

FORTY-SIXTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING
OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE
LONDON CONVENTION
&
NINETEENTH MEETING OF CONTRACTING
PARTIES TO THE LONDON PROTOCOL
28 October – 1 November 2024
46th session
Agenda item 17

LC 46/17
22 November 2024
Original: ENGLISH

**REPORT OF THE FORTY-SIXTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING AND
THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES**

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1 INTRODUCTION – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 The forty-sixth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention), convened in accordance with article XIV(3)(a) of the Convention, and the nineteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention, 1972 (London Protocol), convened in accordance with article 19.2.1 of the Protocol, were held concurrently, from 28 October to 1 November 2024, and chaired by Ms. Betsy Valente (United States). The First Vice-Chair, Mr. Chakir El Aissaoui (Morocco), and the Second Vice-Chair, Mr. Frederick Fontanot (Uruguay), were also present.

1.2 The Meetings were attended by delegations from Contracting Parties to the London Convention, Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, observers from IMO Member States, IMO Associate Members, and observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations in consultative status, as listed in document LC 46/INF.1.

Opening of the Meetings

1.3 In opening the proceedings, the Chair welcomed all participants to both Meetings.

1.4 The governing bodies noted that the plenary sessions would be conducted in hybrid mode, i.e. remote participation enabled, taking into account the relevant decisions by the IMO Council at its 132nd session, including to continue with the application of the provisional measures agreed at C 127 until revised rules of procedure incorporating the use of hybrid capabilities had been adopted.

1.5 The governing bodies therefore agreed, given the current circumstances, for the duration of this meeting, to:

- .1 waive rule 8 in the rules of procedure, specifying that meetings shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization unless convened elsewhere in accordance with a decision of a previous meeting, in part, to allow participants to attend the session remotely; and
- .2 consider delegates to be regarded as "present" if they were either physically present in the Main Hall or were registered and participating remotely online using the hybrid system.

Opening address

1.6 Ms. Heike Deggim, Director, Marine Environment Division, welcomed the participants and delivered the opening address on behalf of the Secretary-General of IMO. The full text of the opening address can be downloaded from IMO website at the following link: <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/SecretaryGeneral/Pages/LC-46-LP-19%20remarks.aspx>

Chair's remarks

1.7 The Chair thanked Ms. Deggim for the warm words of welcome, and noted the important role that the treaties had played for the environment for more than 50 years, and continued to play to this day.

Adoption of the agenda

1.8 The agenda for the forty-sixth Consultative Meeting and the nineteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties (LC 46/1), as adopted, is set out in annex 1. It includes, under each agenda item, a list of documents that were submitted for consideration. The governing bodies also agreed on a timetable for their work (LC 46/1/1, annex, as amended).

Participation of IGOs and NGOs

1.9 The governing bodies noted that, in the intersessional period, the Secretariat had received four applications for observer status under the treaties, from:

- .1 OceanCare
- .2 SilverLining Inc.
- .3 Friends of the Earth International (FOEI), and
- .4 the Negative Emission Platform.

1.10 The governing bodies were informed that the applications had been reviewed by the LC/LP Bureau, in accordance with the *Rules and criteria for participation of non-governmental international organizations for meetings or special meetings of Contracting Parties under the London Protocol* and the *Rules and guidelines for consultative status of non-governmental international organizations with the International Maritime Organization*, and noted the outcomes of these discussions. In addition, the governing bodies noted that consideration by the Bureau of recent applications had highlighted some possible weaknesses in the current rules in general.

1.11 Having noted the assessment by the LC/LP Bureau, the governing bodies:

- .1 concurred with the Bureau's decision to not grant observer status to SilverLining and the Negative Emission Platform at this time;
- .2 agreed to grant OceanCare and Friends of the Earth International full observer status; and
- .3 noted the potential need to review the Rules and criteria for participation of non-governmental international organizations for meetings or special meetings of Contracting Parties under the London Protocol, in light of the discussions, and that this would be further discussed under agenda item 15.

1.12 Consequently, the governing bodies agreed to invite United Nations organizations and intergovernmental organizations to the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting and the twentieth Meeting of Contracting Parties and to intersessional meetings of their respective subsidiary bodies, as follows:

UNITED NATIONS
EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC)
ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(OECD)
PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC (CPPS)
HELSINKI COMMISSION (HELCOM)

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES)
OSPAR COMMISSION
PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
(WORLD BANK)
REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)
IEA GREENHOUSE GAS R&D PROGRAMME (IEAGHG)

1.13 The governing bodies also decided that the following non-governmental international organizations should be invited to the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting and the twentieth Meeting of Contracting Parties and to intersessional meetings of their respective subsidiary bodies:

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (ICS)
THE WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR WATERBORNE TRANSPORT
INFRASTRUCTURE (PIANC)
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PORTS AND HARBORS (IAPH)
BALTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MARITIME COUNCIL (BIMCO)
OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM (OCIMF)
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL (FOEI)
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OIL & GAS PRODUCERS (IOGP)
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA (ACOPS)
GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL
WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)
THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(IMarEST)
INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)
WORLD ORGANIZATION OF DREDGING ASSOCIATIONS (WODA)
THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS
OCEAN CARE
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL (FOEI)

2 STATUS OF THE LONDON CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL

London Convention, 1972 (London Convention)

2.1 The Meetings were informed of the status of the London Convention and noted that 87 Governments had ratified or acceded to the Convention. The governing bodies also noted that 20 Contracting Parties had accepted the 1978 amendments concerning the settlement of disputes and that this number had not increased since 1996, the year in which the London Protocol had been adopted with, in its annex 3, the same settlement of dispute arrangements.

1996 Protocol to the London Convention, 1972 (London Protocol)

2.2 The Meetings were informed that, as of 1 October 2024, 55 States had ratified or acceded to the London Protocol, the latest being Solomon Islands in September 2024, and that in total there were now 101 Parties to the two treaties combined.

2.3 The Meetings noted that there had been progress recently with the acceptances of the outstanding amendments, with 11 Parties having accepted the 2009 amendments. Eight Contracting Parties had also deposited declarations of provisional application of the 2009 amendment. In addition, six Parties had accepted the 2013 amendments.

2.4 The Meetings also noted that it remained very important to continue the work to increase accessions to the outstanding amendments, as clearly spelled out as a priority in the Strategic Plan.

2.5 The governing bodies also recalled that the amendment on the removal of sewage sludge from the list of permissible wastes, which was adopted by the seventeenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol in 2022 by way of resolution LP.6(17), had entered into force on 15 January 2023, except for those Parties that had communicated that they were not able to accept the amendment at that time (Canada, China and Finland). Consequently, the amendment was in force for all other Parties.

2.6 The delegation of Solomon Islands informed the meetings that, as a small island developing State, its maritime sector was of vital importance and that it faced significant challenges, particularly in respect to capacity-building to prevent marine pollution. The delegation stated that the **MV Solomon Trader** oil spill incident it experienced in 2019 highlighted its vulnerability to marine pollution incidents and as a result the Government prioritized the protection of the marine environment which resulted in their approval and ratification of seven conventions and protocols related to pollution prevention and response, including the London Protocol. The delegation stated that it needed to review its domestic laws to reflect the Protocol obligations and expressed its commitment to collaborate with international entities to build the necessary capacity.

2.7 The delegation of Thailand reported on their progress towards joining the London Protocol, and informed the meetings that draft national legislation implementing the LP obligations had been finalized by the Office of the Council of State and would be submitted to the Cabinet before being forwarded to Parliament for consideration.

2.8 The delegation of Australia provided an update regarding the 2009 amendment, stating that they would be depositing their acceptance, as well as the declaration of provisional application, during the meeting and that more details would be provided under the relevant agenda items.

2.9 The delegation of South Africa informed that it was currently undertaking a comprehensive review and amendment of its principal legislation, which included regulations on dumping activities. The delegation noted that it was considering the full domestication of all four amendments made to the London Protocol since 2006, covering CCS and the export of CO₂, ocean fertilization, and the removal of sewage sludge to avoid implementing piecemeal changes over time. The delegation stated that it had never issued any permits for the dumping of sewage sludge and would refrain from considering this until the legislative amendments were in place and in due course.

2.10 The delegation of France informed that the internal procedures for the ratification of the 2009 amendment of the London Protocol had been initiated; the administrative procedure was completed in July this year, and the parliamentary procedure was expected to conclude in 2025. The delegation also informed that it had also committed to bilateral agreements with Denmark and Norway.

2.11 The delegation of Germany informed that it had started the legislative process to transpose the 2009 amendment into national law and that it intended to submit its instrument of acceptance within the next month.

2.12 The delegation of Switzerland noted that since the last meeting of governing bodies, it had accepted the 2009 amendment regarding the export of CO₂ streams for disposal, and emphasized that, for a landlocked country, this amendment was an absolute necessity to leverage the potential of sequestering CO₂ in the sub-seabed areas, and therefore strongly urged Contracting Parties to consider acceptance. The delegation also stated that it had submitted a declaration of provisional application of the 2009 amendment and was currently considering accepting the 2013 amendment.

2.13 The delegation of Japan stated that it was undertaking domestic procedures for accepting the 2009 amendment and that it would deposit the instruments of acceptance once the process was duly concluded.

2.14 The observer from Greenpeace International recalled that, following the removal of sewage sludge from the list of permissible wastes, a number of Parties at last year's meeting had stated their non-acceptance of the 2022 amendment, and asked if they could provide any further information. In response:

- .1 the delegation of Canada informed it had deposited its instrument of acceptance in 2022;
- .2 the delegation of China informed that relevant domestic procedures for the removal of sewage sludge from the list of permissible wastes for dumping was under way; and
- .3 the delegation of Finland updated that a government proposal for the adoption and implementation of the 2022 amendment had been submitted to Parliament and approval was expected to take place in early 2025. The delegation also stated that the dumping of sewage sludge was already prohibited in Finland's marine areas and in the Baltic Sea.

2.15 The delegation of Finland also recalled that it had accepted the 2009 amendment in 2017 and informed that it was preparing a government proposal for the provisional application of the 2009 amendment and for amending the related national law.

2.16 The delegation of Nigeria stated that continued collaboration with Contracting Parties was essential for those Parties facing challenges, such as capacity limitations and language barriers, to strengthen global compliance and increase ratifications to the LP.

2.17 All States preparing to join the Protocol were encouraged to keep the Secretariat informed of developments.

3 PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LP/LC STRATEGIC PLAN

3.1 It was recalled that in 2023 the governing bodies had noted the work carried out since the first full review of the Strategic Plan in 2022, in particular in relation to improving reporting and the functionality of GISIS, as well as increasing ratifications, and had instructed the Secretariat to provide a full progress report to the next session (LC 45/17, paragraph 3.11).

3.2 The Meetings considered document LC 46/3 (Secretariat), providing an update on progress made towards the second review of the Strategic Plan in 2026.

3.3 It was noted that since 2023 the Secretariat had been allocated a resource person/consultant from the United Nations International Computing Centre to support the implementation of the urgent issues that had been identified with regard to the functioning and usability of the LC/LP reporting module, including the issues reported to the Secretariat by the users of the module. The Secretariat had held a series of meetings and the consultant was currently working on a number of pending issues, including:

- .1 the NIL reporting function;
- .2 the batch upload function;
- .3 the incorporation of historical data; and
- .4 the report function (for users and the Secretariat).

3.4 The governing bodies were further informed that the full review of the GISIS system as a whole for IMO, which aimed at improving the functionality, usefulness and operation of the entire GISIS, was also in progress.

3.5 It was noted that many of the issues so far identified by the users of the LC/LP module would likely be addressed by the current consultant in the near future, including a number of additional improvements that could be made to support the usefulness of the LC/LP module. It was therefore proposed that a wider review and discussion could follow at the conclusion of the current first phase, once the work of the current consultant had been concluded. The Secretariat thus proposed that such a discussion be considered by the governing bodies as part of the second full review of the Strategic Plan, as anticipated in 2026.

3.6 In the ensuing discussion, a number of delegations welcomed the efforts of the Secretariat and the consultant to improve the GISIS platform and noted its importance in addressing the low reporting rates.

3.7 The governing bodies also recalled that, with respect to the ongoing efforts to address the lack of information from Contracting Parties on legislation and designation of national authorities, and the proposal by the Secretariat to engage a consultant/academic partner to solicit the information requested in LC-LP.1/Circ.98 (LC 45/17, paragraph 3.11.3), the Secretariat had initiated discussions with the World Maritime University (WMU) to assist in this endeavour. More information would be ready to report in full to the next session of the governing bodies in 2025.

3.8 The delegation of Germany noted the low number of Parties to the LP and the low acceptance rate of the LP amendments and stated that this was a weakness of the treaty. Therefore, the delegation suggested the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group to focus specifically on how to increase rates of ratifications and acceptance of the LP amendments.

3.9 Following discussion, the Meetings established an informal group under the lead of Germany to consider ways of increasing the number of ratifications of the LP and its amendments.

3.10 Finally, with respect to the promotion of the work of the LC/LP externally, the governing bodies noted some of the key activities that the Secretariat had undertaken to promote the treaties in the intersessional period, including:

- .1 the UN Ocean Decade Conference, held in Barcelona, Spain, from 10 to 12 April 2024;

- .2 the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4), held from 23 to 29 April 2024 at the Shaw Centre in Ottawa, Canada;
- .3 the UNFCCC Ocean and Climate Dialogue, held in Bonn, Germany, on 11 June 2024; and
- .4 the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), held in Vienna, Austria, from 19 to 28 June 2024 (LC 46/10).

