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**Ninth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas
Conventions and Action Plans**

Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, 29-31 October 2007

**Jeddah Declaration:
Furthering the implementation of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
towards the sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment**

We the Chairs of the Conferences of the Parties/Intergovernmental Meetings of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs); the Secretaries General/Coordinators/Executive Secretaries of the RSCAPs; with the valued support and concurrence of delegates from international organizations, conventions, intergovernmental panels, financial institutions and academia,

Having met in Jeddah from 29 to 31 October 2007 at the 9th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans,

Recalling the Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, adopted in Stockholm on 16 June 1972, the Rio Declaration of 14 June 1992, the UN Millennium Declaration 2000, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 and the Beijing Declaration¹ 2006,

Acknowledging the ultimate dependence of life including mankind and other life forms on the health and integrity of the marine and coastal environment,

Recognizing the value of marine and coastal resources as the main source and reserve for food security, economic well-being and health for a significant number of people in the world,

Also, recognizing that marine and coastal environments are vulnerable to unprecedented impacts of climate change, along with the impacts of the continuing and projected increase in marine and coastal pollution; reflecting the findings and detections of the IPCC assessment reports and the projected detrimental social, economic, health and environmental impacts in the coastal areas, where 38% of the world population live and 70% of the world mega-cities exist,

Noting the growing damage that those impacts are causing to the people and marine ecosystem including loss of habitats (such as corals, wetlands), biodiversity, and income generating and food resources,

Emphasizing the key role of the RSCAPs in facilitating the implementation of current and future global conventions, strategies, declarations, resolutions, initiatives, and action programmes addressing coastal and marine environment protection and conservation,

Admitting that effective integration policies and programmes addressing marine/coastal protection and sustainable development require comprehensive approaches, and that lessons-learnt from and examples provided by pre-existing projects implemented by the RSCAPs offer valuable guidance for wider-spread adoption of such approaches,

Acknowledging the trans-boundary nature of the marine and coastal environment and the growing need for regional and global collaboration and coordination in addressing

¹ Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities.

environmental issues, and progress made in the implementation of the Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programmes 2004-2007,

Realizing the global challenges in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change on the marine and coastal environment, and noting the importance of the RSCAPs as useful forums for highlighting climate change,

Also realizing the potential for legal and economic measure to enable carbon capture and storage in sub-sea geological formations within a suite of climate change mitigation measures,

Considering the importance of the use of economic valuation of goods and services provided by coastal and marine resources, in addition to applying cost-benefit analysis to support preventive approaches in addressing environmental management priorities,

Also, *considering* that the conservation of the high seas and deep-water ecosystems and biodiversity needs global cooperation regarding both relevant international governance and scientific issues,

Conscious of the need to support the mainstreaming of the Regional Seas conventions, protocols and action plans into national development planning and budgeting,

Aware of the need to further implement the ecosystems approach in management, and continue to develop proactive, creative and innovative partnerships and networks to support its implementation,

Convinced of our responsibilities to encourage and support our member states to fulfill their commitments to protect and conserve the marine environment through implementing regional agreements and instruments, along with the strategic directions and recommendations of the global Regional Seas , and seeking to build upon them,

Resolve:

- 1- To recommit ourselves to implement the existing resolutions and agreements of the Global Regional Seas Programmes, and the Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programmes 2004-2007, agreed upon at the 6th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans as an effective approach reflecting our will, common vision and cooperation to protect, conserve and sustainably manage our global coastal and marine environment;
- 2- To support the implementation of the Beijing Declaration of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, especially the provision related to the "development and implementation of protocols addressing land-based pollution sources and activities";

- 3- To commit ourselves to furthering the implementation of the RSCAPs in light of the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programmes 2008-2012 (adopted at the 9th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans), and declare our intention to do so by designing, implementing and strengthening our actions;
- 4- To call upon United Nations agencies and UN inter-agency groups, multilateral environmental agreements, and regional alliances/unions/leagues or any kind of association to support (through inter alia, financial assistance, technical assistance, capacity building and institutional strengthening mechanisms) the regional structures for implementing the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programmes 2008-2012;
- 5- To encourage State Parties of RSCAPs, as appropriate and according to their own procedures, to consider, adopt and implement the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programmes 2008-2012;
- 6- To develop and implement actions to adapt to the impacts of climate change, including strengthening regional monitoring to detect changes in oceanographic parameters, carrying out vulnerability assessments, developing regional and national early warning systems, cooperation in contingency planning and disaster management, assessment and mitigating socio-economic impacts and taking relevant precautionary measures with regard to coastal planning and development;
- 7- To call upon international and regional financial institutions and donor countries to support the implementation of the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas 2008-2012, at the appropriate levels in developing countries;
- 8- To promote and enhance the participation and involvement of local and regional authorities, communities and other stakeholders in the mechanisms of implementing RSCAPs and their Global Strategic Directions;
- 9- To initiate and strengthen partnerships at the national, regional, and international levels, with emphasis on promoting sustainable financing mechanisms to implement the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas 2008-2012;
- 10- To enhance the application of ecosystems approach to coasts, oceans and large marine ecosystems and island management and to strengthen them at the national level;
- 11- To integrate and mainstream economic valuation of goods and services provided by coastal and marine resources, to support sustainable approaches in addressing environmental management priorities;
- 12- To continue encouraging, supporting, enhancing and developing appropriate tools and mechanisms to mainstream RSCAPs into national planning and budgeting;

- 13- To call upon the UNEP Governing Council/Ministerial Environment Forum to endorse and enhance the implementation of the Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas 2008-2012;
- 14- To express special gratitude and appreciation to the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for hosting the 9th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans held in Jeddah 29-31 October 2007.

31 October 2007, Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia