

2ND MEETING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPEN-ENDED INFORMAL CONSULTATIVE PROCESS ESTABLISHED BY THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ITS RESOLUTION 54/33 IN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE ANNUAL REVIEW BY THE ASSEMBLY OF DEVELOPMENT IN OCEAN AFFAIRS (UNICPOLOS).

Reference: IHB CL21/2001 dated 19 April 2001

Dear Sirs,

The meeting was held in New York at the United Nations from 7 to 11 May 2001, and was jointly chaired by H.E. Mr. Tuiloma Neroni SLADE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations and Mr. Alan SIMCOCK, Department of the Environment, Transport and Regions, United Kingdom. Sixty-three nations, twenty Intergovernmental Organizations, five UN Programme Offices and Bodies and eight non-governmental Organizations participated in the meeting. The IHO was represented by Rear Admiral G. ANGRISANO (President, IHB) and by Mr. Roy SOLURI (US NIMA), Chairman of the Commission on Promulgation of Radio Navigational Warnings.

The Agenda included the two main themes of discussion indicated by the UN General Assembly Resolution 55/7:

- (a) Marine Science and the development and transfer of marine technology as mutually agreed, including capacity building in this regard;
- (b) Coordination and co-operation in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea.

Note: Resolution 55/7 included the establishment of a Trust Fund by the UN Secretary General in order to facilitate the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The meeting was organised in plenary sessions and two discussion panels (one for each discussion area). The IHO representatives had prepared papers for both discussion areas. The meeting was opened with speeches by Mr Hans CORREL, Under-Secretary General for Legal Affairs, and Mr. Nitin DESAI, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs. Mr CORREL emphasized the challenges facing the developing States such as limited capacity, scarce resources and inadequate means of implementation. He addressed the need for global responses and international coordination and co-operation to address the problems of the oceans. Mr. DESAI focused on the convergence of the legal and organizational dimension of international co-operation on matters related to the oceans. He also spoke about the connection of the Consultative Process to the World Summit on Sustainable Development to be held in September 2002 in Johannesburg (South Africa).

Delegations noted with satisfaction the results of the First Meeting of the Consultative Process and the fact that the General Assembly Resolutions 55/7 and 55/8 included many items resulting from it.

Under Agenda item a), the IHO representative (Rear Admiral ANGRISANO, President of the IHB Directing Committee) gave a presentation on the general tasks and the strategic goals of the IHO and on the importance of hydrographic data which not only contributes to the safety of navigation, but also to the preservation of the marine environment. He presented a profile of the IHO and highlighted those regions where capacity building efforts need to be intensified. He said that many coastal nations (particularly in Africa but also in other regions) lack even the most basic equipment to carry out their own survey and charting operations.

Under Agenda item b), Mr. Roy SOLURI (US NIMA), the Chairman of the IHO Commission on Promulgation of Radionavigational Warnings gave a presentation on the contribution made by the IHO to the alert and report system for combating piracy.

As a result of the IHO presentations, it was decided that, amongst others, the following issues would be submitted to the UN General Assembly:

“Issue N: The need for scientific research for maritime operations.

48 Marine scientific research and technological development for maritime operations is driven inter alia by the vital role of shipping in the world trade. The fields that are particularly relevant are hydrography and meteorology”

The International Hydrographic Organization, in consultation with other relevant international organizations, provides assistance to States, in particular to developing countries, where the lack of hydrographic capability undermines the safety of navigation, the protection of the marine environment or the enforcement of laws against piracy and armed robbery at sea.

The UNICPOLOS II Report will be discussed at the UN General Assembly in October 2001. The next UNICPOLOS meeting will presumably take place in New York in May 2002. Items for the Third meeting will be :

- Capacity building and regional co-operation;
- Capacity building for developing States;
- Regional approach in oceans management and development;
- Development and transfer of marine technology;
- Evaluation of the progress achieved under the issues discussed at the first and second meeting of the Consultative process;
- Potential and new uses of the oceans;
- Navigation in ecologically sensitive areas.

Many delegations thought that the third meeting of the Consultative Process could make a significant contribution to the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (RSA) in September 2002. The IHO Member States are encouraged to send their inputs to the IHB for the next meeting and to brief their national representative on the importance of providing hydrographic services (Regulation 9 of the SOLAS Chapter V).

On behalf of the Directing Committee
Yours sincerely,

Rear Admiral Giuseppe ANGRISANO
President