Action by the governing bodies

3.11 Following discussion, the governing bodies noted:

- .1 that the full reporting review would only be concluded once the GISIS issues had been addressed as described above, and that this would form the basis of the report to the governing bodies in 2025 and an interim report to the next joint session of the Scientific Groups;
- .2 the progress made with the contracting of a consultant to address information gaps with respect to legislation and domestic arrangements;
- .3 the efforts made in the intersessional period to promote the LC/LP in external forums;
- .4 that a full report to the governing bodies would be provided to the next meeting in 2025, in preparation for the second full review of the Strategic Plan; and
- .5 the outcome of the informal group and decided to establish an intersessional correspondence group on increasing the number of ratifications of the London Protocol and its amendments, coordinated by Chile and Germany,¹ with terms of reference as set out in annex 2.

4 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC GROUPS

4.1 The Chair of the Scientific Groups, Dr. Cristian Mugnai (Italy), introduced the report of the forty-seventh meeting of the LC Scientific Group and the eighteenth meeting of the LP Scientific Group, which were held concurrently at IMO Headquarters, from 15 to 19 April 2024. The report of the Scientific Groups had been issued as document LC/SG 47/16.

4.2 Following a brief discussion, the governing bodies approved the report of the forty-seventh session of the LC Scientific Group and the eighteenth session of the LP Scientific Group, and, in particular:

- .1 noted the Groups' conclusion urging Contracting Parties to submit information on experience with national action lists and action levels or related matters to a future session (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 2.11 and 2.12);

¹ The coordinators, Lt. Commander Enrique Vargas Guerra (Chile) and Dr. Harald Ginzky (Germany) can be contacted at evargas95@icloud.com and harald.ginzky@uba.de, respectively.

- .2 noted the Groups' discussion on waste prevention techniques (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 2.13 and 2.14);
- .3 noted the Groups' discussion and information provided on Guidelines, manuals, bibliographies and information exchange (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 12.1 to 12.3); and
- .4 welcomed the re-election of Dr. Cristian Mugnai (Italy) as the Chair, Ms. Jessica Mans (South Africa) as the First Vice-Chair and Dr. Yeon Chang (Republic of Korea) as the Second Vice-Chair, for the intersessional period and for the forty-eighth session of the LC Scientific Group, and for the nineteenth session of the LP Scientific Group (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 15.1 and 15.2).

4.3 Several delegations expressed appreciation to the Scientific Groups and noted the importance of their work in addressing issues of marine pollution, and in particular emerging issues threatening the marine environment.

4.4 The Secretariat informed the meetings of the publication of the LC/LP Site Selection Guidance, which was now available for free on the IMO ePublications website at: <https://imo-epublications.org/content/books/9789280100563>. The Secretariat also stated that, going forward, new guidance documents with a technical focus, once published, would be made available free of charge on the ePublications site. This would enhance access to, and dissemination of those documents, particularly for those countries at which they were aimed, to facilitate better implementation and ratification of the LP.

4.5 The governing bodies thanked all the members of the Scientific Groups and correspondence groups for their hard work and, in particular, thanked the Chair and Vice-Chairs for their guidance and hard work in the intersessional period and during the joint session.

4.6 Other action points, as presented in document LC 46/4, were dealt with under the respective agenda items.

5 MARINE GEOENGINEERING INCLUDING OCEAN FERTILIZATION

Progress with acceptance of the 2013 amendments to the London Protocol

5.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2013 the Meeting of Contracting Parties had adopted resolution LP.4(8) on amendments to the London Protocol to regulate the placement of matter for ocean fertilization and other marine geoengineering activities.

5.2 The Meetings noted that, as reported at the last governing bodies meeting in 2023, IMO had received six instruments of acceptance of the amendments from (in chronological order) the United Kingdom, Finland, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Norway, Estonia and Germany.

5.3 The Meetings were reminded of the importance of having more ratifications of the 2013 amendments to the Protocol, as their entry into force would be the best way to bring clarity to this issue and allow the Contracting Parties to finally progress the important work regarding these matters; and that, in recent years, the Parties to the LC/LP had adopted three statements, two by the governing bodies in 2022 and 2023 and one by the Scientific Groups in 2022, all highlighting the urgency of this work against the background of the rapidly growing interest in marine geoengineering techniques.

5.4 The delegation of Denmark informed the Meetings that it was currently preparing an amendment to its national legislation in order to be able to accept the 2013 amendments, which would be presented to Parliament at the beginning of November 2024 and was anticipated to enter into force on 1 July 2025.

5.5 The delegation of Australia announced that it had deposited its acceptance of the 2013 amendments with IMO and noted that, due to domestic requirements, the changes made to Australian legislation would not take effect until the amendments had entered into force for all Parties, and until that time Australia would continue to engage with research agencies and build its domestic regulatory framework. The delegation also stated, in response to a question from Greenpeace International, that, until the new permitting scheme entered into force, no commercial MGE activities would take place in Australian waters and that the research activities taking place at present were non-commercial activities not included in annex 4 and were authorized through other regulatory schemes.

5.6 The delegation of Canada highlighted the recent updates to the MGE section of the LC/LP website and noted the website was the central place for Parties, countries, stakeholders and other interested parties and individuals to go for credible information on the work of the LC/LP on this issue.

Action by the governing bodies

5.7 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the importance of more ratifications of the 2013 amendments to the Protocol, to be able to give further impetus to this amendment and enable the Contracting Parties to confront the challenges posed by global climate change, whilst regulating these activities on a precautionary basis to ensure protection of the marine environment and human health;
- .2 encouraged delegations to ratify and accept the 2013 amendments; and
- .3 noted the improvements to the MGE section of the LC/LP website: <https://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/Pages/geoengineering-Default.aspx>.

Other issues

5.8 The governing bodies noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on marine geoengineering, including the instruction to the Secretariat to update the marine geoengineering information and documentation on the IMO website and explore further opportunities for outreach (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 3.1 to 3.19). They further noted the Scientific Groups' recommendation to strengthen efforts to promote the work on these issues under the LP, as well as under GESAMP (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 3.19.2). The governing bodies endorsed the Groups' decision to re-establish the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering, under the co-lead of South Africa and the United States² (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 3.17.3).

² The coordinators, Ms. Radia Razack (South Africa) and Ms. Sarah Gilliland (United States), can be contacted at Rrazack@dfpe.gov.za and gilliland.sarah@epa.gov, respectively.

5.9 In the subsequent discussion, some delegations provided information on marine geoengineering activities and projects:

- .1 the delegation of the United States informed the meetings that:
 - .1 many companies, philanthropists, investors, academics and United States federal agencies were examining and researching ways to remove CO₂ from the atmosphere through marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) techniques; however, no approaches were currently considered ready for large-scale or commercial deployment as more research, including lab-based studies and carefully monitored and regulated field trials, was needed to resolve questions about their effectiveness and possible beneficial or harmful impacts;
 - .2 in 2023, the United States White House Office of Science and Technology Policy announced the establishment of a Fast-Track Action Committee on Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal to develop a strategy for marine carbon dioxide removal research, which was expected to be made publicly available later this year; and
 - .3 some MGE activities currently under evaluation within the LC/LP were already regulated under domestic law in the United States. The delegation provided an update on the permitting of a number of activities, including:
 - .1 that a final determination had not yet been reached on whether to issue research permits for an ocean alkalinity enhancement research study, as part of a research programme entitled the LOC-NESS Project;
 - .2 an organization called Vesta had conducted several coastal and nearshore alkalinity enhancement research projects involving the placement of olivine sand, the most recent of which was carried out in ocean waters offshore of the state of North Carolina. In response to a query from Greenpeace International, the delegation confirmed that the recent project was assessed and authorized under the United States Water Pollution Control Statute, and that details on the monitoring and research aspects of the project were available at: <https://www.vesta.earth/>; and
 - .3 several entities were developing methods to produce alkaline solutions for discharge through land-based outfalls to research various techniques for marine carbon dioxide removal; it had also received preliminary project information from several organizations regarding proposals to sink terrestrial biomass, and it was also aware of an ocean fertilization research proposal from an international consortium of researchers called Exploring Ocean Iron Solutions, or ExOIS;

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- .2 the delegation of Canada informed the meetings that:
- .1 it had had no further contact with the group called "Running Tide" since media reports indicated that they were ceasing operations, but that it had seen an increase in general inquiries about permits for potential marine geoengineering projects involving biomass;
 - .2 it remained in contact with a group called "Planetary Technologies" that was interested in adding a hydroxide to the marine environment to remove atmospheric carbon and reduce ocean acidification. The group was in the second year of a three-year experimental pilot in Halifax Harbour on Canada's east coast, but this did not fall under Canada's disposal at sea legislation, as it involved depositing hydroxide and tracer dye from a land-based outfall. In addition, Ocean Networks Canada was planning to support Planetary Technologies with monitoring of the project; and
 - .3 it also remained in contact with the "Ocean Frontiers Institute", which was interested in establishing an "experimental area" in which to conduct ocean alkalinization field research. The group had so far only submitted a draft outline of an assessment of their project using the LP annex 5 MGE assessment framework. The delegation indicated that Canada would continue to provide further updates if this project progressed;
- .3 the delegation of Germany informed the meetings that an activity undertaken by a company called Seafields, in collaboration with Running Tide and the German Alfred Wegener Institute (AWI), in which seaweed bales were deployed from the German vessel **RV Polarstern** in the Norwegian Exclusive Economic Zone in 2023, appeared to have been authorized by the Norwegian Government. Under German law, the project would not be permissible if it was legally regarded as MGE. Consequently, the matter had been referred to the relevant permitting authority, the Federal Maritime and Hydrographic Agency of Germany (BSH), and was still under consideration. The delegation also stated that all research on MGE, except ocean fertilization, was currently forbidden in Germany, and there were no field experiments taking place in German waters or conducted from German vessels. Finally, the delegation informed the meetings that Germany was in the process of changing its national law by including selected additional marine geoengineering techniques under the same regulatory approach as ocean fertilization, following the 2013 LP amendments approach.

5.10 The Meetings considered documents LC 46/5, LC 46/5/1, LC 46/5/2 and LC 46/5/3 (Co-Chairs of the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group (LICG)), providing a progress report of the work of the LICG on Marine Geoengineering, which had been re-established by the governing bodies in 2023.

5.11 LICG had met virtually a number of times during the intersessional period, and had established sub-groups as needed to deal with individual and complex tasks assigned to them. The Group had continued to work on developing text of definitions of the four MGE activities/techniques under consideration for potential listing in LP annex 4, noting that the names of the techniques had changed from what was originally set out in the Group's terms of reference (LC 45/17, annex 3). In regard to techniques that met the definition of MGE and fell within the scope of the LP, in 2023, the Group agreed that some subcategories of three of

the marine geoengineering techniques under consideration, specifically ocean alkalization enhancement, marine geoengineering with biomass and marine surface albedo enhancement, met the LP definition of MGE and could therefore be considered for inclusion in annex 4, while also falling within the scope of the LP. The Group concluded that other subcategories warranted further discussion. Work was ongoing to define the fourth technique, marine cloud brightening, but LICG had not yet agreed that this activity should fall within the scope of the LP.

5.12 LICG had been tasked with exploring the implications of awaiting entry into force of potential LP amendments to control MGE techniques that were already regulated under the LP and/or LC. The Group noted that it could take some time for the 2013 LP amendments to enter into force, and further noted the urgency of enabling and encouraging acceptance of the amendment. The Group also noted that even when the 2013 amendments entered into force, it would not help States that were not yet Party to the LP. Against this backdrop, the interest in MGE continued to grow and the demand being faced by Member States to provide MGE proponents with authorizations and/or regulatory certainty was also growing and it would therefore be helpful to have clarity as to whether and how existing LP and LC provisions applied to the MGE techniques under consideration. LICG concluded that a resolution confirming which MGE techniques already fell within the existing scope of the LP and LC and how these techniques should be managed under the treaties would be useful. It therefore prepared a draft resolution for consideration by the governing bodies, as set out in document LC 46/5/1.

5.13 LICG was also tasked with exploring the possibility of amending an annex to an amendment that had not yet entered into force. The Group prepared a set of considerations related to amending annex 4 to the LP while the 2013 LP MGE amendment was not in force. These considerations were presented in document LC 46/5/2. LICG also considered potential legal solutions that might be needed to amend an annex to an amendment not yet in force. In this regard, the Group developed the following three options, which were detailed in document LC 46/5/3, and set out the pros and cons of each.

5.14 In respect of actions to raise awareness of the work of the LC/LP on marine geoengineering, LICG:

- .1 noted that the webinar/video developed on the outcome of the 2023 Scientific Group meetings had not yet been posted on the IMO website or YouTube channel, and that some of the information it contained might already be out of date. Consequently, the Correspondence Group on MGE established by the Scientific Groups would review the video to determine if it was still worth posting;
- .2 requested the governing bodies to consider how information and outreach materials could be more quickly and effectively disseminated, given the high profile and priority of the LC/LP work on MGE; and
- .3 noted that planning and conducting a side event in collaboration with the Secretariat at the next UNFCCC Conference of Parties would not be possible, and therefore requested the Secretariat to explore the process for organizing an event like this next year. The Group would also explore other organizations with a platform at the UNFCCC through which the LC/LP could possibly present a poster or presentation.

