



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization

Organisation  
des Nations Unies  
pour l'éducation,  
la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
науки и культуры

منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

## 35th session of the General Conference

### Ministerial Round Table on Oceans

Monday 12 (afternoon) and Tuesday 13 October 2009

UNESCO Headquarters – Room X

### The contribution of UNESCO to responsible ocean governance

#### Background document prepared by the Secretariat

Chairman: Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO

#### Opening Remarks:

- Mr Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General of UNESCO
- Mr Javier Armando Valladares, Chairman, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO
- Mr Siméon Anguelov, Chairman, Science Commission of the General Conference

#### Theme Session Format

There will be three consecutive Theme Sessions over the two days of the Round Table. Pre-registered Ministers (or high-level government representatives at equivalent level) of Member States will be entitled to participate in all three sessions of the Round Table.

Each session will be guided by one moderator. The sessions will be opened by interventions offered by a panel of two to three theme presenters, who will provide specific input on the particular topics of the session from a range of different perspectives.

For each theme, a limited number of Ministers have been invited to make a keynote intervention.

The Moderator will facilitate the discussion exchange of views by inviting interventions by participating Ministers and will manage time throughout the session.

The format seeks to elicit an open dialogue and exchange of views among participating Ministers on the subjects under discussion. Such a format might warrant setting a time limit to interventions.

The Moderator will provide an oral summary of the discussions at the end of each Theme session. Only Ministers (or high-level government representatives at equivalent level) should engage in the discussion.

Monday, 12 October, 2.30 p.m.-6 p.m.

**THEME 1: The role of science and the United Nations  
in providing governance for the ocean**

1. Moderator Introduction (10 minutes)
2. Theme Presentations (25 minutes) – (7 minutes maximum per presentation)
3. Keynote Speeches (45 minutes) – (7 minutes maximum per presentation)
4. Debate and Discussions (115 minutes)

*There will be a coffee break of 15 minutes at 4 p.m.*

**Description of Theme 1**

**An Overview**

*Ocean – the space it occupies*

The oceans are the ultimate global commons, providing essential ecological services that make life possible on our planet by generating oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, regulating climate and temperature, and providing resources and services to billions of people across the globe. The ocean is also a special international space whose larger fraction lies beyond national jurisdiction and where the United Nations system is called to play a direct role in building a law-based regime for the use of the oceans and their resources, specifically through the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

*Problems that occur in diminishing services and keeping order in the ocean*

Ocean science has in the last decades repeatedly highlighted the impacts of human activities on the marine environment, delivering accumulating evidence of degradation of marine ecosystems and a diminishing quality of service.

Yet the problems continue.

The recent piracy crisis has highlighted an important gap in ocean governance, despite the pioneering and successful efforts of the United Nations to promote a law-based regime for the use of the oceans and their resources. (UNCLOS, 1982).

Regulation of the high seas (trans-zonal fisheries) remains a major challenge. There is an increasing concern that many fishery practices are unsustainable and that global fisheries face a major crisis. Many special habitats are threatened by unsustainable uses, especially in the coastal environment. Mangroves, estuaries, coral reefs and seamounts harbouring hot spots of marine biodiversity are under threat. The illegal traffic of people, arms and drugs increases daily.

*Attempts to govern this space – calendar of events*

These worrying situations reflect the inadequacy of past and existing governance systems currently in place for managing the ocean and its resources. Ocean policies, generally sectorised and fragmented, lead to a patchwork of international treaties and regulations, often conflicting. There are today 589 international, multilateral and bilateral agreements on oceans. The calendar of

events in Annex 1 indicates the long and difficult haul that nations have engaged in, working with little success to create an equitable functional structure.

*The failure of governance today*

While UNCLOS operating under its own Conference of Parties provides an integrated legal framework on which to build sound and effective regulations regarding the different uses of the ocean, the institutional and technical support for the implementation of the Convention is provided by other United Nations specialized agencies and programmes operating under their own intergovernmental governance mechanisms.

