 1995. A further expansion of these activities is now under consideration. I am proud of the contribution from the agricultural sector, coordinated by Sweden, into the integrated multisectoral efforts to build an Agenda 21 for the Baltic. In the European Union a directive on the protection of water from nitrogen is an important tool.

I am aware that sector integration of marine environment concerns by the relevant socio-economic sectors is only one step, even if it is a crucially important one, in the development of action to protect and enhance the coastal and marine environment in the world.

Another important step is to develop and apply an integrated and holistic approach to management of coastal areas, in accordance with the commitments of Agenda 21 on integrated coastal area management. The activities of the relevant sectors must be built upon and complemented. It is important to involve all stakeholders in these efforts, including the civil society and its organisations.

In order fully to come to grips with the degradation of the marine and coastal ecosystems the underlying root causes have to be addressed.

Already today over 50 % of the world's population are living in coastal areas. Migration to these areas is taking place at an accelerating pace, in particular in the developing countries. Already Agenda 21 was forecasting that close to 70 % of the world population would live in coastal areas by the year 2020. The pressure on the coastal and marine ecosystem, that already today is big, is going to be enormous. The main reason for the huge migration into coastal areas is poverty. In the developed countries a major root cause underlying the degradation of the marine environment is wasteful patterns of lifestyles, of production and consumption patterns.

World fisheries also contribute to the degradation of the marine environment. According to FAO, 70 % of the major world's fish stocks are fully exploited or overexploited. They are harvested outside Safe Biological Limits. Spawning stock sizes are below or close to the minimum biologically acceptable level. In many cases fish stocks have collapsed.

Catches often include juvenile fish. Discards of fish are huge, according to FAO over 30 % of all catches are discarded. Fishing gears are being used that damage major fish habitats. Dynamite and poison fishing is still being undertaken in many regions of the world. Overfisheries are altering the structure of the marine ecosystem in many parts of the world's oceans.

The fisheries sector must take its responsibility for the protection and enhancement of the coastal and marine environment, just as other socio-economic sectors. It is very much in its own self-interest.

I would here and now like to confirm my full commitment to take that sector responsibility as minister of fisheries in Sweden. In our part of the world decisive steps are being taken to develop sustainable and responsible fishing.

At an Intermediate Ministerial Meeting on the integration of Fisheries and Environmental Issues, held last year at Bergen, a process was set in motion that will gradually and fundamentally transform the way politicians, planners, managers and scientists, and not least the fishers, think and act in fisheries management in the North Sea. A new paradigm for fisheries management was ushered in. It is at the crest of the wave in the world in the efforts to develop sustainable fisheries.

It is based on the application of the precautionary approach to fisheries. Major guidelines for that approach was developed already in 1995 at a meeting organised by Sweden, in close cooperation with FAO, the so called Lysekil Guidelines.

Among the concrete measures developed by the Bergen process, I would like to highlight some of the major ones.

Environmental objectives will be integrated into fisheries policies. Long-term management objectives, including cautious biological target and limit reference points for major fish stocks, will be defined in order to rebuild or maintain the fish stocks within safe biological limits. They will be established with a sense of urgency. They will facilitate the setting of precautionary quotas for the fish stocks of the North Sea. Recovery plans will be adopted for threatened stocks. Harvesting of depleted stocks will be suspended or reduced. The capacity of the fishing fleet and the level of fishing activity will be reduced to sustainable levels in consistency with the available fish stocks.

New technical measurements will result in better selectivity of the fishing gears and ensure rational exploitation patterns mainly in order to protect juvenile fish, to minimise by-catches and to protect habitats. Fishing gears and practices that are considered undesirable will be restricted, and when unacceptable they will be prohibited. Another important measure is zoning of fisheries, through the establishment and maintenance of permanent or temporary closed zones. Genetically modified fish will not be released into the aquatic environment. More effective and consistent enforcement schemes will be established, including improved monitoring and control at sea and on-shore.

Another major achievement of the Bergen Conference was the introduction of the ecosystem approach for the integration of fisheries and environmental management. That approach will be further developed and applied in order to restore the characteristic structure and functioning, resilience and long-term productivity of the once so highly productive marine and coastal ecosystem of the North Sea.

The critical ecosystem processes will be identified, protected and enhanced, taking into account in particular the interaction among different components of the food webs of the ecosystem. The more our knowledge of the North Sea ecosystem will be developed, the stronger will be the basis for fisheries management. We will know better where, when, what and how to fish. In that way we may be able, in a longer-term perspective, even to increase sustainable capture fisheries in the North Sea.

The ecosystem approach will also provide the basis for joint action by fisheries and the marine environment protection to provide for a chemical, physical and biological environment in the marine ecosystems, that is consistent with a high level of protection of the critical ecosystem processes in the North Sea. From the marine environment protection side commitments were made at the Bergen conference to focus on habitat protection and other actions of great importance for the fisheries sector. We have started a very important process of cooperation between fisheries and marine and coastal environment protection. I welcome that development. It should in my view be expanded to other regional seas in the world's oceans.

In the global context it is important to take steps to implement the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks. Governments should speed up their action to ratify the Agreement and start implementing its ambitious provisions.

The establishment and strengthening of regional fisheries organisations and arrangements for managing the implementation of the Agreement is of crucial significance. It is an urgent and necessary task for the fishing nations of the world. For without well functioning regional fisheries organisations the UN Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks will remain on paper. But it is a complex and costly task, which demands major joint international efforts to carry out.

Most of the existing regional fisheries organisation is today only advisory. They have to be transformed to management units, responsible for the development of sustainable fisheries based on the precautionary and the ecosystem approaches. They have to promote marine and coastal ecosystem research. They have to run expensive control and enforcement operations. It is a tall order.

It has to be carried out in close interaction and collaboration with regional efforts to protect and enhance the marine and coastal environment. Let me conclude with this imperative: only through such a cooperation will it be possible to ensure the environmental, economic and food security of the world's oceans.

## **Statement by Honourable David Anderson**

Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here today to participate in this discussion about the security of the ocean environment, especially here in Stockholm.

Before I begin I want to acknowledge the incredible work done by so many people in so many countries over the last three days. And, if I may, I want to recognise the work of two people in the Canadian delegation known by many here -- they are Ambassadors Fraser and Simon.

I am extremely proud that my country has these two people, working so hard and so effectively on behalf of the environment and on behalf of the Arctic -- two concerns of paramount interest to this organisation.

You might remember that it was here in Stockholm, in 1972, that another Canadian leader, Maurice Strong, chaired the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, which helped to crystallise international concern for the environment.

There were two major results of the conference:

- the establishment of the UN Environment Programme, which now funds and coordinates many studies concerned with conservation; and,
- the London Convention which protects the marine environment from waste disposal at sea.

Preserving our ocean resources has long been a personal interest of mine. I am from Vancouver Island, in British Columbia. Islanders are keenly aware of the sea, and I've been concerned about the well-being of the oceans all my life.

Canadians have a long history of caring for the environment, possibly because it has played such an important role in our history. The first people in what is now Canada survived by adapting to the environment, which could at times be bountiful and at other times harsh. As time passed, and as Europeans made their home in Canada, the emphasis shifted — from adapting to the environment to shaping it to human ends.

Today, the balance has shifted so far in the latter direction that we have to take special measures to protect the environment from the impact of human activity.

This is true of the land, the air, the rivers and streams, and particularly of the oceans, which has always been a great source of wealth and sustenance for Canadians.

And now our oceans are in trouble. They suffer from the effects of pollution. Some fish stocks have been pushed past their limits. Cutbacks will be required now so that future generations can inherit sustainable resources tomorrow.

When I first became Canada's Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, I said my three priorities would be conservation, conservation and conservation. This hasn't changed, and it applies to all aspects of ocean management.

## **Fish Stocks**

It particularly applies to how we manage our fisheries. Our overriding objective is to have sustainable fisheries. By that I mean, a fishery that both conserves fish stocks and provides a good living for people in the fishing industry.

To accomplish this, we are pursuing a strategy of industry restructuring combined with changes to fisheries policies and management practices, both domestically and internationally.

Domestically, we want to see fishermen become more involved in management plans and take more responsibility for their impact on the resource and the environment. And, because without sound habitat there can be no fish and no fishery, we are working with our partners to protect and restore fish habitat.

Internationally, we continue to advocate greater conservation and enforcement measures in international fisheries management organisations. Canada is a strong proponent of the 1995 United Nations Agreement on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, and we encourage all states to ratify it as soon as possible.

In the meantime Canada is promoting the application of its key principles, the precautionary approach and enforcement in all regional fisheries management organisations.

## **Pacific Salmon**

On Canada's West Coast, we are particularly concerned about our Pacific Salmon fishery, and we are doing something about it.

We invest approximately \$90 million annually on programs related to the conservation and management of Pacific salmon.

Over the last three years we have introduced precautionary management into all our British Columbia salmon fisheries. The concept of precautionary management is widely recognised as critical to sustainable use of vulnerable fish resources.

The objective of precautionary management is that, when in doubt, managers err on the side of conservation, rather than exploitation. We also work hard to reduce overall harvest rates that address biodiversity concerns. We implement more effective controls on key interception fisheries and we are working towards more selective harvesting practices. All of these techniques were applied to the management of sensitive fisheries in Canadian waters in 1997.

But I have to stress that sometimes, despite our best efforts to improve habitat management and to give fish the best chance to reproduce in their natural habitat, the fish do not come back.

Right now this is the case for Atlantic Salmon on Canada's Atlantic coast. Salmon are going out to sea, but very few are coming back. I am extremely concerned about this. We don't have the answers. We are working very hard to find the answers and I hope very much that we can resolve the problem.

And back to Pacific Salmon, for just another moment: as many people know, Canada and the United States are in dispute over how to share our Pacific Salmon resource. Congressman Weldon, I know, is very aware of this.



This dispute, for the sake of fish and coastal communities in both our countries, needs to be resolved, and resolved as soon as possible for this very simple reason: this organisation - ACOPS - embraces the urgent need for global and coordinated approaches for protecting the sea and its resources. We have little, if no chance, of making this kind of progress if we fail, as has been the case with Pacific Salmon, to resolve the key bilateral issues.

There is no question that before you can take global action you must have local action and bilateral action -- first. Our two countries have to accept our responsibility to work with each other so that we can truly say that we are taking significant global action, together.

### **Oceans Act and Strategy**

Conservation is also at the heart of our new *Oceans Act*. The *Act* formally asserts Canada's sovereign rights over its maritime zones, including the 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone.

The *Act* also gives my department the lead role in oceans activities, which means that we will be coordinating federal government activity that affects the oceans. It also directs me, as Minister, to lead the development and implementation of our national Oceans Strategy. The Oceans Strategy will set the course for Canada's management of its ocean resources into the next century. We want to replace our current fragmented approach to ocean management with a coordinated framework, one that can reconcile protecting the integrity of ocean ecosystems while optimising their economic potential.

The ultimate goal is to ensure healthy, safe and prosperous oceans for the benefit of current and future generations.

In order to help us reach that goal, the United Nations has declared 1998 as the International Year of the Ocean.

### **International Year of the Ocean**

Canada fully supports the International Year of the Ocean. This is an unprecedented opportunity to rouse people and governments to take action to protect the oceans. And among the many activities we have planned to mark the year is a high-level trade mission, known as OceansTec -- promoting Canadian ocean industries and technology -- that will sail to Europe on the Canadian Coast Guard icebreaker *Louis S. St-Laurent*, the largest ship in our civilian fleet.

The *Louis* will call in several ports including here in Sweden, Gothenburg this summer, before arriving at Expo '98 in Lisbon. Two days ago I was in Gothenburg and I can tell that people there are very excited about its arrival.

### **Ocean Charter**

And in preparation of this International Year of the Ocean, Canada launched the Ocean Charter at the Summit of the Sea, held last September in Newfoundland. I'm honoured to be the first government representative to sign it.

We have translated the Charter into 10 different languages and distributed it to embassies around the world in the form of a plaque that can be signed by representatives in each country. The objective is to have the Charter signed by at least 100 nations -- making it a truly global commitment to action.

And today, I have the honour to issue a challenge to ACOPS. I challenge this organisation to follow the lead of Canada and join with us in signing the Oceans Charter.

With this Charter, we go a long way in achieving that goal. It is right in line with the hopes and goals of this organisation. It allows people to read, think and sign on the dotted line for the benefit of the sea. I hope that ACOPS will lend its substantial weight and influence behind this initiative.

### **Conclusion**

Ladies and gentlemen, conservation must be the focus of all of our activities, and we must continue to work together to ensure the sustainable use of our ocean resources. As the Minister responsible for Canada's oceans policy, I am here to reaffirm my country's commitment to doing what it takes to protect the world's oceans.

As I stated earlier, Canada fully supports the International Year of the Ocean.

This is our chance to inform, educate, and inspire our citizens — to make them more aware of the importance of the ocean. We want to bring about support and to initiate the kinds of programs needed to protect the world's ocean. We won't have many more opportunities like this one.

We have some difficult decisions ahead, and some tough choices. But the one choice we must not make is to do nothing. We in Canada look forward to working with you to make this Year of the Ocean the year the world turned the corner toward a greener, more sustainable future.

Thank you.

**Statement by Mr. Johannes Nakken**  
Deputy Minister, Ministry of Fisheries, Norway

Mr Chairman, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to participate at this conference on the behalf of the Government of Norway. With a 2000 kilometre coastline ranging from the Skagerrak to the Barents Sea, utilisation of marine resources has for centuries formed the basis for Norwegian settlements along the coast. Environmentally sound management of marine resources and pollution control has therefore high priority in Norway.

Promoting ocean security requires a wide but integrated range of approaches. One reason is the fact that approximately 90 per cent of the pollutants found in the oceans derive from land-based sources. Another reason is the very integrated nature of resources and environment in regions such as the Baltic and Arctic Seas. Our challenge is therefore to approach these regions as ecosystems that demand an integrated resource management system at the local, national and regional level.

The fisheries sector is of great importance to Norway. Thus, prudent management of fish stocks is decisive in order to safeguard a sustainable future for the fishing industry of our country and of all our partner countries. Maintaining and rebuilding stocks to levels that can give predictable and sustainable yields are primary objectives of the Norwegian fisheries policy. The main challenges are to effectively halt overfishing, ecosystem degradation and over-investment.

Norway will further draw the attention to the importance of transforming the principles adopted in the Rio Declaration, and further developed in the UN agreement on straddling stocks and the Code of Conduct for responsible fisheries, into practical sustainable management of our living marine resources, outside as well as inside the national EEZs.

Norway has, in cooperation with the other Nordic countries, initiated a process to develop further the understanding of implementing an ecosystem approach to our marine management practices. Considering the fact that the oceans consist of a large number of different ecosystems, the management of our marine resources has to reflect this and base the management regimes on regional agreements, being based on global principles but taking due account of the ecological as well as economic differences of the regions. I would like to mention that a seminar on the ecosystem approach, with focus on the North Sea, will be arranged in Norway in June this year.

At present, industrial activities, mining, offshore and onshore petroleum activities and nuclear dumping sites are of considerable concern to the Arctic environment on the local and regional scale. Legislation and regulations are necessary to target the development of methods and procedures for impact assessment, contingency planning oil spill response and environmental monitoring.

Several initiatives have been carried out to further cooperation and the use of standardised and comparable methods and procedures in this area. The Arctic Council established by the eight countries in 1996 carries forward the extensive environmental cooperation established under the framework of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS). The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) under the Arctic Council presented in 1997 an extensive report on the State of the Arctic Environment. The AEPS working group on Arctic Offshore Oil and Gas Guidelines produced the guidelines in 1997. These guidelines cover all stages of petroleum activities including Environmental Impact Assessment

procedures (EIA), safety management, environmental monitoring and operating practices. PAME is furthermore developing a Regional Plan of Action for land based activities.

The Norwegian Government, as part of the activities of the Norwegian-Russian Forum on energy and environment, has sponsored a report on environmental legislation and rules for offshore petroleum activities in Russian activities in Russian Arctic areas, containing recommendations for the future development of Russian procedures. This report will be drawn upon in a recently launched trilateral project for the development of an environment and safety regime for offshore petroleum activities to be developed by the Russian Federation. The project is jointly funded by Norway, the USA and the World Bank.

The environmental risks related to nuclear issues are also of particular concern. Therefore the Norwegian Government launched in 1995 a Plan of Action for Nuclear Safety Issues. The geographical area covered by the Plan of Action comprises Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union with a special focus on NorthWest Russia.

The Plan of Action focuses on cost effective safety improvements, environmental monitoring and assessment, actual clean-up activities and the strengthening of regulatory practice. We are aiming at building a broad international coalition of interested parties, in support of Russia's own priority projects related to the safe removal of spent nuclear fuel and radioactive waste, particular from military sources.

Under the trilateral Arctic Military Environmental Cooperation (AMEC) between Russia, US and Norway, several projects in the area of radioactive waste management are being discussed.

We have in particular been working closely with our Nordic neighbours, France, the European Commission and as mentioned, the USA. So far our strategy has been successful. However, both our bilateral and multilateral projects face delays because of two unresolved issues in Russia: tax exemption and nuclear liability.

A Norwegian-Russian agreement on nuclear safety cooperation has been under negotiation for some time. We hope to finalise this agreement as soon as possible and then move ahead on agreed projects.

In addition to the regional sources of pollution, the Arctic is threatened by long range transportation of pollutants from a number of external industrial and agricultural sources. The most serious, general threat seems to be long range transportation of persistent organic pollutants and some heavy metals by air and ocean currents to the Arctic from Eurasia and the Americas.

Mr Chairman,

As has been outlined in my intervention and during this conference, there are a great number of initiatives both to exploit and to protect the Arctic marine environment. In this picture ACOPS has an important role to play in advocating a policy of a sound, sustainable resource management as a basic strategy for ocean security.

Norway's effort is directed both at strengthened management systems, particularly in the environmental field, as well as regional cooperation on practical remedial action. What seems to be the future challenge is not primarily to establish new initiatives and programmes, but to coordinate, support and implement what has already been started and agreed.