5.15 Finally, LICG had consulted with one of the GESAMP WG 41 Co-Chairs about suggesting a list of potential experts that could be included in the roster of experts on marine geoengineering.

5.16 The governing bodies also considered document LC 46/5/4 (Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering), providing a report on the progress made by the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering, which was re-established by the Scientific Groups in 2024.

5.17 It was also noted that the Correspondence Group had continued work on developing clear definitions for the four marine geoengineering techniques prioritized for in-depth analysis, collecting additional input on the draft working definitions through three rounds of review and identifying several points for further consideration. The updated draft definitions were set out in the annex to document LC 46/5/4.

5.18 The Correspondence Group had reviewed the Ocean Fertilization Assessment Framework (OF AF) (LC 32/15, annex 6), with a view to evaluating whether the analyses described in the OF AF were relevant and appropriate from a scientific standpoint and, if updates were needed, what types of technical changes should be made. Based on an initial review, the Correspondence Group identified parts of the OF AF that could be updated and suggested some organizational changes and clarifications to make the document more useful and understandable. Some aspects of the OF AF identified for potential update or change included:

- .1 improving consistency when identifying actions that were necessary, rather than recommended (e.g. using "necessary" versus "should");
- .2 exploring how the scale of the research would affect the level of effort required in an assessment (e.g. how experiments might need to be phased from smaller to larger, or sized to be appropriate for research purposes);
- .3 reorganizing or cross-referencing sections of the OF AF so that monitoring was discussed earlier in the document, and additional details on monitoring plans added;
- .4 clarifying the information that should be gathered for research proposals, during the site selection process, and during the identification of risks;
- .5 possibly adding a new section on considerations for permitting/authorizing conditions;
- .6 possibly simplifying the risk assessment framework; and
- .7 clarifying a number of terms.

5.19 The Correspondence Group had also reviewed the webinar/video developed on the outcome of the 2023 Scientific Group meetings. Members of the Group had differing views, with some commenting that the information was still accurate and relevant, while others felt that the video was dated. It was also noted that there was no discussion of potential benefits, and the names of the four techniques had been modified since the video was made.

5.20 In the discussion that followed, delegations thanked the two correspondence groups for their work, and:

- .1 the delegation of the United Kingdom noted the importance of finding safe routes for CO₂ removal at scale to help meet the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and stated support for legitimate innovation in marine technologies that could have a role in solving the climate crisis.

The delegation was not supportive of discussing a draft resolution at this stage, noting that a resolution was a binding document and that it was important to first agree on what techniques were in scope, improve the definitions and agree that a resolution was the most appropriate route to control the use of those techniques. The delegation was not supportive of amending an amendment that was not in force and noted that doing so would create confusion and might act as a barrier to securing further ratifications, therefore the United Kingdom supported option 1, to postpone the adoption of a new amendment until after the 2013 amendments had entered into force. The delegation also stated that it did not believe that marine cloud brightening fell under the remit of the LC/LP;

- .2 the delegation of Germany stressed that the core mechanism to stop, or at least limit, the effects of climate change was emission reductions, but alongside these measures, MGE techniques could be of supplementary value. Noting that most, if not all, MGE techniques were in their infancy, and given the current state of knowledge, in its view, it was not justifiable at present to deploy these techniques at a larger scale and/or in a commercial manner. Germany considered that reliable and unbiased scientific information was needed on whether, firstly, one of these MGE techniques would really counteract climate change and, secondly, the effects on the marine environment, human beings and on human culture would be manageable if deployed at scales needed for climate mitigation. In recalling the 2007 statement of concern of the LC/LP Scientific Groups, the delegation highlighted that it was important to ensure that field experiments would not jeopardize the marine environment. The delegation expressed the view that the 2013 amendments and the statements of 2022 and 2023 of the governing bodies were meant to ensure first, the protection of the marine environment and second, and equally important, that only responsible and high-quality research that would not be compromised by any interests was undertaken. The intention was not to limit or hinder research, but to provide society and the international community with the information needed to take responsible decisions in the interest of all with regard to potential future deployment. In respect of the draft resolution, Germany was of the view that a resolution on the interpretation of the existing provisions of the LC/LP would be timely and of great benefit;
- .3 the delegation of the United States stated it was focused on advancing research on mCDR to determine whether these approaches could serve as viable, safe and effective climate change mitigation solutions, and that it was supportive of MGE research, including for the purpose of informed decision-making on whether or how to proceed with deployment outside the research context. The delegation supported further work to refine the draft definitions for the four MGE techniques so that Parties could consider whether the activity, or subcategory of the activity described, fell within the scope of the existing treaties. The United States was not supportive of a resolution adopting interpretations of LC/LP provisions regarding specific MGE activities at this time, being of the view that further work was first required to refine the definitions of MGE techniques. The delegation also urged that any such resolution contain affirmative language so as not to prejudice future decision-making on the deployment of MGE techniques for purposes other than legitimate scientific research;

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- .4 the delegation of Sweden stated that it was important that work was carried out globally to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and minimize the effects of climate change and that the work of the LC/LP was important to keep the potential effects of MEG activities in focus. The delegation was not in favour of amending the 2013 LP amendments, noting that work should be focused on bringing the amendments into force;
- .5 the delegation of China stated that, based on the current level of scientific and technological knowledge, the environmental impacts and benefits and the social benefits of MGE were uncertain; therefore, it was necessary to moderate control of these activities to prevent damage to the marine environment. China supported, in principle, option 1 (LC 46/5/3): to postpone the adoption of a new amendment, and recommended further work be carried out in a cautious manner in the context of immature technical understanding and legal foundation. The delegation also stated that work should continue to accumulate further scientific understanding and gain experience in the social and environmental impact assessment of new marine geoengineering technologies;
- .6 the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands was supportive of regulating the additional MGE techniques, in line with LC/LP principles, and stated that research proposals should be judged on a case-by-case basis. The delegation was in favour of further developing the draft resolution set out in document LC 46/5/1 and did not see an issue with amending the 2013 amendments that were not yet in force;
- .7 the delegation of Japan noted that the intent of the draft resolution had been explained as being to interpret the Protocol and not to create new or additional obligations on Contracting Parties. Japan was of the opinion that resolutions of the Meeting of Contracting Parties in themselves were legally non-binding and therefore could not create new obligations on the Contracting Parties where none existed before, and that the proper way to create and agree on new obligations would be to adopt an amendment to the Protocol and for the Contracting Parties to accept those amendments. The delegation raised a number of questions related to the proposed amendment exercise that highlighted a number of uncertainties of the implications and effects of this type of resolution on a matter whose scope of both substance and application were still under discussion. Japan was also of the view that the proposed content and wording of the resolution could be drafted as a recommendation for the Contracting Parties to follow on a voluntary basis as a matter of policy, rather than of law, and that the word "agree" should not be used in such a resolution, as it was understood to imply a legally binding nature, giving rise to obligations in Japan;
- .8 the delegation of Finland considered that it was important to ensure a broad political will among the Contracting Parties to accept the 2013 amendments to bring them into force before further amendments were made. In addition, Finland did not consider it desirable for Parties that had accepted the 2013 LP amendments to amend their previous approvals and therefore it did not support option 2 (LC 46/5/3): to adopt the new MGE amendment to replace the 2013 amendments;

- .9 the observer from Greenpeace International was in favour of further discussion on the draft resolution and noted the importance of addressing not only what such a resolution would do, but also what it would signal from these bodies; and
- .10 the observer from ACOPS supported work on the draft resolution that would reiterate the scope of work of the LC/LP, including full support for a legitimate scientific research framework based on an objective scientific assessment of research on MGE activities, and their potential to mitigate the effects of climate change. The observer highlighted the importance of this assessment framework in ensuring that the MGE research undertaken did not itself transfer, directly or indirectly, damage or hazards from one area to another or transform one type of pollution into another, thereby implementing article 195 of UNCLOS. The observer also highlighted the 2024 ITLOS Advisory Opinion on the application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to greenhouse gas emissions and climate change impacts.

5.21 During the discussion, a number of delegations raised the issue of a recently published statement by Ocean Visions, a network of several non-governmental organizations, referring to the draft resolution proposed by the LICG. The statement urged Contracting Parties to LC/LP to refrain from adopting such a resolution and from taking further regulatory decisions on mCDR. In particular, some delegations:

- .1 noted that the first version of the Ocean Visions statement created the impression that it had been signed and supported by over 400 scientists. However, several scientists from Germany and Canada, on the list of signatories, had publicly announced that they had not signed and did not support the statement and, based on the reactions, Ocean Visions had revised the statement;
- .2 considered that claims in the statement indicating that the regulatory work of LC/LP and, in particular, the draft resolution, would impose an unnecessary burden on mCDR research and would therefore have a direct negative impact on the growing efforts on mCDR research were incorrect; and
- .3 considered that much of what was called for in the statement was exactly what these bodies, through the work of Scientific Groups and the two intersessional groups on the issue, were working to address, i.e. to develop a fair and robust system that would ensure protection of the marine environment while enabling legitimate scientific research.

5.22 The Co-Chair of GESAMP WG 41 on Ocean Interventions for Climate Change Mitigation updated the meetings on the work of WG 41. It was noted that WG 41's main activity was focused on developing the integrated assessment framework (IAF) and that an in-person meeting of the IAF subgroup would take place later in November. The Co-Chair further noted that a stakeholder workshop next year would be organized to elicit feedback, following which the framework would be finalized.

5.23 The observer from IEAGHG informed the meetings of a recently published report on "Measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) and accounting for carbon dioxide removal (CDR) in the context of both project based approaches and national greenhouse gas inventories", IEAGHG Report 2024-09, available at: <https://ieaghg.org/publications/measurement-reporting-and-verification-and-accounting-for-carbon-dioxide-removal/>. The observer also informed that an IPCC Task Force on Inventories had recently held two meetings to look at how CDR techniques were covered in national greenhouse gas inventories. The Task Force proposed a new Methodology report on CDR, which included a new volume on Direct Removal of CO₂ from Waterbodies and Alkalinity Enhancement of Waterbodies. More information was available at <https://www.ipcc.ch/working-group/tfi/>.

5.24 Based on the discussion, it was noted that further discussion on amending the existing amendments was not a priority for this session, but that discussion could continue during the intersessional period. In addition, there was support for continued work on updating and improving the OFAF by the Correspondence Group on MGE, and that consideration should be given to which bodies were appropriate to undertake further work on raising awareness of the work of the LC/LP on MGE.

Establishment of the Working Group on Marine Geoengineering

5.25 Following discussion, the Meetings established the Working Group on Marine Geoengineering, under the lead of Canada and Germany, and instructed it, taking into account the information provided in documents LC 46/5, LC 46/5/1, LC 46/5/2, LC 46/5/3 and LC 46/5/4 and any comments made in plenary, to:

- .1 continue to refine working definitions for the identified MGE techniques;
- .2 consider further work including the need for, and potential development of, a draft resolution or recommendation on MGE;
- .3 develop a format to nominate experts on MGE for the roster of experts and associated procedures for submission, using LC-LP.1/Circ.66 as a basis;
- .4 develop recommendations on further action to raise awareness of the LC/LP work on MGE and identify which bodies (e.g. B2C Steering Group, Scientific Groups) are appropriate to undertake that work; and
- .5 develop terms of reference for the re-establishment of a Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group (LICG) on Marine Geoengineering.

Report of the Working Group

5.26 The Co-Chairs of the Working Group, in presenting the report (LC 46/WP.4), noted that the Group had met from 29 to 31 October 2024 and had been attended by delegations from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Egypt, France, Germany, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sweden, Türkiye, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States and observers from ACOPS, FOEI, Greenpeace International, IMarEST and Ocean Care.

5.27 In the discussion that followed, the delegation of the United Kingdom, in reference to the statement on MGE set out in annex 2 of document LC 46/WP.4, tabled text for a preamble to the statement, which had been agreed with members of the Working Group.

5.28 The delegation of Germany emphasized the importance of having an outcome of the work undertaken on MGE from this meeting which could be communicated to external audiences, including the general public and international bodies dealing with this issue. Germany stated that it considered the instruments agreed by these bodies to be fit for purpose to govern research activities. The delegation also expressed support for the preamble text proposed by the United Kingdom, and the reference to potential benefits for mitigating climate change by MGE techniques, which would help rebut conclusions made by some academics that these bodies had ignored the potential benefits of these techniques. Furthermore, Germany highlighted that when considering MGE techniques as an additional element of climate change mitigation strategies it was also important to consider potential risks, primarily that the availability of MGE techniques might lower the ambition to engage in measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, often referred to as mitigation deterrence. Germany also requested that both potential risks and benefits of MGE techniques for mitigation be taken into account in future deliberations.

5.29 The delegation of France and the observer from Greenpeace International expressed support for the intervention from Germany.