Severe limitations do exist, especially in the monitoring and enforcement of regulations and in the context of a fundamental weakness of national and international institutions still being too compartmentalized in a sector-by-sector division of duties and responsibilities, thus leaving little room for integrated policy-making which addresses cross-cutting issues.

*A renewed coordinated attempt at informed ocean governance: the status today*

In 2002 governments at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) recommended the establishment by 2004 of a Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects.

This did not take place in the foreseen time frame.

In 2005 the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) to serve as the lead agencies to carry out a three-year start-up phase, in cooperation with all relevant United Nations agencies and programmes of the United Nations, to conduct an "Assessment of Assessments" (AoA). An independent group of experts examined the various existing marine assessments and, following the mandate given by the United Nations General Assembly, delivered a report that evaluated factors central to the quality of assessments, identified best practices, thematic/geographic/data gaps, scientific uncertainties, and research and capacity-building needs.

In August/September 2009, a special Working Group of UNGA considered the Report of the AoA and recommended a course of action regarding the regular process to the 64th session of UNGA. Through negotiations to be conducted in New York among permanent delegations, the General Assembly will have to agree on the final text for a resolution containing a mandate to be followed.

Hopefully, UNGA at its 64th session will launch the much delayed, but critically important first-ever Integrated Ocean Assessment in 2010-2011. Further delay continues raising the uncertainty of a carbon-saturating ocean responding at the same absorption levels as before.

***It is the express purpose of this Round Table on Ocean Governance to raise awareness on this issue and enrol high-level decision-makers to engage in informed advocacy on this account.***

*Key Issues expected to be addressed at the Round Table:*

UNGA has been the preferred forum to address ocean issues through an annual agenda item on Oceans and the Law of the Sea under the VIth Committee (Legal Committee) of UNGA.<sup>1</sup> The

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<sup>1</sup> The six main committees of the General Assembly are: the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee); Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee); Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee); Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee); Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee); and Sixth Committee (Legal Committee).

outcomes of this Ministerial Round Table will be important inputs to these discussions and negotiations.

*Some questions for consideration:*

- Are current arrangements to deal with ocean issues at the level of the General Assembly complete and satisfactory? Have alternatives been explored?
- Considering the failures of earlier attempts, what initiatives should we take to improve compliance with earlier agreements?
- Some Member States question the effectiveness of the open-ended informal consultative process<sup>2</sup> to discuss ocean matters. Therefore:
  - How could existing institutional arrangements be improved to provide better support to UNGA discussions and decision-making, requiring integrated policy-making to address cross-cutting issues?
  - How could aspects other than legal be adequately addressed at the level of the General Assembly, allowing high-level strategic policy-making that reverses current negative trends?
  - What kind of secretariat and reporting assistance would the General Assembly require?

*Strategic decision-making for issues of tomorrow:*

- Conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction;
- Carbon storage through ocean fertilization and sequestration;
- Considering the legal regime established in UNCLOS for the Area, how can we harmonize the protection of inventor and the global commons through IPR derived from research on open sea-bed organisms?

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<sup>2</sup> In 1999, the General Assembly decided to establish the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (the Consultative Process) in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly of developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea by considering the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced (resolution 54/33).

## Appendix 1

### *Ocean governance – Calendar of events*

**1972** – Since the contributions prepared by UNESCO for the 1972 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ocean sciences have played an overriding role in setting the stage for policy-making on the ocean. A series of assessments on the impact of land-based and marine pollution on the marine environment has been published under the auspices of a group of specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations that very early on established an independent group of scientists, GESAMP, to seek advice on these matters.

**1976** – The Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME), a programme of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, undertook periodic reviews on the issue of pollution in the oceans. The first report of an independent group of experts, "The Health of the Ocean", was published in 1976 by UNESCO (E. Goldberg, editor).

