



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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TEMPERATURE – CLIMATE – EAU

WEATHER – CLIMATE – WATER

Our ref.: SG/CER/UNGA

GENEVA, 27 February 2012

Annex: 1

Subject: Report of the sixty-sixth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly

Action required: To take note of the report and of the resolutions relevant to WMO and NMHSs, and to take follow up actions as appropriate

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to draw your attention to the sixty-sixth regular session of the UN General Assembly, and on the resolutions relevant to WMO and NMHSs.

I trust you shall find this information useful, and I can ensure you that the WMO Secretariat takes appropriate actions for their implementation and follow-up across WMO Programmes and other contributions within the UN system.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Jarraud', written over a horizontal line.

(M. Jarraud)
Secretary-General

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services of Members of WMO (PR-6618)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives)
President of technical commissions) (for information)

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

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SG/CER/UNGA, ANNEX

ANALYSIS OF THE SIXTY-SIXTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The sixty-sixth regular session of the United Nations General Assembly (New York, 13 September to 23 December 2011) discussed issues covering major challenges facing the international community, including MDGs, climate change and DRR, and adopted 251 resolutions on them. Thirty-six resolutions are of interest and relevance to the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) as well as to WMO. A brief summary of those resolutions which are directly related to the activities of NMHSs and the mandate of WMO is given in this Annex. The full texts of the resolutions can be accessed at: <http://www.un.org/ga/66/resolutions.shtml>

The General Assembly opened its sixty-sixth session with a busy agenda reflecting many of the year's most vital international issues, such as the anti-Government protests in North Africa and the Middle East, the dismal reality of climate change playing out across South-east Asia and the Horn of Africa, and the world's major economic engines still mired in recession.

Gathering at a critical juncture in the history of nations, "this is our opportunity to define our place in this decisive moment; to prove that we can work together to produce results," Assembly President Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser of Qatar said as the GA's substantive session began, outlining his four main areas of focus for the session: the peaceful settlement of disputes; United Nations reform and revitalization; improving disaster prevention and response; and sustainable development and global prosperity.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon echoed the Assembly President's opening address: "We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment." Stressing that the upcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development — known as "Rio+20" — must succeed, he added: "We cannot burn our way to the future," and called for early agreement on a binding climate deal with more ambitious national and global emission-reduction targets.

The Assembly held several high-level events in the days leading up to its annual general debate. Besides non-communicable diseases, a second key issue taking the spotlight was the scourge of desertification, as well as the attendant land degradation and drought.

On 20 September 2011, the General Assembly held a one-day High-level Meeting (HLM) on addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. Heads of State and Government, as well as heads of delegations, took part in two interactive panel discussions aimed at spurring actions to reverse desertification.

World leaders said that, like chronic illnesses, the spreading problem of desertification risked reversing hard-won gains in poverty reduction and development. Desertification, which threatened an estimated 1 billion lives in more than 100 countries — demonstrated most acutely by the escalating famine in the Horn of Africa — resulted from poor land management, climate change and conflict, among other factors.

However, the Secretary-General noted in his address that "drought does not have to become famine". Urging participants to work towards the sustainable management of arid and semi-arid regions, he said that, far from being a "lost cause", they accounted for more than a third of the world's stock of carbon storage and held massive potential for the growth of bio-fuels as well as the development of both solar and wind resources. Governments and the private sector should invest in them without delay, he stressed.

The High-level Meeting on nuclear safety convened by the UN Secretary-General was held on 22 September and this event built upon action by the international community to enhance nuclear safety and the international emergency preparedness and response framework in the wake of the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan. The discussion demonstrated the resolve of the international community to promote nuclear safety.

One of the main highlights of the session was the Assembly's first ever summit-level meetings on preventing and controlling non-communicable diseases. Proclaiming the spread of deadly chronic illnesses a socio-economic and development challenge of "epidemic proportions", Governments pledged to work with the United Nations to adopt, before the end of 2012, targets to combat heart disease, cancers, diabetes and lung disease, and to devise voluntary policies that would cut smoking and slash the high salt, sugar and fat content in foods that caused them. World leaders joined Health and Development Ministers in the consensus on adopting a wide-ranging Political Declaration.

The Assembly convened its Fourth High-level Meeting on Financing for Development, where delegations stressed the particular importance of reinvigorating the international partnership for development as States began to consider the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals framework. While those ideas would be fleshed out at the Rio+20 Conference, many speakers stressed that, in the short term, the global financial crisis must not be seen as an excuse for the flagging commitment to fulfil official development assistance (ODA) obligations. Speakers also underscored the need to consider new, innovative mechanisms for financing the critical global development agenda.