I am looking forward to our discussion today and trust that the outcome will help to strengthen sustainable management of the marine resources of the Ocean in general, and of the Baltic Sea and the Arctic Seas.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**Statement by Professor Mariano Gago**  
Minister of Science and Technology, Portugal

I am grateful for this opportunity to participate in this Conference and to establish a direct contact with the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) and the Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE), whose activities have deserved international prestige.

My comments take into account the Conference on Oceans and Security, held in Washington DC, from 19 to 21 May 1997, in which participated the former vice-Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Portugal, Antonio Vitorino.

I would like to congratulate the choice of the subject "Action to Promote Ocean Security at the Global Level". This is a topical issue in today's world, considering everyone's responsibility in upholding the environment, food and economic security of the oceans, with a special emphasis at the level of the regional implementation.

Within this context, it is, undoubtedly, relevant to remember the framework in which the ACOPS/GLOBE initiative is integrated.

The new Oceans scheme progressively starts to gain its shape, under the double encouragement of the entrance into force (16 November 1994) of the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea - UNCLOS (recently ratified by Portugal). Modulated and, in some aspect, reinforced by the Declaration and Action Plan (Agenda 21 - Rio Earth Summit) adopted at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio de Janeiro, 1992) as well as other relevant international legal instruments, namely the Convention on Climate Changes and the Convention on Biodiversity.

The Oceans are finally gaining in the Agenda of the States and of the United Nations the importance they deserve at the threshold of the third Millennium. Within the framework of the growing use of the marine world resources and the concurrent need for an integrated management of the Oceans and the Coastal Area, with the purpose of insuring the goals of sustainable development.

In the first place it is assumed that the new Law of the Sea will contribute to the pacific use of the Oceans hence to the development of all the States and of the world community through the equal and efficient use of its resources, bearing in mind the interests and the needs of Humanity in general.

We, therefore, gladly take good note of the ACOPS and GLOBE concern in promoting a reflection about the traditional security concept, with the purpose of extending it to other components, such as environment, food and economy, and to a higher security for the societies and for the Human Beings.

A far-reaching awareness process involving all the interested parties (governments, local authorities, non-governmental organisation, economic groups, and the public opinion) is needed in order to attain these goals. Calling their attention towards their value for Mankind and the special features of marine world resources which are, for all due purposes, common resources; and in the case of the bottom of the sea, beyond the areas under national sovereignty, Mankind's Common Heritage. In this respect, it is determinant the role of scientific knowledge in the preservation of both resources and the marine world.

However I see with some concern that, although some references are made regarding the

role played by science and technology in the acquisition of a better knowledge of the Oceans, its properties and resources - namely for development and management purposes - it is a component which is still being marginally treated, being placed too far from what is required in order to achieve the national goals of the States regarding the Oceans, including the participation in international cooperation programmes.

Although attention was paid to science in the Washington Conference, through a recommendation included in the Potomac Declaration, I believe it is necessary to take concrete measures to reinforce the national and regional capacities in the sea science and technology, with the purpose of ensuring the knowledge and the monitoring of the phenomena and the "health condition" of the Oceans.

I believe this vital area for an effective integration of the ocean in the development process, requires a growing international cooperation. It is only fair to stress the action developed, in this area, by the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), through an integrated action of its Member States, with the involvement of other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, namely the "International Council of Scientific Unions".

It was within this perspective that the European Union (EU) tried to complement its common policies and the objectives convergence in the political, economic, social and cultural areas with actions specifically oriented towards the scientific and technological research of the Oceans (Programme Marine Science and Technology MAST) and through the development of other collaboration structures, with a strict interaction with the activities developed by the European Science Foundation (ESF) through the European Boards for Marine and Polar Science (EMaPS) and the EUREKA Programme.

Despite the progress achieved over the last years, Europe's recognised capacity in this field, is still being affected by a profound institutional and programme fragmentation which must be overcome through a more efficient dialogue between the organisations, programmes and institutions, within the scope of cooperation networks. Therefore, we believe that the establishment of an European Oceans Agency is, currently, a goal for Europe.

This would also be a way of contributing to the implementation of the UNCDM, as well as the implementation of the Agenda 21 objectives. It would also be a better way to meet the global challenges of Ocean security, as established in the Potomac Declaration.

As President of the EUREKA Initiative, I also recognise the interest in reactivating the ocean component of this initiative, fostering synergies with the EU programmes, as well as with the EMaPS projects ESF. This effort represents an important step towards a more integrated European action on the domestic level and more competitive in the outside world.

In 1998, the year will be devoted to the Oceans and, in Lisbon, there will be the last exposition of the century "The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future", coinciding with the celebration of the 500 years Vasco da Gama's sea voyage. EXPO '98 will be used to introduce the EUREKA Initiative to a broad international public, namely through the presentation of the results of the EUREKA projects related with the Oceans. The scientific progress related with the Oceans will be presented and visitors will be made aware of the issues raised in the most recent ocean research programmes.

In the preamble of the Convention on the Law of the Sea we read that the oceanic sea problems are strictly interrelated and must be considered as a whole. This concept implies the need of an integrated management of the Oceans and of the Coastal Areas which the traditional institutions continue to approach within sectorial mandates - fisheries, merchant marine, environment, defence - clearly inadequate to deal with situations marked by the multiple and interactive uses of the Oceans.

Such institutions are marked by their predominantly governmental nature. This is clearly a contradiction with the need of an intersectorial and interdisciplinary approach, open to all the interested groups (productive sector, companies, and civil society) as laid down in the Rio Conference. Non-governmental organisations have a particular important role to play, as is the case of ACOPS and as it was stressed by the work carried out by the Independent World Commission for the Oceans (IWCO), presided by Dr. Mario Soares.

Therefore, I would like to encourage ACOPS and other interested organisations to consider this subject - the scientific and technological aspects of an integrated management of the Oceans at the threshold of the 3rd Millennium.

This could be a main topic for the next ACOPS-GLOBE Conference which, with CMIO collaboration, I would be honoured to welcome in Portugal.

However I see with some concern that, although some references are made regarding



## Statements at the Baltic and Arctic Panel

### Statement by Ms. Anna Lindh

Minister for Environment, Sweden

Ladies and Gentlemen,

If you, in spite of the snow, dare to go outside during lunch and take a walk around this building, you see that it is located on a small island. This is where the lake Malaren meets the Baltic Sea, where the fresh water from the water systems of mid-Sweden flows into the archipelago and into the Baltic Sea.

In the summer of 1972, the delegates of the Stockholm Conference on environment gathered in this building in order to discuss the state of the world environment. When they at that time walked around the island, the lake water was still severely polluted. But the Baltic Sea was still relatively unaffected.

Today, the situation is reversed. This lake, as well as other lakes and rivers, has been cleaned. Outside this building, you can see people catching salmon and pikes for dinner.

The Baltic Sea, however, is not well. Agricultural runoffs, air pollution from European traffic and still inadequate sewage water treatment mean that the Baltic Sea is now a heavily eutrophied sea. It is in fact one of the worst polluted seas in the world. I want to give you three pictures from the Arctic-Baltic region;

Two years ago, I visited Greenland. The ice was white, the sun shone, the water was intensely blue and black seals were cute. The picture was beautiful – but I was told that the seals were full of PCB. And that the polar bears in the Arctic are threatened of extinction due to PCB. The reason is obvious – chemicals used in other parts of the world are enriched in the Arctic.

Last year I visited Gotland, a large island in the middle of the Baltic Sea. The people showed me hundreds of dead sea-birds. They told me it is a big and growing problem every winter. The reason is oil spills from ships. Oil spills that have increased dramatically the latest years.

Last Monday, I visited the West Coast of Sweden on a research vessel. The coast was beautiful, but my guide demonstrated to me what was below the surface of the water. Stinking mud from dead bottoms, where no biological life could be detected. The reason is eutrophication, due to agricultural runoffs, inadequate sewage treatment and air pollution from traffic.

These problems have to be solved. But I am convinced it is possible.

The Ronneby conference in 1990 was the first Heads of Government conference of the Baltic Sea. The Prime Ministers agreed to set up a special action programme. 132 Hot Spots were identified. These are now taken care of one after another.

But controlling the point sources will not be enough. The environment has to be integrated in every part of society, right from the beginning. That is the way forward towards a sustainable development. And, as the Prime Minister said earlier – democracy economic development, international cooperation and environmental protection all go hand in hand.

That is why the Ministers of Environment around the Baltic Sea agreed in Saltsjobaden in the fall of 1996 to develop an Agenda 21 for the Baltic Sea region. The Baltic 21 project.

This initiative was and still is unique. It is the first time that a regional Agenda 21 programme is to be developed. The basic idea is sector integration, with each sector being made responsible for its contribution to sustainable development.

The seven most important sectors are transport, energy, agriculture, industry, forestry, tourism and fishery. The proposals are now being developed under broad participation from different groups.

My vision is that within one generation, 25 years, we should have a much cleaner Baltic Sea. That means pregnant women will not have to be warned against eating fish. Which they are today, due to the high levels of PCB in salmon and herring. The Esbjerg agreement on toxic chemicals has been implemented. Levels of hazardous substances in the environment are almost back to natural levels.

The POPs convention and other international negotiations on chemicals have been successful.

In 25 years – the days of eutrophication will be history. The total load of nutrients will be below the critical load of the Baltic Sea. The Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union has long ago been changed into reflecting natural cycles and biodiversity.

Sustainable transport will promote trade, cultural exchange and tourism around the Baltic Sea – without causing environmental stress. Now oil companies have to clean fuels instead of fishing it, car manufacturers have to promote fuel efficiency, politicians have to invest in public transport. IMO has to give priority to environmental questions to promote environmental friendly sea transport.

To make the vision about a cleaner Baltic Sea and Arctic region true, we have to work along the recommendations pointed out by the working group which just made a report. I would like to underline in particular:

All sectors of society must take full responsibility for making their sectors consistent with sustainable development. Environmental concerns have to be integrated into all decision-making at all levels.

There is a need to safeguard open and transparent cooperation with broad public participation. The Baltic 21 home page on the Internet is a good example.

For the long term protection of the environment and management of the natural resources of the Baltic Sea there must be established an even clearer cooperation between environment and fishery organisations and institutions.

A particular problem in the Baltic Sea is the great number of oil spills I mentioned before. This problem is urgent to solve, and at the Riga summit two weeks ago the Prime Ministers of the Baltic Sea region agreed to install technology in the harbours that would do away with oil spills.

From being one of the most polluted seas in the world, the Baltic Sea should develop into one of the healthiest. Demonstrating that there is a way forward, that sustainable development means that recovery actually is possible.

That is why I welcome with all my heart the decision by the GEF to fund the UNEP proposal for the Global International Water Assessment. On behalf of my government, let me express the pride we take in having the city of Kalmar in southern Sweden being designated as the seat of the core team of the assessment.

I happen to believe that UNEP and GEF have made a wise decision to locate the core team on the shore of the Baltic Sea. The Baltic Sea is a uniquely polluted Sea – but the cooperation around the Sea is unique as well. It is a laboratory of the future, pointing the way how to make sustainable development happen.

I started with the Stockholm conference 1972, and the dirty water of Stockholm at that time.

Welcome back on 25 years from now, and I hope we will show you a cleaner Baltic Sea!

## **Statement by Ms Mary Simon**

Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, Canada

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you. I very much welcome the opportunity to participate in this Panel on Implementing the Potomac Declaration: Action for the Baltic and Arctic Seas.

As Canada's Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs, I am involved in coordinating Canada's foreign policy for the circumpolar region, of which protection of the Arctic Seas is a part. I also have the pleasure of chairing the first 2 years of the Arctic Council, which is an inter-governmental organisation made up of 8 Arctic Nations with the participation of 3 international indigenous organisations.

From the beginning, the Arctic Council has recognised the close linkage between the quality of the land and marine environment and the well-being of Arctic residents, especially indigenous peoples as was illustrated by Minister Lindh.

The Arctic Council has recognised that for northern peoples, toxic contamination of fish and marine and land-based mammals from pollutants is one of the most serious threats.

This problem, shared by all Arctic states, undermines the health and well-being of northern peoples, some of whom have high levels of contaminants in their bodies from eating fish and wildlife that are contaminated.

Another area of major concern, as discussed yesterday, is pollution from nuclear wastes and military activities, and from mining, shipping and oil and gas development – these problems being nowhere more evident than in the Russian North.

Addressing the detrimental impacts of arctic and non-arctic airborne and land-based pollution on the Arctic marine environment, particularly in the coastal zone and near-shore areas, is a priority for the Arctic Council.

The integration of the programmes of the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy (AEPS) into the Council last June brought two key initiatives under the council's umbrella which form a basis for addressing this priority.

The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP) is responsible for assessing the environmental and human health effects of contaminants on the Arctic.

In its report on "Arctic Pollution Issues: A State of the Arctic Environment Report", AMAP highlighted the seriousness of the situation, leading Ministers to commit themselves to increase efforts to limit and reduce emissions and promote international cooperation on contaminants.

The protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) Programme, is developing a Regional Programme for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment, which is intended to foster circumpolar agreement and cooperation on this important issue.

PAME has greatly benefited from the ACOPS Russian Programme and we look forward to continuing this important collaboration.

Fundamentally, the ultimate success of efforts to restore and maintain the health of Arctic seas requires a holistic approach, which integrates environmental, economic and social considerations through the principles of sustainable development.

This is the type of approach being developed by the Arctic Council under its Sustainable Development Programme, which will be presented to Ministers for approval at the first Ministerial meeting in northern Canada in the fall of this year.

It is consistent with the words of the Potomac Declaration, which states that "Sustainable development, including conservation of the marine environment, can actually increase environmental, food and economic security (and therefore provide a foundation for political security)" and that "poverty is a root cause of environmental problems".

Unemployment levels are high in many parts of the Arctic, especially among young people – a situation which, combined with the erosion of language and traditions, leads to high levels of poverty and social unrest. Resolving this situation will entail tackling a wide variety of issues, including trade and investment, transportation, communications, technology transfer, education, tourism, small business development and training, co-management of natural resources, human health and so forth. It could include taking measures to support the northern fur industry, including seal products. This industry is extremely important to northern peoples.

At another level, the Council will need to convey Arctic regional concerns to bodies such as the United Nations and the CSD in 1999, for those issues that are global in nature, such as airborne toxins, nuclear waste and biodiversity conservation.

It also needs to form close linkages with other organisations, such as ACOPS, with similar goals and approaches. ACOPS has made an application for observer status in the Arctic Council. Once the rules and procedures are in place, it will be reviewed by the member states.

In conclusion, I am very pleased with and welcome the "Stockholm Strategy on Ocean Security", which are directed at Security in Arctic Seas. These will be of great interest to the Arctic Council.

I am particularly pleased that the Stockholm Action Strategy not only calls for early completion of the Regional Programme of Action but that a phase 2 should be developed, beginning in 1999. I like the idea of expanding the RPA into an "Agenda 21" Arctic Sea Programme that integrates economic and environmental factors. This is the Arctic Council approach.

I also fully support the need for networking around the Arctic. People communicating with people can break down geographic obstacles and artificial barriers to communications. Canada is supporting projects by indigenous people to improve networking.

Closely related to networking is the proposal to improve public awareness, education and training about marine environment issues. The ACOPS proposals in this area are also very important.

I am concerned about emergency prevention and response. As we heard yesterday, there is a very real risk of a major accident. I hope that measures will be taken to prevent accidents but should one happen we need the best possible response.

Finally, as Chair, I will ensure that member states of the Arctic Council are made aware of this initiative, and look forward to following the results of your efforts.

**Statement by Mr. Pekka Haavisto**  
Minister for Environment, Finland

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

I would first like to extend my gratitude to ACOPS and GLOBE for arranging this conference, and to the Government of Sweden for its very strong support for the arrangements.

Allow me also to compliment ACOPS on its endeavours and its achievements in general, which are, I am sure, unique for a non-governmental organisation.

My country was not represented at the ACOPS' Conference in Washington in May last year when the Potomac Declaration was adopted by an impressive number of delegates, and an impressive number of organisations.

However, we have certainly studied the Declaration with great interest, and we find it very valuable. In many cases, the Declaration is a useful reminder of important principles laid down in different international instruments. In other cases it provides new dimensions, perspectives and ideas.

Cooperation on marine environment has long traditions in Finland.

Even if the regional cooperation in the Baltic Sea and Arctic areas have been in the core of Finland's international marine cooperation, I would like to emphasise the great importance of global responsibility of all states in the issues of oceans and seas.

In the wider international field Finland has played an active role both in regional and global organisations.

In order to give you a more concrete picture of some new regional activities, let me mention to you two examples.

The Seas of East Asia is a very interesting area both in terms of politics and the environment. Finland has participated actively in the work of marine experts on a Marine Environmental Cooperation Programme in the Seas of East Asia. The cooperation and exchange of experience between the marine experts of the Baltic Sea and the Seas of East Asia is found very useful and is leading to both bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

Secondly, a very concrete example of a broader environmental responsibility was the Euro-Mediterranean Conference on the Environment, which Finland hosted in Helsinki last November. The Euro-Mediterranean Conference on the Environment adopted the Short and Medium Term Environmental Action Programme for the Mediterranean, the first environmental action programme for the Mediterranean. This programme lay down priority criteria for the financing of environmental projects by the European Union. The Declaration of the Conference, and the SMAP, in particular, contribute to the sustainable development of the region. The large and active participation of political leaders from both the European Union member states as well as from the partner countries convinced me of the fact that there is a strong political will to achieve instrumental progress in the Mediterranean.

Another very substantial output of the Euro-Med Conference was the opening of the procedures to civil society. The participation of NGOs and financing institutions in the conference was a very successful contribution to the conference and will strengthen the implementation of the SMAP.

The area surrounding the Baltic Sea has always been one of the top priority areas for Finland's international relations. The history of cooperation extends back to the Hanseatic cities. Still today cultural, environment and economic exchange are important for the collaboration in the area. In fact, environmental cooperation has paved the way for cooperative developments in the other sectors.