Action by the governing bodies

5.30 Following discussion, the governing bodies approved the report of the Working Group, and in particular:

- .1 instructed the Correspondence Group on MGE to carry out work intersessionally, based on new terms of reference set out at annex 3 to this report, which incorporate the actions identified in paragraph 18 of document LC 46/WP.4;
- .2 re-established the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group (LICG), under the leadership of Canada and the United Kingdom,³ with the terms of reference set out at annex 4 to this report;
- .3 approved the statement setting out future LC/LP work on MGE, as set out in annex 5, incorporating the preamble text tabled by the United Kingdom, and requested the Secretariat to finalize it for publication; and
- .4 approved the two forms to be used by Contracting Parties to nominate experts, as set out in LC 46/WP.4, annex 3, and requested the Secretariat to issue the forms by way of a circular.

6 CO₂ SEQUESTRATION IN SUB-SEABED GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS

Progress with the ratification of the 2009 amendment to article 6 of the London Protocol

6.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2009 the Meeting of Contracting Parties had adopted resolution LP.3(4) on the amendment to article 6 of the London Protocol (LC 31/15, paragraph 5.17 and annex 5), and in 2019 had adopted resolution LP.5(14) on the provisional application of the 2009 amendment (LC 41/17, paragraph 6.21 and annex 2).

³ The coordinators, Ms. Suzanne Agius (Canada) and Ms. Elizabeth Morrow (United Kingdom) can be contacted at suzanne.agius@ec.gc.ca and Elizabeth.Morrow@defra.gov.uk, respectively. The coordinators have been appointed as interim, to be confirmed at the first intersessional meeting of the LICG, to allow for further nominations from interested delegations.

6.2 The governing bodies noted that, to date, 12 States had deposited an instrument of acceptance of the 2009 amendment to article 6, namely Norway (July 2011), the United Kingdom (November 2011), the Kingdom of the Netherlands (November 2014), the Islamic Republic of Iran (November 2016), Finland (October 2017), Estonia (February 2019), Sweden (July 2020), Denmark (January 2022), the Republic of Korea (April 2022), Belgium (September 2022), Switzerland (January 2024) and most recently Australia (October 2024).

6.3 The governing bodies also noted that, following the adoption of the resolution to allow provisional application of the amendment to article 6 (resolution LP.5(14) from 2019), nine Governments had deposited declarations of provisional application (Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, Republic of Korea, Sweden, United Kingdom, Switzerland and Australia).

6.4 The Meetings also noted that no additional bilateral agreements on CO₂ export under the 2009 amendment had been notified to the Secretariat by Contracting Parties, although the Secretariat was aware of arrangements/agreements that had been concluded and reminded delegations that had not yet done so to submit such notifications.

6.5 The delegation of Switzerland noted that since the last meeting of governing bodies, it had accepted the 2009 amendment regarding the export of CO₂ streams for disposal, and emphasized that, as a landlocked country, this amendment was an absolute necessity for them to leverage the potential of sequestering CO₂ in the sub-seabed, and therefore strongly urged Contracting Parties to consider acceptance. The delegation further noted that, alongside its acceptance, it had submitted a declaration of provisional application of the amendment in accordance with resolution LP.5(14) and that it would notify the Secretariat should it enter into any agreement or arrangement with an importing country regarding the export of CO₂ streams for disposal.

6.6 The delegation of Australia confirmed that it had deposited its acceptance of the 2009 amendment and the declaration of provisional application of the amendment during the meeting of the governing bodies. The delegation noted that this represented significant progress in transboundary CCS within the region and that it would continue to share information through the Correspondence Group on Experiences with the Carbon Dioxide Streams Assessment Guidelines.

6.7 The delegation of Germany informed that the legislative process to ratify the 2009 amendment had recently begun domestically and was expected to be finalized within this parliamentary period, which was set to conclude in September 2025.

6.8 The delegation of Denmark informed that it had entered into bilateral agreements on cross-border transport of CO₂ with Belgium, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, France, Norway and Sweden, and noted that these arrangements were publicly available on the web page of the Ministry of Climate, Energy and Utilities at <https://www.kefm.dk/klima/ccs-co2-fangst-og-lagring>. The delegation also noted that only one arrangement had been notified to the Secretariat, while the notifications of other arrangements were in process, and that it was looking into entering into additional arrangements in the future.

6.9 The delegation of France noted that although the priority must be reduction of CO₂ emissions at source, CCS could be a measure to help mitigate greenhouse gas emissions. The delegation also noted that France would soon be able to fully implement the 2009 amendments and, in the meantime, had entered into bilateral agreements with certain countries.

6.10 The observer from Greenpeace International encouraged Contracting Parties that entered into arrangements or agreements on CO₂ export, in addition to fulfilling the requirements of notifying the Secretariat, to make their details publicly available for benchmarking and transparency.

6.11 The delegation of Finland stated that, in addition to the update on the preparation of a government proposal for the provisional application of the 2009 amendment, it was discussing cross-border transportation of CO₂ with Norway and Denmark.

6.12 The delegation of Sweden informed that Sweden had entered into bilateral agreements with Norway and Denmark on 15 April 2024, regarding CO₂ transport for storage in sub-seabed, which had not yet been sent to the Secretariat. The delegation also informed the governing bodies of the Pau Declaration, titled "Joint statement on establishing an appropriate European framework for cross-border CO₂ transport infrastructure", signed on 10 October 2024 by ministers from Denmark, France, Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland, encouraging the new EU Commission to urgently publish a European framework for cross-border carbon transport infrastructure. The delegation further informed that the Swedish Geological Survey was investigating suitable areas for CO₂ storage and working to make data available on potential areas for CO₂ storage in accordance with the requirements of the Net Zero Industry Act

6.13 The observer from IEAGHG informed that it had commissioned lawyers to conduct further work on providing guidance regarding agreements for CO₂ export to non-Contracting Parties. This guidance was expected to be available in the first part of 2025 and would include guidance for both Governments and commercial entities, and a road map for the ratification of the 2009 amendment, as well as guidance on risk allocation between Parties and commercial organizations.

6.14 The delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands informed the meeting that, so far, it had entered into three non-binding arrangements on the transboundary transport of CO₂ for sequestration in sub-seabed formations with Belgium (2023), Denmark (2023) and Norway (2024), and that the Secretariat would be notified shortly.

Experiences with CO₂ sequestration technologies and their application

6.15 The Meetings recalled that in 2023 the Scientific Groups had established the Correspondence Group on Experiences with the Carbon Dioxide Streams Assessment Guidelines, under the co-lead of Japan and Australia, to collect information regarding experiences with the application of the carbon dioxide streams assessment guidelines (LC/SG 46/16, paragraph 4.17.2). The Correspondence Group had conducted a survey by questionnaire on CCS experiences, issues and challenges during the intersessional period, which was reported to the governing bodies meeting in 2023 (LC 45/LP 18). At the joint session of the Scientific Groups in 2024, and having noted the progress to date, the Scientific Groups re-established the Correspondence Group on Experiences with the Carbon Dioxide Streams Assessment Guidelines (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 4.18).

6.16 The Meetings considered document LC 45/6 (Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group), which provided an update on the work of the Correspondence Group on Experiences with the Carbon Dioxide Streams Assessment Guidelines. The Correspondence Group would welcome any additional information on CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations and would review the further responses and report the results to the joint session of the Scientific Groups in 2025.

6.17 In the discussion that followed, the observer from Greenpeace International stressed the value of the information collected by the Correspondence Group, both for Contracting Parties and for those not directly engaged in CCS activities, and encouraged continued work on the issue.

6.18 The delegation of Italy reminded it had already provided information on its first experimental CCS project, which had been presented during the last joint session of the Scientific Groups. The delegation also requested that the questionnaires be recirculated for further contributions during the intersessional period.

6.19 The delegation of the United States expressed appreciation for the work of the Correspondence Group and confirmed its expectation to continue the dialogue and engagement with others in order to exchange information on best practices and lessons learned as it was developing its governance regime. The delegation informed that there were currently no operational offshore CO₂ sequestration projects in the United States; however, application materials for projects offshore in the Gulf of Mexico had been received, and those for the Bayou Bend CCS project in ocean waters offshore of Texas were under review.

6.20 The delegation of Germany informed that, in August 2024, its Carbon Management Strategy (https://www.bmwk.de/Redaktion/DE/Downloads/E/240226-eckpunkte-cms.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=12) had been presented, highlighting that CCS should be limited to the "hard-to-abate" sector to achieve the climate targets for 2045 and providing strategies on legal adjustment and infrastructure.

6.21 The observer from Greenpeace International noted the need for CCS to focus on the hard-to-abate sector and expressed the view that the disposal of carbon dioxide streams in sub-seabed did not remove the obligations under the London Protocol to reduce the need for such disposal.

6.22 The observer from IEAGHG provided an update on activities on CCS since the last meeting of the governing bodies:

- .1 the seventh International Workshop on Offshore Geologic CO₂ Storage was held at Port Arthur, Texas, United States, from 17 to 18 September 2024, organized by the Gulf Coast Carbon Center and IEAGHG. Several topics, including injecting into depleted fields, shipping and direct injection, public engagement, monitoring, and environmental aspects, were addressed and presentations would be made available online at <https://gcc.beg.utexas.edu/research/goi>; and
- .2 the IEAGHG Monitoring Network Meeting 2023 was held in Louisiana, United States, from 8 to 9 August 2023, and considered the capabilities of monitoring for leakage, with presentations from CSIRO (Australia) and Plymouth Marine Laboratory (United Kingdom).

Other issues

6.23 The governing bodies were informed of the work under other IMO bodies with respect to onboard carbon capture and storage (OCCS), and noted that:

- .1 currently, there were no IMO requirements or standards in place for the use of OCCS; however, MEPC 81 had established a correspondence group to report to MEPC 83, under the coordination of Norway, for further consideration of relevant issues; and

- .2 the Secretariat had recently provided information to MEPC's Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships (as presented in document ISWG-GHG 17/INF.2), providing the existing regulatory frameworks of the Organization as background information for reference in the further development of a regulatory framework for the use of OCCS, i.e. the International Code for the Construction and Equipment of Ships Carrying Liquefied Gases in Bulk (IGC Code), the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code (IMDG Code) and the London Convention and Protocol.

Action by the governing bodies

6.24 In conclusion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 4.1 to 4.17);
- .2 endorsed the Scientific Groups' decision to re-establish the Correspondence Group on Experiences with the Carbon Dioxide Streams Assessment Guidelines to continue its collection of information regarding experiences with the consideration or application of the Guidelines, under the co-lead of Australia and Japan;
- .3 encouraged Contracting Parties to inform them of any relevant developments through submissions to the next session of the Scientific Groups;
- .4 noted that the 2024 Science Day Symposium, held during the LC/LP Scientific Groups meeting on 18 April 2024, had been on "CCS and experiences with the 2012 Specific Guidelines" and that the presentations of the speakers, along with abstracts and biographies, and the YouTube streamed video, were available via the Science Day web page of the IMO website; and
- .5 reminded delegations that Contracting Parties that had entered into an arrangement or agreement for the purpose of transboundary export of CO₂ for storage in sub-seabed geological formations were required to notify the Secretariat, in accordance with the amended article 6 of the London Protocol.

7 COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Review of reports on dumping permits issued in 2021 and 2022

7.1 The Meetings considered the final draft compilation report containing data on permits issued in 2021 (LC 46/7) and the first draft summary report on dumping permits issued in 2022 (LC 46/7/1).

7.2 The Meetings noted that the final 2021 compilation report would be published in early 2025, following a quality check of the data, and taking into account any further submissions of dumping reports (before the end of January 2025). The Secretariat would prepare a final draft compilation report for 2022, for which submissions were requested by the end of January 2025, to the Correspondence Group on Assessment of Reports (CGAR) for review, after which these draft reports would be submitted to the next session of the Scientific Groups, in 2025, for consideration.

7.3 The Meetings also noted that, at the time of submission, 42 Parties had provided reports for 2021, 10 that were Party only to the Convention, and 32 that were Party to the Protocol (either only the Protocol or both the Convention and Protocol). This was equivalent to an overall reporting rate of 42%.

7.4 Furthermore, the Meetings noted that with respect to the compilation of 2022 dumping data, at the time of submission, 30 Parties had reported for 2022, four that were Party to the Convention only, and 22 were Party to the Protocol (either only the Protocol or both the Convention and Protocol). This was equivalent to an overall reporting rate of 30% for the Parties.

7.5 The Meetings also noted that since both documents had been submitted, the Secretariat had received corrections for 2021 and 2022 from Australia, and that these would be included in the updated reports. It was also noted that Brazil and France had informed the Secretariat of some inconsistencies in the summary reports, and that these would be reflected in the final report.

7.6 The delegation of the United States noted that it had submitted timely annual dumping reports annually and encouraged Contracting Parties to submit their annual reports, including simple reports stating that no permits were issued and/or no monitoring activities were conducted in a given year. The delegation also highlighted the difficulties in tracking the implementation of the treaties given the low reporting rate, including in the most recent World Ocean Assessment (WOA).

7.7 The delegation of Panama informed that it had been notifying the Organization since 2014 via GISIS of all dumping activities including the permits related to dredging activities and encouraged Contracting Parties that had not yet reported to do so in accordance with the treaties.

7.8 The observer from Greenpeace International expressed support for the statements by the delegations of the United States and Panama regarding the importance of regular reporting. In regard to the permits issued in 2021 and 2022, the observer also queried:

- .1 whether the disposal of the remnants of the vessel **MV Wakashio**, which had been sailing under a Panamanian flag and operated by a Japanese company in Mauritius waters, had been reported by any of the Contracting Parties involved; and
- .2 if there was any further information in relation to the bulky items reported by Peru in 2022, in particular regarding the choice of waste category and more specific information regarding the material dumped.