The Assembly held a third HLM to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the 2001 adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, which took aim at racism and intolerance around the world. Capping the meeting, the Assembly reached consensus on approving a political declaration entitled "United against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance".

During the GA general debate, the Assembly considered several long-standing questions and issues, including the appropriate uses of mediation and military intervention, and the need to help still-lagging least developed countries meet their most basic needs. With some 64 million people living in absolute poverty and the gap between rich and poor nations as wide as ever, many senior Government officials stressed that global development was at a critical juncture. It was imperative to assist least developed countries, whether by opening markets, closing protracted trade agreements or scaling up badly-needed humanitarian assistance. As ever, broad attainment of the Millennium Development Goals by the 2015 deadline was cited as vital.

The session's theme, "The role of mediation in the settlement of disputes", underscored that compromise-oriented diplomacy stood foremost among the reasons for the world body's founding, said Assembly President Al-Nasser, adding that he hoped to galvanize the real multilateral capacity of that theme.

As its substantive work got under way, the Assembly considered a wide array of issues, ranging from the potential of cooperative business models to humanitarian assistance to the effective functioning of United Nations bodies. In November, the annual debate on Security Council reform heard delegates call once again for urgent action to update that 15-nation organ, which was "badly out of step" with current geopolitical realities.

Many of the discussions during the session — including its two-day debate on the Middle East and the Question of Palestine — were informed by the Arab Spring. In several statements, delegates stressed that the popular uprisings were demanding greater inclusiveness and democracy.

An environmental pillar of sustainable development and other topics relevant to the WMO mandate were being discussed at the GA Second Committee (Economic and Financial).

The developing world's vulnerability to the multiple global crises and preparations for the June 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development — "Rio+20" — were prominent among the concerns of the Second Committee during the sixty-sixth session.

The delegates stressed the importance of multilateral action for sustainable development while speakers differ over "Green Economy" issues amid fears of a new rich and poor divide.

Some delegates stressed the need for a global response to the famine in the Horn of Africa, referring also to the international community's failure to take decisive action on climate change.

Several other delegates echoed the idea that multilateralism was important, not only in responding to the current raft of global crises, but also in moving forward on sustainable development in the future, including a multilateral approach to climate change.

Several speakers said that as developing countries struggled to stay afloat in the turbulent global economy, there was increased concern that unless countries moved towards a green economy, middle-income and developing countries would be left behind. Expressing concern over that potential gap, some delegates warned that a green economy must not become another barrier between the developed and least developed countries.

Of the draft resolutions and decisions that the Committee recommended for adoption by the General Assembly, two reflected new items on its agenda as "Towards global partnerships" and "People's empowerment and a peace-centric development model".

Issues expected to feature high on the agenda of Rio+20 were reflected in texts relating to various aspects of sustainable development, including biodiversity, desertification, land degradation and drought. Other drafts advocated concrete steps to tackle climate change and to support the sustainable development of mountainous areas and coral reefs. Also reflected in the Committee's work were the concerns of the developing world, including least developed and landlocked developing countries, small island and middle-income developing States.

Debate on the adverse global economic climate and its heightened impact on developing countries led to draft resolutions on issues of poverty eradication, the need for donors to fulfil their ODA commitments, reform of the international financial and trade systems, addressing price volatility in commodities markets and the debt relationship between donor and recipient countries.

Agriculture's role in development was the subject of two draft resolutions, one of which stressed the relationship between agriculture and food security, calling on States to address the roots of food-price volatility while urging improved market functioning and increased agricultural production. The other stressed the importance of technology transfer to developing countries, and of incorporating sustainable agricultural development into national development policies and strategies. Agriculture was also prominent in drafts dealing with the development of human resources and with women's role in eradicating poverty.

The General Assembly, reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, in particular in preparedness, has taken note of the progress in the establishment of the Global Framework for Climate Services to develop and provide science-based information and prediction for risk management and for adaptation to variability and change, and looking forward to its implementation.

In the follow-up to the decisions and resolutions of the UNGA, I would like to invite you to take these resolutions, including those related to climate change and natural disasters, into consideration when planning the activities of your organization for the benefit of national economy

and social development, and international cooperation, particularly, in context of MDGs and in line with the Rio+20 processes.