**1982** – The text of UNCLOS was adopted in 1982 in Montego Bay (Jamaica). After 60 nations had ratified the Convention, it entered into force on 16 November 1994. Since then, 15 years have passed, jurisprudence has been created by the functioning of the Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (Hamburg) and the practice of States has consolidated some of its precepts as common law.

**1982** – UNESCO publishes the "The Review of the Health of the Oceans" produced by the IMO/FAO/UNESCO/WMO/WHO/IAEA/UN/UNEP Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (GESAMP) summarizing the state of marine pollution in the world's oceans.

**1991** – GESAMP, the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Pollution (IMO/FAO/UNESCO/WMO/WHO/IAEA/UN/UNEP) publishes *The State of the Marine Environment*, a comprehensive assessment of pollution in the world's oceans (GESAMP Reports and Studies, 39).

**1992** – The Rio Earth Summit of 1992 adopts Agenda 21, and its chapter 17 on the "Protection of the oceans, all kinds of seas, including enclosed and semi-enclosed seas and coastal areas and the protection, rational use and development of their living resources". The Rio Summit also resulted in the establishment of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which was signed by 150 Heads of State at the Summit and entered into force on 29 December 1993.

**1995** – Despite the effort to develop UNCLOS in areas where more detailed legal arrangements were needed (i.e. the Straddling Stocks Agreement; New York, 1995), a whole new set of international legal precepts and guidelines has been created by other conventions and agreements touching upon or offering different interpretations on some ocean issues: (CBD, Jakarta Mandate of Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity, FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities).

**1998** – *The Ocean, Our Future*, is published in six languages as the final report of three years of work by the Independent World Commission on the Oceans, chaired by Mário Soares, former President of Portugal. The report, together with the *Lisbon Declaration* adopted the same year, calls for a series of measurements to improve the existing governance framework for the oceans. The report was presented to the United Nations General Assembly.

**1999** – Following the recommendation of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and consistent with the legal framework provided by UNCLOS and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, the General Assembly decided on 24 November 1999 to establish *an open-ended informal consultative process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs and the law of the sea by*

*considering the Secretary-General's annual report on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it (resolution 54/33).*

**2001** – GESAMP, the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (IMO/FAO/UNESCO-IOC/WMO/WHO/IAEA/UN/UNEP) publishes *A Sea of Troubles*, its second report assessing the state of the global marine environment and recommending priorities for action (GESAMP Reports and Studies, 70).

**2002** – These alarming trends led the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 to agree to maintain the oceans under permanent review by establishing a regular process to conduct global and integrated assessments of the state of the ocean (Theme II, “The contribution of UNESCO to monitor the state of the Ocean and its ecological services: the United Nations regular process”).

**2002** – The United Nations General Assembly in 2002, through resolution 57/141: “*Decides to establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments (...)*” (para. 45).

**2005** – The General Assembly, by resolution 60/30, requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) to serve as the lead agencies to carry out a three year start-up phase, in cooperation with all relevant United Nations agencies and programmes of the United Nations, to conduct an “Assessment of Assessments”. This was done by an independent Group of Experts set up in 2006, that examined the various existing marine assessments, evaluating factors central to the quality of assessments, such as scientific credibility, policy relevance and legitimacy. The report also helped to identify best practices; thematic, geographic or data gaps; and scientific uncertainties, as well as research and capacity-building needs, particularly in the developing world.

**2009** – Following United Nations resolution 63/111 a special Working Group of the General Assembly met in New York from 31 August to 4 September 2009, to recommend to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a course of action regarding the regular process. The proposals emerging from this first phase included clear formulations of the overall objective, the products to be delivered in the first five years of the process, its functionality and funding. Whilst United Nations Member States have agreed in principle on the scope of the Regular Process, more discussions will take place at the United Nations General Assembly this autumn, hopefully leading to the launch of the first-ever Integrated Ocean Assessment in 2010–2011.

Tuesday, 13 October 9.30 a.m.-1 p.m.

