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

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 17 December 2021

[on the report of the Second Committee ([A/76/533/Add.11](#), para. 7)]

76/212. 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 in this regard the hosting of the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as well as the meetings of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meetings of the Parties to the Protocols to the Convention, by the Government of China, to be held in Kunming, and welcoming the hosting by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in Glasgow, in partnership with Italy, of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

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 Agreement¹¹ 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 Change¹² that have not yet done so to deposit their 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*, as well as the first part of its Sixth Assessment Report entitled *Climate Change 2021: The Physical Science Basis*,

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

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

¹¹ Adopted under the UNFCCC in [FCCC/CP/2015/10/Add.1](#), decision 1/CP.21.

¹² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

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 2015–2030,¹³ in particular with regard to building resilience and reducing disaster risk in coastal management,

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 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 seas¹⁴ and resolution 4/11 on the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities,¹⁵

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,

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,

¹³ Resolution [69/283](#), annex II.

¹⁴ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-first Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/71/25)*, annex.

¹⁵ [UNEP/EA.4/Res.11](#).

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 looking forward to 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 to be held from 27 June to 1 July 2022 in Lisbon,

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,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary General;¹⁶

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;¹⁷

3. *Also emphasizes* that coastal areas are an essential ecological and economic resource and that their management and planning from a sustainable development perspective need an integrated management approach;

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 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 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 maintenance of ecosystem integrity and can improve the economic profitability of marine management and the use of resources;

5. *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;

¹⁶ A/76/354.

¹⁷ See resolution 70/1.

6. *Encourages* Member States to consider the definition and implementation of an integrated coastal zone management approach, including through appropriate national planning tools and an ecosystem approach that integrates land, sea and watershed areas;
7. *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;
8. *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;
9. *Stresses* the importance of policies and plans for disaster risk reduction to build resilience and reduce the impacts and costs of natural disasters, also stresses the importance of biodiversity preservation and nature-based solutions, and encourages Member States to incorporate these elements as part of their approach to integrated coastal zone management;
10. *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;
11. *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;
12. *Also emphasizes* that international and regional cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, and through capacity-building and technical support for developing countries and public private partnerships, are an important factor in promoting 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 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;
13. *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;
14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session an action-oriented report on the implementation of the present resolution, within existing resources, and decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-eighth session, under the item entitled “Sustainable development”, the sub-item entitled “Strengthening cooperation for integrated coastal zone management for achieving sustainable development”.

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