Since Durban, the Member States agreed to work towards a new global treaty on climate change because of the challenges on accelerating the progress towards the MDGs post-2015. In the lead up to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio next June, the climate change, natural disaster and water-related issues are considered as the top priority agenda for the UN principal bodies. The WMO Secretariat, including the WMO Liaison Office in New York, will follow-up on the relevant actions and will provide any additional information that might be required on the WMO's activities and any support that national delegations may need for participating in the future relevant meetings of the United Nations.

Summarized content of the resolutions of the UN General Assembly sixty-sixth session on scientific and technological matters directly relevant to activities of NMHS and the mandate of the WMO as institutions dealing with weather, climate and water

1	<u>A/66/2</u>	Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases
2	<u>A/66/5</u>	Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal
3	<u>A/66/24</u>	Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security
4	<u>A/66/70</u>	Effects of atomic radiation
5	<u>A/66/71</u>	International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space
6	<u>A/66/104</u>	The law of transboundary aquifers
7	<u>A/66/184</u>	Information and communications technologies for development
8	<u>A/66/194</u>	Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development
9	<u>A/66/199</u>	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
10	<u>A/66/200</u>	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
11	<u>A/66/201</u>	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
12	<u>A/66/202</u>	Convention on Biological Diversity
13	<u>A/66/203</u>	Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session
14	<u>A/66/204</u>	Harmony with Nature
15	<u>A/66/205</u>	Sustainable mountain development
16	<u>A/66/206</u>	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
17	<u>A/66/227</u>	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development
18	<u>A/66/231</u>	Oceans and the law of the sea

A/66/2 - Political Declaration of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases

United Nations General Assembly,

Calls upon WHO, with the full participation of Member States, informed by their national situations, through its existing structures, and in collaboration with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and other relevant regional and international organizations, as appropriate, building on continuing efforts to develop before the end of 2012, a comprehensive global monitoring framework, including a set of indicators, capable of application across regional and country settings, including through multi-sectoral approaches, to monitor trends and to assess progress made in the implementation of national strategies and plans on non-communicable diseases.

A/66/5 - Building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal

The General Assembly,

Welcomes the cooperation among Member States, the United Nations and the specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and the International Olympic Committee and, where appropriate, the International Paralympic Committee, to work towards a meaningful and sustainable contribution through sport to raising awareness of and to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and encourages the Olympic and Paralympic movements to work closely with national and international sports organizations on the use of sport to contribute to the Millennium Development Goals.

A/66/24 - Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Calls upon Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible strategies to address the threats emerging in this field, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information.

A/66/70 - Effects of atomic radiation

The General Assembly,

Acknowledging the concerns about the radiological consequences of an accident which were raised by the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan,

Recalling also the High-level Meeting on Nuclear Safety and Security convened in New York on 22 September 2011,

Reaffirms the desirability of the Scientific Committee continuing its work, and welcoming the increased commitment of States members of the Scientific Committee.

A/66/71 - International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space

The General Assembly,

Deeply convinced that the use of space science and technology and their applications in areas such as tele-health, tele-education, disaster management, environmental protection and other Earth observation applications contribute to achieving the objectives of the global conferences of the United Nations that address various aspects of economic, social and cultural development, particularly poverty eradication,

Emphasizes the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to sustained economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, including mitigation of the consequences of disasters, in particular in developing countries;

Invites the Group on Earth Observations to contribute to the preparatory process for the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development by addressing issues related to the use of space-derived geospatial data for sustainable development;

Adopts the Declaration on the Fiftieth Anniversary of Human Space Flight and the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

A/66/104 - The law of transboundary aquifers

The General Assembly,

Encourages the International Hydrological Programme of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, whose contribution was noted in resolution 63/124, to offer further scientific and technical assistance to the States concerned.

A/66/184 - Information and communications technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Acknowledging that the Internet is a central element of the infrastructure of the information society and is a global facility available to the public,

Encourages the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the need for resources in this regard.

A/66/194 - Protection of coral reefs for sustainable livelihoods and development

The General Assembly,

Urges States within their national jurisdictions and the competent international organizations within their respective mandates, given the imperative for action, to take practical steps at all levels to protect coral reefs and related ecosystems for sustainable livelihoods and development, including immediate and concerted global, regional and local action to respond to the challenges and to address the adverse impact of climate change, including through mitigation and adaptation, as well as of ocean acidification, on coral reefs and related ecosystems.