**THEME 2: The contribution of UNESCO to monitor the state of the ocean  
and its ecological services: the United Nations Regular Process.**

- (1) Moderator Introduction (10 minutes)
- (2) Theme Presentations (25 minutes) (7 minutes maximum per presentation)
- (3) Keynote Speeches (45 minutes) (7 minutes maximum per presentation)
- (4) Debate and Discussions (115 minutes)

*There will be a coffee break of 15 minutes at 11 a.m.*

## **Description of Theme 2**

Since the contributions prepared by UNESCO for the 1972 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, ocean sciences have played an overriding role in setting up the stage for policy-making on the ocean. A series of assessments on the impact of land-based and marine pollution on the marine environment have been published under the auspices of several United Nations agencies and programmes.

Despite the central role oceans play in our lives, significant gaps exist in our understanding of the complex processes at work – both natural and caused by human intervention. From the role of oceans in the global climate system, the impact of climate change on the oceans, to the full dynamic of ocean circulation, the origin and fate of nutrients, carbon and other bio-active elements and molecules, and the large-scale changes affecting marine habitats, natural resources and the ecosystems under increased pressure from human activities.

That is why the status of ocean natural systems, responsible for key ecological services, need to be regularly monitored to establish a baseline upon which to compare changes and trends.

Underscoring some changes due to climate change, it can be mentioned that according to the Nobel-awarded Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 82% of the total additional energy accumulated in the planet due to global warming has already been taken by the ocean. It is fair then to say that the ocean has already spared us from dangerous climate change. But the ocean is also forced to absorb annually from the atmosphere 2.1 billion tons of man-made CO<sub>2</sub>. This is equivalent to saying that each day we dump into the ocean 25 million tons of Carbon. As a consequence the ocean is turning more acid, posing a huge threat to organisms with calcareous structures like coral reefs.

In view of these alarming trends, governments gathered at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) recommended establishing by 2004 a Regular Process for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including its socio-economic aspects. Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly in 2002, through resolution 57/141, decided “*to establish by 2004 a regular process under the United Nations for the global reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socio-economic aspects, both current and foreseeable, building on existing regional assessments [...]*” (paragraph 45).

In 2005 the General Assembly, by resolution 60/30, requested the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO) to serve as the lead agencies to carry out a three-year start-up phase, in cooperation with all relevant United Nations agencies and programmes of the United Nations, to conduct an “Assessment of Assessments”. This was done by an independent Group of Experts set up in 2006, that examined the various existing marine assessments, evaluating factors central to the quality of assessments, such as scientific credibility, policy relevance and legitimacy. The report also helped to identify best practices; thematic, geographic or data gaps; and scientific uncertainties, as well as research and capacity-building needs, particularly in the developing world.

Following United Nations resolution 63/111, a special Working Group of the General Assembly met in New York from 31 August to 4 September 2009, to recommend to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a course of action regarding the regular process. The proposals emerging from this first phase included clear formulations of the overall objective, the products to be delivered in the first five years of the process, its functionality and funding. While United Nations Member States have agreed in principle on the scope of the Regular Process, more discussions will take place at United Nations General Assembly this autumn, hopefully leading to the launch of the first-ever Integrated Ocean Assessment in 2010–2011.

*Key Issues to be addressed at the Round Table:*

While the Regular Process is often compared to an “IPCC for the Oceans”, the several uses of the ocean generate multiple impacts and threats that are far from being a single-issue topic, such as climate change. Therefore for each cycle of the regular process, in addition of those natural processes in need of being regularly assessed, it will offer an opportunity to define specific goals and objectives to address in depth some of those specific issues.

Participating ministers will be invited to comment on some of the following issues:

- What role should UNESCO and its IOC play, together with UNEP and the other United Nations specialized agencies and programmes in support of the Regular Process?
- How can the Regular Process best guarantee the full participation of developing countries through capacity-building, technology transfer and technical cooperation?
- What could be the scope and the key questions of the first Regular Process?
- How could answers from the first assessment support sustainable development policies of coastal States?
- What kind of institutional arrangements and financing mechanisms are needed to support the Regular Process?

