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Sustainable development: strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2023

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/78/461/Add.10, para. 7)*]

78/159. Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,¹ Agenda 21,² the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,³ the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development⁴ and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation)⁵ and the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,⁶ as well as the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,⁷ and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,⁸

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

² *Ibid.*, annex II.

³ Resolution S-19/2, annex.

⁴ *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁵ *Ibid.*, resolution 2, annex.

⁶ Resolution 66/288, annex.

⁷ *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

⁸ Resolution 63/239, annex.



Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,⁹ which provides the legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Recalling the ecosystem approach advocated in the Convention on Biological Diversity,¹⁰ which is described as a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way,

Welcoming the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity,

Welcoming also the outcomes of the twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 6 to 20 November 2022, including the adoption of the decisions¹¹ to establish new funding arrangements, including a fund for assisting developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, in responding to loss and damage, and urging Parties to come to agreement on their operationalization at the Conference of the Parties at its twenty-eighth session,

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, and, *inter alia*, the commitments concerning the coastal and marine environment contained therein,

Reaffirming also its resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of the Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming further its resolution [69/313](#) of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming the Paris Agreement¹² and its early entry into force, encouraging all its parties to fully implement the Agreement, and parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change¹³ that have not yet done so to deposit their

⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 31363.

¹⁰ Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹¹ See [FCCC/CP/2022/10/Add.1](#), decision 2/CP.27, and [FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/10/Add.1](#), decision 2/CMA.4.

¹² Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

¹³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, where appropriate, as soon as possible,

Noting with concern the findings contained in the special reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C, The Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate* and *Climate Change and Land*, and the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, entitled *Climate Change 2023: Synthesis Report*, as well as the findings of the second World Ocean Assessment,

Recalling the importance of strengthening the sustainable management and protection of the marine and coastal ecosystems, of restoring, where necessary, the resilience of coastal ecosystems to avoid adverse impacts and of achieving healthy and productive oceans,

Recalling also the commitments contained in Agenda 21, including those related to the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal areas while noting that integrated coastal management under national jurisdiction has been widely recognized since then, which offers the opportunity to strengthen international cooperation in this field,

Stressing the importance of the priorities outlined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030,¹⁴ in particular with regard to building resilience and reducing disaster risk in coastal management, and welcoming the convening of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, held in New York on 18 to 19 May 2023, at which the General Assembly adopted the political declaration of the high-level meeting on the midterm review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030),¹⁵

Noting that coastal hazards preparedness, responses and recovery are important components of integrated coastal zone management,

Recognizing the work on integrated coastal zone management conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme and the regional seas conventions and their protocols and action plans,

Recalling resolutions related to integrated coastal zone management adopted by the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme, including resolution 2/10 on oceans and seas¹⁶ and resolution 4/11 on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities,¹⁷

Noting that area-based management approaches, including integrated coastal zone management, are used to deliver a range of policies that align with the Sustainable Development Goals and associated targets and that can include societal engagement, conservation, sustainable management of natural resources, food security and climate change adaptation,

Recognizing the contribution of the integrated coastal zone management approach in the promotion of sustainable development in various areas, including sustainable tourism,

Recognizing also that integrated coastal zone management can contribute to poverty eradication,

¹⁴ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

¹⁵ Resolution [77/289](#), annex.

¹⁶ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25)*, annex.

¹⁷ [UNEP/EA.4/Res.11](#).

Noting with great concern the severe negative impact on human health, safety and well-being caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the severe disruption to societies and economies and the devastating impact on lives and livelihoods, and that the poorest and most vulnerable are the hardest hit by the pandemic, reaffirming the ambition to get back on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by designing and implementing sustainable and inclusive recovery strategies to accelerate progress towards the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to help to reduce the risk of and build resilience to future shocks, crises and pandemics, including by strengthening health systems and achieving universal health coverage, and recognizing that equitable and timely access for all to safe, quality, effective and affordable COVID-19 vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are an essential part of a global response based on unity, solidarity, renewed multilateral cooperation and the principle of leaving no one behind,

Emphasizing that effective integrated coastal zone management strategies can enhance climate adaptation and create enabling conditions to improve human health, promote food security and reduce poverty among those whose livelihoods depend on coastal resources,

Noting that coastal and marine resources contribute significantly to the economy and that maintaining a high-quality coastal and marine environment provides ecosystem functions and services in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 14, and in this regard welcoming the political declaration of the United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in Lisbon from 27 June to 1 July 2022, and looking forward to the third United Nations Ocean Conference, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica, to be held in 2025,

Recalling its resolution [77/321](#) of 1 August 2023 entitled “Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction”,

Emphasizing the importance of strengthening and adapting area-based management tools based on the best available scientific knowledge, such as marine protected areas, marine spatial planning, integrated land-use planning or integrated coastal zone management, in order to prevent or mitigate the negative and cumulative impacts of socioeconomic activities and to protect coastal resources from damage caused by land-based activities, as well as conserving coastal resources, enhancing cultural heritage and supporting the transition to sustainable consumption and production approaches as a lever for the development of coastal areas,

Recognizing the efforts and actions that Member States, together with other stakeholders, are undertaking to address the threats and problems for coastal and marine areas originating from land-based activities,

Welcoming the convening of the United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018–2028, in New York from 22 to 24 March 2023,

Welcoming also the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Sustainable Development Goals Summit) in September 2023, which adopted a political declaration in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, committed to conserving and sustainably using oceans and seas,

freshwater resources, as well as forests, mountains and drylands and protecting biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife,¹⁸