A/66/199 - International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

The General Assembly,

Recognizes that the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was confirmed at its third session, held in Geneva from 8 to 13 May 2011, as being the main forum at the global level for strategic advice coordination and partnership development for disaster risk reduction;

Welcomes the offer made by the Government of Japan to host the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015;

A/66/200 - Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its commitment to the ultimate objective of the Convention, namely, to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that prevents dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system, and also reaffirming that such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner,

Underlines the importance of achieving an ambitious, substantive, holistic and balanced outcome through the ongoing negotiations at the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol;

A/66/201 - Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on "Addressing desertification, land degradation and drought in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication", which emphasized that the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification serves as a tool for

achieving, inter alia, food security, poverty eradication and sustainable development, for promoting sustainable land use in drylands, and for enhancing the scientific process so that desertification, land degradation and drought issues are better understood,

Notes the continuing need for strengthening the scientific basis of the Convention and the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth session to establish an ad hoc working group, taking into consideration regional balance, to further discuss options for the provision of scientific advice focusing on desertification/land degradation and drought issues, taking into account the regional approach of the Convention;

Also notes the efforts under way for the development and implementation of scientifically based and sound methods for monitoring and assessing desertification;

A/66/202 - Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Stresses the importance of the continued substantive consideration of the issue of biological diversity;

Notes with appreciation the offer of the Government of India to host the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, to be held from 8 to 19 October 2012, and the sixth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol, to be held from 1 to 5 October 2012.

A/66/203 - Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session

The General Assembly,

Reiterates the continuing need for the United Nations Environment Programme to conduct up-to-date, comprehensive, scientifically credible and policy-relevant global environment assessments, in close consultation with Member States, in order to support decision-making processes at all levels, and in this regard notes that the fifth report in the Global Environment Outlook series and its related summary for policymakers is currently under development, and stresses the need to enhance the policy relevance of the Outlook by, inter alia, identifying policy options to speed up the achievement of the internationally agreed goals and to inform global and regional processes and meetings where progress towards the agreed goals will be discussed, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development;

Takes note of United Nations Environment Programme Governing Council decision 26/1 of 24 February 2011 on international environmental governance, and of the Nairobi-Helsinki Outcome.

A/66/204 - Harmony with Nature

The General Assembly,

Expressing its concern about documented environmental degradation and the negative impact on nature resulting from human activity, and recognizing the need to strengthen scientific knowledge on the effects of human activities on ecosystems,

Encourages all countries and the relevant bodies of the United Nations system to develop and strengthen the quality and quantity of basic statistical data on the three pillars of sustainable development and invites the international community and the pertinent bodies of the United Nations system to assist the efforts of developing countries by providing capacity-building and technical support;

A/66/205 - Sustainable mountain development

The General Assembly,

Recognizes that mountains provide sensitive indications of change through phenomena such as modifications of biological diversity, the retreat of mountain glaciers and changes in seasonal runoff that are having an impact on major sources of freshwater in the world, and stresses the need to undertake actions to minimize the negative effects of these phenomena and promote adaptation measures;

Encourages Governments, the international community and other relevant stakeholders to develop or improve disaster risk management strategies to cope with the increasing adverse impact of disasters in mountain regions, such as flash floods, including glacial lake outburst floods, as well as landslides, debris flows and earthquakes;

Encourages Member States to collect at the local, national and regional levels, as appropriate, disaggregated scientific data on mountain areas through systematic monitoring, including of trends in progress and change, based on relevant criteria, to support interdisciplinary research programmes and projects and to improve decision-making and planning;

A/66/206 - Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy

The General Assembly,

Invites Member States, as well as the United Nations system and all other relevant stakeholders, to use the opportunity offered by the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All to raise global awareness on the importance of new and renewable sources of energy and low-emission technologies, the more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the environment-friendly use of traditional energy resources, as well as the promotion of access to modern, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services.

A/66/227 - International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the importance of international cooperation in support of the efforts of the affected States in dealing with natural disasters in all their phases, in particular in preparedness, response and the early recovery phase, and of strengthening the response capacity of countries affected by disaster,

Taking note of the progress in the establishment of the Global Framework for Climate Services to develop and provide science-based information and prediction for risk management and for adaptation to variability and change, and looking forward to its implementation,

Calls upon Member States, the United Nations system and other relevant humanitarian and development actors to accelerate the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action, emphasizes the promotion and strengthening of disaster preparedness activities at all levels, in particular in hazard-prone areas, and encourages them to increase funding and cooperation for disaster risk reduction activities, including disaster preparedness;