Tuesday, 13 October, 2.30 p.m.-6 p.m.

**THEME 3: Ocean and climate change, the impacts on and from the ocean:  
adapting coastal communities to sea-level rise.**

- (1) Moderator Introduction (10 minutes)
- (2) Theme Presentations (25 minutes) (7 minutes maximum per presentation)
- (3) Keynote Speeches (45 minutes) (7 minutes maximum per presentation)
- (4) Debate and Discussions (115 minutes)

*There will be a coffee break of 15 minutes at 4 p.m.*

**Description of Theme 3:**

The world's oceans play a vital role in sustaining life on Earth by generating oxygen, absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, regulating climate and temperature, and providing resources and services to billions of people across the globe.

Climate change is already impacting the ability of marine and coastal ecosystems to provide food, income, protection, cultural identity, and recreation to coastal residents, especially in vulnerable communities in tropical areas. Recent observations indicate that climate-change impacts on the ocean and associated systems far exceed the findings of the 2007 IPCC report.

Coastal communities are experiencing a variety of threats from climate change, including sea-level rise, physical ocean changes, loss of sea ice, ocean acidification, and altered freshwater supply and quality. There is clear evidence that even if there were to be large reductions in greenhouse

gas (GHG) emissions under a UNFCCC agreed regime following the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference, countries at risk, and in particular SIDS, already need to adapt to climate change.

Economic and food security depend on marine and coastal ecosystem health and resilience. Expected disruptions and impacts on vulnerable communities and ecosystems, including an increase in weak and fragmented States, economic development impeded and hundreds of millions of displaced persons, are likely to generate serious national security risks across the globe within this generation's lifetime.

Understanding global ocean changes will require a combination of science and policy. Efforts to improve observations, modelling, and forecasting need to continue to enable better understanding and prediction of the effects of climate change and variability, especially on a regional scale. There is a need to have a more in-depth discussion of possible "tipping points": their consequences, possible policy responses, and institutional abilities to respond to such phenomena.

The precise nature of impacts cannot yet be predicted with certainty due to insufficient time series data, modelling, and analysis. When the rate of climate change exceeds the different rates at which interdependent species can adapt to changes in habitat conditions, the integrity of the complex interrelationships, which lend resilience to ecosystems, is at risk.

In its 2007 report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), amid growing global concern, called urgent attention to significant social impacts of climate change, and in particular the growing "climate divide" that exists between the developed and the developing world – that is to say, the brunt of the damage acting as the catalyst for global climate change has been created by the developed world but its impacts will be felt most readily by the developing world.

The security of coastal populations is at risk due to sea-level rise, increased intensity and frequency of storms, increased scarcity of freshwater due to impacts of the greenhouse effect on the hydrological cycle, and the threat of large-scale climate change-induced population movements.

Mitigation strategies that rely upon or use the ocean need to be closely examined. There is a need for more research development and demonstration of mitigation technologies. Appropriate regulatory mechanisms to manage mitigation efforts are explicitly needed, and must take into consideration existing scientific and policy perspectives on potential harmful impacts.

As the Chairperson of the IPCC Panel noted "*It's the poorest of the poor in the world, and this includes poor people even in prosperous societies, who are going to be the worst hit ... [as] people who are poor are least equipped to be able to adapt to the impacts of climate change and therefore, in some sense, this does become a global responsibility.*"<sup>3</sup>

Developing nations in Africa, which account for less than 3% of global carbon emissions, and Asia would be most affected, and the developed wealthy nations far from the equator least affected. Asia will be particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, especially major population centres at low elevations, including Mumbai, India; Shanghai, China; Jakarta, Indonesia; Tokyo, Japan; and Dhaka, Bangladesh. The five most vulnerable countries with large populations are China, India, Bangladesh, Viet Nam and Indonesia.

