



## **PLENARY SESSION**

### **BREAKING NEW GROUND – WAVES OF CHANGE**

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

**13.30-15.20**

**Chameleon Suite**

**Corinthia Palace Hotel, Attard, Malta**

Chair: Awni Behnam, President of IOI

Rapporteur: Dr Noel Brown, PIM International Committee



## Breaking Barriers, Building Partnerships, Generating Action

Noel J. Brown

*PIM International Committee*

### **Abstract**

It has been called the source of our lives, the mother of our ecosystems, the largest terrestrial domain and most important terrestrial domain on Earth. It regulates the world's climate systems, stabilises the hydrological cycle; it is a major food source for the planet and the major route for maritime trade; it holds secrets that could cure many diseases and enhance the quality of life and human wellbeing on the planet. And yet, it is less known than the far side of the moon. Our ignorance and reckless exploitation of its resources and many of the habitats it contains, not to mention our indifference to its essential role in the planet life support systems, leave us to wonder whether humanity may not be well advanced on the road to self destruction.

Each year scientists paint evermore bleak pictures of the state and fate of the oceans and their implications for the human future. For example three years ago, the late marine scientist Dr. Random Myers of Dalhousie University reported his findings from a decade-long study revealing that in the 50 years since the introduction of industrial fishing, 90% of the oceans' predatory stocks have been decimated. This kind of loss holds serious implications for the marine food web as well as other ecosystems and marine life in general. Almost ten years ago, on the occasion of the International Year of the Oceans, a group of scientists from a variety of disciplines came to the same conclusion, arguing that the progressive degradation of the oceans was perhaps the most serious crisis facing humanity today. But despite these dire warnings, there is little evidence that they are being taken seriously or that the world is ready to develop policies that would be commensurate with the magnitude of the challenge. What will it take to kick this habit of indifference or galvanise the public will for sustained action?

This is the central concern of PIM 32 and the present paper will explore the possibilities for "breaking new ground" and identify specific ways in which women and youth may be empowered to lead a five-year global campaign for sustainable ocean governance.

### **Introduction**

Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a distinct pleasure to be here this afternoon at what I sense will be a conference with a difference, one destined to break new ground.

Unlike the previous conference series which focused on the state of the oceans, exchanged ideas on the latest scientific advances and formulated strategies for advocacy, PIM 32 will be about empowerment – empowering the potentially significant constituencies of women and youth to lead a new kind of revolution for the protection of the marine environment and the sustainable use of its resources. It will aim at creativity, innovation and the liberation of skills and talents to avert an impending ocean crisis. In short, it will seek to break barriers in an unprecedented Wave of Change.

And the timing could not be more propitious. Today we stand at the threshold of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Ocean, whose central objective was to increase public awareness and heighten global appreciation of the importance of the ocean in our lives.

Waves of Change, on the other hand, aims at engagement, mobilization and action, in a sustainable campaign that will bridge gaps and build values as well as animate a new sense of urgency. The reasons should be clear, if not self-evident.

The oceans are known variously as the source of all life, the mother of all ecosystems, the largest and most important terrestrial domain on the planet. They regulate the world's climate systems and stabilize the hydrological cycle; they are a major food source for an expanding world population and among the most important routes for maritime trade. The oceans hold



secrets that could cure many diseases and enhance the quality of life and wellbeing of the people of the planet. Yet they are less known than the far side of the moon.

Our ignorance and reckless exploitation of marine resources and habitats, not to mention our indifference to the essential role of the oceans in the planetary life support systems, leave us to wonder whether humanity may not be well on the road to self-destruction.

Each year scientists paint evermore bleak pictures of the state and fate of the oceans and their implications for the human future. Five years ago, for example, the late marine scientist Dr. Random Myers of Dalhousie University reported his findings from a decade-long study, revealing that in the fifty years since the introduction of industrial fishing, 90% of the oceans' predatory stocks have been decimated and there is no guarantee that the remaining 10% will long survive.

The issue here, however, is not simply overfishing or the loss of commercial species, or even the impoverishment of major protein sources. It is the loss of marine biodiversity, whose consequences might be as incalculable as their impacts are unpredictable.

Biodiversity is vital to ecological sustainability and may be a key to human health and wellbeing. In a thoughtful and thought-provoking volume, "Six Deadly Plagues and How We Are Causing Them," the author Mark Jerome Walters, a journalist and doctor of veterinary medicine, describes how habitat destruction and the loss of biodiversity and other environmental changes may well be causally connected to epidemics and infectious diseases, such as mad cow disease, HIV/AIDS, Lyme disease, West Nile virus hantavirus, salmonella and, more recently, SARS and bird flu. Sooner or later, the loss of marine biodiversity will have to be factored in the equation of human health.

To these already well-documented threats should be added the spectre of global warming with its many unknowns. Already scientists have expressed concerns about the effects of elevated sea temperature on coral and plankton forests, storms and hurricanes, as well as increased carbonization on crustaceans

It was perhaps such potentialities that led several dozen scientists ten years ago, on the occasion of the International Year of the Ocean, to warn that the progressive degradation of the ocean was perhaps the most serious crisis facing humanity today. But despite these dire warnings, there is little evidence that they are either taken seriously or that the world is ready to develop policies commensurate with the magnitude of the challenge.

What will it take to kick this habit of indifference and galvanise the public will for sustained action?

Perhaps the voices of our young, the custodians of our future and the conscience of humanity, may yet be heard and heeded where scientific alerts have not. This possibility was very much in evidence earlier this year at the East Asian Seas Conference in Haikou, China when, at the Opening Plenary, a nine-year-old Chinese girl was given the floor.

And this is what she said: *When I was little I used to come to the beach and play. The water was clean and the fish were abundant. Today there are a lot of dead fish with their sad glaring eyes as if to ask: what have you done to our home?*

In her brief life of less than a decade, the changes were clear and disturbing. Things clearly are speeding up, as if the movie of ocean degradation had been placed on fast forward mode.

There was another youth from the Philippines, a ten-year-old boy, who had a similar report in which he asked, *Where has all the fishes gone?* But his challenge was to us – "the cool guys" – to take action now to secure his natural patrimony.

These two young voices at the opening plenary put the conference on notice that they expected us to protect the marine environment in a sustainable manner. From the conference discussion



and the Ministerial Statement that followed, there was some evidence that we are at least beginning to heed that call. Our children are becoming our most effective early warning system.

