



**UN Oceans Meeting  
Summary Notes  
17 June 2013**

**Location:** UNDP, Amartya Sen Room, 10<sup>th</sup> floor FF building, New York

**Agencies Present:** see attached attendance list

**Draft Agenda:**

1. SG Oceans Compact update
2. Oceans SDG Open Working Group process update
3. WB Global Partnership on Oceans update
4. UN Oceans TOR update
5. AOB

**Opening:** Andrew Hudson, UNDP & UN-Oceans Coordinator

The Coordinator welcomed UN-Oceans members to the meeting and introduced the newest member to the group, Peter Kenilorea of UN-OHRLLS.

**Rapporteur:** Tina Farmer, FAO, agreed to serve as the meeting rapporteur.

**Agenda:** The agenda was approved.

**1. Secretary General's Oceans Compact - update**

*Jackie Alder, UNEP,*

The SM from UNEP noted that the Oceans Compact was stalled at the moment because the G77 and China had sent a letter to the Secretary General's office noting several concerns they have with the Compact, Action Plan and the proposed Advisory Group. The SM noted that the Chair of HLCP, DOALOS and the Secretary General's office were discussing the different options on how to move forward with the Compact. The concerns expressed in the letter were those already expressed in the briefings held to date with member states, however, they feel that there has not been enough consultation with member states. The SM reiterated that the Compact was for UN agencies to create synergies and accelerate delivering aspects of their marine mandates. The SM will update UN Oceans members and the issue with the G77 and China is resolved.

**2. Oceans SDG Open Working Group process update**

*Julie Ritz; Friedrich Soltau, UN-DESA,*

TST Issues brief on oceans and seas:  
An inter-agency technical support team (TST) was established pursuant to para 249 of the Rio+20 outcome document and tasked with providing technical support to the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals, including in the form of analytical inputs, background material and the suggestion of expert panellists. The TST is co-chaired by DESA and UNDP and has recently been requested to provide an issues brief on oceans and seas (not to exceed 6 pages) for



the (last) eighth session of the OWG (3-7 February 2014). The draft issues brief on oceans and seas (together with all other outstanding issues briefs) will have to be circulated to the broader TST team for review latest by 07 October 2013.

Regarding the content of the issues brief, the following structure will have to be followed:

- Stocktaking,
- overview of (SDG) proposals,
- suggestions on a possible way forward.

The issues brief on oceans and seas should not attempt to summarize all relevant material, but rather address it from the perspective of what policymakers would need with respect to framing goals.

Until February 2014, the OWG is going through an "intake and information gathering phase" and Member States are not interested in advocacy or in a UN proposal of a concrete goal, but would like to receive objective, science- and evidence-based information. Other issues briefs compiled by the TST as well as more information on the OWG (see also attached programme of work) can be found under: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1549>

Several UN-Oceans members have added themselves to the list of contributors for this issues brief and a first brainstorming session took place.

If colleagues are interested in contributing to the issues brief, kindly let Ms. Julie Ritz ([ritz@un.org](mailto:ritz@un.org)) know and she will add you to the contributors list and give you more relevant information.

### 3. Global Partnership on Oceans update

*Peter Kristensen, Program Manager for the GPO at the World Bank*

The GPO design phase is about to conclude, and has benefitted from extensive input from the more than 140 participants involved in the GPO. The Why, What and How the GPO will operate is described in the GPO Framework Paper which is available on the website and which was guided by a representative set of GPO partners ([www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org](http://www.globalpartnershipforoceans.org)).

The GPO Blue Ribbon Panel of 22 world ocean leaders is engaged to help set the geographic priorities of the GPO (<https://globalpartnershipforoceans.org/blue-ribbon-panel>). The two most recent GPO newsletters is attached as well as the GPO Framework Paper. Looking forward from now, the GPO will focus on implementation leveraging from the opportunities available from with the partnership and beyond.

For further questions, please contact Peter Kristensen ([pkristensen@worldbank.org](mailto:pkristensen@worldbank.org)).



4. The UN Oceans Coordinator updated UN Oceans on progress related to finalization of the new UN Oceans Terms of Reference. Two consultation sessions were held in NY with interested member states, primarily to discuss issues pertaining to UN Oceans overall mandate and functioning to help inform finalization of the TOR for presentation to GA68. A further dialogue session with member states was scheduled for 8-10 am 20 June 2013 to focus more on the specifics of the TOR; a strong quorum of member states had indicated their interest in participating in such a session.

5. **Any other business:**

- Tina reminded the group that there is a Technical Committee meeting of the *UN Atlas of the Oceans* Thursday 20 June in FAO office.
- Several side events were announced ([http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative\\_process/Table\\_of\\_side\\_events.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/consultative_process/Table_of_side_events.pdf)):
  - o CBD: “*The impacts of ocean acidification on marine and coastal biodiversity*”, Tuesday 18 June
  - o IAEA: “*Solvency 2100? Resource implications of ocean acidification*”, Wednesday 19 June
  - o UN-DESA: “*Challenges and Opportunities in Implementing the Rio+20 Outcomes*”, Thursday 20 June



## Participants

- **UNDP:** Andrew Hudson - Coordinator ([andrew.hudson@undp.org](mailto:andrew.hudson@undp.org))
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- **WMO:** Edgard Cabrera ([ecabrera@wmo.int](mailto:ecabrera@wmo.int)) (by teleconference)



## Attachments

1. General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals - Programme of Work (28 May 2013)
2. GPO Vol 1 Issue 8 (June 2013)
3. GPO Vol 1 Issue 9 (June 2013)
4. GPO Framework Doc Draft (18 February 2013)