The Baltic Sea cooperation on the environment has been an internationally very acknowledged and respected example of comprehensive cooperation. Numerous environmental projects have been completed or are under implementation in fields such as wastewater treatment, air pollution control, waste management and preservation of biodiversity. As a result, the state of the environment in the Baltic Sea region has improved during the past few years.

However, much remains to be done. The relatively easy and inexpensive measures of the past are no longer enough: we now have to be prepared to address much more complex issues. The environmental problems in the Baltic Sea region require long-term commitment and systematic and concerted response.

This year, much attention in Finland has focused on the state of the Baltic Sea. The blue-green algae blooms and the visible eutrophication along the coast have alarmed people. Studies show that the deterioration of the Baltic Sea is caused by a multitude of factors, for example, human settlements, industries, agriculture, fish farming, and transport. Improvements are indeed needed in all Baltic Sea countries and much can be done if we work together.

Finding solutions to the continuing problems in the Baltic Sea needs more players. Local authorities and their associations, and the non-governmental organisations, have already shown their potential. Their role in raising awareness must be taken advantage of. Finland has actively supported cooperation with local partners in the Baltic Sea region either through bilateral arrangements or through mechanisms of horizontal cooperation. We have especially strong links with the St. Petersburg area and Estonia.

It is evident that the environmental cooperation around the Baltic Sea needs to undergo a transformation from the tackling of short-term problems to the implementation of long-term programmes where all the economic sectors and actors play a vital role. The Baltic 21 process would effectively complement this picture because it extends far into the future – up to 2028.

The first conference at ministerial level on the protection of the Arctic environment was held at the initiative of Finland in 1992. An extensive work programme was adopted, covering the problems and measures to protect the marine environment. A concrete and covering Regional Programme of Action for the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (RPA) is essential for the protection of this extremely sensitive and vulnerable sea area. The Programme prepared by the Working Group on the Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME) will be ready for the meeting of the Arctic Council in the autumn of 1998. The Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) has contributed notably to PAME's work by reporting on hot spots of land-based polluting activities in the Russian Arctic.

Today, the Arctic countries have the knowledge, resources and technology to lead the development in a sustainable way. Now we need the political will from all the countries to change the course of the development.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

The Government of Finland has made an initiative on the Northern Dimension of the European Union in order to aim at a stronger and more coordinated role of the European Union in Northern Europe. In our view, the EU should have a development and cooperation strategy for its action in Northern Europe.

At the meeting in Luxembourg of the European Council, the European Commission was requested to submit an interim report on the proposal concerning a northern dimension for the policies of the Union. This report is expected to be submitted at a forthcoming European Council meeting in 1998.

Regarding the general development of Northern Europe, I am happy to tell you that the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the Russian Federation and the European Communities is advancing. The PCA process covers various political sectors from trade, energy, democracy and traffic to the environment. I believe that this kind of broad cooperation between the EU and the Russian Federation will open a new era in European development. Finland finds this process very significant. By supporting this process we will also gain strength in environmental cooperation.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

The designation of 1998 as the *International Year of the Oceans* provides the global community with an opportunity to address issues concerning the future of the oceans.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention two important items relevant to the *International Year of the Oceans*, one regional and one global.

First, oil pollution and ship generated wastes are matters of great concern. Therefore in the Baltic as well as in the Arctic Seas, all ports should be provided with adequate reception facilities for these wastes. Mandatory delivery of ship-generated wastes and the so-called no-special-fee system are means which should be used. My Government also appreciates the efforts of the EU to prepare a directive on port reception of ship-generated wastes.

Secondly, dumping of wastes at sea is still a problem. The Government of Finland has worked very hard, together with like-minded states, for a global ban on dumping and incineration of waste at sea. My Government welcomes the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention 1972, and we hope that it will enter into force as soon as possible. In some cases, Finland would have appreciated stricter provisions than it was possible to achieve in the negotiations, but we consider, nevertheless, the Protocol as an important step forwards.

Mr. Chairman, allow me once more to thank the organisers of the Conference for bringing us together here in Stockholm in this splendid building to discuss matters of utmost importance for us all.



**Statement by Mr. Gudmundur Bjarnason**  
Minister for the Environment of Iceland

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with much appreciation that I welcome this Russian initiative. I particularly would like to commend your commitment to strengthening your internal institutional, sectoral and regional cooperation in this effort.

My country has for long been committed to the protection of the marine environment. Long before the Earth Summit in Rio, we were calling for global actions to protect the marine environment from land-based activities. It was therefore with much pleasure that we contributed expertise to the development of the Global Programme of Action and hosted the last, and I believe, the crucial preparatory meeting in Reykjavik in March 1995.

In this context I should note that also my Government is in the process of developing our national programme of action and it is our intention to complete that process by the end of the year.

The Russian National Programme of Action will be a major contribution to the fulfilment of the Global Programme of Action we adopted in Washington in November 1995 and of vital importance for the foreseen Arctic Regional Programme of Action. About half of the Arctic Ocean is adjacent to the Russian Federation and close consultation must therefore be maintained between the experts developing the Russian Programme and those working on the Arctic Programme.

Judging by the material I have seen on the Russian Programme, I am encouraged by how comprehensive and ambitious the programme promises to be. Indeed, an effective action programme will require a comprehensive approach; one entailing integrated coastal zone management and sectoral integration, clear targets and timetables, and criteria to assess its effectiveness. It must also have participation of local communities and indigenous peoples. Also, clear political commitment of public authorities to its implementation is needed – in particular if external support is being sought to assist in the implementation.

Let me also add that I believe that participation in pertinent regional conventions on the protection of the marine environment, such as the OSPAR-Convention, would strengthen the implementation of the Action Programme.

In this context I would like to underscore the importance of reducing and eventually eliminating the degradation of the marine environment by radioactive contaminants and pollution by persistent organic substances. I am hopeful that the negotiation on a global agreement to limit or eliminate emission of persistent organic substances will bring about the much needed change.

I would like to turn to another matter of great importance to my country – the living resources in the oceans. Conservation of a healthy marine ecosystem and sustainable utilisation of marine living resources must go hand in hand in order to maximise the supply of food for human consumption and sustain the welfare of the people living in the Arctic.

Assessment of the Arctic Environment indicates serious problems for some ecosystems and populations. Yet, we should not overlook that the Arctic as a whole remains a clean environment in comparison with most other areas of the world and many of the living resources in the region are utilised in a sustainable manner. We must find solution to the problems that exist. However, we must not let information about problems in some areas be

presented as if the Arctic environment as a whole is in jeopardy. Such perception could endanger the livelihood of those communities that base their economy on international trade in marine products.

Mr. Chairman, before I conclude, allow me to thank ACOPS and GLOBE for organising this important conference and the host, the Swedish Parliament.

Lastly Mr. Chairman, I wish the Russian Federation all the best in its endeavour and at the same time I encourage other members of the Arctic Council to take the Russian initiative as an encouragement to implement their National Plans of Action to protect the marine environment from land-based activities.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

*International Year of the Arctic*

*much needed change*

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## **Statement by Mr. Andris Ravins**

Minister for Agriculture, Latvia

During the first years after regaining its independence, Latvia attempted to organise its legislation and state administrative structures to conform to its new circumstances. Frequently, these efforts in specific economic spheres encountered difficulties due to unclarified aspects of property rights, the great extent of state ownership in major sectors, the overall economic decline, the weak banking system and other related factors. The adoption of pre-World War II legislation often was inadequate to provide a solution for today's circumstances.

The fisheries sector in Latvia found itself in a similar position. The law on fishing which existed in Latvia before 1940 had become outdated and thus, a completely new legislative base had to be created.

The years 1991-1993 can be described as a transition period from fishing collectives (Soviet-style "kolhozes") and state enterprise system to a free-market economic system and private entrepreneurs. The state administrative structures were subject to frequent Government changes, thus the administration of fisheries sector was mainly based upon the previous experience and practice and upon the regulations issued by the respective minister. The participation of the local government in the administration of fisheries issues was also based upon its individual decisions.

Simultaneously, Latvia from the 1991 restoration of its independence has participated as member state in the major international fisheries organisations: the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation Fisheries Committee (FAO COFI), the International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission (IBSFC), the International Council for Exploitation of the Sea (ICES) the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries organisation (NAFO). Latvia also cooperates with other Baltic Sea states and with the European Union through bilateral fishing agreements.

### **Law on Fishery**

Amidst these circumstances work began on drafting a new law on fishery which was adopted in 1995. This law was based upon the current situation and fishing administration practice in Latvia as well as the extensive international experience and newest international organisations' decisions regarding the administration of fisheries resources and fishing.

The Law on Fishery determines the property rights issues for the fishery resources and fishing rights. This law declares all natural resources to be state property and private property rights apply only to those fish stocks which are grown in aquaculture settings. Latvia has the exclusive rights to use and administer fishery resources in the waters of Latvia's economic zone.

The fishing rights in Latvia's waters, depending upon the status of these waters (public waters, waters in which the fishing rights belong to the state or private waters), belong either to the state or to the owner of these waters or its coastal lands.

It is also stated that it is possible to use fishing rights by leasing them from the state or from the owner of private waters, if the owner is not using these rights. Fishing rights which are leased from the original owner cannot be further subleased to another person or entity.

A fee for the use of the state fishery resources is foreseen in any event, regardless of who owns the fishing rights. These fees form a special Fish Fund.

The waters of the Gulf of Riga and the Baltic Sea cannot be held in private property. The fishing rights in these waters can be leased only from the state.

The Law on Fishery sets forth the main principles for the administration of fishery resources, which more or less correspond to a responsible fishery scheme. An important function of this Law is the introduction of divided levels of state administration, which allows the realisation of fishery resources administration at two levels - at the state administration level (the National Board of Fisheries) and the local government administration level.

Local governments are entrusted with the management of fishery resources and the lease of fishing rights along the Baltic Sea coast and internal waters. The National Board of Fisheries manages the lease of fishing rights in the Baltic Sea beyond the coastal waters. This system provides the opportunity to cover all fishing issues from all of Latvia's territory while leaving the National Board of Fisheries with an extremely small staff.

However, the basic principles within the Law on Fishery do not determine the actual operation of this system which includes fishery resources, fishermen, local governments, the National Board of Fisheries, fishery research, fish inspection and the Fish Fund. This issue had to be resolved by the Cabinet of Ministers (Latvian Government) adopted regulations regarding fishing.

### **Lease of Fishing Rights**

When drafting the subsequent set of regulations, Latvia attempted to avoid the negative factors which had impacted the fishery administration during the previous years and to avoid mistakes made and negative tendencies allowed by other states which had stemmed from a broad and free access to fishing resources. In Latvia's view, this experience gave Latvia significant advantages to avoid the problems currently encountered by EU member states.

The essence of the problem is that there are many users of these fishing rights who place claims on very limited fishing resources. The only solution in such circumstances would be tied to the reduction in the number of users of resources and other limitations which would be economically and socially very painful for even the very-developed states of Europe.

To avoid such problems and to strengthen the responsibility of fishermen about the use of the fishing resources allotted and to attempt to limit the number of fishermen in accordance with the available fishing resources, fishing rights lease agreements are signed with fishermen in Latvia. These matters are regulated by the Government Regulations on the Leasing of Inland Water Bodies and Commercial Fishing Rights and Use of Fishing Rights, adopted at the beginning of 1996. These regulations also include the possible leasing of rivers and lakes which can be used for various purposes.

Based upon these regulations, a mutually-agreed protocol about the transfer of the management responsibility for fishing resources to the local government's administration is signed between the National Board of Fisheries and the local government. Gradually a system of cooperation and information exchange is being formed between these two levels of fishery administration. The National Board of Fisheries conducts to the local governments the allowable fishing gear limits as well as the general principles for the leasing of fishing rights.

The local governments independently work with those who have leased fishing rights along the Baltic Sea coasts and within internal waters. The local governments have the right to initiate proposals about the reduction or increase (up to 2 times) of the leasing fees stated in the Government regulations, if local circumstances create such a necessity. If a large

## **Marine Environment and Fish Resources Protection**

The surveillance of fishing rules compliance with the fishing activities performed by the fishermen and control of utilisation of allocated catch quotas is in the competence of the Marine Environment Board of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia.

The Marine Environment Board deals with the marine environment protection and surveillance of fishing at the coastal, territorial and economic zone waters of the Baltic Sea. The main responsibilities of the Marine Environment Board in the surveillance of fisheries are:

- issuing licences for Latvian fishing vessels which fish for in the waters beyond the coastal zone under the Latvian jurisdiction in the Baltic Sea as well as economic zones of other Baltic Sea countries which have fisheries agreement with Latvia. These licences are issued according to the fishing rights lease agreements between the fishing company or individual owner and the National Board of Fisheries;
- issuing licences for individual fishermen for fishing in coastal waters according to the fishing rights lease agreements between the individual fishermen and local government authority;
- providing logbooks for vessels and individual fishermen;
- collecting logbook sheets and catch reports on monthly bases;
- summarise data on catches submitted by the fishermen;
- performing fishery control in open sea, coastal waters and ports by checking licences, fishing gears, logbooks, catch on board and so on; and
- imposing administrative sanctions in the cases of infringement of fisheries rules and regulations.

The Marine Environment Board in cooperation with the National Board of Fisheries, the Latvian Fisheries Research Institute develops joint action programmes, concerning information exchange on catch statistics and development of data base for fisheries management purposes.

The Marine Environment Board and Marine Forces has cooperation on performing inspection at sea and marine protection.

## **Future Prospects for the Development of Sustainable and Responsible Fisheries in Latvia**

A specialised National Fisheries Development Programme has been elaborated to cover the period 1995-2010.

The Programme incorporates:

- development of Latvian fisheries in compliance with the available fish resources and fish utilisation capacities;

- reorganisation and stabilisation of the fisheries science, fish restocking capability and fish resources management;
- gradual renewal and replacement of the outdated Baltic fishing fleet; and
- improvement of fish product quality in compliance with European standards to find additional possibilities for export to both Eastern and Western markets.

Taking into account the stabilisation of the fisheries sector and the rapid development of fish processing plants, as characterised by the excellent export potential, especially to East Europe and the CIS, Latvia must place great significance on the preservation of fisheries resources as the base of raw materials for the fishing industry.

Based upon the currently-functioning legislation, it is possible to preserve the development of Latvia's fishing industry, while simultaneously not exceeding the natural fish stock output possibilities. 1991-1993 crisis greatly reduced the size of the fishing fleet. The remaining fishing fleet often is ineffective or has become outdated, thus Latvia currently is unable to completely use its accessible fishing resources. Nevertheless, Latvia's fishing policy do not include any plan to greatly increase the fishing fleet.

However, a renewal of the fishing fleet is necessary by retaining the average number of fishing vessels. This is a rational approach, if the "over-production" of the fishing fleets of other European states is taken into account. Latvia depends upon the current status of fisheries resources and thus, is forming its fishing fleet and legislation in harmony with such resource status.

We can conclude that Latvia does not have an "over-production" by its fishing fleet and does not have any need to consider the reduction of its fishing fleet or its fishing intensity. Currently, the main goal is to create a responsible fishery mechanism at all levels, from the National Board of Fisheries to the local governments, and even more importantly, to the individual fisherman.

It also should be mentioned that the latest environmental protection concepts recognise that the social, economic and political dimensions strongly interact with the surrounding environment and should be taken into account for the development of a sustainable and responsible fisheries.

For years the environmental and fisheries issues had been dealt with separately. However since the last century it was made clear that the concept of environment must incorporate the social dimensions and people's living conditions as well as all kinds of their economic activities, fisheries included.

In order to protect natural resources and create the basis for future development of sustainable fisheries the following topic areas should be taken into account:

- sustainable development of economic and social sectors adversely affecting the marine environment and natural resources;
- further recognition of the importance of environmental and food security matters for nations based upon agriculture and fishery production;
- responsible management of high-seas and marine coastal ecosystems as well as inland water areas;

demand exists for fishing rights, then the local government has the right to hold an auction for such fishing rights.

Local governments also interact with the National Board of Fisheries through the Fish Fund which collects resources from the lease payments for fishing rights. These resources can be used for projects to restocking fish stock, to protect fishing resources and various fisheries research topics, either on a Latvia-wide or the local government level.

The National Board of Fisheries undertakes the leasing of fishing rights to fishing enterprises which fish in the Baltic Sea beyond the coastal waters. This also includes the possibility to vary the leasing fees or to hold an auction of fishing rights, if necessary.

Regardless of the time duration for the lease of fishing rights, a fishing rights lease protocol is signed annually with each fisherman which notes the limits for catches and fishing gears, the lease payments and other additional conditions for the next fishing year.

### **Advantages of Fishing Rights Lease Agreements**

Despite the technical difficulties which occurred with the introduction of fishing rights lease agreements, the first years of this new system has already shown several advantages:

- links have been established between the National Board of Fisheries and local governments;
- fishermen have security about their fishing rights during the term of the agreement, thus creating trust, closer contacts and a mutual relationship with the leaser;
- fishermen cannot further sublease the fishing rights which they have obtained through lease agreements, which thus ensures more stable control;
- fishermen are interested not to violate the regulations, since such violation may result in the termination of the lease agreement, which may have been signed for a period up to 15 years;
- fishermen become more active and are more interested as to the status of fishery resources, and tend to more negatively view violators and illegal fishermen. The fishermen feel that they have been granted a property-like interest in a portion of these fishery resources;
- the lease agreement system allows for a possible redistribution of fishing resources during the last quarter of each year, reducing the size of catches for those enterprises which have not fully utilised such;
- through the lease agreement annual protocols, it is possible to take into account the changes in the fish stocks by changing size of the distributed resources or the number of fishing gears; and
- the lease agreements for fishing rights in the Baltic Sea are signed with business enterprises, not with individual fishing boats, which thus increases the enterprise's responsibility for the activities of its fishermen.

- conservation and sustainable use of natural resources of the sea retaining biological diversity and all components of marine and coastal ecosystems;
- improvement of scientific research oriented to the use of innovative techniques for measurement and forecasting of the status of natural resources;
- introducing of satellite monitoring systems for protection of the fish resources and marine environment;
- development of interdisciplinary studies, bridging social and physical sciences, integrating seas and associated land catchment areas; and
- improvement of data gathering systems and expand scientific information on climate, natural resources and water hydrological conditions to attract more active participation of civil society and fishermen in decision-making process for marine and coastal areas and development of responsible use of marine resources at a national, regional and global level .

Latvia is looking forward to environmental and food security of nations and inauguration of the 1998 as the International Year of Oceans and the 2000 as the Year of Environmental Awareness.



## Mr. Imantas Lazdinis

Minister for the Environmental Protection, Lithuania

### Introduction

Lithuanian territorial waters in the Baltic Sea is approximately 1570 km<sup>2</sup> as well economic zone 3205 km<sup>2</sup> (appr. areas given according to the incontestable aquatories boundaries because Russian and Latvian boundary are not delimited so far) and Curonian Lagoon - 413 km<sup>2</sup>.

Nearly 83% of the Lithuanian territory belongs to the catchment area of the Baltic Proper, which comprises the drainage area of the River Nemunas, River Bartuva, the River Venta and the River Akmena-Dane. The territory is populated by 3404400 inhabitants that mean a population density of 56.9 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. The Lithuanian sub-region drainage area is dominated by agriculture (53.9%) and forests (31.3%), 4.8% are urban areas, 4.1% water bodies, 2.4% wetlands under other usages.

The main river, the River Nemunas is discharging to the semi-enclosed Curonian Lagoon. The retention time of the River Nemunas discharges in Curonian Lagoon in case of full mixing is four months. The length of the Lithuanian coastline at the Baltic Proper including the Curonian Lagoon is 93 kilometres.

About 17% of the Lithuanian territory belongs to the catchment area of the Gulf of Riga (through the rivers Musa, Birvyte and Laukesa), which totally drains via the Latvian territory into the Gulf of Riga.

The drainage of the Baltic Proper comprises 574245 km<sup>2</sup>, whereof all Baltic Sea region countries except Finland as well as Belarus, Czech, Ukraine and Slovak with totally 78360 km<sup>2</sup> (14%) belongs to. The catchment areas of the countries are shared as follows: 3% (15000 km<sup>2</sup>) belongs to Russia, 0.2% (1100 km<sup>2</sup>) to Estonia, 2% (11100 km<sup>2</sup>) to Latvia, 9% (54160 km<sup>2</sup>) to Lithuania, 54% (311900 km<sup>2</sup>) to Poland, 2.6% (18200 km<sup>2</sup>) to Germany, 0.2% (1200 km<sup>2</sup>) to Denmark and 15% (83225 km<sup>2</sup>) to Sweden.

Three of the seven biggest rivers are situated in the Baltic Proper. The third biggest river, the River Nemunas, flows from the Lithuanian territory through the Curonian Lagoon into the Baltic Sea. The measured pollution river load includes also load originating from all the other countries located upstream or on the neighbouring side of the border rivers.

The river Nemunas discharging into the Baltic Proper from the Lithuanian territory (46700 km<sup>2</sup>) drain the areas in Belarus (45450 km<sup>2</sup>), in Russia (3170 km<sup>2</sup>) and Latvia (88 km<sup>2</sup>). On the other hand, 7459 km<sup>2</sup> of the Lithuanian territory belongs to the drainage area of the River Venta and the River Bartuva falling into this Baltic Sea sub-region through the Latvian territory. The River Sventoji drains directly to the Baltic Sea.

The Lithuanian Coastal Zone covers three towns - Klaipeda, Palanga and Neringa and parts of two districts - Klaipeda and Silute. There are 250.000 people living there, most of them (80%) - in Klaipeda city. The Coastal Zone is therefore relatively densely populated compared to many other Lithuanian regions. During the summer season the population in coastal zone increases from 250.000 up to 450.000.

The centre of regional administration is Klaipeda city. The structure of Klaipeda region is specific: Klaipeda is port city, Palanga is the main resort of Lithuania and the third unit is Curonian spit national park. This is the region, which has borders with two foreign countries (in the North with Latvia, in the South with Russia) and territorial waters in the West.

The absence of a unified model of national economic activity as well as insufficiently prepared and implemented economy reform policy is creating difficulties for the CZ economy. The main industry of CZ is concentrated in Klaipeda (about 75%). An important source for the production of agricultural products is the flooded meadows in Nemunas delta. The sea coast region produces 10% of Lithuanian cattle-breeding products and milk. There are no arable lands on the Curonian spit. The flooded area of Nemunas delta is 52.400 ha and there are 34 polder systems. The largest areas of the delta are pastures and meadows; arable land is only 25% of the area.

The Curonian lagoon has the biggest fish resources of all Lithuanian inland waters: 50 species of fishes are found there. In recent years sea coast fishing which was prohibited before 1991, has become more active. Recreation and tourism in the coastal zone is considered as an alternative source of income and employment, compared to fishing, industry or agriculture.

The largest CZ industrial potential is concentrated in Klaipeda - the only Lithuanian sea port. This port serves as major East-West cargo transfer point. Total annual container turnover is 14-16 mln. tons. Ship building and repair works are also performed in Klaipeda port. When the modernisation of the port (construction of terminals for containers, dry products, wood and passenger ferries, reconstruction of port entrance, railway, embankments, oil terminal) are implemented, the capacity of Klaipeda port will reach 25 mln. tons/years.

The economy of the coastal zone, region and country heavily depends on sea port development and land-based off-shore activities, fishing.

The Kurdiø Marios Lagoon gathers water from the area of 100458 square kilometres or about 20% of the total drainage area in the Baltic Proper. About 23 cubic kilometres of fresh water or about 55% of the total riverine run-off from Lithuania into the Baltic Sea is through the Klaipeda Sound. There are about 5 million inhabitants in the catchment area of the lagoon. The Baltic Sea receives about 1500 tonnes of phosphorus and about 35000 tonnes of nitrogen from the Kurdiø Marios Lagoon every year. The water in the lagoon is rich saturated with phosphorus and nitrogen by 3-4 times more as in the Baltic Sea. A large amount of nutrients and organic substances are produced by blue green algae in the coastal water. The water of the Kurdiø Marios Lagoon after it enters the Baltic Sea usually takes the North direction along the coast and this water can be determined by thick blue-green cover of algae on sunny summer days. The total nutrient loads from the land and atmosphere still maintain a high level of eutrophication. The level of polluted microflora there is rather high: total coliform bacteria number exceed  $10^4$  col./l, fecal coliform bacteria (E.coli) -  $10^3$  col./l.

Research and monitoring. Protection of marine resources.

The basis for sustainable fishery in a marine waters are recommendations of scientists as well recommendations of International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC). Taking into account fishery, the main water bodies (Baltic Sea and Curonian Lagoon) are being explore by scientist institutions every year and fishing activity are being adjusted according to the results of these explorations.

Scientists carried out the researches and assessed the status of fish resources after summarisation received material, determined the areas of commercial fish species and biomass in the Lithuanian economic zone, assessed selectivity of the main fishing gears used for fishing activity in the Curonian Lagoon, ascertained the structure and abundance of commercial fish species populations and carried out other researches.

The systematical investigations in the Kurdiø Marios Lagoon were started in 1954 as well in South-east part of the Baltic Sea in 1959. The national sea monitoring programme is carried

out by the centre of Marine Research since 1992 in 28 stations of the SE part of the Baltic on the board of RV "Vėjas" every season as well in 13 stations in the North part of the Kurdiø Marios Lagoon on the board of the research boat "Gintaras" 1-2 times every month. The investigations are fulfilled in 4 HELCOM Baltic Sea Monitoring Stations too. The aim of the investigations is to obtain information about hydrological, hydrochemical, hydrobiological situation and the pollution level. Since 1979 monitoring is carried out accordingly to the HELCOM Monitoring Programme. The scientific staff of the Centre of Marine Research took part in a number of intercalibrations of the investigated parameters.

The Baltic Sea and the Kurdiø Marios Lagoon Monitoring Programme is prepared and carried out in Lithuania for a long-term period covering a rather wide network of stations and enabling to evaluate the current sea state as well as to define changes during a long-term period and possible anthropogenic effects and impact. The research and monitoring are carried out by the Centre's own staff as well as by scientists from other Lithuanian scientific institutions and are mainly devoted to making observations of circulation and transformation of water masses in the Baltic Sea and in the Kurdiø Marios Lagoon, on the occurrence and distribution of natural and hazardous chemical substances, the main biological components of marine ecosystem to obtain essential information of changes in pelagic and bottom communities due to eutrophication and pollution.

Aiming to protect and sustainably use the Baltic Sea live resources and environment, international cooperation are being implemented through IBSFC and HELCOM. Besides, the Lithuania has signed bilateral agreement on Fishery Relations between European Community and Faro Islands. Agreements on Fishery Relations with Russian Federation, Poland and Latvia are on preparation.

According the recommendations of International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission IBSFC and recommendations of scientist institutions of Lithuania fish catch quotas in the Baltic Sea for Cod, Herring, Sprat, Salmon and Sea Trout are being set.

The results of fishery are being predetermined not only by status of fish resources, by fishing intensity as well. For this reason due to avoid one or other fish species over-utilisation it is important to know the state of fish resources and to adjust fishery not only by setting quotas, but also by limiting the fishing efforts (number of fishing gears, duration of fishing period, etc.) Due to a rising intensity of fishing activity in the open sea or coastal zone such fishery researches are urgent.

At present the Lithuania as well other Baltic Sea countries are very worried about status of Cod and Salmon resources.

Even the Cod resources in the result of improved spawning conditions and applying of special measures of management (ban on fishing during summer, enlargement of fishing nets mesh and commercial fish sizes, implementation of control on landings) for the last years stabilised, though the fishing quotas established by IBSFC for this activity exceed recommendations of scientists. Besides, some Baltic States exceed the established quotas. For conservation of this variety further needs attach great importance, even the catches are being increase. Strengthen of catches and landings control at Klaipėda harbour - the nearest goal. The new logbook system has been introduced since the beginning of 1997 for this reason.

IBSFC, after assessment of present situation, adopted Salmon Action Plan to reach the smoltas production in each Salmon river even 50 % of potential production in 2010. The Lithuania undertook with international responsibilities to re - establish or enlarge natural population of Salmon in the catchment areas of the main Salmon rivers (Nemunas, Neris, Dventoji (Neris) Peimena, Minija, Jūra, Dubysa, Vilnele). The nearest task is to prepare the

National Program of Salmon Restoration and find out financing for implementation. For restoration of natural population important to reduce as possible fishery of wild Salmon. For the last years are being introduced additional measures of limitation at a coastal zone and in the rivers and Curonian Lagoon prohibited to fish Salmon since 1981

Although in the coastal area are being caught a small part of Lithuanian zone catches (5%) because of concentration of spawning backgrounds, recovering areas and protected fish migration, management of fishery at this aquatory requires particularly attention. For the last years sizes of fishing nets mesh allowed to fish were revised. Prohibited to fish with a bigger than 25 - 49 mm mesh nets what allow to avoid over-utilisation of vimba, pikeperch and other valuable fish species juveniles overcatch. Net mesh increased to 110 mm for Turbot and to 90 mm for Flatfish. aiming to protect juveniles of these species. However, taking into account the latest data of researches, management of fishery in a coastal zone should be improved.

At the same time the Lithuanian approach to the utilisation and protection of coastal and marine areas is characterised by lack of knowledge \_ especially regarding such basin problems as more comprehensive determination of possible negative environmental consequences of different forms of pollution and fisheries resources primarily in coastal areas. Furthermore, these problems, very important at both a national and international level, still lack international and technical support for coordinating the gathering and analysis of data from marine environmental monitoring also as modelling and predictive risk assessment, a methodical approach in the handling of the utilisation of marine resources.

#### Off-shore activities and national regulations

Apart from the pollution from land areas and atmosphere the increasing navigation causes big problems. The transportation of oil and chemical products is considerably increasing recent years. A number of oil discharge accidents has increased too. Lithuanian beaches received about 20 tonnes of crude oil originating from vessels unidentified in 1996. Construction of new terminal and reconstruction of old ones will enlarge the amount of oil cargo and that will rise the probability of oil accident especially in the Eastern Baltic in future. Ventspils, the biggest oil port in the Baltic exports 19 million tons per year (20% of oil trade in the Baltic Sea area). The second remarkable question is the increasing acidification of water caused by the vessel fuel containing high amount of sulphur.

The Direction for construction of Bûtینگė terminal of the State enterprise "Nafta" was established according to the Decree of the Government of Lithuania of 28 August 1993. The USA company "Fluor Daniel Williams Brothers" won the competition to design the basic project for terminal in December 1993. The project was prepared according to the requirements and standards of EU countries and the USA with reference to the best available technology which allows exploit safely all complex of the terminal.

To select a site for construction of a single buoy mooring (SPM) three possible variants have been investigated. The sites were evaluated in respect of society, economy and ecology. The analysis was carried out along 38 km distance of coastline and according to recommendations of ecologists Bûtینگė was selected as the best site for terminal.

The final report of environmental impact assessment of the project was prepared by Norwegian Centre of Marine Industry "Det Norske Veritas Industre AR" which stated that the designed terminal is reliable.

According to the Decree No 122 of the Government of 25 January 1995 it was decided to create the Joint-stock company "Bûtینگės nafta" and it was established on 21 April 1995. The Joint-stock company "Kaunas þemkasys" started first phase of construction works of the terminal in May 1995.

Environment status assessment is sufficient because investigations are carrying out in this coastal part of Baltic Sea from 1965.

During the construction of Bûtینگė oil terminal dumping monitoring system which is carrying out by Lithuanian Marine Research Centre of Environmental Protection Ministry from 1979 is enough.

In the future further monitoring system will be performed. It is accepted to prepare and perform by *ad hoc* Latvian and Lithuanian Scientific Working Group the monitoring program for coastal area of Baltic Sea affected by Bûtینگė and Ventspils oil terminals. Latvian-Lithuanian investigations of this part of Baltic Sea ecosystem have long twenty years traditions.

According to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ESPO) the items on environmental impact assessment and risk assessment for Bûtینگė and Ventspils oil terminals and International Monitoring Program for both terminals will be included into Lithuanian-Latvian Bilateral Cooperation Agreement.

Dumping activities.

Dredged materials may only be dumped with prior permission from Klaipėda regional Environmental Protection department.

The Environmental Protection Ministry of the Republic of Lithuania by the Decree No 54 of 16 November 1994 has approved "The working Rules for Deepening and Clean-up Aquatory, Marine Channel of Klaipėda Harbour and Dumping of Spoil in the Sea". These rules are determines the procedure and conditions on issuance of permits for dredging of seabed and dumping of dredged spoil.

These rules have been prepared having regard to the Convention of the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Are, 1992, the Act of the Republic of Lithuania of Environmental Protection, the Provision of the EPM of the Republic of Lithuania, Recommendation of Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM).

The following characteristic for this region hazardous substances are mostly spread in the sediments of harbours aquatory and the bed of marine channel: chromium, nickel, cooper, lead, mercury, zinc, oil products. The type of spoil contamination is determined so that limit concentration of neither one hazardous substance should be exceeded. Dredged (clean and moderate contaminated) spoil can be dumped in the sea or used for smoothing of the territory, construction of roads and other purposes. The more contaminated can be dumped in the sea only in the exceptional cases when amount of heavy metals, pesticides, phenols, polychlorinated biphenyl's, benzopyrene, radionuclides is determined additionally, hypothesis of environmental impact is prepared and all other requirements for usage, disposal of dredged spoils are considered.

The contamination of harbour aquatory and the bed of marine channel is determined in sandy spoil and loamy spoil not rare than one time within 3 years, and in aleurites and sand with aleurites every time before the request to issue the permit for dredging works.

The National Regulations for issuing permits for dumping of dredged spoils were adopted in 1994 by the Environmental Protection Ministry in accordance with London Dumping Convention and HELCOM Recommendations.

In 1994 was dumped 564000 m<sup>3</sup> form the Klaipėda harbour area.

The requirements of the HELCOM Recommendation 12/9 is applied by the Centre of Marine Research: no more than 50 tons oil spill have been occurred in the Lithuanian marine waters in 1995-1996.

In order to implement the requirements of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, Lithuanian Governmental decrees, orders of Transport minister and ordinances of Klaipėda City Mayor the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Lithuania is under preparation. Following the HELCOM Recommendation 14/10 on Cooperation and Assistance to Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania in the Field of Combating Marine Pollution and Agreement on bilateral cooperation between Denmark and Lithuania the Danish Fund for Environmental Activities in Eastern Europe granted in January 1995 a preparation study concerning implementation of a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan for Lithuania. The study was carried out in March 1995 by Danish companies and institutions: Evison/Carl Bro International, the Water Quality Institute and Danish Environmental Protection Agency in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection, Klaipėda Seaport Authority under Ministry of Transport and other relevant Lithuanian authorities. Lithuanian authorities approved in principal the National Oil Contingency Plan for Lithuania (Phase I) prepared by Danish company Evison/Carl Bro International on August 1995 and decided to request the Danish Government, namely, Environmental Protection Agency to provide financial assistance for the preparation and implementation of Contingency Plan Phase II.

In 1996, the Danish Fund agreed to finance technical assistance for Phase II for implementation of a National Oil Spill contingency Plan for Lithuania. In November 1996, an institutional study has been carried out. In 1997 Evison/ Carl Bro International have finalised the work for the draft version of the National Spill Contingency Plan for Lithuania. At present the Plan is under consideration among involved parties and the next steps in the project implementation including time planning are under discussion.

Evison/ Carl Bro International and involved into the project Lithuanian institutions have prepared the List of Needed Quantities and Specifications of Oil Spill Response Equipment for the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan of Lithuania.