The impact of climate change on developing nations, especially SIDS, is significant and the implications of these potential effects range from changes in ocean chemistry and forecasted sea-level rise to impacts on ecosystems, human health, and the massive displacement of coastal populations. The need to address these issues in the ocean community is a vital first step in combating the potentially devastating effects of climate change with specific attention to the developing world and SIDS.

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<sup>3</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). 2007. Fourth Assessment Report Climate Change 2007: Synthesis Report.

Climate change-driven sea-level rise, the migration of important marine species, including the world's fish stocks, and ocean acidification threaten coastal and inland communities. The ongoing climate negotiations culminating in the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference in December 2009 aim to bring down global emissions to safe levels. At stake are thousands of islands and 142 coastal nations, the world's biodiversity, and the resilience of marine ecosystems. The objective is to launch the world on a course toward a low-carbon future, in time to avoid potentially devastating effects. The round of negotiations culminating in December 2009 in Copenhagen through the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process are expected to result in a successor agreement to the Kyoto Protocol, offering an opportunity to underscore the importance of oceans, coasts, and small island developing States (SIDS) in the new climate regime.

*Key Issues to be addressed at the Round Table:*

The discussion will focus on the following aspects:

- How to better present the central role of oceans in climate and raise the level of awareness of the fact that continued levels of ocean absorption of anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions will lead to a level of ocean acidification that could produce irreversible impacts for millennia?
- How to improve our understanding and develop policy responses to global ocean changes (ocean warming, ocean acidification, changes in currents, changes in polar regions)?
- How to properly manage mitigation efforts that use the oceans (e.g. carbon capture and storage and ocean fertilization)?
- How to encourage alternative forms of energy using the oceans (wind power, tidal energy and power from waves and ocean currents)?
- How to encourage a wide range of adaptation efforts (soft, hard, floating) in the context of integrated ecosystem-based management?
- How to Address the “climate divide” and promote international commitments and funding mechanisms, including public/private partnerships, to respond to the differential effects of climate change on different regions and peoples?

Summary of debates: Patricio Bernal, Executive Secretary and ADG/IOC

Closing remarks: Koïchiro Matsuura, Director-General

## ANNEX I

### GUIDANCE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE MINISTERIAL ROUND TABLE

#### 1. Schedule

Theme 1: The role of science and the United Nations in providing governance for the ocean.  
**Monday 12 October, 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Room X**

Theme 2: The contribution of UNESCO to monitor the state of the ocean and its ecological services: the United Nations Regular Process.  
**Tuesday 13 October, 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Room X**

Theme 3: Ocean and climate change, the impacts on and from the ocean: adapting coastal communities to sea-level rise.  
**Tuesday, 13 October, 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m., Room X**

#### 2. Language

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in all six United Nations working languages.

#### 3. Participation and attendance in the room

Pre-registered Ministers (or high-level government representatives at equivalent level) of Member States will be entitled to participate in the Round Table.

Registration will take place outside of Room X, and will be open from 1.30 p.m. on Monday, 12 October 2009. Please note that due to the nature of the Round Table, access to Room X is restricted to registered participants who have a special Round Table badge. **A maximum of three badges per country will be available at the registration desk.**

UNESCO Delegations are also requested to register their respective Minister and accompanying adviser to the UNESCO General Conference.

In addition, UNESCO Delegations are requested to confirm the names and official titles of their Minister and adviser participating in the Round Table, directly to the IOC Secretariat ([r.herve@unesco.org](mailto:r.herve@unesco.org)) **no later than 7 October 2009**. Each registered Minister will be provided with a seat behind his/her respective country plate and two seats will be available for the adviser/delegate to sit behind.

A meeting room with live retransmission of the Round Table debates will be made available to national delegations.

#### 4. Format of the Ministerial Round Table sessions

There will be three consecutive Theme Sessions over the two days of the Round Table. Pre-registered Ministers (or high-level government representatives at equivalent level) of Member States will be entitled to participate in all three sessions of the round table.

