



For Immediate Release

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The Fifth Global Oceans Conference Results in Strong Recommendations for National and International Authorities in Addressing the Challenges Facing Oceans, Coasts and Islands.

Paris, France - May 12, 2010: The 5th Global Oceans Conference, which convened on May 3-7, 2010, at UNESCO in Paris, brought together over 850 experts from 80 countries representing all sectors of the global oceans community--governments, international agencies, nongovernmental organizations, industry, scientific groups, academia, and museums and aquaria--to advance the global oceans agenda on three major issues affecting the oceans: climate and oceans; loss of marine biodiversity; and improving governance. The event also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Year of Biodiversity 2010.

The predominant assessment of the conference is that the various international commitments and targets agreed to at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and in other related fora, have not been met on a global basis, although there have been notable examples of success at regional and national levels. As well, while the awareness and visibility of oceans among decision makers and the public alike have increased considerably in the last decade, oceans have been largely absent in the climate negotiations, biodiversity loss continues to occur at an alarming rate, and progress on implementing ecosystem-based management and integrated and coastal management is lagging.

Convinced of the need to make progress on climate and oceans, marine biodiversity loss, and the implementation of an integrated ecosystem approach, and in consideration of the need to build consensus on, and foster equity in the policy options among different countries, regions, and interests, the conference Co-Chairs: Dr. Biliiana Cicin-Sain, Co-Chair and Head of Secretariat, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands; Ambassador Laurent Stefanini, Ambassador for the Environment, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, France; and Dr. Wendy Watson Wright, Executive Secretary,

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) UNESCO, put forth the following recommendations for consideration by national and international authorities:

Recommendation 1: Initiate an ocean process within and outside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiating process.

For coastal peoples everywhere and especially for small island developing States (SIDS), curbing climate change through deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions on a short time basis and with immediate and adequate financing to deploy adaptation measures is of utmost importance and, in many cases, a matter of survival.

A comprehensive ocean process must include elements related to mitigation, adaptation, adequate financing, capacity development, and public awareness and understanding.

Recommendation 2: Within the 2010 International Year on Biodiversity, and the Convention for Biological Diversity process, develop the Nagoya Oceans Mandate providing for the renewal of the Jakarta mandate of marine and coastal biodiversity.

Recommendation 3: Adequate and nested strategies at different scales (from local to global) must be developed for ecosystem-based ocean and coastal management at national and regional levels, and in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

In an opening address to the world gathering, Dr. Cicin-Sain spoke about the importance of mobilizing all sectors of the global oceans community to respond to the global problems: “National governments are the key actors and have the key responsibility for achieving sustainable development, but all other segments: international organizations, non-governmental organizations, scientific groups, industry, and the public, all play an essential role and are very much needed to advance the global oceans agenda,” said Dr. Cicin-Sain.

Among the key actors represented at the Conference were leaders from coastal nations and small island developing States. H.E Mr. Anote Tong, President of Kiribati, made a forceful plea at the Conference to the international community to give priority to the critical issues facing the environment and his island nation:

“Climate change is perhaps the greatest contemporary challenge of our moral values since slavery and apartheid. As an international community, we readily condemn terrorism, genocide and nuclear proliferation; yet why can we not see the gross injustice of our inaction on climate change?” said H.E. President Tong.

In addition to H.E. President Tong, many senior officials participated at the conference including: H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco; Monique Barbut, CEO of the Global Environment Facility; Maria Damanaki, European Commissioner for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries; H.E. Nguyen Pham Khoi, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam; H. E. Mr. Mohamed Aslam, Minister for Environment, Maldives; Jean Francois Tallec, Secretary General of the Sea, France; Chantal Jouanno, French Secretary of State for Ecology; Mrs. Rejoice Mabudafhasi, Deputy Minister for Environment, South Africa;

Ms. Teresita Castillo, Undersecretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Philippines; Mr. Norifumi Idee, Secretary General, Secretariat of the Headquarters for Ocean Policy, Japan; Andrew Dong, Deputy Director General, Department of Sea Area Use and Islands Management, State Oceanic Administration, China; Karl Falkenberg, Director, Directorate-General Environment, European Commission; Ambassador Dessima Williams, Grenada and Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States; Ahmed Djoghlaif, Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat; among others.

The Global Oceans Conference 2010 Program:

[http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOC5-](http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOC5-FinalProgram.pdf)

[FinalProgram.pdf](http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOC5-FinalProgram.pdf)

Conference Program in French:

[http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOC5 Program French_email_050210.pdf](http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/GOC5_Program_French_email_050210.pdf)

For a summary of the Global Oceans Conference 2010, please see:

[http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Summary Report IISD.pdf](http://www.globaloceans.org/sites/udel.edu.globaloceans/files/Summary_Report_IISD.pdf)

The Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts, and Islands <http://globaloceans.org> was first mobilized in 2001 in anticipation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The Global Forum brings together ocean leaders from governments, non-governmental and international organizations, scientists, and the private sector to achieve the sustainable development of oceans, coasts, and islands and to advance the global oceans agenda.