PIM 32 could very well become an answer to this call: a declaration of commitment to break down barriers and to identify specific ways in which women and youth may be empowered to lead a five-year global campaign for sustainable ocean governance.

Paradoxical as it may seem, two new developments might serve to elevate the ocean on national and global agendas, while adding a new dynamic to the policy process.

The first is the specter of marine terrorism, which led to an urgent call for new and more stringent measures to protect port security. Since maritime trade is vital to the global economy and the container component provides both visible and high-value targets for terrorists, governments were moved to adopt a number of new measures, including the International Ships and Port Security (ISPS) Code, to address such a potentiality.

These measures create new obligations for Port Authorities everywhere and, in the process, have required significant increases in resources. These developments have placed additional burdens on developing countries, which are required to upgrade security skills through training and other programs.

On the other hand, new opportunities are open to institutions like the International Ocean Institute to adapt their training programs to meet the demands for increased knowledge and skills in the area of maritime security.

The second development is the prospect of ice-free transit in the Arctic, at least for part of the year. For generations, the shipping industry dreamed of a northeast passage that would significantly reduce transit time between North America and Asia. Suddenly, the prospect of global warming has transformed this possibility into a near-term probability – with some scientists projecting that if the warming trend continues the Arctic could be completely ice free by 2042.

At the same time, it is not only the shipping industry that would welcome an ice-free Arctic: the oil and gas industry and mineral prospectors are also lining up for this new frontier of maritime wealth. Some governments have already laid claims to vast areas of Arctic space, arguing that certain areas are natural extensions of their continental shelves and therefore legitimately theirs under the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

This in turn is likely to give a new vitality and relevance to UNCLOS. Hopefully the scholarship on this subject will not lag too far behind. And here again the International Ocean Institute might enjoy a new opportunity to enlarge its training programs to include “Polar Boundary Delimitations.”

There are, however, other reasons why polar developments would seem to have a new relevance to the IOI and the spirit of *Pacem in Maribus*. The Arctic, with its long nights and long frozen dormancy, could become a new area of contention, competition and conflict.

Moreover, unlike the Antarctic, the Arctic circumpolar belt, which includes Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia and the United States, is home to a significant indigenous population, the Inuit peoples. Yet they are seldom factored into the various claims and calculations, even as their lifestyles and livelihoods are likely to be seriously disrupted by polar oil and mineral exploration.

Already the creeping Arctic meltdown is wreaking havoc on their habitation, and new diseases and pests previously unknown in the region have begun to appear, posing new threats to their health and wellbeing. These new challenges present opportunities for creative problem solving in terms of Arctic humanitarian law, demography and medicine.

Because the impacts of many of these challenges are likely to be long- and medium-term, they would seem to have special relevance for youth. At a minimum, it may be necessary to begin a



process of inculcating the principle of the oceans as a common heritage value, so that young people will have a better appreciation of the importance of the oceans in their lives, and the need to ensure their vitality and the sustainability of their resources.

Moreover, by adopting the common heritage approach, youth are more likely to find common ground in the development of sound policies for oceans governance, thereby avoiding the temptation to appropriate ever larger areas of ocean space as national territory.

Arctic women seem to have special reasons to be concerned about global warming and ocean sustainability. For example, women of the Arctic have five times as much PCB in their breast milk as any other women in the world. Increasing land-based pollution of oceans also endangers all women in coastal zones with greater health risks that need to be anticipated and addressed.

PIM 32 must therefore go beyond problem identification to be transformed into a vehicle for mobilization and empowerment. That is why the proposed central outcome of PIM 32 is a global campaign whereby women and youth will be empowered to assume new leadership, becoming fully engaged in a five-year campaign to promote sound ocean governance, the protection of marine environment and the sustainable use of its resources.

On the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Oceans, this campaign can give a new vitality to the goals and objectives of the Year, responding to challenges of ocean governance both sustainably and urgently.

## **The Global Waves of Change Campaign for Sustainable Oceans Governance**

### **Premises**

This campaign is based on the following premises:

- The oceans are facing an impending crisis of unprecedented scope and intensity, which if left unchecked could seriously disrupt the functioning of the Earth's natural systems on which all life depends and undermine human habitation of the planet.
- Despite the most authoritative scientific reports and early warnings, the ocean remains remote from our lives and is seldom addressed as a matter of urgency in national policy calculations or given primacy on the world's political agenda.
- New developments in the Arctic raise the specter of contention, competition and conflict as polar states rush to lay claims and secure positions of advantage. This is an area where *Pacem in Maribus* would seem more relevant than ever and the campaign would particularly advocate for a new *Pacem in the Arctic Maribus*.

### **Strategies**

- Empower women and youth to assume greater leadership roles in meeting the challenge of sustainable ocean governance.
- Organise the resources of the IOI with its global network operational centers and its nearly four decades of experience of education, training and capacity building to strengthen the authority and authenticity of the campaign in various regions throughout the world.
- Mobilise civil society and non-governmental groups engaged in oceans work and the protection of marine environment.
- Utilise the power of media – and especially the new media – to heighten public awareness of current developments and challenges, as well as sustaining public interest through dramatic renditions, effective storytelling and cinematic depictions. Art, film and theatre will be employed as effective tools in building the Ocean Story.
- Engage celebrities to bring attention, catalyze their fan base and mobilise various publics.



## Objectives

The campaign is expected to include the following objectives:

1. Promote oceans literacy  
In its 2006 report on eleven critical issues, the International SeaKeeper Society underscored the fact that ocean illiteracy was part of a “wider and more substantive problem” of public understanding of such complex issues as ecosystem decline, loss of biodiversity, non-point source pollution and watershed degradation. Such pervasive misunderstanding and lack of knowledge about the oceans left American citizens “disconnected from the issues and unmotivated to demand change.”  
  
A primary emphasis for the campaign therefore will be a development of new oceans literacy through the preparation of education and training materials, ocean study tours, ocean summer camps, etc.
2. Develop a new consciousness between human economic and social activities and the oceans.
3. Build new partnerships and alliances among leading stakeholders for sustainable governance.
4. Develop regional campaigns through IOI operational centers.
5. Expand IOI “Women and the Seas” program.
6. Develop tools for new educational models.
7. Develop ocean carbon credit calculators to determine carbon footprints for different users of oceans space, e.g. commercial, recreational, scientific.
8. Organise high-level meetings with policymakers, government officials and NGO leaders.
9. Mobilise art and entertainment communities on ocean themes
  - Film festivals
  - Art exhibits
  - Photo contests
  - TV series
10. Utilise new media:
  - Mobile phone games
  - Ocean Awareness telephone and bank cards
  - Blog spots or forums on Waves of Change web site
  - Podcasts of all videos and conferences.
  - Animated “Personal Ocean Action Guide.”
11. Cultivate a new generation of “Ocean Champions,” imbued with the kind of vision, commitment and determination that moved Elisabeth Mann Borgese to become one of the leading voices of the oceans of her time, and the founder of the IOI, one of the most consistent supporters of the UNCLOS and a leader in education, training, and skill enhancement for sustainable ocean governance.

