



**Twelfth meeting of UN-Oceans
5 February 2014, UNHQ**

Summary report

1. A meeting of UN-Oceans took place on 5 February 2014, in New York, from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm, in the margins of the eighth meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Representatives of the following UN-Oceans members participated in the meeting, either in person or by phone: CTED (Mr. Charles Stotler); DESA (Ms. Julie Ritz); DOALOS (Ms. Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli, Mr. Vladimir Jares, Ms. Alice Hicuburundi, Ms. Charlotte Salpin, Ms. Karen Yoo); FAO (Ms. Tina Farmer); IAEA (Mr. David Osborn); IOC/UNESCO (Ms. Wendy Watson-Wright, Mr. Julian Barbière, Ms. Ana Persic); ILO (Mr. Brandt Wagner, Mr. Kevin Cassidy); IMO (Mr. Fredrik Haag); ODA (Mr. Randy Rydell); OHRLS (Mr. Peter Kenilorea); UNEP (Ms. Jacqueline Alder); UNDP (Mr. Andrew Hudson); UNU (Mr. Tumi Tómasson); and WMO (Mr. Edgard Cabrera). Representatives from the CEB (Ms. Simona Petrova, Ms. Xenia von Lilien) also participated in the meeting *ex officio*.

Item 1 – Opening of the meeting

2. On behalf of the Legal Counsel/Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Focal Point for UN-Oceans, Ms. Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli, Director of DOALOS/OLA, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. She provided an update on the new members of UN-Oceans recalling that the membership of UN-Oceans had been expanded by the new terms of reference (ToRs), adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 68/70, to include all organizations of the UN system with competence in coastal and oceans issues. Positive responses had been received to the letter of OLA Assistant Secretary-General Mathias, dated 20 December 2013, from CTED, ESCAP, ODA, UNHCR, UNU and UNITAR. Indications of interest had also been received from CMS and WTO. ECE and WFP had sent their regrets.

Item 2 – Election of Chair

3. Mr. Julian Barbière (IOC/UNESCO) was elected as Chair of the meeting.

Item 3 – Adoption of agenda

4. The agenda was adopted without amendments, as follows:
1. Opening
 2. Election of Chair
 3. Adoption of the agenda
 4. Preparation of the UN-Oceans work programme



5. UN-Oceans website update
6. Scheduling of next face-to-face meeting
7. Other matters
8. Closing

Item 4 – Preparation of the UN-Oceans work programme

5. Noting that the preparation of a work programme was required under the new ToRs, DOALOS, as UN-Oceans Focal Point, introduced 1) a draft work programme and 2) a draft template for an inventory of member organizations' activities and mandates to assist in identifying possible areas for collaboration and synergies. The work programme reflected the expanded range of issues for UN-Oceans possible coordination pursuant to the new ToRs, and also incorporated the suggestions made by UN-Oceans members. It envisaged as a major activity in early 2014 an inventory of the respective UN-Oceans members' activities and mandates. The draft template for the inventory had been developed based on: (1) the mapping exercise carried out by JIU; (2) the annual GA resolutions on oceans and the law of the sea and on sustainable fisheries; and (3) the issues covered by the annual report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea.

Work programme

6. An exchange of views ensued on the work programme, including its specific content and possible periodicity (annual or biennial).
7. It was agreed that UN-Oceans would work on the basis of a biennial work programme, including in order to align it with budget planning.
8. On the content, OHRLLS proposed to add to the work programme collaboration among agencies in preparation for, and during, the SIDS Conference to be held in September 2014, and informed participants of the organization of a pre-Conference Private Sector Partnership Forum, which would involve several oceans-related sectors, including tourism and fisheries. In addition to looking at partnerships with the business perspective, ILO called attention to the need to also consider participation in the pre-conference by groups representing the employees' perspective. DESA provided an update on the SIDS Conference preparations, indicating that the Conference would be used to announce and promote specific projects in SIDS.
9. OHRLLS also suggested including in the work programme activities in preparation for the comprehensive ten-year review Conference of the Almaty Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries to be held in November 2014.
10. The meeting agreed on both additions to the work programme.



11. FAO recalled that a task force on outreach had been established in the past and suggested consideration may be given to setting up a similar mechanism under the new ToRs. It was clarified that this was not for advocacy purposes but to raise awareness of UN-Oceans' joint activities. FAO also suggested setting up time-bound coordination teams on relevant UN-Oceans topics and identifying leader(s) (one to two organizations) for facilitating each of these. ODA suggested involving DPI in outreach activities.

12. It was agreed that the leading members of a given coordination team (possibly one or two organizations) would be identified on the basis of the areas of focus of coordination. Other members would be free to join depending on the topics. The leading members would also coordinate outreach activities in the particular area of focus.