7.9 The delegation of Japan, in response to Greenpeace's question, stated that in their view, according to article 6.2(b) of the LC and article 9.2.2 of the LP, when waste intended for dumping is loaded onto a vessel in the territory of a State not Party to the LC or LP, the Contracting Party flying its flag on that vessel from which the dumping takes place shall issue the permit. The delegation also stated that since the vessel used for the dumping of the **MV Wakashio** was not flying a Japanese flag, it was not in a position to issue the permit.

Action by the governing bodies

7.10 In conclusion, the governing bodies:

- .1 urged all Parties, if they had not done so, to provide the Secretariat with their annual reports, including NIL reports that indicated no dumping activities in a particular year, as soon as possible but no later than the end of January 2025 for the 2021 and 2022 activities; and

- .2 requested the Secretariat to:
 - .1 taking into account any comments or amendments made by correspondence and in plenary, publish the final 2021 compilation report in early 2025; and
 - .2 submit a final draft 2022 summary report and a first draft 2023 summary report to the Scientific Groups and the CGAR for their review.

Review of the status of compliance requirements

7.11 The Meetings considered documents LC 46/7/2 and LC 46/INF.2, containing information on the extent to which Contracting Parties had notified the Secretariat of the annual reports on their dumping activities from 1976 up to and including 2022.

7.12 With respect to the annex to document LC 46/7/2, the Meetings noted that 51 Parties had not reported in the previous five years (2018 to 2022), the same as the number for the last reporting period (2017-2021). Parties were reminded that there was still an urgent need to improve these numbers in order to live up to the reporting obligations set out in the treaties, as well as the targets set in the Strategic Plan.

7.13 The observer from Greenpeace International urged Parties listed in document LC 46/7/2 to submit their reports and welcomed any interventions from the Contracting Parties aimed at improving their reporting.

7.14 The delegation of Canada noted that Madagascar, as a new Party to the LP that was reporting, could be a useful source of information and suggested seeking opportunities to share Madagascar's experience with others. The delegation also suggested the following recommendations regarding document LC 46/7/2:

- .1 the overview table could be improved to better distinguish between reporting from different categories of Contracting Parties, for a better overview;
- .2 LP-only Parties were identified in the document but LC-only Parties were not, and it would be useful to identify these so that potential support for LC or LP-only countries could be more easily identified; and
- .3 only 10 out of 51 Contracting Parties had not identified their National Focal Point (NFP), and the delegation suggested reaching out to the permanent representatives to remind them of their reporting requirements, where an NFP was not identified.

Action by the governing bodies

7.15 In conclusion of this sub-item of the agenda, the governing bodies:

- .1 endorsed the Groups' instruction to the CGAR under the lead of South Africa, to meet in the intersessional period to review the draft report on permits issued for 2022 and further identify ways to facilitate and support Parties to report (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 5.16.4);

- .2 noted the Groups' request to the Secretariat to (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 5.16.5):
 - .1 continue its effort to increase reporting through collaboration with regional bodies;
 - .2 continue its review of the reporting system, incorporating the GISIS system, to address issues with the reporting level; and
 - .3 report back to the next joint session of the Scientific Groups in 2025;
- .3 noted documents LC 46/7/2 and LC 46/INF.2, concerning the status of compliance with the reporting requirements under article VI(4) of the London Convention and article 9.4 of the Protocol;
- .4 urged all Parties, if they had not done so, to provide the Secretariat with annual reports on their dumping activities in any years from 1976 if that information was available, including NIL reports that indicated no dumping activities in a particular year; and
- .5 reminded Parties of the importance of providing their annual reports to achieve the targets set out in the Strategic Plan.

London Protocol Compliance Group matters (including report of its sixteenth session)

7.16 Prof. Akiko Okamatsu (Japan), Vice-Chair of the London Protocol Compliance Group, introduced the report of the sixteenth Meeting of the Compliance Group (LC 46/WP.3).

7.17 In considering the report, in particular the modalities of the Compliance Group meeting, the delegation of China highlighted the need for hybrid modalities, noting the decision made in C 132 in June 2024 regarding the permanent use of hybrid capabilities to support in-person meetings.

7.18 The delegation of the United Kingdom also stated that a smaller room with hybrid capabilities would work better for both members participating in person and online.

7.19 In conclusion, the Meeting of Contracting Parties approved the report of the Compliance Group, as set out at annex 6 to this report, and the recommendations therein, and agreed to the proposed work programme of the Compliance Group for the period up to and including its seventeenth session in 2025.

7.20 The Meeting thanked the Compliance Group for its efforts and expressed its appreciation to all the members.

Status of membership of the LP Compliance Group

- 7.21 The Meetings recalled that the current membership of the Compliance Group was:
- .1 Prof. Young Sok Kim (Republic of Korea) who was elected for three terms in 2012, extended in 2015, 2018, 2020 and 2022, membership expiring in 2025;
 - .2 Prof. Akiko Okamatsu (Japan), elected for three terms in 2014, extended in 2016 and 2021, membership expiring in 2024;

- .3 Ms. Zhong Jing (China), for three terms in 2023, membership expiring in 2026;
- .4 Ms. Suzanne Agius (Canada), elected for three terms in 2014, extended for three terms in 2016 and 2021, membership expiring in 2024;
- .5 Mr. Joe Perry (United Kingdom), elected for three terms in 2023, membership expiring in 2026;
- .6 Ms. Radia Razack (South Africa), elected for three terms in 2011, extended in 2014, 2015, 2018 and 2022, membership expiring in 2025;
- .7 Mr. Heaky Dimowo (Nigeria), elected for three terms in 2022, membership expiring in 2025;
- .8 Lt. Commander Sebastian Bravo (Chile), elected for three terms in 2021, membership expiring in 2024;
- .9 Lt. Commander Jose Alberto Solano Claustro (Mexico), elected for three terms in 2022, membership expiring in 2025; and
- .10 Mr. Eric Levert (France), elected for three terms in 2023, membership expiring in 2026.

Election of members for future sessions of the Compliance Group

7.22 The Meeting of Contracting Parties was informed that a new nomination had been received from Canada for Ms. Julia Brydon, and renominations received from the respective delegations for two members for whom membership was about to expire, namely Prof. Akiko Okamoto (Japan) and Lt. Commander Sebastian Bravo (Chile).

7.23 The Meeting of Contracting Parties elected, to serve as members of the London Protocol Compliance Group for three terms from 1 November 2024:

- .1 Ms. Julia Brydon (Canada), in the Western European and Other Group;
- .2 Prof. Akiko Okamoto (Japan), in the Asia/Pacific Group; and
- .3 Lt. Commander Sebastian Bravo (Chile), in the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

7.24 The Meetings noted that, despite these new members, there were still vacancies in a number of the groups, particularly in the Eastern European group, which currently had no members, and therefore Protocol Parties were further encouraged to nominate members.

7.25 To assist LP Parties, the Meetings reconfirmed the existing agreement whereby any of the five United Nations regions that did not provide three members for the current session could do so in the intersessional period with the approval of the Chair and two Vice-Chairs of the Meetings of Contracting Parties (LC 31/15, paragraph 6.7).

8 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Update on the Barriers to Compliance (B2C) Project, including recent and planned workshops

8.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2023, the governing bodies had noted the work of the B2C Steering Group, including the revision of the Group's work programme, re-established the B2C Steering Group, under the lead of Dr. Yeon Chang (Republic of Korea) and Mr. Joe Perry (United Kingdom), and instructed the Groups to proceed on the actions identified in the work programme in the intersessional period (LC 45/17, paragraph 8.29 and annex 6).

8.2 The Meetings also recalled the recommendation from the B2C Steering Group to consider providing more time for the Group to meet in person at future meetings of the Scientific Groups and governing bodies, and that it had instructed the Group to submit written progress reports to the next meetings of the Scientific Groups and governing bodies in 2024 (LC 45/17, paragraph 8.29).

8.3 The Meetings considered document LC 46/8 (Co-Chairs of the B2C Steering Group), providing an update on B2C Steering Group activities since the 2023 meeting of the governing bodies. During the joint session of the Scientific Groups, held in April 2024, the Steering Group met informally to:

- .1 continue its work on the list of tasks agreed by the governing bodies in the B2C Steering Group work programme for the intersessional period 2023 to 2024;
- .2 consider how the Steering Groups could contribute to the review of the LP e-learning course; and
- .3 review the B2C work programme in light of the comments made in plenary and its current workload.

8.4 The Group also refined the list of outstanding tasks and added two new tasks to its intersessional work programme, agreed to reprioritize existing tasks in terms of their priority and effort required, and updated the B2C work programme (LC/SG 47/16, annex 4).

8.5 The Meetings were also informed on progress with technical cooperation efforts (document LC 46/8/1, Secretariat), and noted the following activities since the past session of the governing bodies in 2023:

- .1 a national workshop on the implementation of the LP, held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, from 21 to 23 May 2024, hosted by the Government of the Republic of Madagascar, through the Agence Portuaire, Maritime et Fluviale (APMF) of the Ministry of Transport and Meteorology, and funded by the Republic of Korea through IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme;
- .2 promotion of the LP through a thematic programme focusing on the LP in cooperation with the Central American Commission on Maritime Transport (COCATRAM) and with the Operative Network of Regional Cooperation of Maritime Administration in Central America (ROCRAM-CA). In the first phase of this programme, a team of consultants carried out a needs assessment exercise to assess the readiness to ratify and effectively implement the LP in ROCRAM-CA countries, namely, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic,

El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The outcomes of the needs assessment were presented to the Senior Maritime Administrators of the region, and the identified follow-up actions would be addressed in phase II of the programme, to be initiated in 2024; and

- .3 an LP e-learning course, under development in cooperation with WMU. In 2024, the Scientific Groups were provided with an update on the development of the LP e-learning course (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 6.11 to 6.14). It was envisaged that the B2C Steering Group would review the course prior to its finalization (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 6.5). Since the joint session of the Scientific Groups, the Secretariat had continued work in cooperation with WMU, to develop the introductory modules for the course, which would provide an introduction and overview of the treaty, its main purpose, objectives and structure.

8.6 Furthermore, the governing bodies noted that two additional activities were being planned for 2024:

- .1 a national workshop on the LP, planned for November 2024, in Bogota, Colombia; and
- .2 a national workshop on the LP, tentatively planned for late November/early December, in Mombasa, Kenya.

8.7 The delegation of Panama informed that it had participated in the needs assessment phase of the thematic programme on the LP in cooperation with ROCRAM-CA, and that it was conducting an internal analysis of the assessment results to consider the possibility of ratifying the LP.

8.8 The delegation of Thailand stated that, to ensure the complete and effective implementation and enforcement of the LP, it was seeking technical assistance from IMO to implement a workshop or seminar in 2025 on how to conduct waste assessments to screen candidates for dumping and how to set up a permitting system, aiming to enhance the knowledge and capacity of relevant officials as part of its preparatory efforts to formally accede to the Protocol.

8.9 The delegation of Peru thanked the Secretariat for the recent cooperative activities and welcomed the development of the LP e-learning course to support capacity-building and enhance compliance with the LP.

8.10 The delegation of Chile expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the thematic programme in cooperation with COCATRAM and ROCRAM-CA, welcomed the development of the LP e-learning course and emphasized the importance of also providing this course in other languages to further the spread of technical knowledge.

8.11 The delegation of the United Kingdom informed that it had recently provided financial support for the implementation of the LC/LP through the Technical Cooperation and Assistance Programme. The delegation further stated that the LC/LP work to tackle sea-based sources of marine litter fed into the ongoing work of the Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance (CCOA), including under a new Action Plan that was published in 2024, encouraging CCOA members to support and implement the LC/LP. The delegation also noted that, following the recent Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa, there would be merit in exploring work in the Pacific region with small island developing States.

8.12 The delegation of the Philippines thanked the Secretariat for the update on the e-learning course development, noting that it would strengthen capacity-building, and also thanked the B2C Steering Group for its role in reviewing the e-learning course before its finalization.

8.13 The delegation of South Africa noted the report on the national workshop, held in Madagascar in May 2024, funded by the Republic of Korea, and highlighted that, of over 30 mainland coastal States in Africa, only 16 were Parties to the LC/LP, indicating significant potential for expanding Protocol membership in Africa. The delegation also informed of its plan to host a national workshop on the beneficial uses of dredged material in 2025.

8.14 The delegation of Morocco noted the benefits of linking the work under the LC/LP closer to the ongoing development of the comprehensive IMO strategy for technical cooperation, which was under development and was expected to be adopted by the IMO Assembly in 2025.

Action by the governing bodies

8.15 Following the discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 extended their appreciation to those Governments that had contributed to the success of the workshops, and thanked the Governments of Canada and the United Kingdom for their generous donations to the LC/LP Technical Cooperation Trust Fund;
- .2 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on LC/LP technical cooperation activities (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 6.11 to 6.17) and encouraged Contracting Parties to keep the Scientific Groups informed about bilateral technical cooperation projects of relevance for the Groups' work (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 6.16.4); and
- .3 requested the Secretariat to liaise with the Technical Cooperation and Implementation Division to share information on the work of the LC/LP and encouraged delegations that attended both LC/LP and the IMO Technical Cooperation Committee to facilitate the exchange of information to inform the development of the comprehensive IMO strategy on technical cooperation.