As a part of the HELCOM cooperation framework and financed by Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI), the Swedish Coast Guard, the Swedish Rescue Board and National Maritime Administration, SMHI has developed a PC-based drift forecast system - Sea Track - for simulation and prediction of oil spill drift forecasting and other hazardous substances and in search and rescue operations. Oil spill drift forecast models can be used as an initial forecasting tool for marine pollution accidents or other marine incidents, where drift forecasts are of the utmost importance.

As we were informed, Estonia was selected as the first Baltic State for the implementation of the Swedish oil spill drift forecasting model and results achieved on testing the model were good.

There is also an interest to establish cooperation with Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (SMHI) and to ask for financial support from Swedish Government for the Swedish - Lithuanian project on Implementation of oil drift forecast models for oil spills in the framework of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

By ratifying the 1992 Convention in the February 1997 Lithuania will implement relevant measures in the whole catchment area in order to prevent and eliminate pollution because a major part of the pollution load is transported by rivers to the Baltic Sea.

The load of these rivers is caused by discharge from point and diffuse source within these river basins (Table).

The biggest direct municipal discharges to the Baltic Sea are treated only mechanically. At the same time several small settlements are discharging to the sea without any treatment. The main part of the organic matter load to the Baltic Sea is discharged from Lithuania via the River Nemunas. Due to the fact that the part of the River Nemunas drainage basin belong to Russia and to Ukraine the load to the sea should be divided accordingly.

The direct industrial load from Lithuania is comparably small. Only two industries one oil refinery and oil terminal are discharging waste water to the sea. Lithuania discharges only 0.4 million m<sup>3</sup>/a untreated municipal waste water directly to the Baltic Sea.

In 1989-1990 all Contracting Parties (seven at that time) established and developed Action Programmes or adequate strategies aiming at the reduction targets of the 1989 Ministerial Declaration. Some Contracting Parties introduced new political mechanisms and instruments, other just revised or adjusted their policy background. After 1991 appropriate Action Programme aimed at the targets of the 1988 Declaration, was developed and adopted in Lithuania.

During 1991-1995 a significant number of the municipal waste water treatment plants are under construction or reconstruction and a lot of old ineffective industries were closed or modified. In Lithuania the pollution load from different "hot spots" point sources during 1991-1995 was reduced by 30—75%.

Pollution load in 1995 t/a entering

- from Lithuania
- Baltic Proper

## Statement by Mr. Lauri Vaarja

Director General of Fisheries Department, Ministry of Environment, Estonia

Mr. Chairman, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

My Minister, Honourable Mr. Villie Reiljan sends his apologies for not being able to attend the GLOBE/ACOPS Meeting in Stockholm. He asked me to attend the Conference and deliver his best regards to participants.

It is the great honour for Estonia to be invited and I think that our contribution to the Conference has first of all been very attentive listening to participants. In such a way I am sure we saved a lot of time for others to speak. However, now when things are starting to fall into place it is perhaps the last time to have some say in the matter.

Mr. Chairman,

Among the seven threats to the seas listed by Honourable John Prescott overfishing was placed fourth.

How to avoid it?

From the Opening Address by the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament, Mrs. Birgitta Dahl, we well remember the main conclusion and the main recommendation of the UN High Level Advisory Board; the years of analysis are basically over. Now is the time for action. Then, what to undertake with overfishing? The answer might and should be: just to follow the main principles laid down by the internationally adopted World fisheries policies and conventions. There are some most important ones which are strictly being followed in Estonia:

- no further direct or indirect subsidies by state to the fisheries sector. We do not do this;
- fishing rights must be payable. This principle is strongly followed by legal acts and real practice; and
- before use of small pelagics, sprat and herring – small pelagics of the Baltic Sea are foundation of the Estonian fishing industry and are fully utilised for human consumption. No fish for industrial reduction.

I believe these principles are not easy to follow. However, I call you to give these principles much more consideration. And finally, I would like to reiterate once again that fisheries in Estonia is responsibility for the Ministry of Environment and I must say that such kind of institutional build-up has proved itself in the most positive way especially when we are considering issues related to the integrated approaches to the environment and fisheries.

Mr. Chairman. That is all that I have got to say. But allow me to take this opportunity to thank Swedish Authorities and personally you Mr. Chairman for the assistance given to Estonia on building up her own national fisheries administration. This assistance was of great importance and was given in right time. We appreciate it very much.



**Mr. Eugeniusz Morawski**

Minister for Transport and Maritime Economy, Poland

It is *expressis verbis* stated in Polish law that both social and economical growth must proceed in accordance with the principles of sustainable development. And, despite difficulties connected among others with the shortage of funds and insufficient public awareness and understanding of linkages between the social/economical welfare and the environment, a large effort is being made to form proper foundations for sustainable development.

With respect to the sea and coastal areas, Poland has ratified, or is in the process of ratifying, of all the basic international conventions concerning the marine and coastal environment and sea transport. It may be worth mentioning that the solutions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea have already been fully incorporated into Polish law, especially in the Acts of Parliament on Marine Areas of Poland and on Marine Administration, on Prevention of Pollution of the Sea From Ships, on Sea Fishery, the Marine Code, the new Water Law, the new Environmental Law and in other related Acts or Regulations, and are strictly enforced. On the basis of the Sea Fishery Act the fishing volumes are under control in accordance with international rules.

It is considered that basic for the achievement of the long term goal of sustainable development is the installation of an appropriate legal and organisational framework, which would allow an integrated management of natural resources and sectoral development. Since sustainable development is long term, and requires planning and management over large areas it should be coordinated/managed by a state agency. In result of discussions, in which coastal regional authorities, local communities and NGOs were involved, the state's maritime administration has been selected to become the lead organisation in the process. This of course means that the maritime administration, i.e. the Directors of the Maritime Offices and the Minister of Transport and Maritime Economy, must be provided with appropriate competence, rights and duties.

According to Polish law, introduced in 1991 by the Act on Marine Areas of Poland and the Maritime Administration within Polish territory, the territorial competence of the maritime administration includes the territorial sea, the area of the internal marine waters (which include the Vistula Lagoon, Szczecin Lagoon, a part of the Gulf of Gdansk, and port water areas), and on the coast - the technical belt and the protective zone. These last two areas may require some explanation.

The technical belt is a strip of land extending along the whole Polish coastline except port areas, which regardless of ownership is set aside for the maintenance of a proper state of safety and environment. Its width varies from abt. 100 m in heavily urbanised areas to even 1000 m in some locations. The protective zone is located landwards of the technical belt, its width varies between 1 km and over 5 km depending especially on natural conditions, and its objective is to protect the technical belt. This means that within the protective zone the types, methods and intensity of uses have to be carefully controlled. Within the technical belt only activities to maintaining safety of the hinterland and a proper state of environment, and public use of the beaches, are allowed. Taken together, this solution is very much in accord with international agreements and recommendations concerning the coastal zone prepared under the auspices of the United Nations, Helsinki Commission, EU, OECD, VASAB 2010, etc.

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n accordance with the present state of Polish law, the range of competence of the maritime administration (apart of typical obligations concerning safety of navigation, Port Control, seamens' qualifications etc.) and of other local and governmental organs of administration is as follows:

- The area of the territorial sea and of internal marine waters: the maritime administration is fully competent in terms of space and issues, with the exception of water use permits, which however must obtain agreement of the territorially appropriate Director of Maritime Office, and of permits for exploitation of the resources of the sea bottom, but these have to obtain agreement of the Minister of Transport and Maritime Economy. Water use permits are issued by the Voivods. This does not correspond to the territorial competence of the voivods, which ends at the water line and does not extend to the sea. Permits for exploitation of resources of the sea bottom are issued by the Minister of Environment, Natural Resources and Forestry. According to a recent amendment of the Act on Regional Planning maritime administration issues also decisions on conditions of building and development in the marine area.
- The area of the technical belt: maritime administration is responsible for programming and realisation of coastal protection and protection of environment, also issues permits for all types of land use except water use permits. Local land use plans must obtain agreement of maritime administration. Water use permits are issued by other administrations but agreement of the appropriate Maritime Office must be obtained. On all permits, issued by the maritime administration, opinion of relevant local selfgovernment administration is expected. Basing on the new Act "Construction Law" of 1994, the responsibility for issuing permits for construction in this belt has been delegated by the coastal Voivods to the Directors of Maritime Offices. Nevertheless, this is a curtailment of the competence, and especially of the position, of maritime administration in comparison with the regulation in the earlier Act "On Marine Areas..." which directly empowered the maritime administration to perform the role of Special Maritime Construction Supervision, and therefore to issue relevant permits. This curtailment seems to go against the global trend to integrate management.
- The area of the protective belt: water use permits and decisions in matters of construction and changes in land use, also development and realisation of land use plans, though issued or made/realised by appropriate "land" authorities, require approval of appropriate maritime office with respect to any development/activity which may have undue influence on the technical strip and/or marine area.

It results that the maritime administration has evolved from a state administration primarily concerned with the safety of navigation and coastal defence towards a state agency responsible for the management of the sea and of the coastal area, keeping a keen eye especially on the long term aspects of development in these areas.

In November 1996 a workshop on Integrated Coastal Zone Management was organised in Poland as a result of long term cooperation between the Dutch Rijkswaterstaat and the Polish maritime administration. The workshop was attended by about 100 representatives of other concerned ministries, coastal voivodships, local communities, NGOs and research. Besides of having an important awareness raising effect, the workshop resulted in a recommendation on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in Poland adopted by all the participants. In 1997, after obtaining additionally the support of the Association of Coastal Cities and Communities for the concept, three ICZM Regional Consultative Groups were established along the coast, and had their first meetings in late Spring. These ICZM Groups collect empowered representatives of the maritime administration, coastal voivodships and groups of coastal local selfgovernment units, and are a forum to discuss issues basic for the management of the coastal and marine area, and to arrive at solutions which will be

implemented at the various involved levels of governance. The Maritime Offices provide the necessary organisational support and coordination for the ICZM Groups.

It is planned that in the future, since the sea and also the coast dislikes any discontinuities, periodical meetings of all three ICZM Groups will be organised to resolve common problems, basically requiring actions of the central government, and to exchange experiences.

As it has been indicated, physical boundaries in the seas and oceans very seldom coincide with the various administrative/political boundaries established over these areas. Without international cooperation and international agreements concerning the sea areas and their coastal zones achieving sustainable development in these areas is impossible. In this context we fully support the ideas of the Potomac Declaration and the Baltic 21 concept. We also consider that crucial to the realisation of the objectives of Baltic 21 will be the proper development of ICZM in national, and maybe also in the international regional scale, as the basic tool/instrument for realising sustainable development in the area.

## **Mr. Vladimir Goman**

Chairman of the Committee of the North State Duma, Russian Federation

Increased quantities of radioactive waste generated by various civilian and military activities in many countries are currently a matter of serious concern in terms of global security of the World Ocean, notably for the Arctic nations.

Problems related to radioactive waste treatment and disposal definitely call for extra efforts by the international community to complement the existing national and intergovernmental programmes.

Based on these, Mr. Curt Weldon, a member of the House of Representatives of the US Congress, and myself, Chairman of the Committee on Northern Affairs of the Russian Federation State Duma, signed in February 1997 a joint declaration on cooperation with a view to developing an international Advanced Technology Research Project for Nuclear Waste and convening a forum on the subject.

The Goman-Weldon Declaration notes that this initiative is designed to promote the sharing and propagation of advanced technologies for processing, storing and dumping nuclear waste and recycling technologies in line with present-day scientific, political and financial realities.

The initiative is meant to bring together leading politicians and other important personalities all over the world to evaluate and discuss politically, financially and socially acceptable solutions to problems related to the risks and dangers inherent in the treatment of military and civilian nuclear waste. It is an open-ended initiative and representatives from other countries who are concerned with the issue are welcome to join.

The purpose of the programme is exploring solutions and assessing the current status and costs of existing and prospective technologies for intermediate and long-term treatment (including storage and processing) of solid and liquid radioactive waste and contaminated soils and precipitation.

Criteria for such evaluation will include, among other things:

- comparison and certification of existing and prospective technologies for nuclear waste storage;
- evaluation of long-term reliability of units and processes in safety terms; and
- evaluation of non-scientific aspects of proposed solutions, including community support

A key point in implementing the ATRP programme would be the establishment of an international non-governmental institution with a view to:

- forming and coordinating a horizontal information flow to minimize research duplication as much as is reasonably possible and thereby reduce the costs of nuclear waste recycling; and

- presenting the most up-to-date information to all countries concerned regarding the more efficient and cost-effective technologies available on the world market and certified by the ATRP.

The Declaration also notes the need for regular forums on nuclear waste, with the first such forum to be held in Moscow in 1998.

In April 1997, the State Duma of the Russian Federation held a joint meeting of several State Duma committees, originally proposed by the Committee on Northern Affairs and attended by representatives from the Atomic Energy Ministry, the Navy, the State Committee on Natural Resources, the State Committee on Northern Affairs, the Russian Academy of Sciences and other institutions concerned, to discuss the ATRP initiative and the critical situation regarding the proper disposal of decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines.

On June 4, 1997, the State Duma voted unanimously for a resolution on the subject, instructing the State Duma Committee on Northern Affairs to "take part in developing a non-governmental international research and technological programme to attract additional financial and material resources for nuclear waste recycling; to consider holding in the Russian Federation an international forum on radioactive waste recycling with a view to developing a programme for Cooperation in scientific research into, and evaluation and selection of, the more effective and environmentally friendly technologies for radioactive waste recycling and the construction and equipment of facilities for treating such waste".

The State Duma Resolution of June 4, 1997 also recommends that the Russian Federation Government should:

- take measures to encourage more active international Cooperation in the proper disposal of decommissioned nuclear-powered submarines and radioactive waste recycling via intergovernmental agreements, among other things; and
- secure the full implementation of existing international agreements in this sphere, including unimpeded delivery of appropriate equipment supplied by international partners for radioactive waste recycling purposes as a means of technological assistance to Russian entities involved in this work.

We have done the following along the lines of implementing the State Duma resolution:

- support has been received from the Atomic Energy Ministry and the Defence Ministry (including the Russian Federation Navy);
- a task force has been set up at the Committee on Northern Affairs and a team of experts formed (including, among others, Academicians Sarkisov and Bolshov, Prof. Shelest, Ponomarev, Lystsov, Arutyunian and Makeyev);
- a lead institute has been identified to spearhead the ATRP on the Russian side, viz. the Institute for Problems of Safe Development of Nuclear Power Engineering of the Russian Academy of Sciences;
- support has been received from the regions concerned (Arkhangelsk, Murmansk etc.); and

- ATRP has received tentative political and industry support from Norway, Denmark, Germany, Switzerland and Japan.

A resolution has been submitted to the US Senate at the initiative of its Appropriations Committee (Committee Chairman Senator Stevens) concerning the launching and implementation of the ATRP. The draft resolution, backed by key members of the Senate committees on the armed services, commerce and foreign relations, notes, among other things, that the US Senate deems it necessary to recommend to the US President to authorize the Departments of Energy and Defence, the State Department and the Environmental Protection Agency to review the ATRP proposals and submit to the US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources their respective views on:

- support for the ATRP as an international project to evaluate and exchange information on effective technologies with respect to radioactive waste; and
- identifying sources of financing, including private sources, for ATRP operation as an international non-governmental non-profit organization.

We are hoping for early adoption of this resolution by the US Senate.

Curt Weldon, Chairman of the Research and Development Subcommittee of the House Committee on National Security, has advised us of his intention to submit a similar resolution to the House of Representatives of the US Congress.

ATRP-related work is currently underway at the University of Alaska (Fairbanks) and Texas A & M University which will take the lead in the project on behalf of the US (Prof. Michael Champ, Ted DeLaca, Admiral Brad Mooney etc.).

They have compiled a package of documents on the ATRP structure and format which can be examined at the section's secretariat. Thus, as a first step towards ATRP implementation, work has begun on establishing an Internet database on radioactive waste treatment technologies with an eye on facilitating a commercially viable transfer of such technologies to interested users. A number of corporations, including NAGRA (Switzerland) and STM (Germany), have already confirmed their participation in this ATRP sub-programme.

Agreement has been reached with Pergamon-Elsevier Publishers on producing a regular ATRP bulletin.

We believe the ATRP NW can serve as a meaning complement to the existing agreements and initiatives related to radioactive waste treatment.

In broader terms, we expect the ATRP to be strictly in line with the principles of the Potomac Declaration, "Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium", specifically its Paragraph 8 stressing the need to convert to civilian applications (notably enhanced environmental protection) those national systems which used to serve military purposes. Paragraph 8 also calls for a review and partial declassification of the relevant database and information so that they are applied in diagnosing the health of the environment and expanding our knowledge.

In this context, we believe that it would be appropriate for the Stockholm ACOPS Conference to acknowledge and support efforts to promote the ATRP project.

## Statements at the Western Indian Ocean Panel

### Statement by Mr. Jeremie Bonnelame

Minister for Foreign Affairs, Seychelles

Mr. Chairman

May I first of all take this opportunity to express my great pleasure at being here in Stockholm, and at participating in this very important conference.

As a newly appointed Vice-President of ACOPS, I have been most impressed by the organisation and high level of the deliberations over the three days of this Conference.

As you have heard already, the discussions in the Indian Ocean Working Group were frank and thought provoking, and covered a wide range of issues.

As many of you are aware, we have always attached great emphasis to the environment, with many positive results, and also place great importance on regional cooperation in the management of the resources of ocean and coastal areas.

Indeed, we currently host both the Regional Coordinating Unit of the Nairobi Convention, and the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission.

And in 1996 Seychelles hosted and co-organised with ACOPS, a Workshop to Promote the Sustainable Development of Tourism in Eastern and Southern Africa. We also participate actively in a number of other regional programmes, including an important Regional Environment Programme being implemented by the Indian Ocean Commission.

It was therefore encouraging to note the high degree of consensus that emerged in our Working Group, concerning the necessity of improving the effectiveness of coordination and cooperation at the regional level, both between countries of the region, and between the donor and other agencies that are assisting with the implementation of the various programmes and action plans.