This is our hope and a challenge of our campaign.

***Start a Ripple..... Make a Wave***



## **Towards a new vision of the Blue Planet – the world ocean: How can we achieve ocean sustainability by promoting the citizenship of the ocean?**

Philippe Vallette

*Co-chair, World Ocean Network / General Manager, NAUSICAA*

### **Abstract**

The world's oceans are interconnected to form one ocean, a common territory with no frontiers and its own identity that each of us is responsible for. They are our home and country. Safeguarding the potential of the world's ocean is an immense collective and individual challenge for all citizens of the Blue Planet. The oceans sustain livelihoods of all inhabitants of the Earth as a source of oxygen, food, energy, climate regulation, and a trade avenue; they are also tourist and recreational assets. It is only natural that all citizens, and not only policy and economy decision makers, should be involved in their stewardship and governance. The general public's role is two-fold: to participate actively in policy making and to adapt their everyday behaviour towards a sustainable way of life, as it is them the actual consumers who are the final decision-makers.

Therefore, aquariums, science centres, natural science museums, zoos, NGOs, etc., have an important role to play. Visited by millions of people every year, they improve their audience's understanding of ocean-related issues, reinforce public awareness of their connectedness with the marine environment, and involve and promote sustainable use of the ocean by inspiring a change of behaviour.

The World Ocean Network assembles aquariums, science and education centres, natural history museums, zoos, NGOs, natural protected areas, etc., all in touch with the general public. They share their experiences and best practices to promote an intelligent and sustainable use of the ocean and to inspire a change of human behaviour towards the environment. They inform the general public about the state of the ocean, help individuals to gain better understanding of their roles in conservation actions and of their relation to the natural environment, and promote public commitment.

To reinforce a sense of common identity and an individual and collective responsibility all over the planet, the World Ocean Network has started to forge a new vision of the Blue Planet - the World Ocean, a common good and legacy of mankind.

### **Introduction**

#### **Why is the ocean important?**

There is only one World Ocean, which covers 72 % of the Earth's surface and is essential to humanity. All human beings depend on the sea, even if they live far inland. It plays an important role in the social, economical and environmental balance of all countries of the world.

- The ocean releases more oxygen into the atmosphere than all the world's forests combined thanks to marine vegetation (phytoplankton).
- The ocean plays a fundamental role in controlling the global climate: it exchanges heat and gases with the atmosphere through currents and winds at the surface of the sea.
- The ocean is a vital source of animal protein for billions of people throughout the world.
- More than 50% of the world population lives on the coasts, and it will be 75% in 2025.
- Shipping accounts for the transport of 90% of the world's international traded goods.
- The ocean holds considerable amounts of precious mineral and energy resources such as oil, gas, salt, precious metals...
- It accounts for 140 million jobs in fishing and aquaculture and many more in indirect employment in sea related activities (distribution of seafood, shipping, tourism, sea mining, marine military activities, science related activities, leisure activities...).
- The ocean has a fundamental political and military strategic importance.

Today the World Ocean is threatened by degradation and destruction: pollution, overexploitation, decreasing of biodiversity, destruction of coastal, pelagic and abyssal marine ecosystems, global warming, and acidification of the water. The impacts on biodiversity, food security, health security, employment, economical resources are very important.

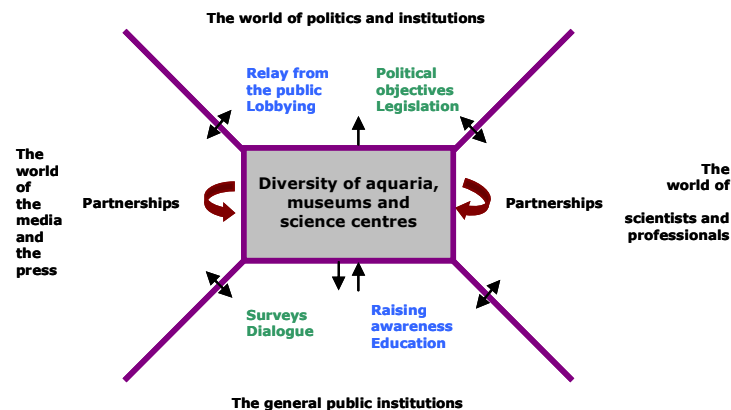
### What role can information and education facilities play to engage citizens?

Aquariums, science centres, natural science museums, zoos, NGOs, etc., have therefore an important role to play. Visited by millions of people every year, they inform about the state of the ocean, improve their audience's understanding of marine issues, reinforce public awareness of their connectedness with the marine environment, help individuals to gain better understanding of their roles in conservation actions and promote sustainable use of the ocean by inspiring a change of behaviour.



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Our institutions are situated at the crossroads where several worlds converge: the world of politics, scientists and professionals, the world of mass media, and general public institutions.



*“Aquariums, museums and science centres act as relays with the public by providing information, explanations, and comments on the policies and laws that apply to oceans. They also act as relays with politicians and decision-makers, informing them of the concerns of the public (i.e. the voters). (...) Aquariums, museums and science centres are the “voice” of scientists to politicians, to the public, as well as to the press and the media. By popularizing the latest scientific findings (...), they make them accessible to as many people as possible. The press and the media, (...) are partners for mediation with the public where many exchanges can be planned, but also partners for action since they are able to act as multiple relays of messages and information campaigns launched by the aquariums, museums and science centres. (...) The general public is the number one representative. It is for the general public, and thanks to it, that aquariums, museums and science centres exist and work.”*





### **Extracts from the Proceedings of the first International Meeting *Acting together for the future of the Blue Planet***

The World Ocean Network's (WON) initiative of public information and education

Since the 1998 International Year of the Ocean, on the initial request of IOC/UNESCO, a group of aquariums, zoos, natural history museums, and educational centres started a new initiative to bring together organisations in a position to raise public awareness on ocean matters worldwide and to promote sustainable use of the ocean to the public at large through education and all available mass communication media.

