



**UN-Oceans' statement to the
Fifteenth meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on
Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

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Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli, Director,
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to provide you with a brief statement on UN-Oceans on behalf of its members, under agenda item 4 entitled "Inter-agency cooperation and coordination". We wish to recall that the revised terms of reference of UN-Oceans approved by the General Assembly last year in its resolution 68/70, provide for UN-Oceans reporting to the Informal Consultative Process, upon request by the General Assembly. Pending such a request, this statement aims at presenting a progress report on UN-Oceans' activities in line with the terms of reference of UN-Oceans which provide for reporting to ensure transparency and accountability. We wish to recall also that the revised terms of reference identified The United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), as focal point of UN-Oceans.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In order to fulfill the revised terms of reference on participation in UN-Oceans, and taking into account the existing membership of UN-Oceans at the time, an invitation dated 20 December 2013, was circulated to United Nations system organizations with competence in activities related to ocean and coastal areas which were not already members of UN-Oceans. As a result, to date, the current membership of UN-Oceans includes 22 United Nations entities and the International Seabed Authority. A complete list of the members of UN-Oceans is included as an annex to the hard copy of this statement.

In addition to three teleconferences on 13 December 2013, 9 April and 24 April 2014, UN-Oceans held face-to-face meetings under the revised terms of reference in New York, on 5 February and 27 May 2014.

At its first face-to-face meeting on 5 February 2014, which was held in the margins of the eighth meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, some members of UN-Oceans participated in the meeting through teleconference. In accordance with the revised terms of reference of UN-Oceans regarding the election of a Chair for each of its meetings, Mr. Julian Barbière of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO/IOC) was elected as Chair. The meeting discussed the implementation of the mandate of UN-Oceans under the revised terms of reference as well as the development of the UN-Oceans' work programme. The meeting agreed that it would work on the basis of the biennial work programme attached to the hard copy of this statement.

In order to facilitate the identification of possible areas for collaboration and synergies as mandated in the revised terms of reference, the meeting agreed that UN-Oceans would focus on the development of an inventory which will provide an overview of the mandates and activities of the members of UN-Oceans.

Furthermore, with a view to facilitating inter-agency information exchange on current and upcoming major events of relevance to many UN-Oceans members, the meeting decided to establish two ad hoc coordination teams. One team, jointly led by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Office of the High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS), focuses on the Third United Nations Conference on Small Islands Developing States, which will take place from 1 to 4 September 2014 in the Independent State of Samoa. Another team, led by DOALOS, focuses on World Oceans Day 2014.

The report of the February meeting is available on the website of UN-Oceans (www.unoceans.org). We wish to note that the UN-Oceans website, which is jointly maintained by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and DOALOS, is also undergoing some updates to bring it in line with the revised terms of reference and new membership.

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At its meeting on 27 May, which was held in the margins of this fifteenth meeting of the Informal Consultative Process, UN-Oceans elected Mr. Edgard Cabrera of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) as its Chair. In addition to sharing information on upcoming events and activities, which will be posted on the UN-Oceans website, the meeting further discussed the inventory of member organizations' mandates and activities for which work has progressed well. UN-Oceans has nearly completed the preparation of the inventory of mandates. It was agreed that work would now focus on adding information on activities and that, for such purpose, the inventory could be further refined, including with a view to making it more user-friendly, prior to being made available on the UN-Oceans' website.

UN-Oceans also heard updates from DESA on the 2014 SIDS Conference which theme is as follows: "The sustainable development of SIDS through genuine and durable partnerships". In this regard, DESA recalled that they had encouraged the UN-Oceans' members to submit in particular existing partnerships they would like to have highlighted on the Conference website. DESA informed the meeting that several UN-Oceans members had provided information on such partnerships. Furthermore, OHRLLS is organizing a Private Sector Partnerships Forum in collaboration with the Government of the Independent State of Samoa and the Samoa Chamber of Commerce from 30 to 31 August 2014. Information on the Conference can be found on the DESA website dedicated to the Conference (www.sids2014.org)

Similarly, DOALOS provided details on the organization of the 2014 World Oceans Day, details of which can be found on the DOALOS website (www.un.org/Depts/los/wod/index.html). This year's celebrations on the theme, "Together let's ensure oceans can sustain us into the future", will be held on Monday, 9 June, which coincides with the first day of the twenty-fourth meeting of the Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. One of the major events of this year's World Oceans Day will consist of the organization of a photo contest around five themes, including a youth category, of any image of the ocean (above or below the surface). As in the past, members of UN-Oceans will also be organizing a number of events to celebrate World Oceans Day. Information on those events will be posted on the UN-Oceans' website.

