



## **PACEM IN MARIBUS XXXII The Malta Declaration**

November 8, 2007

*Attard, Malta*

The meeting of Pacem in Maribus XXXII was held in Attard, Malta from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 on the occasion of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the statement of Ambassador Arvid Pardo on behalf of the government of Malta at The United Nations General Assembly (1<sup>st</sup> of November, 1967) declaring the ocean space, the surface of the sea, the water column, the seabed and its subsoil as common heritage of mankind, that forever changed humanity's relationship with the ocean and environment of our planet.

We, the representatives from a variety of disciplines in the ocean community, reiterate our conviction in the moral and ethical values of the principle of the Common Heritage of Mankind. We express our deep concern for the deteriorating health of the ocean, which is threatening humanity's very survival. Despite a complex multi-government architecture including UNCLOS, our oceans are being irrevocably destroyed in a process of slow strangulation. We deplore the continued unsustainable abuse of the services and resources of the ocean and call for an end to irresponsible and unconscionable behaviour.

We also express our concern that the current debate on climate change is focusing on a single vector and that the role of the ocean as a modulator of the weather and driver of planetary temperature and chemistry is not being adequately taken into account. We emphasize the linkage between the health of the ocean and the climate and the need to address the human imprint on the ocean jointly.

We express concern on the increasing stress in current and prospective use of ocean services and related re-emerging territorial conflicts. We therefore recall the recommendation of the Independent World Ocean Commission for the appointment of an ombudsman on ocean affairs and the recent appeals made by IOI for the designation of a Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for the Ocean, albeit a goodwill ambassador to provide policy coherences and good offices to ease tensions and for conflict prevention with regard to ocean and coastal space. We believe that such a designated personality would have authority to make direct representation to those with the power to effect change at the same time responding to the voice of the civil society.

We note with deep anxiety the increasing international tensions in the face of new and emerging ocean challenges including that of the high seas beyond national jurisdiction and the lawlessness that exists on the high seas in the absence of the effective exercise of trusteeship by the world community and enforcement and compliance with international law. We consider favourably a consensus building process for an implementation agreement of UNCLOS on areas beyond national jurisdiction. This should not be for the purpose of rewriting UNCLOS, but to fill the implementation gap while protecting the acquired rights of developing countries and their access to benefit sharing. We are convinced that it is in the interest of developing countries to develop a positive agenda for this purpose and call for the solidarity of all those able to provide capacity building and technical assistance to developing countries, one of which is IOI.

We call on IOI to provide a forum for consensus building, leadership promotion by bringing together representatives of the state, civil society and the private sector to promote a common vision.

We welcome the development of the EU maritime integrated and overarching policy and commend the manner in which the EU maritime policy is evolving, particularly the inclusiveness in the consultative process. We believe that it can become a model for advanced governance of



oceans and seas, and call on the EU to address the issue of coherence with policies of neighbouring states and provision of capacity building to promote such coherence.

For the empowerment of women and the involvement of youth in the good governance of the ocean, the conference called for an encouraging community-based approach for the sustainable use of the ocean resources and services, particularly with the aim of achieving the Millennium Development Goals and also for addressing not only living from the ocean but also living with the ocean, particularly in mitigating and adapting to natural marine hazards. We call upon international development organisations to pay special attention to the worsening plight of coastal communities.

In order to build and maintain broad public support, especially at the grassroots level, the Conference welcomed the launching under the auspices of the IOI of a five-year Global campaign for Sustainable Ocean Governance; Waves of Change. Designed to empower and mobilise women and youth, the Campaign would likewise seek to build a new global partnership network, utilise more effectively the power of the media, especially the new media, and promote new ocean literacy in keeping with the objectives of the International Decade for Sustainable Development Education, the MDG's, WSSD and UNCLOS.

We call on the IOI to encourage governments, stakeholders and all those empowered in education, to acknowledge the needs of the oceans by providing opportunities and encouragement to young people to study marine science, engineering and technology in all their facets, in particular to promote the concept of Operational Oceanography, technologies for the mitigation of climate change and multi hazards, and ocean governance.

We welcomed the convening and establishment of the first international Youth Ocean Parliament on the occasion of Pacem in Maribus XXXII, took note of the declaration adopted and annex hereto. We call on IOI to support future sessions of the Youth Ocean Parliament.

We took note of the intention of the patron of IOI, Dr. Mario Soares expressed in his opening statement to revisit in 2008 the report of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans with experts and other personalities. IOI should consider contributing to that process.

The conference expressed its deep appreciation and gratitude to the government and people of Malta for their generous hospitality extended to all participants and excellent arrangements made to ensure the success of the conference.

Annexed hereto are sectoral recommendations addressed in the three themes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Pacem in Maribus and the declaration of the first Youth Ocean Parliament.