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;¹⁹

2. *Emphasizes* that the use and implementation of the integrated coastal zone management approach and other area-based management approaches can contribute significantly towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets;²⁰

3. *Also emphasizes* that coastal areas are an essential ecological and economic resource, that their management and planning from a sustainable development perspective need an integrated management approach, and that integrated coastal zone management is an important vehicle for sustainable development, sustainable ocean-based economy and poverty eradication;

4. *Calls upon* Member States and other actors at the local, national, regional and international levels, including in the private sector, civil society and academia, to address the problem of marine pollution and litter, including plastic litter and microplastics, which impacts coastal management, and encourages all stakeholders operating in this field, in their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, to prioritize life-cycle approaches, to promote resource efficiency and to incorporate biodiversity and coastal ecosystem services in their integral management, building on existing initiatives and instruments, science, international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement, and in this regard calls upon Member States to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution of all kinds through improving understanding of their sources, pathways and impacts on marine ecosystems, to reduce the level of pollution of coastal areas, to protect marine ecosystems and coastal areas in the long term and to develop partnerships allowing the exchange of good practices in integrated coastal zone management, marine spatial planning and the implementation of sustainable economic models and approaches, bearing in mind that international cooperation for the implementation of marine spatial planning can contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources and the maintenance of ecosystem integrity and can improve the economic profitability of marine management and the use of resources;

5. *Welcomes* the holding of the first and the second sessions of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, established by the United Nations Environment Assembly in its resolution 5/14 of 2 March 2022²¹ at its resumed fifth session to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and in this regard welcomes the commitment made by Heads of State and Government in the political declaration adopted during the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit to support the ongoing work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee, with the ambition of completing its work by the end of 2024;

6. *Underlines* that integrated coastal zone management is a dynamic process for the sustainable management and use of coastal zones, taking into account at the same time the fragility of coastal ecosystems and landscapes, the diversity of activities and uses, their interactions, the maritime orientation of certain activities and uses and their impact on both the marine and land parts;

7. *Encourages* Member States to consider the definition and implementation of an integrated coastal zone management approach, including through appropriate

¹⁸ Resolution [78/1](#), annex.

¹⁹ [A/78/293](#).

²⁰ See resolution [70/1](#).

²¹ [UNEP/EA.5/Res.14](#).

national planning tools and an ecosystem approach that integrates land, sea and watershed areas, and to consider investing in long-term planning to address barriers to integrated coastal zone management implementation;

8. *Also encourages* Member States to consider strengthening or, where applicable, establishing coordinating mechanisms for the integrated management and sustainable development of coastal and marine areas and their resources, at the local, national and regional levels;

9. *Further encourages* Member States to take concrete measures to integrate poverty eradication, quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, sustainable transport, science, technology and innovation into integrated coastal zone management;

10. *Stresses* the importance of policies and plans for disaster risk reduction, including adaptation, and hazards preparedness, such as early warning systems, to build resilience and reduce the impacts and costs of natural disasters, also stresses the importance of biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use and nature-based solutions, ecosystem-based approaches and other management and conservation approaches, in line with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5 of 2 March 2022,²² including for the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and encourages Member States to incorporate, in a more targeted manner, these elements as part of their approach to integrated coastal zone management;

11. *Also stresses* the importance of promoting coordination at the national and local levels with regard to coastal areas, with the aim of ensuring policy coherence, as well as the effectiveness of coastal management measures, while ensuring the participation of all relevant stakeholders, including people in vulnerable situations;

12. *Emphasizes* the importance of scaling up climate adaptation finance, in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, including in the context of coastal resilience, through the application of integrated coastal zone management to enable national-level adaptation planning, urges developed country parties to at least double their collective provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing country parties from 2019 levels by 2025, in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources, emphasizes the urgency of scaling up action and support, including finance, capacity-building and technology transfer, to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change, and calls upon the shareholders of multilateral development banks and international financial institutions to reform the practices and priorities of multilateral development banks, align and scale up funding, ensure simplified access and mobilize climate finance from various sources;

13. *Also emphasizes* the importance of partnerships, of bringing together multi-stakeholder actors to enable the integration of different interests and knowledge into planning processes or strategies and helping to ensure that area-based management approach design is based on the best available science and other knowledge systems, such as traditional knowledge, innovations and practices;

14. *Further emphasizes* that international and regional cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and capacity-building and technical support for developing countries and public-private partnerships, are an important factor in the promotion and implementation of the integrated coastal zone management approach by, *inter alia*, promoting peer learning and cooperation, developing the necessary coastal systematic observation, research and information management systems and developing technologies, the science-policy interface and

²² UNEP/EA.5/Res.5.

technological capacities, as well as building effective linkages among global, regional, subregional and national processes, as appropriate, to advance the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of strong regional cooperation and economic integration among countries to advance sustainable ocean-based economy and implement effective integrated coastal zone management policies and strategies, which can unlock mutual benefits;

16. *Calls upon* the United Nations Environment Programme and other relevant United Nations entities, within their mandates and existing resources, to support the efforts of Member States in promoting and implementing the integrated coastal zone management approach, as well as in mobilizing partnerships and initiatives at the local, national and regional levels;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eightieth session an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, within existing resources, compiled from the inputs of Member States, within available resources, regarding the practical and context-specific challenges, barriers and enabling conditions for the effective development and implementation of integrated coastal zone management, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its eightieth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development”.

*49th plenary meeting
19 December 2023*