Progress with bilateral technical cooperation projects and national or regional workshops as reported by Contracting or non-Contracting Parties

8.16 The Meetings recalled that this item had been meant to encourage countries reporting on bilateral projects they had established for capacity-building in the field of protection of the marine environment and promotion of sound waste management.

8.17 In conclusion, the governing bodies invited Contracting Parties to continue contributing to the outreach activities and play an ambassadorial role to promote the LP, and report back on the results to the next Meetings.

Status reports on other technical cooperation and outreach activities, and outstanding matters deferred from the Report of the Scientific Groups

8.18 The Meetings considered document LC 46/INF.5 (Republic of Korea) reporting on the progress of the graduate school of LP Engineering Master of Project Administration (LPEM) in the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST).

8.19 The Meetings noted that, in 2024, three students had been awarded the LPEM master's degree (from Fiji, Ecuador and the Philippines). Since its establishment in 2018, a total of 19 students from nine countries (Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Ghana, Jamaica, Mongolia, Myanmar, Peru and the Philippines) had been awarded LPEM degrees. For the autumn semester of 2024, eight new students from eight different countries (Bangladesh, Cuba, Fiji, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, the Philippines and Tonga) had been admitted to the LPEM programme, demonstrating its expanding international reach.

8.20 The Meetings were informed that the 2025 application process was scheduled for March 2025 and they were encouraged to recommend their potential students. The autumn semester would begin in September 2025.

8.21 The delegations of Panama, the Philippines and Chile expressed appreciation to the Republic of Korea for the LPEM programme, noting that the programme was a valuable resource for both current and prospective Parties to the LP.

8.22 Following discussion, the Meetings thanked the Republic of Korea for the update and invited the delegation to continue providing updates on the LPEM to the governing bodies and the Scientific Groups at their sessions in 2025.

Establishment of the Working Group on the Implementation of the Barriers to Compliance (B2C) Project

8.23 The governing bodies established the Working Group on the Implementation of the Barriers to Compliance (B2C) Project, under the co-lead of Dr. Yeon Chang (Republic of Korea) and Mr. Joe Perry (United Kingdom), and instructed it to:

- .1 continue its work on the list of tasks agreed by the Scientific Groups (LC/SG 47/16, annex 4) in the B2C Steering Group work programme for the intersessional period 2023 to 2024 and, in particular, to:
 - .1 complete reviewing the status of and discussing the re-packing of the Low-Cost, Low-Tech series of Waste Assessment Guidance documents; and
 - .2 initiate a review of the national/regional LP workshop training materials in light of the forthcoming e-learning course; and
- .2 review and update the B2C Steering Group's work programme for the intersessional period.

Report of the B2C Steering Group

8.24 The Co-Chairs of the Steering Group, in presenting the report (LC 46/WP.5), explained that the Group had reviewed the outstanding 2023-2024 work programme items and agreed to include two further items to their work programme, to develop a "How to guide" on compliance to produce an accessible, user-friendly synthesis of available resources and to consider the proposal to facilitate regular talks or presentations by Contracting Parties on experiences with compliance issues.

Action by the governing bodies

8.25 Following discussion, the governing bodies approved the report of the Steering Group and approved the amended intersessional work programme for the B2C Steering Group, for the period 2024 to 2025, as set out at annex 7.

8.26 The governing bodies thanked all those who had contributed to the work of the B2C Steering Group, and in particular the Co-Chairs from the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom for their leadership.

9 MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS

9.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2023, the governing bodies had noted the work of the Correspondence Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics under the co-lead of Germany and Nigeria and requested it to provide a full report to the next joint session of the Scientific Groups in 2024. The governing bodies also noted progress made under other intergovernmental processes, as well as the progress made by the GESAMP Working Group on sea-based sources of marine litter (WG 43) in its second phase (LC 45/17, paragraphs 9.1 to 9.17).

9.2 The governing bodies considered document LC 46/9 (Secretariat), providing recent progress on issues related to marine litter. In particular, the Meetings noted that:

- .1 the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution (INC-4) was held in Ottawa, Canada, from 23 to 29 April 2024, and the report of that session had been published on the INC website as document UNEP/PP/INC.4/5. The governing bodies noted several sections of the draft treaty that were most relevant to IMO's work, and the LC/LP in particular; and
- .2 a comprehensive update on the status of the actions in the IMO Action Plan and Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships had recently been provided by the Secretariat in document MEPC 82/8. This review indicated that 12 of the 30 actions could be considered as having been completed; work on 13 actions was under way at the PPR, HTW and III Sub-Committees of IMO, or through activities carried out under the GloLitter Partnerships Project and the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme, and that five actions would require proposals by Member States or international organizations for work to be initiated.

9.3 The governing bodies were also informed that the GESAMP Working Group on Sea-based Sources of Marine Litter (WG 43), was currently in the final stages of preparing its second report, with a view to publishing it ahead of next year's joint session of the Scientific Groups. At the joint session of the Scientific Groups earlier in 2024, GESAMP WG 43 met in parallel with the Groups and presented their progress and provisional findings directly to the meeting.

9.4 The governing bodies noted that at their joint session in 2024, the Scientific Groups re-established the Correspondence Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics, under the lead of Germany, but that a co-lead was yet to be identified. The Groups had been unable to identify a co-lead during its session, but noted that this would be absolutely necessary to continue the work of the Correspondence Group, given that the current Co-Chair, Dr. Axel Borchmann (Germany), was heavily involved as one of the co-facilitators in the INC process (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 8.26).

9.5 The delegation of Monaco highlighted the need for a coordinated international approach to address the microplastic issue and informed that the IAEA Marine Environmental Laboratories, based in Monaco, were undertaking work under the NUTEC Plastics Initiative (Nuclear Technology for Controlling Plastic Pollution) aimed to establish a worldwide network to ensure effective monitoring of plastic pollution in the marine environment with demonstrating that ionizing radiation could be used for plastic recycling.

9.6 The delegation of Italy expressed its full support for the development of an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution and for INC-5, which aimed to reach an agreement on the treaty text. The delegation informed that it was working to tackle plastic litter issues, including abandoned and lost fishing gear, and noted that the current draft did not contain the plastic pellet issue. The delegation also highlighted the significance of life cycle management in efforts to end plastic pollution.

9.7 The delegation of South Africa shared its experiences with two significant plastic pellet spills in 2017 and 2020, which had led to the loss of over 49 and 192 tonnes of pellets, respectively, and resulted in several years of clean-up operations. The delegation welcomed MEPC's directive to the Pollution Prevention and Response Committee to explore mandatory instruments for possible future amendments. The delegation noted that the current draft of the legally binding instrument for plastic pollution did not specifically address plastic pellets and encouraged future contracting parties to consider IMO's guidance.

9.8 The delegation of Brazil expressed its full commitment to addressing the problem posed by marine plastic litter from ships, its support for the plastic treaty negotiations and informed that it had hosted a regional workshop, in April 2024, attended by seven IMO Member States, where they had opportunities to exchange experiences and to learn from each other about policies on sea-based marine plastic.

9.9 The delegation of the Republic of Korea noted that the Fifth Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-5), which aimed to finalize the treaty text, would take place in November 2024 in Busan, the Republic of Korea. The delegation also emphasized its commitment to actively engaging in the process to ensure the obligations, including measures to prevent ghost fishing gear and reduce microplastic leakage into the environment, were incorporated into the instrument. The delegation also informed that it was preparing a national framework for the future implementation of the instrument, which included development of a life-cycle management policy of fishing gear and the initiation of research and development projects to address marine microplastic pollution.

9.10 The delegation of Peru informed that the Peruvian Maritime Authority was carrying out the action plans for addressing plastic pollution under the London Convention and Protocol and that it was participating in the GloLitter Partnerships programme.

9.11 The delegation of Morocco emphasized the importance of sharing information and raising awareness about existing knowledge gaps in tackling marine plastic litter. The delegation highlighted the need to focus on actions where LC/LP can add value to addressing the marine litter issue and recommended improved coordination with the MEPC to avoid duplication of efforts.

9.12 The delegation of the Russian Federation noted that marine plastic litter was a global issue that needed to be addressed by the United Nations. The delegation also stated the need to be cautious in the use of the term "microplastic" until the negotiations were completed, since there currently was no clear definition for microplastic.

9.13 The delegation of Panama noted the progress made in the INC-4 and informed that it had implemented seven policies and plans aimed at addressing plastics and their environmental impacts, including the National Marine Litter Action Plan 2022-2027, four municipal agreements on plastic reduction and waste management, and the National Ocean Policy approved in March 2022.

9.14 The delegation of Mexico informed that it was part of correspondence working group 6 of the Regional Operational Network for the Cooperation of Maritime Authorities of the Americas (ROCRAM), tasked with "Developing a regional plan for reducing marine plastic litter". The delegation noted its commitment to the strategy to address the issue of marine plastic litter from ships, the GloLitter Partnerships Project and the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme.

9.15 The delegation of Nigeria stated that it had established a marine litter action plan and developed short-, medium- and long-term strategies, tackling sea-based marine litter through GloLitter, and identified several priority activities.

9.16 The delegation of Australia stated that addressing plastic pollution was a priority and that, as a member of the High Ambition Coalition to combat plastic pollution by 2040, it was seeking continued collaboration with Member States and key stakeholders. The delegation also stressed the importance of cooperation between international, regional and sectoral bodies in support of the IMO Action Plan, the efforts under the London Convention and Protocol, and to avoid duplication of efforts.

9.17 The delegation of Chile highlighted the need to strengthen multilateralism to address the environmental crisis and that the instrument covering the entire life cycle of plastic would be based on a hierarchy of prevention, reduction, reuse, recycling and, as a last resort, disposal.

9.18 The delegation of the United Kingdom stated that as a member of the High Ambition Coalition on End of Pollution, it continued to call for an ambitious treaty that would end plastic pollution by 2040, through a comprehensive life-cycle approach and that it had signed the Bridge to Busan Declaration, furthering the support for binding provisions in the instrument to reduce the production and consumption of primary plastic polymers to sustainable levels.

Action by the governing bodies

9.19 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on marine litter and microplastics and endorsed the Groups' decision to re-establish the Correspondence Groups on Marine Litter and Microplastics under the lead of Germany and a Co-Chair (to be identified during the intersessional period);
- .2 invited delegations to provide a Co-Chair for the Correspondence Groups on Marine Litter and Microplastics; and
- .3 noted the update provided by the Secretariat, in relation to:
 - .1 the process to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment;
 - .2 the status of the actions in the IMO Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships; and
 - .3 the update on progress made by GESAMP Working Group 43.

10 INTERPRETATION OF THE LONDON CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL

Disposal of wastes and other matter in the marine environment from mining operations, including marine mineral mining

10.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2024 the Scientific Groups continued their review of vol. A of the report of GESAMP WG 42, "Impacts of mine tailings waste matter in the marine environment from mining operations", and requested the Secretariat to forward any comments made in plenary on the report to the Chair of GESAMP WG 42 for consideration, and, following extensive discussion, concluded that the issue of whether to proceed with any further actions, including guidance or best management practices on the matter, would need to be forwarded to the governing bodies for consideration (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 8.11).

10.2 The Meetings noted document LC 46/INF.3 (WODA), providing best management practices (BMP) to national jurisdictions and proponents for new (and existing) land-based mining operations that are considering disposing of mine tailings to marine waters, known as deep-sea tailings disposal. The report, originally submitted to the Scientific Groups meeting in 2023, had been revised to address comments received at the 2023 and 2024 Scientific Groups meetings.

10.3 The Meetings were informed that, following the Scientific Groups' discussions on the pre-publication copy of vol. A of the report of GESAMP WG 42 on mine tailings at their meeting in April 2024, the Secretariat forwarded the comments made by delegations to the WG 42, as requested. Those comments were being addressed and therefore the report was still awaiting finalization, with a target publication date set for the end of 2024. The International Seabed Authority (ISA), as the lead organization for the second phase of the work of WG 42, was expected to be focused on deep-sea mining, and they were currently developing terms of reference.

10.4 In the discussion that followed, there was a divergence of opinion as to whether LC/LP guidance on the assessment and management of deep-sea mine tailings disposal was needed. One delegation stated their appreciation of the efforts of WODA to update the BMP guidance in light of comments made by the Scientific Groups but also noted that it was not certain that addressing deep-sea tailings disposal was a matter for these bodies and therefore further discussion was needed. Other delegations expressed concerns that developing LC/LP BMP guidelines on the issue could be seen to facilitate or encourage such activities and did not support the development of guidance. One delegation also noted proposed text edits to language shared in document LC 46/INF.3.

10.5 The Secretariat informed the Meetings that it had continued cooperation with ISA on matters of common interest between IMO and ISA including regulatory responsibilities of both organizations and how ISA could learn and benefit from a better understanding of ways of working and good practices of the LC/LP and wider IMO. The Meetings were also informed that the Legal and Technical Commission of ISA would be developing binding environmental thresholds values that would primarily focus on the following specific topic areas identified by the Council: toxicity; turbidity and settling of resuspended sediments; and underwater noise and light pollution.