In this connection, the recognition of the need for inter-regional cooperation in Africa, and for African countries to set the Agenda for action based on their own concerns and priorities, is of great significance.

And in this regard, South Africa clearly has an important role to play, given its geographic position on the Indian, Atlantic and Antarctic Oceans.

It is therefore, most appropriate that the Government of South Africa will, with the assistance of ACOPS, host a Conference on Inter-Regional Cooperation between Eastern, Southern and Western African Countries on the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment, in December 1998 in Cape Town.

The initiative being undertaken by the Government of Mozambique, in hosting a Conference on Sub-Saharan Ocean and Coastal Zone Management in June this year, also deserves support.

It is to be hoped that these important initiatives will result in concrete actions that will serve to improve the implementation of existing programmes, and also contribute towards enhancing the effectiveness of the Nairobi and Abidjan Conventions.

In conclusion, it is evident that many countries in our region understand that a concern for the environment and its long-term sustainability is not a luxury that can only be afforded by the developed countries of the North.

Indeed, given the limited resources of many developing countries, the conservation and preservation of the environment is even more critical to our economic and food security. These issues are well documented in the Potomac Declaration.

At the same time, it is widely understood that individual countries cannot guarantee the security of their natural environment, as this can only be achieved by cooperating with other countries at the regional and sub-regional levels. That is particularly true of the ocean and coastal environment.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.



## **Statement by Dr. Bernardo Ferraz**

Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Mozambique

Mr. Chairman, Hon. Ministers, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is our great honour to participate in this important conference which deals with such an important subject to humanity and our planet, that is the ocean.

As you might know, Mozambique is a coastal state, with about 2700 km of coastline, with considerable potential for fisheries, tourism and aquaculture. More than two thirds of the population lives in the coastal zone. One of the reasons behind the concentration of the population in these areas is, as pointed out in this meeting, the ease of access to food, employment facilities and security. Most of the infrastructures, such as large cities, tourism, industry, commerce and harbours are located in coastal zones. Thus, the average population density in the coastal area is about 120 people per square kilometre, against an overall population density of 20 people per square kilometre. This population gains their living from marine resources or with it related. Fisheries and coastal tourism are the main sources of income for our country and represents more than 50% of foreign income.

Despite the recognition of the importance that fisheries and coastal tourism play in the Mozambican economy, these resources are under threat. The major concern issues are related to over-exploitation of resources and to the destruction of the environment.

Major causes of the over-exploitation of resources are associated to poverty, the demographic expansion and a higher profit demand. Alleviation of poverty associated to the increase in population often induces an ever-increasing harvest of resources beyond sustainability.

Destruction of the environment is due to both human effect and to the environment itself. Human effect includes the disposal of pollution and the use of inadequate harvesting techniques.

The environment in turn can be very hostile, as for example: long term droughts, hurricanes and cyclones, and phenomena like El-Niño, which are often associated with the massive destruction of the environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

One of the major priorities of the Mozambican government is to revitalise our economy and alleviate the poverty without decreasing national capital stocks. This implies that the development strategy to be adopted should be harmonised with ecologically sound management. This should involve multi-disciplinary and inter-sectional coordination. In this respect, the Mozambican government has initiated a 5-year integrated coastal zone management programme.

Considering Mozambique does not live in isolation, thus we share the environment and its resources with neighbouring countries, management of our coastal zone should be integrated in an overall regional effort.

In conclusion, we would like to strengthen the idea of regional cooperation particularly in respect of the African conferences being organised by Mozambique and South Africa, during this year. From the resulting discussions, we hope a base for integrated coastal management would be established in our region.

**Statement by Mr. Cheikh Cissokho**  
President of the National Assembly, and ACOPS' Vice-President

Mr Cheikh Cissokho, the President of the National Assembly of Senegal and Vice-President of ACOPS from the West and Central African region, sends his deep apologies for not being able to be with you today due to his parliamentary duties in Dakar. However, he has asked me to read the following statement on his behalf:

- The Government of Senegal attaches the highest importance to the protection of environment. Indeed, I have had the honour of chairing the desertification committee of African Standing Ministerial Conference on Environment for many years. Senegal took a most active part in the development of the Abidjan Convention on the Protection of the West and Central African marine environment and also played host to the Euro-African ministerial conference on marine environment, which was held in 1988 – at the time when the European Commissioner for Environment was Lord Clinton-Davis, the previous Chairman of ACOPS.
- I do not propose, however, to list here achievements in terms of international agreements signed and ratified. It is only fair that we should admit that there has been a serious discrepancy between the apparent agreement of the international community to act, and the continuous deterioration of the state of the marine environment. I can only endorse the words of one of our keynote speakers, Her Royal Highness, Prof. Dr. Princess Chulabhorn of Thailand, another of ACOPS' Vice-Presidents, as coastal erosion and the resulting creeping desertification are one of the most serious environmental problems affecting Senegal.
- We are neither assembled to utter platitudes nor to commiserate, but rather to show a way forward. I would therefore like to make the following observations and suggestions:
  - In Africa, and Western and Central Africa in particular, we have had a most unfortunate legacy of political and military conflict. This situation has not only drained our economic resources, but when coupled with natural environmental pressures, such as drought in the sub-Saharan Africa, it exacerbates the environmental situation. This has led to the phenomenon of environmental migrants, alluded to in papers presented to this conference by Dr. Laurence Mee and our Rapporteur, Ms Paula Caballero. I can only agree with my brother, the Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism of South Africa, Peter Mokaba, also a Vice-President of ACOPS, that if African leaders are to address the environmental issues in a constructive manner, we need the support of the broad masses. In order to achieve this goal, we need to demonstrate that environmental protection is not only a politically correct crusade against development. On the contrary, we need to prove that environmental protection and adequate fisheries management can help development. We must further prove that economic prosperity will also serve as a powerful focus to prevent environmental flash-points from exploding into military conflicts, as was pointed out in the paper to this conference from our Director, Viktor Sebek. Africa is tired of conflict: it craves for peace and it falls upon us, political leaders, to pave the way. It is for this reason that the Government of Senegal will give its full support for the concept of economic, environmental and food security as a vehicle for combating pollution and the continuing degradation of coastal and marine environment. I congratulate ACOPS and Congressman Curt Weldon for their vision in beginning the political process in Washington. However, like all global processes, effective implementation can only be achieved at the regional and national level.

- I wholeheartedly support the initiative of my brother, Peter Mokaba, and ACOPS, of organising a meeting of representatives of West and Central African and Eastern African countries with a view to strengthening interregional cooperation in the field of protection of coastal and marine environment in sub-Saharan Africa. I have pledged to my South African colleagues and ACOPS that I shall gladly coordinate the participation of a large group of francophone countries in Western, Central and Eastern Africa. It is a fact that much remains to be desired in ensuring a proper coordination amongst anglophone, lusophone and francophone Africa. I certainly intend to be in Cape Town on 30 November, when the South African Government and ACOPS will inaugurate the conference of sub-Saharan countries. Perhaps I could just sum up some of the expectations that we have from this process:

1. The countries in this large region should pledge to exchange experiences. It has already been pointed out that south-south cooperation is sorely inadequate.
2. We should compile the existing knowledge of the health of oceans around Africa, and this task will be undertaken by Minister Bernardo Ferraz at his Maputo Conference later this year.
3. We should give wholehearted support to the elaboration of the principle of ocean security, linking economic, defence, transport, fisheries and environmental sectors. There is sound economic benefit to be derived from strengthening environmental protection: in my country alone, we are anxious to promote tourism as a major foreign currency earner, and this is not possible if undue pressure is placed on our unique coastal and marine environment.
4. Just as it is not in the interest of African countries to have huge political pressure and unrest due to poor urban planning and sanitation, especially in large cities, it is also not in the interest of the international community as a whole to have environmental flashpoints exploding. We therefore make a firm plea to the international donor community, both bilateral and multilateral to honour the commitments made at UNCED. In particular, we ask the international donor community to coordinate its policies, rather than compete. You will also know of our distaste for linking aid and trade.
5. Last, but not the least, whilst Senegal firmly supports the work of relevant United Nations agencies in this field, and also the ongoing Lome negotiations with the Commission of the European Union, we believe that much of their processes are inevitably slackened by the fact that they are all huge bureaucracies. It is for this reason that responsible non-governmental organisations, such as ACOPS, have a very important role to play as catalysts. In Africa, ACOPS delivers through high level political leaders, such as my brothers Jeremie Bonnelame, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Seychelles, Peter Mokaba and myself. There is a great deal to be done in Africa and I am confident that by the time the ACOPS' Cape Town Conference assembles in November, we shall be able to show that many of the general concepts developed at the meetings in Washington and here in Stockholm, will be translated in to practice.

## **Statement by Mr. Peter Mokaba**

Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, South Africa

Mr. Chairman, Honourable Ministers, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives of International Organisation, Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of my country, the Western Indian and Sub-Saharan regions, and in my capacity as Vice-President of ACOPS, I would like to extend warm greetings and sincere gratitude to the Government of Sweden and its citizens. We thank Sweden for being an excellent champion of the environment and the oceans, and for demonstrating this by hosting this particular Conference, in a building as august as their country's parliamentary buildings.

ACOPS' choice of Sweden as a host country is most appropriate. This country and its neighbours have, in recent times, scored commendable successes on the most difficult projects of cleaning the Baltic Sea and in dealing with the effects of the Chernobyl disaster that occurred in the former Soviet Union.

The theme of this Conference – *Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium* – is also most apposite. Among other things, it assists us to concentrate the energies of our nations towards achieving the objectives that we set for ourselves in the context of the United Nations system when we declared 1998 as the International Year of the Oceans.

### **ACOPS/South Africa Government Conference**

At the close of this year (30 November – 4 December), in Cape Town, South Africa, ACOPS will have the opportunity to celebrate the outcomes of the programme of action that we will be setting out together at this Conference. The ACOPS/South Africa Government Conference is itself billed as South Africa's contribution to the above-mentioned UN initiative.

Focusing on the issues of the protection of the marine environment, poverty and development, the envisaged conference will contribute to the ongoing efforts towards finding some of the solutions with regard to the problems emanating from the marginalisation of Africa in the era of globalisation. In this regard, the ACOPS/South Africa Government Conference will facilitate the positive and meaningful engagement of Africa not only with itself but also with its southern and northern neighbours on common issues of sustainable development.

### **The 1997 May Washington ACOPS' Conference**

In Washington we adopted a very important framework for action towards enhanced ocean security. The Potomac Declaration sets out the basis of our movement forward in the direction of economic, environmental and food security in the context of the prevailing conditions of world peace and cooperation, which have now opened the possibility for the hitherto classified military, social and scientific research information, to be made available and shared for the purposes of environmental management and the well-being of all people.

### **The Aims and Objectives of the Potomac Declaration**

The Potomac Declaration urges countries to adopt policies and measures that:

- promote sustainable development and integration of environmental considerations in economic and social sectors that adversely affect the marine environment and resources;

- promote integrated coastal and watershed areas management geared towards conservation of biological diversity in marine and coastal ecosystems;
- promote improved access to data, technology and scientific research hitherto unavailable to environmental management;
- promote improved international cooperation for the protection of the marine environment and sustainable use of marine resources;
- encourage the pursuit of inter-disciplinary studies towards achieving a better understanding of the root causes of environmental degradation and change;
- promote the preservation of the availability and health of world fisheries;
- promote environmental awareness and ethics;
- facilitate mitigation and help for adaptation against the negative effects of global change; and
- promote good governance.

This Conference is charged with the responsibility of producing an effective action plan for the implementation of these objectives in a way that guarantees success.

### **Historical Reasons for the Failures of International Agreements**

A cursory investigation reveals that factors that have led to the failures of the international agreements are all to be found in the area of implementation. These factors are many and varied. In general, we have found that among such factors are included:

- lack of political will;
- lack of capacity;
- lack of funds;
- lack of commitment;
- lack of technology;
- the North-South political divide; and
- conflict of national priorities, impacting on labour, industry and the economy.

As we turn to look into the implementation of the Potomac Declaration in the Western Indian Ocean region, our approach should seek to address the above-mentioned weaknesses.

In working towards such a model of implementation, I have drawn heavily from the proposals that we presented to the ACOPS' Washington conference.

### **The Context of Implementing the Potomac Declaration in the Western Indian Ocean Region**

#### **The Western Indian Ocean Region Today**

Virtually all the littoral states of the Indian Ocean are developing countries and, as such, are concerned with many common problems of development.

This gives the area a particular character. The increasing focus of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), and the G77 on development issues and South-South cooperation, creates further opportunities for the region to share their concerns and aspirations in a wider context.

A number of organisations and programmes that might be relevant to the implementation of the Potomac Declaration are operating in the region. Other developments are afoot that would be important to the implementation of the Potomac Declaration. Among these are the following developments:

- first, the existence of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission which was formed in 1996 for the regulation of catches and protection of tuna in the Indian Ocean;
- the second development comprises of the fact that at the end of this year South Africa will be taking over the Chair of the NAM. This will further strengthen economic and political cooperation of the region with the other 112 member nations of the NAM. These various commitments of South Africa in the international arena will help to simulate discussion in the expansion and benefits of South-South cooperation across a broad spectrum;
- the third point for consideration is that all countries of the Western Indian Ocean region belong to UNCTAD and one of them, namely South Africa, is the current President of UNCTAD IX until the year 2000;
- the fourth important development is the reality of the unfolding process of Renaissance that is currently sweeping the continent of Africa. It is a development that is currently engaging the energies and minds of all African countries and will soon shape Africa's relationships with the rest of the world; and
- the fifth is a programme developed under the auspices of the United Nations and the SIDA/SAREC Marine Programme for management of marine environments.

In terms of this programme the Conference of Plenipotentiaries in the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region was convened by the Executive Director of UNEP. The conference met at the headquarters of UNEP in Nairobi, Kenya, from 17 to 21 June 1985. Resulting from its deliberations, the conference adopted the following action plan and legal agreements:

- to adopt an Action Plan for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African region;
- to adopt a Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African region;
- to work on and adopt a Protocol concerning Protected Areas and Wild Fauna and Flora in the Eastern African Region; and
- to adopt a Protocol concerning Cooperation in Combating Marine Pollution in Cases of Emergency in the Eastern African Region.

The Government of the Republic of Kenya was designated as the Depository for the Convention and resultant Protocols. The Agreement designates UNEP as responsible for the secretariat functions of the Action Plan, Conventions and Protocols.

The convention is a comprehensive, umbrella agreement for the protection, management and development of the marine and coastal environment. It lists the sources of pollution that require control as:

- pollution from ships;
- dumping;
- land-based sources;
- seabed activities; and
- airborne pollution.

It also identifies environmental management issues for which there should be cooperative efforts. Some of these issues are:

- specially protected areas;
- cases of emergency;
- environmental damage from engineering activities;
- environmental impact assessment; and
- scientific and technical cooperation.

By ratifying a protocol, a party accepts more specific obligations to control pollution from a discrete source, or to cooperate in a specific aspect of environmental management. Under this Convention, no state or regional intergovernmental integration organisation may become a Contracting Party to the Convention without also becoming a Party to at least one Protocol. The Agreement foresees that additional protocols may be developed in the future.

This Convention, known as the Nairobi Convention, came into force on 30 May 1996. This was some 13 years after the first country had ratified it. This coming into force of the Convention has led the way for the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) based in the Seychelles. The Parties are hopeful that this Convention will now receive the necessary attention that it so richly deserves.

I believe that, among others, this may be a useful tool for ensuring the implementation of the Potomac Declaration.

At the last Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Nairobi Convention in 1996, delegates agreed that the time for the updating of the Convention and the East African Action Plan had come.

It is, of course, always possible to have other international agreements, such as the Western Indian Ocean Fisheries Management Organisation now being explored for the Atlantic Ocean.

The sixth initiative that I would like to briefly mention, is the recent formation of the Secretariat for Eastern African Coastal Area Management (SEACAM), which was launched early in August 1997 in Maputo, Mozambique. Eastern African countries requested the establishment of the Secretariat to accelerate the implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in the region as put forth in the Arusha Resolution of 1993 and the Seychelles Statement of 1996 on ICZM. SEACAM's objective is to assist the Eastern African coastal countries to implement and coordinate coastal management activities in the region, following up on the Arusha Resolution and the Seychelles Statement on ICZM.

Participants at the Seychelles Conference in November 1996 noted that since the 1993 Arusha Conference there had been no significant progress. They also noted that many coastal management activities were being developed. Progress has been slow in several important areas. The participating countries identified two issues that would have to be addressed for the Region to accomplish large-scale coastal zone management. These were:

- the need for better coordination and collaboration between agencies/stakeholders nationally and between countries regionally; and
- the need for a more systematic exchange of experiences showing and evaluating successes, failures and lessons learned.

Meeting these critical needs was the main purpose of the creation of a Secretariat.

It is clear that SEACAM has an extremely important role to play to kick-start several coastal management initiatives that the countries require, and it has come at a crucial time. Together with the RCU for the Nairobi Convention we hope that they will put the Eastern African countries and the Island States of the region firmly on track towards sustainability as we approach the next millennium.

However, SEACAM, the RCU and others will not succeed if not given the correct support. While human and financial support is obviously important, most important is political support.

The seventh point of consideration comprises the initiatives in the Indian Ocean Rim, such as the recently established Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC). This is a very important development that we should appreciate in the context of a global tendency towards the establishment of regional groupings.

The twin processes of liberalisation and globalisation, which manifested themselves after the end of the Cold War and gained momentum towards the end of the Uruguay Round of negotiations in the context of the World Trade Organisation, gave rise to the expressed need on the part of a number of countries in the region for closer links and cooperation in intra-regional trade.

For many centuries the strategic importance of the Indian Ocean has been a constant factor for major powers. The routes that cross it remain important links with the emerging markets of Asia and the oil resources of the Middle East. For these reasons the British, French and US navies still maintain a presence in the Ocean.