*"Caring for the Blue Planet, you can make a difference. Think of the significant difference 6 billion of us can make"*

is the slogan that was defined as a common message to inspire behaviour change (First International Meeting of aquariums, zoos, natural history museums, science centres, etc. - *New behaviour toward the ocean: an objective for the future*, 1999)

The movement gained momentum at the fifth *International Aquarium Congress* held in Monaco in 2000. Other important meetings and a European led initiative through the OCEANICS project, with funding from the European Union DG Research have also contributed greatly to this cause. Since 2002 and the WSSD, outreach activities through the Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands have been implemented to generate public mobilisation in support of international ocean governance and focus attention at major ocean related international decisions on implementation. A set of common goals and actions was defined in 2002 at the second International Meeting, *Acting together for the Future of the Blue Planet*. Diverse organisations and networks worldwide, such as The Ocean Project and the European Union of Aquarium Curators, endorsed this action plan which spurred the media to either promote or take part in some of these actions.

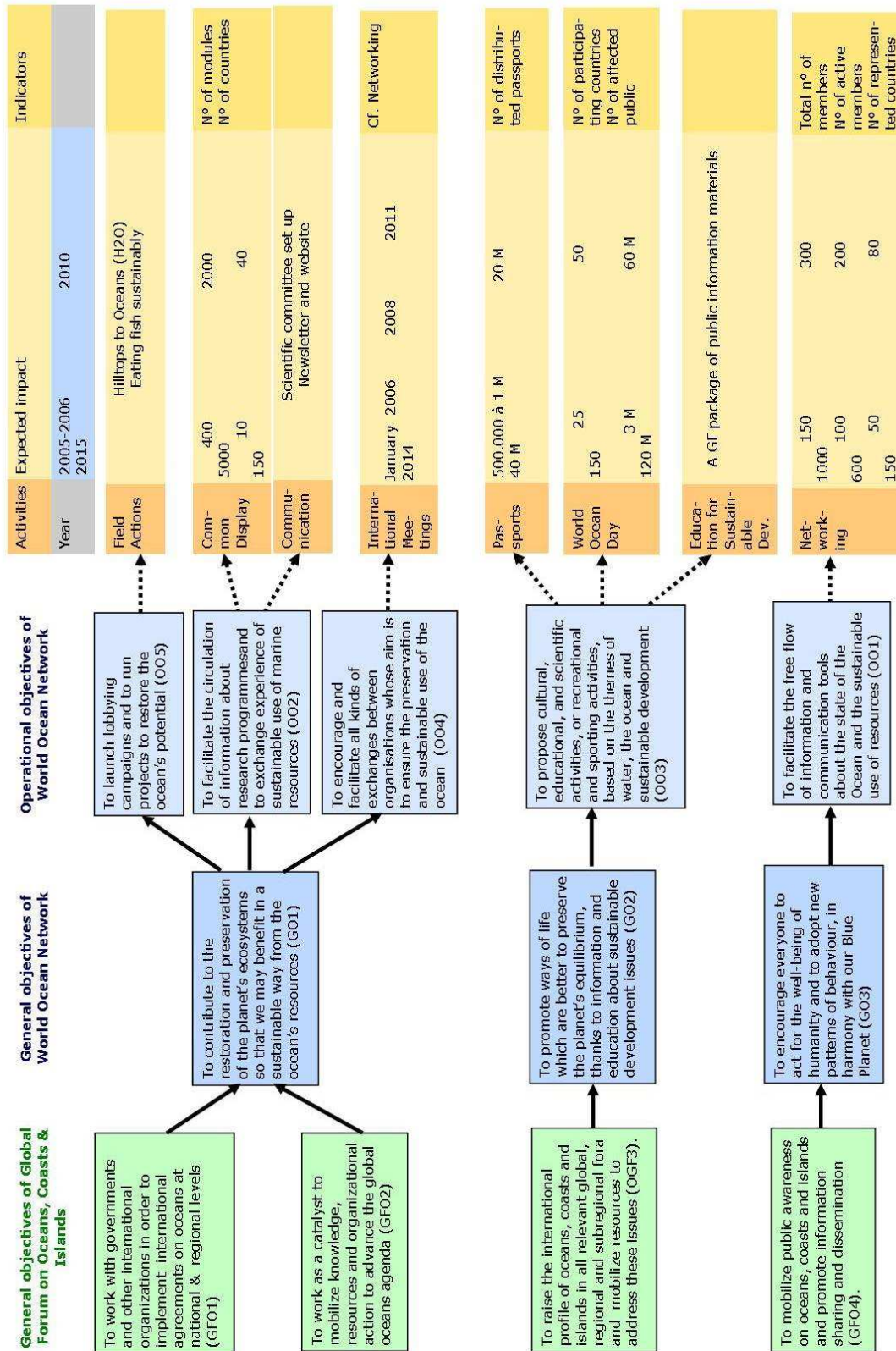
Another landmark event in 2002 was the creation of the WORLD OCEAN NETWORK (WON), which was established as an international alliance of organisations cooperating to foster sustainable use of the ocean through the promotion of stewardship to the "World Ocean." The WORLD OCEAN NETWORK has had a coordinating secretariat and a common logo since 2003, and was formalized as an international association three years later.

In 2003, active participation in the second *Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands* enabled professionals from the education and communication fields to share their objectives and efforts with a broader array of ocean stakeholders. The effort to expand the network of organisations actively promoting sustainable use of the ocean toward the general public was further continued through professional meetings, such as the sixth *International Aquarium Congress* held in 2004 in Monterey, California, and international conferences, such as *Learning to Change our World* organised by the Swedish government as part of the DESD planning process, and the first official DESD event Education for a Sustainable Future Conference in Ahmadabad, India.

Since 2005, regional meetings on ocean information and education have been organised, the first of which were held in India and Europe. Regional coordination branches were also established to implement regional action plans along the lines of the action plan defined in 2002. This effort was acknowledged as a UNEP/GPA partnership initiative at the second *Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities* in 2006, Beijing, China. Strategic goals and a related list of actions (see figure below), some of which have been implemented since 2002, were presented to stakeholders at the third *Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands* in early 2006. They were further enriched during the following third International Meeting *Acting together for the Future of the Blue Planet*. The list of actions includes some activities that are specific to the education and museum field and others that are of interest to all ocean actors. All of these activities, however, aim at mobilising the public at large.