Acknowledges that climate change, among other factors, contributes to environmental degradation and to the increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, both of which amplify natural disaster risk, and in this regard encourages Member States, as well as relevant regional, subregional and international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support

adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including through the provision of technology and support for capacity-building in developing countries;

Urges Member States to improve their response to early warning information in order to ensure that early warning leads to early action and encourages all stakeholders to support the efforts of Member States in this regard;

Recognizes the importance of applying a multi-hazard approach to preparedness, and encourages Member States, taking into account their specific circumstances, and the United Nations system, to continue to apply the approach to their preparedness activities, including by giving due regard to, inter alia, secondary environmental hazards stemming from industrial and technological accidents;

Encourages the further use of space-based and ground-based remote-sensing technologies, including as provided by UN-SPIDER, as well as the sharing of geographical data, for the prevention, mitigation and management of natural disasters, where appropriate, and invites Member States to continue to provide their support to the consolidation of the United Nations capability in the area of satellite derived geographical information for early warning, preparedness, response and early recovery;

Encourages Member States and the United Nations system to support national initiatives that address the possible differentiated impacts of natural disasters on the affected population, including through the collection and analysis of data disaggregated, inter alia, by sex, age and disability, using, inter alia, the existing information provided by States, and through the development of tools, methods and procedures that will result in more timely and useful initial needs assessments;

Calls upon the United Nations system and other humanitarian actors to improve the dissemination of tools and services to support enhanced disaster risk reduction, in particular preparedness, and early recovery.

A/66/231 - Oceans and the law of the sea

The General Assembly,

Recalling that marine science is important for eradicating poverty, contributing to food security, conserving the world's marine environment and resources, helping to understand, predict and respond to natural events and promoting the sustainable development of the oceans and seas, by improving knowledge, through sustained research efforts and the evaluation of monitoring results, and applying such knowledge to management and decision-making,

Reiterating its serious concern at the current and projected adverse effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity, and emphasizing the urgency of addressing this issue,

Expressing concern that climate change continues to increase the severity and incidence of coral bleaching throughout tropical seas and weakens the ability of reefs to withstand ocean acidification, which could have serious and irreversible negative effects on marine organisms, particularly corals, as well as to withstand other pressures, including overfishing and pollution,

Reiterating its deep concern at the vulnerability of the environment and the fragile ecosystems of the polar regions, including the Arctic Ocean and the Arctic ice cap, particularly affected by the projected adverse effects of climate change,

Recognizing that ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law are critical for saving lives by detecting storm surges and tsunamis and for improving

understanding of weather, and ecosystems, and reiterating its serious concern at intentional and unintentional damage to such buoys,

Notes the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, including its findings on the acidification of oceans, and in this regard encourage States and competent international organizations and other relevant institutions, individually and in cooperation, to urgently pursue further research on ocean acidification, especially programmes of observation and measurement,

Encourages States, individually or in collaboration with relevant international organizations and bodies, to enhance their scientific activity to better understand the effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity and develop ways and means of adaptation, taking into account, as appropriate, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches;

Stresses the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans-atmosphere interface, including through participation in ocean observing programmes and geographic information systems, such as the Global Ocean Observing System, sponsored by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Meteorological Organization and the International Council for Science, particularly considering their role in monitoring and forecasting climate change and variability and in the establishment and operation of tsunami warning systems;

Stresses the need for continued efforts in developing mitigation and preparedness measures for natural disasters, particularly following tsunami events caused by earthquakes, such as the 11 March 2011 event in Japan;

Urges States to take necessary action and to cooperate in relevant organizations, including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the World Meteorological Organization, to address damage to ocean data buoys deployed and operated in accordance with international law, including by education and outreach about the importance and purpose of these buoys, strengthening these buoys against such damage, and increasing reporting of such damage;

Reiterates the need to strengthen the regular scientific assessment of the state of the marine environment in order to enhance the scientific basis for policymaking;

Adopts the Criteria for the Appointment of Experts and the Guidelines for Workshops to Assist the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects;

Recalls that the Regular Process, as established under the United Nations, is accountable to the General Assembly and shall be an intergovernmental process guided by international law, including the Convention and other applicable international instruments, and take into account relevant Assembly resolutions;

Emphasizes that the first cycle of the Regular Process has begun and that the deadline for the first integrated assessment is 2014;

Invites the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, the United Nations Environment Programme, the International Maritime Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and other competent United Nations specialized agencies, as appropriate, to continue to provide technical and scientific support to the Regular Process.