13. In that regard, it was agreed that an ad hoc coordination team for activities related to the SIDS Conference, jointly led by DESA and OHRLLS, would be established. Members interested in promoting and launching projects in SIDS at the Conference and/or contributing to the Private Sector Partnership Forum were invited to contact DESA and OHRLLS.

14. With regard to the celebrations for World Oceans Day (WOD), UNEP announced that it would organize a series of activities throughout 2014 to mark the 40th anniversary of its regional seas programme, including during WOD. DOALOS also informed participants that it was in the process of identifying a theme for WOD 2014 and that it would communicate to UN-Oceans the theme and planned activities for celebrating WOD, including for possible participation of UN-Oceans members. It was agreed that DOALOS would coordinate a team on WOD 2014.

Inventory of mandates and activities and draft template

15. With regard to the draft template for the proposed inventory, DOALOS clarified that the inventory could be used as a planning tool to facilitate identification of possible areas for collaboration among UN-Oceans members and provided a basis to facilitate dialogue among organizations with activities in the same areas. The inventory would also benefit Member States by providing an easily accessible tool to identify the mandate and activities of various organizations on specific oceans and coastal issues. FAO, IMO and UNDP suggested adding a space in the template to identify activities carried out at the global level. ILO also suggested broadening the scope of the thematic issues "people at sea" to also include workers in the oceans sector other than seafarers and fishers, such as personnel working the areas of oil and gas.

16. In view of the substantial work involved in preparing such an inventory, participants agreed that the inventory would first be used to collect information on mandates, then at a later stage on activities.



17. UNDP proposed that the inventory be placed online in a searchable format with drop-down menus that would serve as an analytical tool and allow UN-Oceans members to update their own work.

Follow-up actions:

- UN-Oceans members will send suggestions on the draft work programme and draft inventory template **by 28 February 2014**.
- DOALOS will circulate final versions of the work programme and inventory template **by 15 March 2014**.
- UN-Oceans members will fill in the inventory and send it back to DOALOS **by 31 March 2014**.
- DOALOS will identify a platform and create a shared online calendar of ocean-related events for 2014 and 2015 [members will send suggestions for inclusion in the calendar **by 28 February 2014**]

Item 5 – UN-Oceans’ website update

18. DOALOS informed participants that it had started to update the website incrementally in cooperation with FAO in order to align it with the new ToRs. The update had focused on the homepage and the “About” page. It was agreed that the names of the representatives of each organization would be deleted to avoid having to continually update this information following changes in functions, assignments or retirements and that only references to organizations’ general e-mail would be included. DOALOS also suggested that members link their websites to the UN-Oceans’ website.

19. Questions were raised regarding the long-term plan for the website, and whether data was available on visits to the website. FAO indicated that the general trend showed increased interest and that it would circulate more precise information on website usage. It also indicated that resource constraints may limit the ability to have a more dynamic site at present, but this could be considered for the future.

20. FAO recalled that the UN Atlas could also be used to provide information on UN-Oceans activities.

Follow-up actions:

- UN-Oceans members will send suggestions on website updates to DOALOS and FAO **by 28 February 2014**.
- FAO will provide data on use of the current website.
- Issue of the website will be revisited at the next meeting.

Item 6 – Scheduling of next face-to-face meeting



21. DOALOS recalled that the new ToRs envisaged at least one face-to-face meeting per year, preferably in conjunction with the annual meeting of the United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (ICP) and as far as practicable, at United Nations headquarters. Thus, in addition to meeting in the margins of the ICP in May, other possibilities for face-to-face meetings included the two meetings of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Informal Working Group to study issues relating to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction to be held, respectively, in April and June.

22. It was agreed that DOALOS would conduct a doodle survey to facilitate scheduling of the next face-to-face meeting during one of those three events.

Item 7 – Other matters

23. DOALOS informed participants that the annual General Assembly resolution on oceans and the law of the sea was now available as an “L” document (A/68/L.18). The final text would likely be published in March or April. DOALOS also thanked members for their contributions to Part I of the Secretary-General’s report on oceans and the law of the sea with a focus on the role of seafood in global food security, the topic of the next ICP meeting. It was noted that members would receive a second letter inviting them to contribute to the second part of the report, which would possibly have as a deadline the end of June.

24. DESA announced that it was organizing an expert group meeting on integrated coastal zone management, in collaboration with IOC/UNESCO and ECLAC in Trinidad and Tobago, on 18 March. Members interested in participating were invited to send the names of their regional representatives.

25. DESA also provided an update on its publication on case studies and best practices, noting that contributions were still welcome.

26. IOC/UNESCO announced the holding of the second International Ocean Research Conference in Barcelona in November 2014 and referred to their website for further details.

Follow-up actions:

- Members will continue exchanging information on their planned activities.