Each session will be guided by one moderator. The sessions will be opened by interventions offered by a panel of two to three theme presenters, who will provide specific input on the particular topics of the session from a range of different perspectives.

For each theme, a limited number of Ministers have been invited to make a keynote intervention.

The Moderator will facilitate the discussion exchange of views by inviting interventions by participating Ministers and will manage time throughout the session.

The format seeks to elicit an open dialogue and exchange of views among participating Ministers on the subjects under discussion. Such a format might warrant setting a time limit to interventions.

The Moderator will provide an oral summary of the discussions at the end of each Theme Session. Only Ministers (or High level Government Representatives at equivalent level) should engage in the discussion.

The Director-General will make a closing remark at the end of the round table (Theme 3).

## **5. Ministerial Round Table output**

The main issues addressed in the deliberations and any consensual points, as summarized by the Moderator, would be captured in a brief summary report for each of the Round Table sessions. This document will be made available to the SC Commission on 14 October as an Information document.

## **6. Documentation**

A set of background documents will be sent electronically to the Ministers, their advisers and respective UNESCO Delegation in advance of the Round Table. Copies of these documents will also be available in the meeting room. The list of authentic texts (United Nations Resolutions) and other background documents available to participants is presented in Annex II.

A website will be established for the Ocean Round Table at the IOC/UNESCO website ([www.ioc-unesco.org](http://www.ioc-unesco.org)). All documents and background information will be available on the website. Ministers wishing to share a statement or written contribution to the debate with the public are welcome to send their text to the Secretariat ([j.barbiere@unesco.org](mailto:j.barbiere@unesco.org)).

## **7. Film projection**

A pre-release excerpt in HD (10 mins) from the film “Oceans”, directed by Jacques Perrin, will be presented by Dr Jesse Ausubel, Census of Marine Life/Sloan Foundation, one of the major sponsors of the film. This screening will take place at the end of Theme 1, from 6 p.m. to 6.20 p.m. on Monday 12 October.

## ANNEX II

### LIST OF AUTHENTIC TEXTS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

#### GENERAL ISSUES

- Concept Paper of the Ministerial Round Table (A/C/E/F/S/R)
- Document 181 EX/32 Part II Addendum (Description of Ministerial Round Table on Oceans)

#### **THEME 1: The role of science and the United Nations in providing governance for the ocean**

- Lisbon Declaration on Ocean Governance, World Independent Commission on the Oceans, 1998
- Statement from the Commemorative Session of the Tenth Anniversary of the Lisbon Declaration, 2008
- Background Paper: Addressing Responsible Ocean Governance, Commemorative Session of the Tenth Anniversary of the Lisbon Declaration, 2008
- UNCLOS Preamble
- Agenda 21, Chapter 17
- WSSD Johannesburg Programme of Implementation – Section relevant to Oceans and Coasts (paras. 30-36)

#### **THEME 2: The contribution of UNESCO to monitor the state of the Ocean and its ecological services: the United Nations Regular Process.**

- An Assessment of Assessments: Findings of the Group of Experts (Pursuant to UNGA Resolution 60/30)
- UNGA 64/88 Report on the results of the “Assessment of Assessments”
- UNGA 63/111 Resolution on Oceans and Law of the Sea
- UNGA 60/30 Resolution on Oceans and Law of the Sea
- UNGA 57/141 Resolution on Oceans and Law of the Sea

Recommendations from the United Nations General Assembly Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (September 2009)

#### **THEME 3: Ocean and climate change, the impacts on and from the ocean: adapting coastal cities to sea-level rise.**

- Manado Ocean Declaration, World Ocean Conference, Manado, 2009
- Ocean Acidification Summary for Decision-Makers
- Our changing oceans: conclusions of the first International Symposium on the Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans (Gijon, 2008)

***All documents will be available on the IOC Website on Monday 28 September:  
[ioc.unesco.org](http://ioc.unesco.org)***