**WORLD OCEAN NETWORK Long term mission : to contribute to our children's future on the Blue Planet by mobilising the general public**





## The World Ocean Network's priority goals and actions

The world's oceans are interconnected to form one ocean, a huge territory with no frontiers that every human being is responsible for. Safeguarding its potential has become an immense collective and individual challenge for all citizens of the Blue Planet. The life support system on the earth, it is only natural that all citizens and not only policy and economy decision makers should be involved in its stewardship and governance. The general public's role is two-fold: to participate actively in policy making and to adopt their everyday behaviour towards a sustainable way of life as it is them the actual consumers and final decision-makers.

To serve the conservation of the World Ocean, the WORLD OCEAN NETWORK has developed a concept of the *Citizenship of the Ocean* to forge a new vision of the World Ocean as a common heritage of mankind. To strengthen the awareness of human connection to the World Ocean and to encourage people to act for the future of the Blue Planet, the WON participating organisations have developed tools and actions. They consist of:

- The Passport *Citizen of the Ocean*, an emblem of a community of citizens who acknowledge a new country, the World Ocean that they are in charge of. The passport holders undertake to use ocean resources in a sustainable manner, to reflect on their daily actions and their impact on the environment, to adopt a new behaviour that helps to preserve the ocean, and to spread knowledge about its role and importance to the Blue Planet and humanity.
- The celebration of the World Ocean Day on June 8<sup>th</sup> every year is an occasion for every citizen to honour the World Ocean and to express their personal connection to the sea. The Ocean Project and the World Ocean Network have helped coordinate this event as an international celebration of the world ocean. The World Ocean Day is now observed by over 200 organisations in over 50 countries and celebrated under the aegis of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. The goal is to have the United Nations officially designate June 8th as an international World Ocean Day.
- Public debates equip individuals with the understanding, skills and access to information, knowledge that enables them to perform the role of World Ocean citizens effectively. They are an opportunity to involve the general public in decision making processes. Bringing together scientists, concerned stakeholders, policy and economy decision-makers, and the general public, they bridge the gap between knowledge and everyday life.
- Public mobilisation through local, regional, international information initiatives promoting concrete sustainable actions and behaviour and consumption habits that show more respect for planetary resources: e.g. sustainable seafood consumption, maritime safety, international action on global warming in link with International Polar Year 2007-2009, education activities in support of the UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities, etc.
- Ocean Info Pack is an on-line collection of ocean information, activity ideas, WON tools and ocean communication techniques designed for professionals who raise public awareness on ocean issues and inspire action in favour of sustainable management of the Blue Planet.

Youth Parliaments for the Ocean are aimed to enhance the engagement of young people in ocean stewardship and governance. As future consumers, decision makers, managers, and users of marine resources, young people can play a significant role in securing their future and that of generations to come. Their involvement is essential to determining whether existing efforts in ocean management will be continued over time.



The first meeting of the international Youth Ocean Parliament at PIM XXXII is an important opportunity for young people to voice their views on the environmental stability of the World Ocean, to propose what they believe the best solutions for re-establishing the sustainable use of the ocean and to enforce the decisions that will not only affect them, but will have a long term effect on all future generations.

The WON objective is to organise: regular regional youth forums; youth consultations in conjunction with international ocean conferences; and to make the International Youth Ocean Parliament a yearly event.



## Breaking New Ground: Charting New Directions for Integrated Oceans Governance

Biliana Cicin-Sain

*Gerard J. Mangone Centre for Marine Policy*

### **Abstract**

The world's political leaders made significant progress at the global level at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, by agreeing to a common set of goals and targets (many with specific timeframes) related to oceans, coasts, freshwater, and small island developing states. Similarly, in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the world's political leaders agreed on a specific set of goals with targets and timetables emphasizing measures to lift the world's poor out of poverty and to achieve healthful conditions for all.

This presentation addresses the question of How Well Are We Doing? in meeting these global commitments, focusing especially on progress achieved, or lack thereof, in the following areas: the ecosystem approach and integrated coastal and ocean management; protection of the marine environment from land-based activities; biodiversity and marine protected areas; small island developing states and oceans; sustainable development of fisheries; integrated water resource management; global marine assessment; coordination of UN activities on oceans; and the Millennium Development Goals on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

The available evidence suggests that progress toward implementation of global oceans targets has been slow, but that there are many promising developments. In some areas, such as integrated coastal and ocean management, control of land-based pollution, protection of marine biodiversity, integrated water resources management, and UN coherence, tangible progress has been made, often with specific efforts underway in a growing number of countries. In other areas, such as fisheries, the global marine assessment and small island developing states, progress has been slower, hampered by obstacles related to lack of funding and, in some cases, lack of political will. The least progress appears to be taking place in meeting the Millennium Development Goals, so essential to human welfare. In this regard, it is imperative that ocean and coastal management programs increasingly address poverty reduction as central goals.

Taking into consideration the need and how to accelerate progress on the WSSD and MDG goals, as well as to address prominent challenges facing the international community (incl. climate change and enhancing the ocean regime in areas beyond national jurisdiction), the presentation points out the imperative of engaging in a broad effort of strategic planning and mobilization to advance the global oceans agenda in the next decade, involving all sectors of the global oceans community—governments, NGOs, international organizations, industry, and the natural and social sciences. Meaningful engagement of the general public in this process, especially women and youth, will be essential.



## Engaging Social Networking for Development

Kirsten Jordan

*Taking IT Global, Online Community Partnerships*

### **Abstract**

According to the 2007 World Bank Development Report, individuals between the ages of 12 and 24 make up 1.5 billion of the world's population; the largest youth cohort in history. Youth as a group are often characterized as being in a period of development and transition. Certain words, such as inexperienced and immature are commonly associated with being young. It is often forgotten that youth can be a powerful and huge resource. Due to the fact that youth are an ever-growing demographic force, it is essential that their voices and views be heard. Technology is one of the ways that their voices can be heard.

For the last seven years, the organization TakingITGlobal ([www.takingitglobal.org](http://www.takingitglobal.org)) has been helping to inspire, inform, and involve young people from around the world. It is an organization that seeks to strengthen the capacity of youth as leaders and increase their awareness and involvement in global issues through the use of technology. As Don Tapscott writes in his bestseller *Wikinomics*, "TakingITGlobal is one of the best examples of how N-Geners are using digital technologies to transform the world around them."