The meeting also discussed continued updates and improvements to the UN-Oceans' website, as well as contributions from UN-Oceans members to the second part of the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea.

The importance of using the UN-Oceans mechanism, including its website, to share information was emphasized. In that regard, attention was also drawn to the UN-Atlas of the Oceans (www.oceansatlas.org), which is a web portal managed by FAO allowing UN-Oceans members to provide information relevant to the sustainable development of the oceans to a large audience.

The report of the meeting held on 27 May will be made available on the website of UN-Oceans as soon as practicable.

Before ending my remarks, DOALOS would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of UN-Oceans in particular for their inputs to the annual Secretary-General reports on oceans and the law of the sea including with regard to the topic of focus of this meeting of the Informal Consultative Process.

I thank you for your attention.

Annex I

Membership of UN-Oceans (as of May 2014)

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

International Maritime Organization (IMO)

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (UNESCO/IOC)

International Seabed Authority (ISA)

Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The United Nations Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea,
Office of Legal Affairs (OLA/DOALOS) - *UN-Oceans Focal point*

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

United Nations - Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED)

United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

United Nations - Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Office of the High Representative for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS)

United Nations University (UNU)

World Bank (WB)

World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

World Tourism Organisation (WTO)

UN-Oceans Work Programme

(1 January 2014 – 31 December 2015)

I. UN-Oceans mandate

1. UN-Oceans is an inter-agency mechanism that seeks to enhance the coordination, coherence and effectiveness of competent organizations of the United Nations system and the International Seabed Authority, within existing resources, in conformity with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the respective competences of each of its participating organizations and the mandates and priorities approved by their respective governing bodies.
2. Pursuant to its terms of reference,¹ UN-Oceans is mandated to:
 - (a) Strengthen and promote coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to ocean and coastal areas;
 - (b) Regularly share ongoing and planned activities of participating organizations within the framework of relevant United Nations and other mandates with a view to identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy;
 - (c) Facilitate, as appropriate, inputs by its participating organizations to the annual reports of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries to be submitted to the Secretariat;
 - (d) Facilitate inter-agency information exchange, including sharing of experiences, best practices, tools and methodologies and lessons learned in ocean-related matters.

II. Activities in 2014

A. Sharing of information on ongoing and planned activities of participating organizations within the framework of relevant United Nations and other mandates with a view to identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergy

1. Developing an online calendar of intergovernmental meetings, conferences and expert workshops related to oceans and coastal issues, and making this calendar available on the UN-Oceans website
2. Developing an inventory of the mandates and priorities approved by the respective governing bodies of UN-Oceans participating organizations with a view to identifying on-going and planned activities in respect of those mandates and priorities, and making this inventory available on the UN-Oceans website

¹ General Assembly resolution 68/70, Annex.

3. Sharing of information on planned events to mark World Oceans Day 2014 and World Oceans Day 2015 (8 June 2014 and 8 June 2015)
4. Sharing of information on planned activities in preparation for, and during, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing (1-4 September 2014, Apia, Samoa)
5. Sharing of information on activities in preparation for, and during, the comprehensive ten-year review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries (November 2014, Location TBC)
6. Sharing of information on any other developments of relevance to the work of UN-Oceans members (e.g. intergovernmental processes)

B. Strengthening and promotion of coordination and coherence of United Nations system activities related to ocean and coastal areas

1. Based on the inventory of mandates, priorities and on-going and planned activities, identification, by UN-Oceans members, of possible areas for collaboration and synergy
2. [add specific collaborative activities and synergies, including narratives, to be carried out jointly by UN-Oceans members in 2014-2015]
3. Organizing joint activities to mark World Oceans Day 2014 World Oceans Day 2015, where appropriate and feasible **[Coordination: DOALOS]**
4. Organizing joint activities in preparation for, and during, the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing (1-4 September 2014, Apia, Samoa) **[Coordination: DESA & OHRLLS]**
5. Organizing joint activities in preparation for, and during, the comprehensive ten-year review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries (November 2014, Location TBC) **[Coordination: OHRLLS]**

C. Facilitation of inputs by UN-Oceans participating organizations to the annual reports of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries

1. Contributing to the preparation of the annual report of the Secretary-General on the topics of focus of the meetings of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea **[Coordination: DOALOS]**
2. Contributing to the second part of the annual report of the Secretary-General on developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea during the period 31 August 2013 to 31 June 2014 and 31 August 2014 to 31 June 2015 **[Coordination: DOALOS]**

D. Facilitation of inter-agency information exchange, including sharing of experiences, best practices, tools and methodologies and lessons learned in ocean-related matters

1. Exchange of information and case studies on experiences, best practices, tools and methodologies and lessons learned *[on-going]*