At present, approximately 5 million tonnes of westbound oil cargoes per month are transported around the Cape. International shipping lines handle most trade in the Indian Ocean. Few of these ships operate under the flags of the littoral states. This matter is currently being addressed in the context of South-South cooperation and based on regional cost structures. Entrepot services regarding container handling are still very much underdeveloped.

At present, the IOR-ARC primarily aims at maximising existing trade and other economic opportunities in the region and researching possibilities for cooperation.

Countries that are participating in this particular regional cooperation are: Australia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Oman, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Yemen.



Planned membership expansion will in future include East Africa, the Arabian Gulf States, the Indian sub-continent, Southeast Asia and Western Australia and other countries of Southern Africa. It will also include the Indian Ocean Islands, including the relatively small markets of Madagascar, Seychelles, Comoros, Mauritius, Reunion Islands and Maldives.

### **Strengths of the Region concerning the Implementation of the Potomac Declaration**

The region comprises of predominantly English-speaking countries with historical and cultural ties, ethnic links, transport connections and existing trading links, with a vast potential to expand.

The existence of significant Portuguese and French-speaking countries in the region, is an additional advantage, which adds the strength of diversity. The majority of the countries are also Commonwealth members.

Other important characteristics are:

- **Population:** The IOR, inclusive of all potential members, has a population of 1.6 billion people – 30% of the total world population. Before the current financial crises the total GDP of the IOR was US\$ 1 trillion with South and Southeast Asia growing annually at rates well in excess of 5%. The crises have lead to revised future economic growth. The economic fundamentals in these countries' economies still hold. The possibilities, therefore, exist that they will steadily but surely recover in the foreseeable future;
- **Varying levels of development:** High growth countries of Southeast Asia, India, the newly industrialising giant, oil-rich Gulf States, and the less developed East African economies;
- **broad ranging export opportunities** are available;
- **Technology transfer:** many of these countries have developed particular expertise in certain areas such as mining, power generation, transport management, environmental protection, manufacturing, health care and agriculture. The possibility for technical cooperation between countries is enormous;
- **Joint research projects:** Some countries have their institutions involved in agriculture, urban development, environment, health care, mining, etc., and will doubtlessly benefit from developing in a different kind of region, a basis for research and technical cooperation;
- **Investments:** Both intra-regional investment and enhanced investment from outside are actively being encouraged, particularly with the current wave of financial crises affecting most of the newly industrialising countries of the region;
- **Services:** Concerned services companies of the fast growing economies of the region are able to offer financing of trade, and assist with channelling and brokering funds; and
- **Strategic:** South Africa is well placed geographically to link Western Europe, South America and the Indian Ocean regions and to become a major maritime presence in the Indian Ocean and the South Atlantic.

Overall the South Atlantic and the Western Indian Oceans could become important instruments for the enhancement of South-South and South-North cooperation and the implementation of important international agreements such as the Potomac Declaration.

## **Small Island States**

It is essential in the development of implementation strategy for the Potomac Declaration to take full cognisance of the fact that the region is also home to a number of Small Island States. In themselves, these Small Island States can be regarded as large ecological systems, integral to large marine systems. The majority of the Small Island States depend mainly on tourism and fishing which in turn depend on the health of the Indian Ocean. Like many of their littoral neighbours in the Indian Ocean rim, the Small Island States are developing countries. The majority of their problems are also very much similar to all other developing countries as described above.

The context described above is not exhaustive. However, various points could be made. Chief among these is the fact that indeed too many organisations, programmes and action plans have been adopted in this region. Indications are that many are still to follow.

Flowing from these constraints and opportunities, the Western Indian Ocean region stands a better chance of realising a quick and effective implementation of the Potomac Declaration. We propose that the following should be the basis that constitute the Potomac Declaration Plan of Action concerning this region.

## **Economic Security**

From a sustainable development point of view, the region's economic security would be better enhanced if problems generated by among others, high tanker traffic, the use of European standards and accreditation, underdevelopment of management of seaports, maritime transport and insurance re-insurance systems, was addressed.

In this regard, the Potomac Declaration should seek to integrate its perspective into the following programme of action, which has already been agreed on in the context of the IOR-ARC:

- Standards and Accreditation (South Africa is involved);
- Business Centre and IORNET (India);
- Investment Facilitation and Promotion (India);
- Chair in Indian Ocean Studies and Associate Fellows (in Mauritius, coordinated by India);
- Trade Promotion Programme (India);
- Developing, Upgrading, and Management of Seaports, Maritime Transport, Insurance and Re-insurance (South Africa is coordinating);
- Human Resource Development;
- Working Towards Complementarity;
- Tourism Promotion and Development; and
- Science and Technology Enhancement (South Africa is coordinating).

There is a need for a programme for the development of free ports as a measure to enhance the region's economic security.

## **Environmental Security**

A cursory study of countries of the region as well as the Western Indian Ocean indicates a number of environmental problems generated by anthropogenic activity that could constitute a threat to environmental security. These problems include:

- pollution through dumping at sea;
- some countries report on the pollution and contamination through direct discharge of untreated sewerage into the ocean;
- sea pollution by oil spillage from the current high tanker traffic. Most of the tankers using Indian Ocean waters have exceeded their full life expectancy of 20 years. The prospects are that any accident involving these vessels would lead to a certain major environmental disaster which will detrimentally affect in particular the small island Indian Ocean countries and the poorer members of the rim;
- sea pollution as a result of dumping of highly toxic waste is compounded by the danger posed by nuclear-powered ships and ships carrying nuclear waste; and
- depletion of renewable maritime resources.

Although the above are major problems, we should not lose sight of the fact that research has shown that 70% of ocean pollution results from land-based sources.

We recommend that the following could be among the measures that could be considered concerning the development of the action plan towards environmental security in this region:

In terms of this action plan, ACOPS in the region needs to:

- encourage countries to grant and guarantee the rights of ownership and access of the indigenous people to their environmental resources;
- encourage and help countries to integrate international conventions and agreements regarding environmental protection and conservation in the national policies and laws of the individual national states;
- help countries to adopt best practice in integrated environmental management;
- help countries to adopt policies and measures towards integrated pollution control, waste and coastal management as well as the management of large marine ecosystems;
- help countries to adopt policies and measures which embrace the precautionary principles in environmental management;
- strengthen and expand existing predictive capacity and preparedness to deal with environmental disasters that could not be avoided; and
- help countries to adopt policies and measures towards the improvement of the implementation of sustainable development principles.

## Food Security

Under current arrangements, attention is being given to more efficient and comprehensive search and rescue operations as well as coastal zone protection and management.

Certain island groups in the Southern Indian Ocean have valuable fishing grounds associated with them. Because of their remoteness a serious problem of illegal fishing is being experienced – a symptom of the extent to which global fish resources are under pressure. Around the South African islands of the Prince Edward Group extensive poaching is being experienced.

Climate change is a real danger and will have dire consequences for this region. Maize production, which is the main staple food for the majority of the people on the African continent, is seriously threatened by envisaged increases in temperatures, floods and other consequences. The resultant warming-up of the seas will lead to rising sea levels. These will definitely destroy many marine ecosystems and related food chains. As a consequence, the decimation of fish stocks will seriously threaten food security.

In this regard, the implementation of the Potomac Declaration should seek to:

- help countries to adopt policies and measures that embrace international cooperative effort, through the Convention on the Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) organisation;
- help countries participating in the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission, formed in 1996 for the regulation of catches and protection of tuna, to adopt policies and measures that achieve the objectives of the principle of sustainable utilisation;
- foster cooperation among countries of the region towards the development and adoption of a Fisheries Protocol to prevent overfishing and overcapitalisation in the fishing industry; and
- foster regional cooperation towards the development and implementation of institutional, legal and management systems in each country to deal with recurrent natural disasters such as rising sea temperature and red tides.

## Research and Defence

The way in which the weather and tropical cyclone forecast system for the Indian Ocean currently operate is a good example of a well functioning global effort that provides a vital service, unobtrusively on a daily basis. The countries involved include South Africa (for the South Western Indian Ocean), Mauritius, France, and the Netherlands, as well as the INMARSAT service and recently the Russian GOMS 1 satellite. An International Indian Ocean Drifting Buoy Programme involving India, South Africa, Australia, USA and France is being developed for the provision of meteorological and oceanographic data.

It is important to note that the Indian Ocean is the only ocean in the world where the navies of countries not littoral to that ocean, that is the USA, France and the UK, have a stronger military presence than that of the littoral countries themselves. We have to ask ourselves what this implies and how this situation could be used to the benefit of the region. This heavy military presence is the legacy of colonial and Cold War situations. The end of the Cold War and the ascendancy of the politics of regionalism, peace and dialogue, provide a framework within which these factors could be turned around to play a positive role in the economic, environmental, food, research and defence securities and capabilities of the region.

A more detailed programme of action could include the following:

- many Indian Ocean countries have varying naval capabilities. ACOPS should facilitate negotiations for the development of a framework for cooperation that includes the USA, British and French Navies already in the area. This is both urgent and necessary if the above securities are to become a reality;
- countries of the region should be encouraged to accede with deliberate speed to the United Nations Convention on Law of the Seas (UNCLOS);
- ACOPS should facilitate and bring about a review of UNCLOS itself to ensure sufficient empowerment of the region's countries to enforce their maritime zones and give the necessary protection and compensation against pollution;
- the naval bodies as mentioned above should work towards an agreement of cooperation around issues such as:
  - naval training;
  - mutual assistance;
  - information sharing;
  - disaster management;
  - hydrographic cooperation;
  - the development of a common disaster management system;
  - the development of integrated coastal management systems; and
  - cooperation in research;
- mechanisms for common research and development and the sharing of data and information need to be improved; and
- defence forces to be enabled to participate in defence of both countries' and regions resources.

The Potomac Declaration could indeed be implemented in the Western Indian Ocean region. However, there are currently simply too many programmes and organisations operating in this region. Because these programmes and associations are not integrated and coordinated, their multiplicity has led to a great deal of fragmentation, which has prevented most, if not all, to have any meaningful impact at national or regional or even global level.

Many initiatives have been donor driven and not determined by national priorities and policy objectives. Lack of coordination, competition and self-interest has compounded the problem of fragmentation and resulted in wastage of limited resources.

The success of the implementation of the Potomac Declaration in the Western Indian Ocean region will hinge on its ability to make itself indigenous to the region. It will also depend on its ability to integrate with current agreements, environmental, marine and coastal management systems that are in place at national, regional and global levels.

The problems as identified in the Potomac Declaration are not new. What is new are the circumstances in which we now have to deal with them. The following define these new circumstances:

- the end of the Cold War;
- the era of globalisation and liberalisation;
- the ascendancy of partnerships and cooperation in international affairs around issues of development;
- the new-found importance of regional cooperation as a means of development;
- an explosion in humanitarian aid and the changing character of international aid from donor-client dependency relationship towards interactive and mutually reinforcing partnerships;
- the increasing conflict around natural resources and the fast emerging phenomena such as increasing frequency of extreme environmental conditions and problems, for example the advent of environmental refugees;
- the movement towards the reinvention of the state and government everywhere to enable them to effectively participate in the efforts to attain the goal of sustainable development nationally, regionally and globally; and
- the increasing recognition of democracy as a factor of production and therefore a means and goal of development.

The Potomac Declaration is therefore not a new additional burden. It is a call for us to do our work in a new efficient and effective way in conditions where we can achieve our goals and the things that make for our development, social progress and peace. It simply enjoins us to pursue and achieve our objectives in a “**smart**” way.

This means that the objective we set for ourselves should be:

**Specific;**  
**Measurable;**  
**Achievable;**  
**Relevant; and**  
**Timebound.**

Therefore, the programme of action that we have advanced above should begin with, among other things, the following steps:

- we should conduct an audit of existing agreements, convention programmes and multilateral, bilateral organisations in the region;
- an audit of donors already engaged in the region should also be conducted;
- an analysis and review of the facts as collated by these audits with the view to better coordination, rationalisation, integration, organisation and management;
- we should conduct an audit of countries that have formulated policy frameworks of international obligations and could root themselves for consistent action;
- there is also a need to overcome negative implications of a Western Indian Ocean grouping such as:

- the vast distances between countries;
- stereotypes about one another;
- political agendas that some countries would like to pursue within an agreement;
- conflict of interest between states, for example India and Pakistan;
- a perceived threat to existing organisations and associations to which countries in the region already belong; and
- divisions between the sub-regions.

### Conclusion

Our recommendation for the Western Indian Ocean region is that any implementation process of the Potomac Declaration should engage and involve the organisations of the regional cooperation that exists in the region. Among others are the Organisation of African Unity and its regional chapters, IOC-ARC, SEACAM etc.

For this region our theme is *Ocean Security for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction in our Lifetime*.

The Potomac Declaration and the programme of action that we are developing here today will, therefore, not lead to the establishment of new organisations and programmes. On the contrary, it should assist the region to manage the environment and ocean in a more efficient and mission driven manner than has been the case before.

### **Statement by Prof. Nizar Tawfiq**

President of the Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA), and Secretary-General of the Programme for the Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), Saudi Arabia

I would like to extend my best wishes to all participants of the Stockholm Conference "Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium". I do so as the President of the Meteorological Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) of Saudi Arabia, as the Secretary General of the Programme for the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA) and as the recently elected ACOPS' Vice-President from the Arab region.

Saudi Arabia has every reason to promote the concept of environmental protection through the framework of ocean security, having suffered severe pollution in the Gulf as a result of the recent hostilities in the region. Moreover, sunken vessels, also a consequence of hostilities in the Gulf, continue to present a serious environmental risk.

It is for this reason that my Government, together with ACOPS and a series of intergovernmental agencies, such as UNDP, the World Bank and UNEP, organised a conference in Jeddah in 1995 on inter-regional cooperation between the Gulf countries and those bordering the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The countries of those two regions have agreed to continue promoting inter-regional cooperation on a regular basis. I shall look forward to receiving the Stockholm Conference recommendations with a view to preparing the follow-up of the Jeddah Conference.

Having studied the background papers for the Stockholm Conference, I can but express my full agreement with the following tentative recommendations:

- Eradication of poverty, one of the principal root causes of environmental degradation, remains a priority. We too have experienced the consequences of environmental migrants, and are fully committed to addressing this important issue.
- Enhancement of shipping security is also an issue of the greatest importance to all countries in the region in view of oil transportation from the Gulf and the PERSGA regions.
- Inter-regional cooperation within the framework of south-south cooperation should be promoted.
- There should be a better cooperation amongst the donor community, and there should be no ties between aid and trade.
- Linkage between trade and environment requires a close study.

In conclusion, the Government of Saudi Arabia attaches the highest importance to the work of the relevant United Nations agencies and will continue to participate actively in them. However, I wish to add that non-governmental organisations can also play an important role. As a Vice-President of ACOPS from the Arab region, I shall ensure that countries on both the African and the Asian seaboard of the Red Sea and the Gulf can benefit from the catalytic role of this organisation, its political leaders and its advisory boards of leading technical experts.



# APPENDIX I

## AGENDA

Saturday, 31 January 1998

### Towards Ocean Security: The 1995 Approach

08.00 - 10.00

#### PLENARY SESSION

Chairman:

Prof. Per Wamner, Director General of the Swedish National Board of Fisheries, and ACOPS Chairman

Reporteur:

Ms. Paula Canelero, Director, Interiores, and Member of ACOPS Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy

09.00 - 09.15

#### Closing

## APPENDIX I

## AGENDA

Enhanced Ocean Security: Major Contribution to Sustainable Development

• Ms. Birgitta Ohlsson, Member of the Parliament, Sweden

09.15 - 09.25

#### Keynote Addresses

Towards Ocean Security: The Year of the Oceans, 1995

• Mr. Robin Teverson, Member of the European Parliament, and Member of the GLOBE International Working Group on Oceans

Towards Ocean Security: The Work of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans

• Dr. Miro Soares, Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and Former President of Portugal

09.30 - 10.00

#### Keynote Presentation

Towards Enhanced Economic, Environmental and Food Security of the Oceans into the Third Millennium: Presentation of the Rotterdam Declaration

• Congressman Curt Weldon, Chairman, Sub-Committee of Research and Development of the Committee on National Security, House of Representatives, Congress of the USA, ACOPS Vice-President, and Chairman of the GLOBE International Working Group on Oceans

## Statement by Prof. Nizar Tawfiq

President of the Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA) and Secretary-General of the Programme for the Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSCA), Saudi Arabia

I would like to extend my best wishes to all participants of the Stockholm Conference "Towards Enhanced Ocean Security into the Third Millennium", led by the President of the Meteorological Environmental Protection Agency (MEPA) of Saudi Arabia, as the Secretary General of the Programme for the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSCA) and as the recently elected ACOFS Vice-President from the Arab region.

Saudi Arabia has every reason to promote the concept of environmental protection through the framework of ocean security, having suffered severe pollution in the Gulf as a result of the recent hostilities in the region. Moreover, sunken vessels, also a consequence of hostilities in the Gulf, continue to present a serious environmental risk.

It is for this reason that my Government, together with ACOFS and a series of intergovernmental agencies, such as UNDP, the World Bank and UNEP, organised a conference in Jeddah in 1995 on inter-regional cooperation between the Gulf countries and those bordering the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. The countries of those two regions have agreed to continue promoting inter-regional cooperation on a regular basis. I shall be forward to receiving the recommendations with a view to preparing the follow-up of the Jeddah Conference.

Having studied the background papers for the Stockholm Conference, I can but express my full agreement with the framework and recommendations.

- Eradication of poverty, one of the principal root causes of environmental degradation, remains a priority. We too have experienced the consequences of environmental migrants, and are fully committed to addressing this significant issue.
- Enhancement of shipping security is also an issue of the greatest importance to countries in the region in view of oil transportation from the Gulf and the PERSCA regions.
- Inter-regional cooperation within the framework of south-south cooperation should be promoted.
- There should be a better cooperation amongst the donor community, and there should be no lag between aid and trade.
- Linkage between trade and environment requires a close study.