This session will explore examples of how online social networks have helped to catalyze and enable youth and other groups as partners in development. Key questions will revolve around how emerging online technologies are being leveraged for social change and community development and how we overcome gender barriers. Women are often being left behind in terms of technology.



# Ocean Governance: Women as Stakeholders for Change?

Sunil Murlidhar Shastri

*University of Hull, UK*

## **Abstract**

This paper explores the keywords used within the title and the subtitle. It dwells on the primary premise of change and draws on the famous quote by Mahatma Gandhi “first they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win”, and presents stakeholder approach as a winning strategy. Governance is the new buzzword in the contemporary development discourse and is exemplified by individual standards in public life such as selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership and how they might manifest themselves at community or corporate levels. The speaker uses the word ‘ocean’ in the singular deliberately and advisedly. Just as we have one planet, we also have just one ocean. The idea of one ocean warns us that we just have one and not a spare one to squander or fritter away.

In conjunction with the idea of the global ocean, four profound but fundamental questions are presented. The quest to seeking their answers should be the very essence of what he calls the seven pillars of ocean governance. It is the key uses and resources of the ocean that give us the impetus to know more about it and create the enormous interest that we have in the marine environment. Further boost to this interest is provided by other economic and development objectives, but is also tempered by environmental considerations. The paper then discusses a range of ocean governance principles and some major ocean governance milestones. The path, as always, is littered with pitfalls of problems but every problem also presents us the opportunity to do something about it. The greatest of these opportunities is to create what could be termed as ‘marine culture’, using the philosophies proposed by the founders of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and other similar initiatives with a view primarily to achieve equity.

The paper then goes on to enunciate and describe the author’s own seven pillars of ocean governance and his own involvement in the process of ocean governance from the local all the way through to the global levels – in a vertically integrated manner. One of the areas of his personal involvements brings the talk neatly to an important pillar that makes extensive use of stakeholder participation. Using the stated Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, marine and environmental or indeed any issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens. While the Rio Convention goes on to define stakeholders, it also lists major stakeholders and indeed has women as the very first of all the major stakeholders. Examples of successes through the stakeholder approach abound, particularly those that involve women. Some of these are presented and discussed. Benefits of stakeholder approach are clear and visible for all to see, but the paper also cites some obvious warning signals and presents a few inspiring examples of women who have dared to lead the change and have succeeded. How do we achieve more? The author is happy to take questions and give his forthright views for which he is renowned.

## **Introduction**

### **Excellencies, Ladies and Gentleman:**

It is a distinct honour and privilege for me to have the opportunity to speak to this august gathering, almost exactly 40 years from the date when Ambassador Arvid Pardo of this tiny island nation state gave his historic speech[2] at the UN General Assembly, which led to a veritable ‘revolution’ in ocean governance. He was an agent for change then and this talk is about change. Mahatma Gandhi, whom I can never quote enough, had some interesting things to say about change. Whenever you try to bring about a change, “First, they laugh at you, then they ignore you, then they fight you, then you win”: victory is certain, but perseverance in the face of adversity is the key. He also provides a solution by saying: “Be the change you want to see” – easier said than done, I know, but if you are not convinced about the change you want to bring about, who would be? Niccolo Machiavelli[3] warns us, though, by saying: “There is nothing more difficult to carry out, nor more doubtful of success, nor more dangerous to handle, than to initiate a new order of things”.

### **Governance of the ocean**

Governance is the new buzzword in the development discourse. Some of the key components of governance are generally understood to be public sector management, transparency, legal framework, accountability and information. The Committee on Standards in Public Life[4]



(originally the Nolan Commission) recommends the following seven tests for any individual in public life – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership – which are equally relevant to organisations involved in governance.

I use the word ocean in the singular very advisedly. Oceans give the connotation that we have more than one of it and so there could be the tendency to misuse it and squander the resources, but if we think of it as one ocean, as indeed we only have one Earth, then there is the hope that this awareness will lead to better preservation and protection of the marine environment in particular and the environment in general. A number of recent reports and movements bandy about the phrases ‘one ocean’ or ‘one earth’ for a very good reason then.

### **Uses and resources of the marine environment**

The terms ‘uses’ and ‘resources’ are often used loosely and interchangeably, but there is a subtle difference in them. Resource has the connotation of something being exploited and being consumed, uses on the other hand may include things like pollution or leisure and tourism or shipping and navigation, but I am not going to put my oar in, as it were, something one should be aware of. These could be listed as: shipping and navigation, living and non-living resources, waste disposal, strategic uses, leisure and tourism, pipelines and cables, marine scientific research, biodiversity conservation, habitat management, climate control, illegal/illegitimate uses, education and awareness – a rather exhaustive list in my mind.

The marine environment has always captured the human imagination and we have always been interested in it because of what it has offered to us from the advent of mankind. Further boost to our interest in the marine environment came from some of the following factors, the first and foremost being socioeconomic necessity<sup>[5]</sup>, followed by the political and cultural aspirations of post-war/neo-independent nation states who wanted to have the control of their own resources<sup>[6]</sup>. The post-war period was also one of scientific discovery and technological possibility particularly in the marine environment<sup>[7]</sup> and phrases such as knowledge, exploitability and usability<sup>[8]</sup> came to be used. It was Einstein, though, who had reminded us, “Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world”. And this is quite true of the next factor which was to do with the wide-eyed science fiction<sup>[9]</sup>, which has always helped us think of the impossible and do something about it. The final factor is most certainly the questioning by the ‘enlightened’<sup>[10]</sup> as to what we were doing to the earth and what impact was it having on our environment.

Some key questions<sup>[11]</sup> then that we should be seeking to answer are: What are the uses and resources of the marine environment? Who has access to them or who has their ownership? Where or when are these exploited or made use of? And, how can these be distributed in an equitable manner? Not the easiest of questions to answer, but the quest in itself is well worth the effort and could lead to better ocean governance.

### **Some principles and developments**

The principle of the Common Heritage of Mankind<sup>[12]</sup>, enunciated by Ambassador Arvid Pardo and enshrined in the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, can be considered as a watershed moment in modern ocean governance. The environmental movement itself received a tremendous fillip with the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972<sup>[13]</sup> and the events leading up to it and since<sup>[14]</sup>. Towards the later part of the 1970s there was a great deal of feeling about the inequity that existed between the ‘haves’ and the ‘have-nots’ of the world, and Willy Brandt accepted the role of heading a Commission<sup>[15]</sup> that would investigate into this and came out with two reports of significant importance.