Action by the governing bodies

10.6 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on the disposal of wastes and other matter in the marine environment from mining and operations, including marine mineral mining (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 8.1 to 8.10) and endorsed the Groups' (paragraph 8.11):

- .1 conclusion that the issue of whether to proceed with any further actions, including guidance or best management practices, would need to be forwarded to the governing bodies for consideration; and
 - .2 request to the Secretariat to forward any comments made in plenary on the GESAMP WG 42 report to the GESAMP WG 42 Chair for consideration.
- .2 thanked WODA for their submission but noted there was a lack of support for moving forward with the development of a guidance document by these bodies; and
- .3 noted the Groups' discussion on the cooperation with ISA on deep seabed mining and instruction to the Secretariat to continue to engage with ISA on LC/LP-related matters and keep the Scientific Groups abreast of any relevant developments on this matter, at future joint sessions (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 8.12 to 8.17).

Disposal of fibreglass vessels

10.7 The Meetings recalled that, in 2023, the governing bodies invited the Scientific Groups to review and finalize the updated draft guidance on the end-of-life management of FRP vessels and alternatives to at-sea disposal, for submission to the governing bodies meeting in 2024 for endorsement (LC 45/17, paragraph 10.15.2).

10.8 The Meetings also recalled that, in 2024, the Scientific Groups had continued their consideration of the draft guidance, and agreed that intersessional work should continue on the draft guidance on end-of-life management of FRP vessels and alternatives to at-sea disposal to allow revisions to the text, harmonization with the final report of GESAMP WG 43, and feedback from SIDS (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 8.26).

10.9 The Secretariat informed the Meetings that, in anticipation of the finalization of the draft guidance, it had held initial discussions with the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), who had agreed to forward the draft guidance to their members to provide feedback, as requested by the Scientific Groups; and that GESAMP WG 43 was splitting its report into two parts so that the LC/LP relevant information would be available for submission to the next Scientific Groups meeting.

10.10 The delegation of Sweden informed the Meetings that since 2018 the Government of Sweden had assigned the Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management (SwAM) a government assignment on the collection and recycling of fishing gear and recreational boats. SwAM would map how big the problem with end-of-life recreational boats was from a life-cycle perspective, propose measures to recycle them and to promote the collection and recycling of recreational boats. Reports from the governmental assignment had been translated into English and published on SwAMs web page: <https://www.havochvatten.se/en/facts-and-leisure/environmental-impact/government-assignment-on-the-collection-and-recycling-of-fishing-gear-and-recreational-boats-2022.html#h-Documents>. The delegation also informed that since 2018 it had financially supported and promoted the recycling of approximately 490 leisure boats annually, to a cost of approximately 400,000 euros per year. In addition, Sweden stated that it was carrying out a small project where dumped leisure boats which had been on the sea floor for more than 20 years were salvaged and recycled.

Action by the governing bodies

10.11 Following a discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion regarding developing guidance on the end-of-life management of fibreglass vessels (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 2.1 to 2.10) and, in particular, endorsed the Groups' decision that intersessional work on the draft guidance on end-of-life management of FRP vessels and alternatives to at-sea disposal should continue, to allow revisions to the text, harmonization with the final report of GESAMP WG 43, and feedback from SIDS, and requested the Secretariat to reach out to Administrations of SIDS with regard to feedback on the draft guidance (paragraphs 8.26.3 and 8.26.4); and
- .2 thanked delegations that had shared information on this topic and invited them to continue to share such information at future meetings.

Deposition of materials jettisoned during the launch of space vehicles

10.12 The Meetings recalled that, in 2023, the governing bodies had noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on the issue of the deposition of materials jettisoned during the launch of space vehicles and invited delegations to share relevant information at future meetings (LC 45/17, paragraph 10.22.1). The governing bodies also reiterated the value of delegations liaising with their delegations attending the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), highlighting the need to address this issue, and the opportunities for the two bodies and Secretariats to work together (LC 45/17, paragraph 10.22.3).

10.13 The Meetings considered document LC 46/10 (Secretariat), providing an update on the Secretariat's engagement with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and COPUOS on the marine environmental effects of jettisoned wastes from commercial spaceflight activities.

10.14 In December 2023, the Secretariat received an invitation from UNOOSA to contribute to a UN-Space special report entitled "Special report of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on developments within the United Nations system related to space debris". This report included a section on "Maritime environment and marine ecosystems", which informed on the LC/LP work on the marine environmental effects of jettisoned waste from commercial spaceflight activities. The report was available on the UN-Space Special reports and publications page under "Special reports of the Inter-Agency Meeting" at https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/un-space/reports_publications.html.

10.15 The Secretariat had attended the sixty-seventh COPUOS session to deliver a technical presentation on LC/LP work in relation to the issue. The presentation was captured in the draft report of the session (A/AC.105/L.338/Add.11) and the final report would be published in due course and be available at https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/documents-and-resolutions/search.jsp?view=documents&f=oosaDocument.doctags.doctag_s%3ACOPUOSRDOCS.

10.16 The delegation of the United Kingdom noted the challenges it had in contacting its representatives at COPUOS and that COPUOS did not hold a publicly available list of focal points and, as such, asked if the Secretariat could work with the COPUOS Secretariat to develop and share a contact list of the Heads of Delegation for the Contracting Parties to each Convention to improve coordination. The delegation also informed the Meetings that it had an ambitious space programme, and that the United Kingdom Government planned to build on the experience of the recent Virgin Orbit launch, in 2023, and to work with the space sector to

build a vibrant vertical launch sector operating from United Kingdom spaceports in Scotland in 2025. It was also currently in discussion with a number of launch providers, including Rocket Factory Augsburg, Skyrora, Orbex and Hylmpulse with plans to launch multiple times from spaceports in Scotland in the long term. The delegation also informed that the Marine Management Organisation had received a marine licencing application from the German Offshore Spaceport Alliance, as their planned launches would potentially deposit jettisoned rocket components in the United Kingdom's Exclusive Economic Zone, and that the application was currently under consideration. The delegation also informed the meetings that the United Kingdom was co-leading a task group on the issue under OSPAR, with Ireland.

10.17 The delegation of Panama noted that jettisoned waste from these activities posed a threat to the marine environment and advocated for a common approach to monitoring in order to mitigate impacts on the environment and human health.

10.18 The observer from Greenpeace International noted the planned controlled deorbiting of the International Space Station, currently planned for 2031, and stated that it would also be important for the governing bodies to remain aware of the potential threats to the marine environment arising from both the controlled and accidental deorbiting of space debris.

Action by the governing bodies

10.19 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the information provided to the Scientific Groups on deposition of materials jettisoned during the launch of space vehicles (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 8.33 to 8.36), the invitation to Parties to report on such activities to future sessions of the Scientific Groups (paragraph 8.36.2), and the Scientific Groups' request to the Secretariat to report back on the outcomes of COPUOS 67 at the next joint session in 2024 (paragraph 8.36.3);
- .2 requested the Secretariat to continue its outreach efforts on this issue, in particular with relevant regional organizations such as OSPAR, as well as UNOOSA, and report back as appropriate;
- .3 requested the Secretariat to engage with the COPUOS Secretariat to share information, including on focal points, to enhance coordination between these bodies and to share information related to the deposition of material from re-entry of space debris as available;
- .4 reiterated the value of delegations liaising with their delegations attending COPUOS, highlighting the need to address this issue, and the opportunities for the two bodies and Secretariats to work together; and
- .5 invited delegations to submit information on this topic to future sessions of the Scientific Groups and meetings of the governing bodies.

Other issues, including outstanding action points from the Report of the Scientific Groups

Underwater noise

10.20 The governing bodies were informed that MEPC 82, which met from 30 September to 4 October 2024, approved amendments to the *Revised guidelines for the reduction of underwater radiated noise from shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life* (Revised URN Guidelines) (MEPC.1/Circ.906/Rev.1), to include a URN management planning reference chart.

10.21 MEPC had also approved the *Action plan for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping* (URN Action Plan). The Plan aimed to address barriers to the uptake of the Revised URN Guidelines in order to further prevent and reduce URN from ships. IMO's Global Partnership for Mitigation of Underwater Noise from Shipping (GloNoise Partnership) project had been established and a number of GloNoise project activities had been identified as potential contributors to the implementation of the URN Action Plan.

10.22 MEPC, jointly with MSC, had also agreed to the three-year experience-building phase for the Revised URN Guidelines. This was expected to conclude by MEPC 85 in 2026, but with the possibility of an extension of up to two years if necessary, for experience to be gained and best practices in the use of the Revised URN Guidelines to be developed, followed by a review to make any necessary amendments to the Guidelines.

Action by the governing bodies

10.23 In conclusion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion regarding underwater noise from anthropogenic sources (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 8.27 to 8.31); and
- .2 endorsed the Groups' request to the Secretariat to report back to the next joint session on any related developments of relevance to the Scientific Groups (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 8.32).

Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea

10.24 The Meetings noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea, which invited the governing bodies to note the discussion on this matter (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 8.37 to 8.38).

Beneficial use of waste

10.25 Finally, the governing bodies noted the Scientific Groups' discussion in relation to beneficial use of wastes and experience with habitat enhancement activities (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 9.1 to 9.11) and urged all Parties and observer organizations to submit case studies on the issue to future sessions (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 9.12).

11 MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

11.1 The Meetings recalled that, in 2023, the governing bodies had noted the comments made and views expressed on this topic and invited delegations to continue to share any relevant information related to radioactive wastes at future sessions (LC 45/17, paragraph 11.5).

11.2 The observer from the IAEA informed the Meetings of the status of the inventory of radioactive material resulting from historical dumping, accidents, and losses at sea, and the potential need to initiate an updating process. The last updating process was initiated in 2007 and concluded in 2015 with the publication of the updated inventory entitled *Inventory of radioactive material resulting from historical dumping, accidents and losses at sea* (IAEA TECDOC-1776).

11.3 The governing bodies noted that a request to update the inventory should originate from the Contracting Parties to the LC/LP. While the IAEA Member States regularly supported the IAEA's efforts to prepare technically accurate and objective reports for the purposes of the London Convention and Protocol, those Member States also requested that the IAEA continue updating such inventories as appropriate, and encouraged its Secretariat to coordinate with the Secretariat of IMO (IAEA General Conference 66/Res. 6, 2023).

11.4 Once the Contracting Parties to the LC/LP requested an update, both the LC/LP and IAEA Secretariats would issue formal invitations requesting the submission of any new or historical information on dumping activities, accidents or losses involving radioactive materials. Following the initial answers, the IAEA would prepare a draft updated inventory and engage in a verification process through bilateral discussion.

11.5 The observer from Greenpeace International recalled that, in the past, the governing bodies had discussions on transportable nuclear power plants (TNPPs) and had invited the IAEA to provide further information on the development of TNPPs to the next meeting, and informed that this issue was part of an ongoing discussion within OSPAR.

11.6 In the subsequent discussion, the following delegations expressed views in relation to the discharges from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station in Japan:

- .1 the delegation of the Russian Federation noted that no updates had been provided to the meetings with regard to the ongoing discharges, stating that it was prepared to participate in any international efforts including the monitoring scheme under the IAEA, and that it would like to see both pre- and post-discharge monitoring data resulting from future discharge operations;
- .2 the delegation of China emphasized the significance of protecting the marine environment in accordance with article 1 of the LC and article 2 of the LP. China considered that the discharge of nuclear contaminated water into the sea violated the objective and spirit of the LC/LP and stated that it was opposed to the unilateral action by Japan to arbitrarily start the discharges. The delegation also noted that China and Japan had reached a consensus on the discharges into the sea, a key aspect of which was to conduct long-term monitoring and independent sampling, with the engagement of all stakeholders to ensure compatibility with the long-term purpose of protection of the marine environment and human health. The delegation stated that it would work with other countries and the international community to monitor the discharges and urged Japan to fulfil its obligations in this regard;
- .3 the delegation of the Republic of Korea stated that it had consistently expressed the view that the contaminated water should be scientifically and objectively verified in a manner that ensured safety and compliance with international rules and standards, considering articles 2 and 3.1 of the LP. The delegation requested that Japan continue to treat the contaminated water with the highest regard for environmental protection standards and asked that all information collected during the treatment be shared with the utmost transparency, and requested that the IAEA continue to monitor the discharge process thoroughly;

- .4 the delegation of Japan stated that the discharge of ALPS (Advanced Liquid Processing System)-treated water from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station was a discharge from a land-based facility to the sea, and was therefore outside the scope of the LC/LP regulations. Consequently, it was not appropriate for LC/LP bodies to take up the issue. The delegation informed that the IAEA had concluded, in its Comprehensive Report of July 2023, that the approach to the discharge of ALPS-treated water into the sea and associated activities was consistent with relevant international safety standards and that radiological impacts on people and the environment would be negligible, and that these conclusions had been reaffirmed in two subsequent reviews undertaken by the IAEA Task Force since the discharge had started in August 2023. Japan considered that the existing monitoring arrangement with the IAEA was sufficient. However, with a view to providing information to the international community with even more transparency, on 20 September 2024, Japan and the IAEA had concurred in conducting additional monitoring measures under the existing IAEA framework. The delegation also noted that Japan and China had announced that they had reached the shared recognition that, after conducting these additional monitoring activities, China would initiate adjustment of the import restriction measures introduced on Japanese aquatic products. The delegation also informed the meetings that the first sampling of water under this additional monitoring programme had included the participation of experts from China, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland;
- .5 the observer from the IAEA stated that it was conducting independent monitoring to corroborate the measurements undertaken by Japan, and that IAEA experts took samples that were analysed in the IAEA and international laboratories. The observer also confirmed that all parameters monitored were performing as expected and in accordance with the implementation plan;
- .6 the United Kingdom stated its full support for Japan's decision to release the treated water and its full satisfaction with IAEA monitoring, noting that the discharge was consistent with internationally accepted nuclear safety standards. The delegation also highlighted the routine nature of aqueous discharges of tritium, as a standard practice throughout the nuclear industry globally;
- .7 the delegation of France reiterated its position that the LC/LP meetings were not the appropriate forum to discuss issues related to radioactive waste from land-based installations, and that the IAEA was the relevant scientific body for such discussions. The delegation also welcomed the transparency with which Japan had worked with the IAEA on this issue;
- .8 the delegations of Australia, Canada, Sweden and the United States also stated their support for the role of the IAEA and their full confidence in the monitoring conducted by the IAEA and Japan; and
- .9 the observer from Greenpeace International stated that it would welcome any further information that could be brought forward to these meetings on the monitoring activities undertaken by Japan, or any other countries undertaking similar monitoring activities.

