

# SESSION 5: POLICY AWARENESS AND COOPERATION WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

## Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA)

Special session on Agriculture and Air Pollution 1 June 2017  
UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution  
Working Group on Strategies and Review, 55<sup>th</sup> Session

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# What is the GPA?

- The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
- Adopted in 1995, voluntary, action-oriented, intergovernmental programme, led by UN Environment,
- Address degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities
- Brings together Governments, private sector actors, NGOs, and the scientific community to develop solutions and catalyze action



# GPA focus

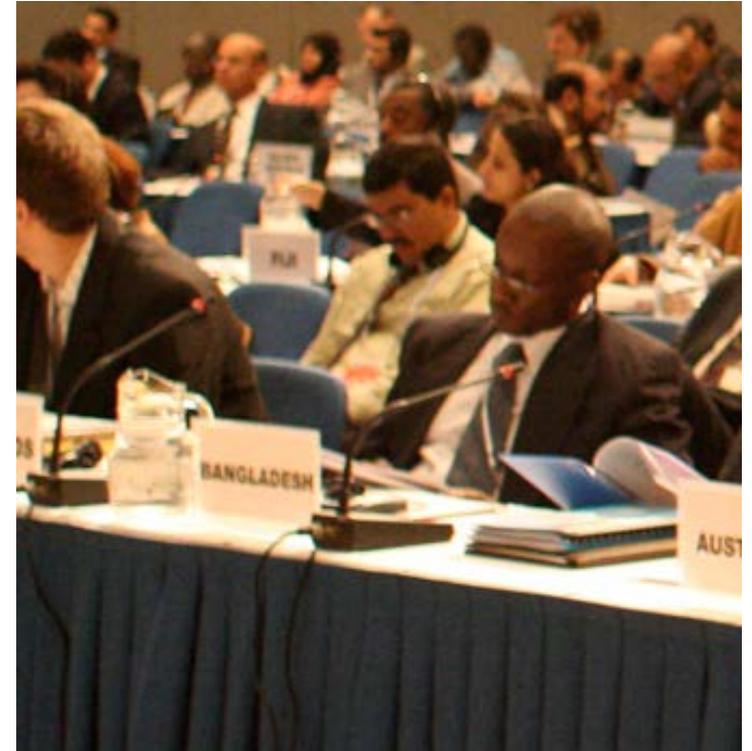
- Sewage/wastewater
- Physical alterations and destruction of habitats
- Nutrients
- Sediments mobilization
- Persistent and organic pollutants
- Oils
- Litter
- Heavy metals
- Radioactive substances

# Reviewing the GPA

Since the establishment of the GPA, three Intergovernmental Reviews (IGRs) have been held:

- **IGR-1** in Montreal, Canada (2001)
- **IGR-2** in Beijing, China (2006)
- **IGR-3** in Manila, Philippines (2012)

**The planning for a fourth IGR, due to take place in Indonesia in October 2017, is currently underway.**



# Implementing the GPA

- Implementation of the GPA is primarily taking place at the national level
- This is done through **National Programmes of Action**
- Regional implementation is done through **Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans** – aimed at improved governance of coastal/marine resources;
  - In Europe – Baltic, Black Sea, Mediterranean, North-East Atlantic
  - Land-based sources of marine pollution protocols have been adopted by most programmes

# Partnerships for Action

In line with the Manila Declaration adopted at IGR-3, the GPA has since 2012 focused its work on 3 pollution priorities:

- **Nutrient load pollution** (nitrogen, phosphorus)
- Marine litter (plastic)
- Wastewater

Establishment and continued strengthening of three global multi—stakeholder partnerships:

- **The Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM)**
- The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)
- The Global Wastewater Initiative (GW<sup>2</sup>I)



# GPA Strategic Directions

- **Fourth intergovernmental review** of the GPA - Bali, Indonesia in October 2017 (week of 23rd)
  - Supported by a technical session – **Global Land-Oceans Connections (GLOC)** in 2 days before the IGR
- Governments will take stock of what **has been achieved so far, and decide on the course forward** for the next five years

# GPA Strategic Directions – relevance to air pollution

- GPA also **offers a link to land-based activities and atmospheric emissions** in context of depositions to marine environment
- Agriculture in particular and nutrient (nitrogen) management is a central consideration
- Link to eutrophication, hypoxia, harmful algal blooms and human health impacts
- **Need to build country positioning to strengthen this dimension in the GPA Programme; for consideration in IGR process**

# United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

- Third session at UN Environment headquarters in Nairobi, 4-6 December 2017
- Main governing instrument for agency - world's highest-level decision-making body on the environment '**Parliament of the Environment**'
- UNEA provides a groundbreaking platform for leadership on global environmental policy
- **193 UN Member States hand UN Environment its mandate**
  - Full involvement of major groups and stakeholders countries
- **Agree on the agency strategy and work programmes, budget**

## WHAT IS UNEA?



Parliament  
of the  
environment



First global platform after  
the adoption of the  
**#2030Agenda** for  
Sustainable Development  
and **#COP21**



Sets **UNEP's**  
agenda

## WHY UNEA?

Platform for leadership on global environmental policy to:



Build a  
sustainable future



Protect the  
environment



Safeguard  
human health

# United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)

- UNEA **seeks to deliver on the 2030 Agenda**
- Linked to key commitments anchored in wider frameworks
  - UN multilateral conventions
  - UN General Assembly resolutions
  - Programme frameworks
    - Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Activities (GPA)
    - 10 Year Framework of Programmes for Sustainable Consumption & Production

## **Resolutions may be brought forward - country-driven**

Provide direction to UN Environment's support to countries

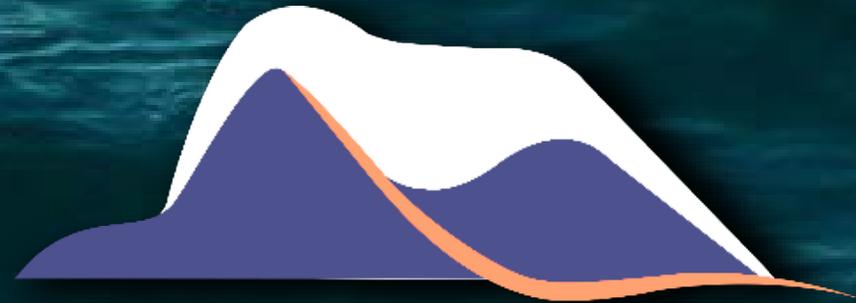
List of Resolutions adopted at UNEA-2 available here

<http://www.unep.org/unea/list-resolutions-adopted-unea-2>

For more information  
visit us at  
[www. http://www.unep.org/gpa/](http://www.unep.org/gpa/)



**United Nations  
Environment Programme**



**GPA**

Global Programme of Action for the  
Protection of the Marine Environment  
from Land-based Activities