In 1982, after almost a decade of negotiations and diplomatic wrangling, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea<sup>[16]</sup> was opened for signatures in Montego Bay in Jamaica and was hailed, among other things, as ‘A Constitution for the Oceans’ by Tommy T. B. Koh.

Gro Harlem Brundtland and the World Commission on Environment and Development published their report<sup>[17]</sup> in 1987 and provided the momentum that culminated in the Earth Summit in 1992,





which had a spectacular range of outcomes of far reaching consequences<sup>[18]</sup>. Maurice Strong called it a “historic moment for humanity”. The Kyoto Protocol was adopted at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC in 1997, thus committing member states to controlling the emission of Greenhouse Gases. The Commission on Sustainable Development established by the UN after the Rio Summit, organised the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002 with the aim to identify mechanisms to implement.

### Problems/progress?

Pressure on resources is a well-known problem. This may be attributed to increase in population, but that view could be rather simplistic. It has more to do with inequities and distribution issues<sup>[19]</sup>. Peoples’ aspirations are but natural and are an extension of the nation states’ aspirations as we have seen before. Globalisation<sup>[20]</sup> has ensured that everyone knows how the ‘other half lives’ and it is only to be expected that the ‘have nots’ aspire to the lifestyle of ‘haves’ with its own associated problems. Population issues are further compounded due to demographic patterns. The growth of the global population and the shift of demographics from the rural to the urban have a clear relationship, as evidenced by growth in the size and numbers of our mega-cities<sup>[21]</sup>.

Powers and interest groups confound the problems further. Whether they be corporate giants or influential non-governmental organisations, they are all in the business of ensuring that their side of the bread is buttered. Political perceptions and priorities, often misplaced, may lead to the wrong kind of incentives and disincentives creating further problems. Poverty and prosperity<sup>[22]</sup> are the reverse and obverse side of the same coin and they both cause compounding of the issues I have been talking about. Print, electronic and broadcast media are, similarly, double-edged swords: they can be useful, but they can also be equally guilty of spreading the wrong message.

Enough of the P words that accentuate problems, but what we are looking for is progress which is also a P word. But what sort of progress do we want? Mahatma, when asked by an upstart reporter, “Mr Gandhi, what do you think of the Western civilisation?” said in his inimitable, tongue-in-cheek manner, “Well, that would be a splendid idea!” We are always faced by problems in the path of progress, but as Elisabeth Mann Borgese always said, “there are no problems, only opportunities”, as every problem we face gives us the opportunity to do something about it and make progress.

### Opportunities – culture

The opportunities we have come in the form of the democratic institutions we have built. They may not be ideal but they are the best we have. We have the support of robust science, but we have to be wise to understand that all sciences are important: both natural and social sciences. Clearly defined ownership rights and clear jurisdiction are important parameters in this context. There is increasing stakeholder participation and awareness of issues through education which is all very heartening and a welcome development. Implementation is crucial though. We have some very good conventions and, rather than simply creating new ones, we should focus on implementing what we have keeping in mind the maxim *‘pacta sunt servanda’*.

What we need is to create a Marine Culture. This could be seen as somewhat akin to the computer culture of the 60s which saw to it that we had a computer on every desk and the environment culture of the 70s which has made us so much more aware and vocal about the world around us. Elisabeth Mann Borgese said that there was a need to create an Ocean Mafia to manage better the affairs of the ocean. We are painfully aware that the environment is still in a state of SLUDGE<sup>[23]</sup>: despite our efforts, all we have managed, if at all, is the reduction in the rate of decline. We need, therefore, to constantly innovate and find better ways of doing things. In the context of the ocean, what Elisabeth Mann Borgese said was nothing short of prophetic<sup>[24]</sup>. UNCLOS and UNCED are already influencing past conventions and future reorganisation of the intergovernmental organisations.



## Approach and involvement

Borrowing from the title of that immensely unreadable book<sup>[25]</sup>, I have termed my approach the Seven Pillars of Ocean Governance. The seven pillars themselves are: science and technology of resources; geopolitical economy of resources; institutions and organisations; legislation and implementation; role of civil society; financial initiatives; and education and awareness. I am passionate about ocean governance and I am on a mission to spread the word: I shall speak on these issues to anyone who will listen to me and I am honoured that you have decided to be here today.

My membership of committees within the International Law Association, the UK All Party Parliamentary Group, the International Centre for the Exploration of the Seas, the Oslo and Paris Commission, the Society for Underwater Technology, among others, helps me articulate these issues from within and outside. I do this by being involved with a range of organisations from the local to global levels, contributing to the discussions on the UK Marine Bill and the EU Maritime Policy, promoting my ideas through speaking engagements and working on a number of stakeholder dialogues.

## Stakeholder participation

This last point neatly brings me to the next topic of my talk today. The Rio Declaration<sup>[26]</sup> proclaims that, “Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens”. If you want to do something for the people, make sure that they want it. Indeed, many problems we face are because we live in a world that is increasingly disenfranchised<sup>[27]</sup>. The Rio Conference was helpful as it not only defined<sup>[28]</sup> the term stakeholders – “Stakeholders are those individuals and/or groups that have a stake in certain policy decisions – they are impacting the decision or policy and/or are affected by it”, but also went on to identify<sup>[29]</sup> major stakeholders to include: women, children and youth, indigenous people, non-governmental organisations, local authorities, trade unions, business and industry, science and technology and farmers.

Stakeholder approach has many benefits starting with facilitating constructive communication. It lends itself to collective decision making capacity and makes for economic and social empowerment. Dialogue helps to address concerns and leads to consensus through communication. A harmonised, coordinated and integrated approach to policy-making can be achieved. There are spinoffs from the process too: internal leadership development and confidence to deal and build relationships with other groups. All in all, it makes for a win-win scenario!<sup>[30]</sup>

## Women and change

And very crucial among these are women and youth, in my view as indeed in view of the organizers, as they chose to include them in the title of the conference this week: women<sup>[31]</sup>, because they are one half of the population of the world and youth, because they will inhabit in this world in the future. They should and must form part of any stakeholder consultation process which recommends inclusion of statutory, strategic and community stakeholders.