In conclusion, the Government of Saudi Arabia attaches the highest importance to the role of the relevant United Nations agencies and will continue to participate actively in them. However, I wish to add that non-governmental organisations can also play an important role. As a Vice-President of ACOFS from the Arab region, I shall ensure that countries on the African and the Asian seaboard of the Red Sea and the Gulf can benefit from the catalytic role of this organisation, its political leaders and its advisory boards of technical experts.

# APPENDIX I

## AGENDA

Saturday, 31 January 1998

### Towards Ocean Security: the Global Approach

09.00 – 10.00

#### PLENARY SESSION

Chairman:

Prof. Per Wramner, Director-General of the Swedish National Board of Fisheries, and ACOPS' Chairman

Rapporteur:

Ms. Paula Caballero, Director, Internexos, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy

09.00 – 09.15

#### Opening Statement

Enhanced Ocean Security: a Major Contribution to Sustainable Development

- ❖ Ms. Birgitta Dahl, Speaker of the Parliament, Sweden

09.15 – 09.35

#### Keynote Addresses

Towards Ocean Security: The Year of the Oceans, 1998

- ❖ Mr. Robin Teverson, Member of the European Parliament, and Member of the GLOBE International Working Group on Oceans

Towards Ocean Security: The Work of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans

- ❖ Dr. Mário Soares, Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and Former President of Portugal

09.35 – 10.00

#### Keynote Presentation

Towards Enhanced Economic, Environmental and Food Security of the Oceans into the Third Millennium: Presentation of the Potomac Declaration

- ❖ Congressman Curt Weldon, Chairman, Sub-Committee of Research and Development of the Committee on National Security, House of Representatives, Congress of the USA, ACOPS' Vice-President, and Chairman of the GLOBE International Working Group on Oceans

## 10.00 – 12.30 WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

### Implementation of the Potomac Declaration at the Global Level

Working Group A: The Role of Science

- Chairman: Dr. Bruce Molnia, Office of the Chief Geologist, US Geological Survey, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention (replacing for Prof. Erik Arrhenius due to illness)
- Rapporteur: Dr. Michael Bewers, Head, Marine Chemistry Division, Bedford Institute of Oceanography, Canada, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention
- 10.00 – 10.10 Scientific Research on the Oceans  
❖ Dr. Ljubomir Jeftic, Chairman of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention
- 10.10 – 10.20 Marine Data Gathering and Observation Systems  
❖ Dr. Michael Bewers
- 10.20 – 10.30 Enhanced Mitigation and Adaptation Capability in Developing Countries from Impacts of Climate Change in Coastal Zones  
❖ Dr. Jilan Su, Director, Second Institute of Oceanography, State Oceanic Administration, China, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management
- 10.30 – 10.40 Utilisation of Military Data for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development  
❖ Mr. Robert Edson, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Environmental Security, USA, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention
- 10.40 – 10.50 Public and Environmental Awareness, and Education  
❖ Mr. John Waugh, Senior Programme Officer, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Washington Office, USA, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy
- 10.50 – 11.00 Global Oceans Research: the Role of IOC of UNESCO  
❖ Prof. Gunnar Kullenberg, Secretary of IOC of UNESCO
- 11.00 – 11.10 Marine Biotoxins and Harmful Algal Blooms: A Growing Threat to Seafood Safety and Coastal Development  
❖ Dr. Donald Anderson, Senior Scientist, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, USA
- 11.10 – 11.20 Global International Water Assessment (GIWA)  
❖ Dr. John Pernetta, Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Environment Programme, GEF Coordination Unit, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management, and  
❖ Dr. Laurence Mee, Coordinator, GEF/UNDP Black Sea Environmental Programme, and Chairman of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy

- 11.20 – 12.30 Working Group Discussion  
Moderator: Dr. Bruce Molnia, Office of the Chief Geologist, US Geological Survey, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention
- Working Group B: Integrated Management of the Oceans
- Chairman: Dr. Stephen Lintner, Principal Environmental Specialist, Land, Water and Natural Habitats, World Bank, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy
- Rapporteur: Dr. Stjepan Keckes, Member of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy
- 10.00 – 10.10 Sustainable Development, Poverty, Wasteful Consumption and Ocean Security  
❖ Dr. Laurence Mee
- 10.10 – 10.20 Management of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems  
❖ Mr. Geoffrey Holland, Chairman, IOC of UNESCO, and Chairman of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management
- 10.20 – 10.30 From Root Causes to Root Linkages: Towards Integrative Policy Recommendations for Ocean and Coastal Security into the Third Millennium  
❖ Ms. Paula Caballero
- 10.30 – 10.40 Sustainable Fisheries Management  
❖ Dr. Armin Lindquist, Former Assistant Secretary-General of the UN, and Head of FAO's Department of Fisheries
- 10.40 – 10.50 Governance – Involvement of all Sectors of Society  
❖ Mr. John Karau, Chief, Marine Environment Division, Environment Canada
- 10.50 – 11.00 International Cooperation: The Myth and Reality  
❖ Dr. Viktor Sebek, Executive Director, ACOPS
- 11.00 – 11.10 Cleaner Production as a Contribution to Economic and Environmental Security - A Strategy for Managing Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution  
❖ Mr. Jonathan Hobbs, Coordinator, Cleaner Production Programme, UNEP/Industry & Environment
- 11.10 – 11.20 Maritime Safety  
❖ Mr. Trygve Meyer, Director, INTERTANKO, and ACOPS' Vice-Chairman

11.20 - 11.30 Prospective Security Measures for the Control of Marine Pollution in Portugal

- ❖ Mr. Rui Manuel Godinho, Deputy Mayor of Lisbon, and ACOPS' Vice-President, Portugal

11.30 - 12.30 Working Group Discussion  
Moderator: Sir Hugh Rossi, ACOPS' Vice-President, United Kingdom

14.30 – 17.00 PLENARY SESSION

Chairman: Prof. Per Wramner  
Rapporteur: Ms. Paula Caballero

Implementation of the Potomac Declaration:  
Action to Promote Ocean Security at the Global Level

14.30 – 15.30 Presentation of Draft Proposals for Actions to Promote Ocean Security at the Global Level

Towards Ocean Security: The Role of Science

- ❖ Prof. Erik Arrhenius and Dr. Michael Bewers

Towards Ocean Security: Integrated Management of Oceans

- ❖ Dr. Stephen Lintner and Dr. Stjepan Keckes

15.30 – 17.00 Comments on the Draft Proposals

Sunday, 1 February 1998

Towards Ocean Security: the Regional Approach

09.00 – 9.30 PLENARY SESSION

Chairman: Prof. Per Wramner  
Rapporteur: Ms. Paula Caballero

09.00 – 09.15 Lessons Learned from the Ministerial Intermediate Meeting in Bergen on Environment and Fisheries in the North Sea

- ❖ Mr. Ulf Svensson, Assistant Under-Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Sweden, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy

09.15 – 09.30

Conservation of Ocean Biodiversity – Implementation of the Jakarta Mandate

- ❖ Dr. Calestous Juma, Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity
- ❖ Mr. Jorge Illueca, Assistant Executive Director, UNEP

09.30 – 12.30 WORKING GROUP SESSIONS

Implementation of the Potomac Declaration at the Regional Level

Working Group C: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Baltic Sea

Chairman: Dr. Svante Bodin, Assistant Under-Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Sweden

Rapporteur: Dr. Ellen Hey, Senior Lecturer, Erasmus University, the Netherlands, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy

09.30 – 10.10

Economic, Environmental and Food Security Issues in the Baltic Sea

- ❖ Dr. Tapani Kohonen, Executive Secretary, Baltic Marine Environment Commission/Helsinki Commission (HELCOM); and
- ❖ Dr. Göran A. Persson, Executive Director, Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research (MISTRA)

10.10 – 10.40

Analysis of the Potomac Declaration in the Baltic Sea of the Russian Federation

- ❖ Admiral Igor Kasatonov, First Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Russian Navy, Chairman of Section No. 2 on Sea and Ocean Studies in the Russian Federation Committee on Science and Technology, and ACOPS' Russian Vice-President; and
- ❖ Prof. Vladimir Tetelmin, Deputy Chairman, Committee on Ecology of the State Duma, Russian Federation, and Coordinator of ACOPS' Russian Programme

10.40 – 11.10

Analysis of the Potomac Declaration from the National Perspective

- ❖ Estonia (Mr. Lauri Vaarja, Director-General, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Environment);
- ❖ Latvia (Mr. Normunds Riekstins, Director, National Board of Fisheries);
- ❖ Lithuania (Mr. Imantas Lazdinis, Minister for Environmental Protection); and
- ❖ Poland (Dr. Maria Dragun-Gertner, Adviser to the Minister for Transport and Maritime Economy)

11.10 - 12.30

Working Group Discussion

Moderator: Mr. Thierry Chambolle, Senior Vice-President of Lyonnaise des Eaux, and ACOPS' Vice-President, France

Working Group D: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Arctic Seas

Chairman: Mr. Leo Larsen, Deputy Director-General, Danish Environmental Protection Agency, Ministry of Environment and Energy

Rapporteur: Prof. Vitaly Lystsov, Head of Division, Kurchatov Institute, Russian Federation, Chairman of ACOPS' Arctic Working Group, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Pollution Control and Prevention

09.30 – 10.00

Economic, Environmental and Food Security Issues in the Arctic Seas

- ❖ Mr. Christopher Cuddy, Chief, Water Resources Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Canada

10.00 – 11.00 National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Arctic Region of the Russian Federation from Land-based Activities (NPA-Arctic)  
❖ Prof. Vitaly Lystsov and Dr. Ljubomir Jeftic

11.00 – 12.30 Working Group Discussion  
Moderator: Mr. Thomas Laughlin, Deputy Director, Office of International Affairs, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA

Working Group E: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Western Indian Ocean

Chairman: Mr. Terry Jones, Director, Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Seychelles, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Oceans and Coastal Areas Management and Policy

Rapporteur: Dr. Peter Cook, Chairman of IOC, Ocean Science in Relation to Non-living Resources, Australia, and Member of ACOPS' Advisory Board on Marine Natural Resources Management

09.30 – 10.45 Analysis of the Potomac Declaration in the Western Indian Ocean  
❖ Mr. Peter Mokaba, Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Republic of South Africa, and ACOPS' Vice-President;  
❖ Mr. Jeremie Bonnelame, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Republic of the Seychelles, and ACOPS' Vice-President; and  
❖ Dr. Bernardo Ferraz, Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs, Mozambique

10.45 – 12.30 Working Group Discussion  
Moderator: Mr. Manuel Rodriguez, Director, Programme for the Foundation of Educational Sustainable Development and Environment (FES), Former Minister for Environment, and ACOPS' Vice-President, Colombia

14.30 – 17.00 PLENARY SESSION

Chairman: Prof. Per Wramner  
Rapporteur: Ms. Paula Caballero

Implementation of the Potomac Declaration:  
Action to Promote Ocean Security at the Regional Level

14.30 – 15.15 Presentation and Comments on Draft Proposals for Actions to Promote Ocean Security in the Baltic Sea  
❖ Dr. Svante Bodin and Dr. Ellen Hey

15.15 – 16.00 Presentation and Comments on Draft Proposals for Actions to Promote Ocean Security in the Arctic Seas  
❖ Mr. Leo Larsen and Prof. Vitaly Lystsov



16.00 – 16.45 Presentation and Comments on Draft Proposals for Actions to Promote Ocean Security in the Western Indian Ocean  
❖ Mr. Terry Jones and Dr. Peter Cook

16.45 – 17.00 Summing up by the Chairman

Monday, 2 February 1998

### MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

Chairman: The Rt. Hon. Lord Callaghan of Cardiff KG, ACOPS' President, and former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
Co-Chairman: Prof. Per Wramner  
Rapporteur: Ms. Paula Caballero

09.00 – 09.45 Opening Statements

- ❖ Mr. Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden
- ❖ Mr. John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Transport, Environment and the Regions, United Kingdom
- ❖ Her Royal Highness Prof. Dr. Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol, President, Chulabhorn Research Institute, Thailand, and ACOPS' Vice-President
- ❖ Dr. Mário Soares, Chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, and Former President of Portugal

09.45 – 11.15 Implementation of the Potomac Declaration: Action to Promote Ocean Security at the Global Level

Presentation of Draft Elements

- ❖ Dr. Viktor Sebek

Introductory Statement

- ❖ Ms. Annika Ahnberg, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Sweden

Comments by Panel: Canada (Hon. David Anderson, Minister for Fisheries and Oceans), Norway (Mr. Johannes M. Nakken, Deputy Minister for Fisheries), Portugal (Prof. José Mariano Gago, Minister for Science and Technology), United Kingdom (Mr. John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister), United States of America (Congressman Curt Weldon, Chairman, Sub-Committee of Research and Development of the Committee on National Security, House of Representatives, Congress of the USA)

11.15 – 13.00 Implementation of the Potomac Declaration: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Baltic Sea and Arctic Seas

Presentation of Draft Elements

- ❖ Dr. Svante Bodin and Mr. Leo Larsen

Introductory Statement

- ❖ Ms. Anna Lindh, Minister for Environment, Sweden

Comments by Panel: Canada (Ambassador Mary Simon, Ambassador for Circumpolar Affairs); Estonia\* (Mr. Villu Reiljan, Minister for Environment); Finland (Mr. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for Environment); Iceland (Mr. Gudmundur Bjarnason, Minister for Environment); Latvia\* (Mr. Andris Ravins, Minister for Agriculture); Lithuania (Mr. Imantas Lazdinis, Minister for the Environmental Protection); Russian Federation (Mr. Vladimir Goman, Chairman of the Committee of the North State Duma); (Mr. Vasili Desyatnikov, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources); and (Mr. Vitaly Sevastianov, President of GLOBE, Russian Federation, Member of the State Duma)

15.00 – 16.00

Implementation of the Potomac Declaration: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Western Indian Ocean

Presentation of Draft Elements

- ❖ Mr. Terry Jones

Introductory Statement

- ❖ Mr. Jeremie Bonnelame, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Seychelles

Comments by Panel: Mozambique (Dr. Bernardo Ferraz, Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs); Saudi Arabia (Prof. NizarTawfiq, President, Meteorology and Environmental Protection Administration (MEPA), and Secretary-General of the Programme for the Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA); Senegal (Mr. Cheikh Cissokho, President of the National Assembly, and ACOPS' Vice-President); South Africa (Mr. Peter Mokaba, Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism)

16.00 – 17.00

Endorsement of the Final Document

17.00 – 17.30

Closure of the Conference

\*Deputising for Estonian Minister: Mr. Lauri Vaarja, Director-General, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Environment; and

\*Deputising for Latvian Minister: Mr. Normunds Riekstins, Director, National Board of Fisheries

## APPENDIX B

### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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15.00 - 16.00

Implementation of the Polonus Declaration: Action to Promote Ocean Security in the Western Indian Ocean

Presentation of Draft Elements

◆ Mr. Terry Jones

Introductory Statement

◆ Ms. Aileen Williams, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Seychelles

Comments by Panel: Mozambique (Dr. Bernardo Ferraz, Minister for the Coordination of Environmental Affairs); Saudi Arabia (Prof. Administration (MEPA), and Secretary-General of the Programme for the Protection of the Environment of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden (PERSGA); Senegal (Mr. Cheikh Guehne, President of the National Assembly, and ACOPS Vice-President); South Africa (Mr. Pravin Mokaba, Deputy Minister for Environmental Affairs and Tourism)

16.00 - 17.00

Endorsement of the Final Document

17.00 - 17.30

Closure of the Conference

\*Deputising for Estonian Minister: Mr. Lauri Vaeja, Director-General, Fisheries Department, Ministry of Environment and

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## APPENDIX II

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## APPENDIX III

### LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACOPS	Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea
AEPS	Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy
AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
ATRP/AV	Advanced Technology Research Project for Nuclear Waste of the Pacific Ocean
BMS	Baltic Marine Strategy
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COMESA	Commonwealth of Independent States
COP	Conference of the Parties to United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
CORE	Convention on Certain Rights
CRI	Circulation Research Institute
CSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
CTE	Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organisation
ECOHAB	Ecology and Health of the Baltic
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMAS	Environmental Management and Audit Scheme
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (of the USA)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GIVVA	Global International Vessels Assessment
GLOBE	Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Environment from Land-based Activities
HABS	Harmful Algal Blooms
IBSPC	International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission
IBY	International Biodiversity Year
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICSPRO	Inter-Secretarial Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IWCO	Independent World Commission on the Oceans
LBA	Land-based Activities
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MISTRA	Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (of the USA)
NPA	National Programme of Action

## APPENDIX III

### LIST OF ACRONYMS

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### LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACOPS	Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea
AEPS	Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy
AMAP	Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme
ATRPNW	Advanced Technology Research Project for Nuclear Waste (of the Russian Federation)
BMB	Baltic Marine Biologists
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of the Parties (of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas)
CORE	Consortium on Ocean Research
CRI	Chulabhorn Research Institute
CSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
CTE	Committee on Trade and Environment (of the World Trade Organisation)
ECOHAB	Ecology and Oceanography of Harmful Algal Blooms
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EMAS	Eco-management and Audit Scheme
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency (of the USA)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GEF	Global Environment Facility (of the World Bank)
GIWA	Global International Waters Assessment
GLOBE	Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOOS	Global Ocean Observing System
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Environment from Land-based Activities
HABs	Harmful Algal Blooms
IBSFC	International Baltic Sea Fisheries Commission
IBY	International Biodiversity Year
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea
ICSPRO	Inter-Secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IMO	International Maritime Organisation
IOC	Indian Ocean Commission
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (of UNESCO)
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
IUCN	the World Conservation Union
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IWCO	Independent World Commission on the Oceans
LBA	Land-based Activities
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MISTRA	Swedish Foundation for Strategic Environmental Research
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (of the USA)
NPA	National Programme of Action

PACSICOM	Pan-African Conference on Sustainable Integrated Coastal Management
PAME	Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment Programme
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
RPA	Regional Programme of Action
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SCOR	Scientific Committee for Oceanic Research
SEI	Swedish Environment Institute
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WTO	World Trade Organisation

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