It is wise to pay attention to some warning signs too. Meritocracy is all very well, but it could and sometimes does lead to creation of what I call ‘honorary’ or ‘upper classes’ in society. Women should not fall into the trap of moulding themselves into ‘honorary men’. The other problem is losing steam. My own experience in universities around the world has shown me that there are so many women studying and doing so well at universities and then they fall by the wayside. Again, women should watch against this ‘burning out’ as it were.

I can think of a lot of women who have dared to change and indeed led the change process. First and foremost among them is my friend, philosopher and guide Elisabeth Mann Borgese who contributed to the creation, development and implementation of the Law of the Sea. I have already mentioned the work of Rachel Louis Carson and Gro Harlem Brundtland. I am honoured to share the podium today with Biliانا Cicin-Sain, who is doing such stellar work<sup>[32]</sup>. I should not, in the same breath, mention names of Sylvia Alice Earle<sup>[33]</sup>, Wangari Muta Mathai<sup>[34]</sup> and Vandana Shiva<sup>[35]</sup>, as each is such a giant in her own right.



Before I conclude, allow me to say two things: first about being practical and next about being patient. First, we have to make a start somewhere. The problems may be many and daunting, but each and every one of us can make a difference. The important thing is to make a start<sup>[36]</sup>. The other is, once having made a start, we have to be patient and perseverant. Changes do not happen rapidly, sometimes they are not even apparent. In the words of Bertrand Russell, “We don’t see change when it is happening; we only see it after it has happened”, and it could be a long time. Earl Russell lived to be 98, so he had the luxury of saying it and seeing the changes. So my advice to the youth of today is, live well and live long: may you see many a change in your lifetime.

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<sup>[2]</sup> The burden of this speech, which led to the formation by the UN of the Seabed Committee, was that the resources of the seabed beyond national jurisdiction were the ‘Common Heritage of Mankind’.

<sup>[3]</sup> The celebrated author of *The Prince*, Machiavelli was famous for his more sinister quote: “It is good to be loved and respected but it is better to be feared than nothing at all”.

<sup>[4]</sup> The late Lord Nolan’s recommendations have been adopted universally in the Public Appointments in the United Kingdom that are made by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments.

<sup>[5]</sup> This has been articulated very succinctly by Indira Gandhi in her popular election slogan “*Roti, kapda aur makan*” – the three basic needs, food, clothing and shelter, respectively.

<sup>[6]</sup> Having rid themselves of their colonial masters, they wanted to be the masters of their own destiny, and quite understandably so.

<sup>[7]</sup> The International Geophysical Year 1957-1958 was one of the greatest examples of scientific effort at the global scale ever.

<sup>[8]</sup> Indeed, these terms formed the basis, rather naively, of the Convention on Continental Shelf, one of the 1958 Geneva Conventions.

<sup>[9]</sup> Writers such as Arthur C. Clark are the epitome of such writings. John L. Mero would not exactly fall in this category, but his book *Mineral Resources of the Sea* influenced Pardo’s thinking.

<sup>[10]</sup> Rachel L. Carson, with her book *Silent Spring*, can be easily credited with advancing the environmental movement that we know today.

<sup>[11]</sup> My own take on the problematique.

<sup>[12]</sup> UNGA 2749 (1970) Declaring the CHM Principle, UNGA 2750 (1970) charging the Seabed Committee as the preparatory Commission for the forthcoming UNCLOS III, Article 136 of the Convention.

<sup>[13]</sup> Maurice Strong was the prime mover behind the organisation of this Conference as also the 1992 Earth Summit and was the first Executive Director of the UNEP.

<sup>[14]</sup> The ‘Flower Power generation’, Greenpeace, Earth Day, etc. prior to UNCHE and the formation of the World Environment Movement and the UNEP are but two the direct outcomes of the Stockholm Conference.

<sup>[15]</sup> The North South Commission was established in 1977 at the instigation of the World Bank President Robert McNamara and published two reports – *North-South: A Programme for Survival* and *Common Crisis: North South Cooperation for World Recovery*

<sup>[16]</sup> UNCLOS III

<sup>[17]</sup> *Our Common Future*

<sup>[18]</sup> UNCED spawned AGENDA 21, the Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Tropical Timber Agreement, the strengthening and formalisation of the IPCC and the World Bank’s Global Environment Facility, among others.

<sup>[19]</sup> See, among others, the writings of the Nobel (Economics) Laureate Amartya Sen on Inequity and Distribution.

<sup>[20]</sup> *Coca-Colaisation*, *McDonaldisation* or *CNNisation*, are but a few examples of this phenomena.

<sup>[21]</sup> Indeed, IOI USA is organising a *Coastal Cities Summit* on this very issue in Florida in November 2008.

<sup>[22]</sup> The renowned futurologist and writer Alvin Toffler describes this *Kleenex Society* phenomena in his book *Future Shock* and Indira Gandhi famously paraphrased, “Poverty pollutes and absolutely poverty pollutes absolutely” at the Stockholm Conference in 1972.

<sup>[23]</sup> Slightly Less Unsustainable Development of the Global Environment.

<sup>[24]</sup> “The international regime for the peaceful uses of the ocean space shall provide a pattern for the future framework of international organisations”.

<sup>[25]</sup> *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by Col T. E. Lawrence aka *Lawrence of Arabia*.

<sup>[26]</sup> Principle 10 of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

<sup>[27]</sup> See, for example, Philip Allott, “*Mare Nostrum: A New International Law of the Sea*”.

<sup>[28]</sup> AGENDA 21 devotes an entire section to participation.

<sup>[29]</sup> AGENDA 21 – See Section III of the main document.

<sup>[30]</sup> India’s Rajiv Gandhi often spoke of this whole process as *Collective Self-Reliance* in the context of SAARC. Examples, such as the *Grameen* Bank in Bangladesh and Self-Employed Women’s Association (SEWA) and the *Chipko* Movement in India, abound.



<sup>[31]</sup> William Ross Wallace wrote – “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world”, alas, it were true!

<sup>[32]</sup> Founder and Co-Chair, Global Forum on Oceans, Coasts and Islands; recipient of the 2007 Elisabeth Mann Borgese *Meerespreis*.

<sup>[33]</sup> Known as “Her Deepness” or “Sturgeon General”, she was the Chief Scientist for NOAA, USA.

<sup>[34]</sup> Nobel (Peace) Laureate for her contribution to sustainable development.

<sup>[35]</sup> Scholar, writer and one of the prime movers of the “*Chipko* Movement” in India.

<sup>[36]</sup> “It is not the end of the problem but the solution must start somewhere”, BP advertisement on CNN.