Action by the governing bodies

11.7 Following discussion, the governing bodies thanked delegations that had shared information on this topic and:

- .1 noted the comments made and views expressed by delegations on this item of the agenda;
- .2 invited the LC/LP and IAEA Secretariats to provide a submission with an update to the inventory to the next governing bodies' meeting, for consideration by the Contracting Parties; and
- .3 invited delegations to share any relevant information related to radioactive wastes at future sessions.

12 MONITORING FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE LONDON CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL

Progress with the Monitoring and Assessment Project in relation to sea disposal activities carried out since 1996 under the LC/LP

12.1 The Meetings recalled that, in 2023, the governing bodies had noted the Scientific Groups' discussion regarding the review of monitoring reports and activities and encouraged Contracting Parties to submit monitoring reports to future meetings of the Scientific Groups and to include, as appropriate, monitoring reports submitted under regional conventions to protect the marine environment (LC 45/17, paragraphs 12.1 and 12.2).

Action by the governing bodies

12.2 In conclusion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion regarding the review of monitoring reports and activities (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 7.1 to 7.10);
- .2 encouraged Contracting Parties to submit monitoring reports to future meetings of the Scientific Groups and to include, as appropriate, monitoring reports submitted under regional conventions to protect the marine environment; and
- .3 requested the Secretariat to submit its next three-year compilation of summary information on reporting of monitoring activities to the next joint session of the Scientific Groups in 2025.

13 RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Promotion of the LC/LP through regional conventions and programmes

13.1 The Meetings were informed of the following activities in the field of marine environment protection:

- .1 the delegation of Finland informed that the 2024 ministerial meeting on the Baltic Sea environment, which took place in Riga, Latvia, on 25 April 2024, focused on the results of the third holistic assessment of the Baltic Sea and

how this could be used to strengthen the implementation of the Baltic Sea Action Plan. The Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention that were Member States of the European Union had also adopted a statement on the geopolitical situation upholding the decision to suspend all official HELCOM meetings until further notice. The suspension had been initially announced in a statement issued on 4 March 2022. All meetings of the official HELCOM bodies, including the Helsinki Commission, Heads of Delegations, Working Groups, Experts Groups and other subsidiary bodies, were suspended and would be rescheduled. In addition, the ministerial meeting reflected on the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea. The delegation also informed the Meetings of the completion of the revision of the HELCOM guidelines on the management of dredged material at sea, which were published in 2024, and on recent efforts by the HELCOM Secretariat to provide consolidated reporting to the LC/LP Secretariat; and

- .2 the delegation of the United Kingdom highlighted the Apia Commonwealth Ocean Declaration for One Resilient Common Future, which was launched at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Samoa in October 2024. The Declaration called on 56 Commonwealth Nations to protect and restore the ocean in the face of climate change, pollution, and impacts related to over-exploitation, and reiterated support for the work of IMO in further addressing ship-sourced pollution and dumping in the marine environment, for more information see: <https://thecommonwealth.org/news/chogm2024/commonwealth-nations-adopt-ocean-declaration>.

13.2 The Meetings were provided with an update by the Secretariat on the promotion of the London Convention and London Protocol through regional conventions and programmes.

13.3 The Meetings noted that the Secretariat had continued its efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional conventions and programmes to promote issues within the scope of the London Convention and Protocol at the regional level. No new collaborative agreements had been concluded since last year, but dialogue and joint activities had continued with OSPAR, HELCOM and UNEP/MAP in particular, especially with respect to reporting. In addition, the Secretariat had held discussions with the Secretariat for the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) regarding possible future work to promote the amended dumping protocol under the Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region (Noumea Convention).

Action by the governing bodies

13.4 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 encouraged regional organizations, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to further strengthen cooperation at the regional level;
- .2 requested the Secretariat to continue its activities focusing on regions where the number of Parties to the treaties was low, with the aim of soliciting further accessions/ratifications of the LP, and report back on achievements to the next session; and
- .3 encouraged Member States to support efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional conventions and programmes through their respective regional bodies, for example by raising the issue at appropriate regional meetings.

Contribution to major ocean-related initiatives on reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment

13.5 The Meetings recalled that, in 2023, the governing bodies had noted the information provided on major ocean-related initiatives on reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment (LC 45/17, paragraphs 13.11 to 13.16).

13.6 The Meetings considered document LC 46/13 (Secretariat) providing an update on recent progress with some of these ocean-related initiatives, in particular those of relevance to LC/LP and the implementation of the 2016 Strategic Plan.

13.7 The Meetings noted that:

- .1 following the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), in 2023, the UN General Assembly had established a Preparatory Commission to prepare for the entry into force of the Agreement and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNGA resolution 78/272). The Commission, which would cease to exist by the conclusion of the first Conference of Parties to the BBNJ Agreement, held a three-day meeting, from 24 to 26 June 2024, at UN Headquarters, to discuss organizational matters, where it was agreed to request from the General Assembly that the first and second substantive sessions of the Commission be held from 14 to 25 April 2025 and from 18 to 29 August 2025 (A/AC.296/2024/4). In addition, the Secretariat had been contributing to a series of regional workshops organized by the United Nations Divisions of Oceans Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) to increase awareness regarding the BBNJ Agreement (one each for the Pacific, South-East Asia, the Caribbean and Latin America). More information, including the text of the final agreement, can be found at: <http://www.un.org/bbnj>;
- .2 the seventh Call for Actions for the Ocean Decade (Call No. 07/2024), under the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), was launched in April 2024, aiming to fill gaps in funding and resources, as well as incentivize new initiatives in capacity development. Furthermore, the 2024 Ocean Decade Conference, organized by UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC-UNESCO) as the Secretariat for the Decade, was held in Barcelona, Spain, from 10 to 12 April 2024, with over 1,500 participants from 124 countries and over 3,000 online viewers. The main outcome was the Barcelona Statement which identified priority areas for action for the Ocean Decade in the coming years (<https://oceanexpert.org/document/34098>). IMO, together with FAO and WMO, was represented on the Decade Advisory Board for 2024. More information can be found at: <https://oceandecade.org>; and
- .3 the third high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development would be held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica (UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/78/128). The overarching theme of the Conference would be "Accelerating action and mobilizing all actors to conserve and sustainably use the ocean",

with the aim to support further and urgent action to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and identify further ways and means to support the implementation of SDG 14. It was also expected that the Conference would adopt a declaration, the "Nice Ocean Action Plan", along with a list of voluntary commitments. More information on the 2025 UN Ocean Conference can be found at <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025/>.

13.8 In the discussion that followed:

- .1 the delegation of Peru emphasized the importance of the preparatory work for the entry into force of the BBNJ Agreement, and expressed support for the work to share information on this issue;
- .2 the delegation of France, on behalf of the co-hosts of the third UN Ocean Conference in 2025, provided further information on the objectives and anticipated outcomes of the conference, and noted its linkages with other ongoing intergovernmental processes. France stated that the conference would be preceded by a blue economy and finance forum, devoted in particular to clean ports, which would take place in Monaco. The delegation also emphasized the relevance of these processes to the work of the LC/LP, as well as other areas of IMO's work, including the Cape Town Agreement;
- .3 the delegation of Monaco stressed the importance of the intergovernmental processes including the issue of the blue economy and provided further information on the forum on the blue economy and finance (BEFF), which would be held in Monaco on 7 and 8 June 2025, as a special event organized ahead of the third UN Ocean Conference; and
- .4 the observer from ACOPS noted the relevance of the work under the UN Regular Process and the preparation of the third World Ocean Assessment (WOA III); more information can be found at: <https://www.un.org/regularprocess/woa3>.

13.9 The governing bodies also noted the Scientific Groups' discussion regarding contribution to the major ocean-related initiatives on reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 7.11 to 7.16).

Action by the governing bodies

13.10 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the information provided on major ocean-related initiatives on reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment;
- .2 encouraged delegations to promote the London Protocol and the work of the LC/LP at relevant ocean-related meetings and processes in the intersessional period; and
- .3 instructed the Secretariat to continue its work to promote the LC/LP in major ocean-related meetings and processes and provide a report to the governing bodies next year.

Recent progress by GESAMP on matters of interest to the LC/LP

13.11 The Meetings considered document LC 46/13/1 (Secretariat) providing a progress report on activities under GESAMP since the last session of the governing bodies in 2023.

13.12 GESAMP held its fifty-first annual session from 2 to 6 September 2024, hosted by the IAEA at their Marine Environment Laboratories in Monaco. The full report of the session would be available on the GESAMP website, <http://www.gesamp.org> in due course. GESAMP currently had 10 working groups and a number of task teams addressing a wide range of topics, most of which were reported under the working groups on sea-based sources of marine litter, marine geoengineering and mine tailings under agenda items 5, 9 and 10. The next annual session of GESAMP would be held, most likely in September 2025, hosted by the IOC of UNESCO.

13.13 The governing bodies were also informed that, over the past five years, GESAMP had collected information, through a correspondence group, on the topic of sand and gravel mining in the marine environment. Following the preparation of a scoping document in 2019, GESAMP noted, at its annual session in 2024, that the correspondence group had served its purpose. However, before dismantling the correspondence group, it was agreed to forward a brief summary of the information collated, and the conclusions, to the governing bodies of the LC/LP, for information, which was presented in document LC 46/INF.6 (Secretariat).

13.14 In the discussion that followed, it was noted that more information would be needed to ascertain if there were any aspects of the issue that could fall within the remit of the LC/LP.

Action by the governing bodies

13.15 In conclusion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the information provided on recent progress by GESAMP; and
- .2 forwarded document LC 46/INF.6 on sand and gravel mining to the Scientific Groups for consideration and further advice to the governing bodies.

14 ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND FUTURE WORK

Joint Work Programme

14.1 The Meetings noted that the Joint Work Programme (JWP for 2024-2026) had been published as LC-LP.1/Circ.107 in late 2023, covering activities agreed by the governing bodies in 2023.

14.2 Following discussion on the list of items to be included in the agenda of LC 47/LP 20, the governing bodies agreed to amend the title of agenda item 5 to "Marine geoengineering" and also include a new agenda item on the review of the rules of procedure (as discussed under agenda item 15).

14.3 The governing bodies, having reviewed the progress made in implementing the JWP, requested the Secretariat, taking into account achievements during the current session, to prepare the JWP for the period 2025-2027, to be issued as a circular.

LC/LP Scientific Groups Work Programme

14.4 The Meetings were informed about the proposed work programme of the Scientific Groups (2024-2026), as shown in their report (LC/SG 47/16, annex 6), and noted the high-priority issues as indicated in the table.

Action by the governing bodies

14.5 Following a short discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 confirmed that the Chair, together with the Secretariat, would update the table in the JWP for the period 2024 to 2026 in light of the achievements during the week;
- .2 requested the Secretariat, taking into account developments at the current session, to prepare the JWP for the period 2025 to 2027, to be issued as a circular; and
- .3 approved the LC/LP Scientific Groups Work Programme for 2024-2026 and the priorities for their next joint session in 2025, as set out in annex 8.

Topic for "Science Day 2025"

14.6 With regard to the selection of a suitable topic for Science Day 2025, to be held during LC 48/LP 19, the Meetings noted the following two topics recommended by the Scientific Groups for consideration by the governing bodies (LC/SG 47/16, paragraph 11.7):

- .1 the interaction between climate change and acidification with ecotoxicology; and
- .2 the monitoring and management of disposal sites.

Action by the governing bodies

14.7 Following a short discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Scientific Groups, in cooperation with the Secretariat, would confirm the topic and format for Science Day 2025; and
- .2 invited the Scientific Groups to prepare a recommendation on the topic for Science Day 2026.

Budget and financial accounts for the administration of the London Protocol

14.8 The Meetings recalled that pursuant to article 19.2.6 of the London Protocol, IMO should, every two years, prepare a budget and a financial account for the administration of the Protocol. The Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol was invited to review the budget for the current biennium (2024-2025) and the actual costs for the previous biennium (2022-2023) for the administration of the London Protocol (LC 44/17, paragraphs 14.8 to 14.10).

14.9 The Meetings considered document LC 46/14 (Secretariat) presenting the IMO budget for LC/LP Secretariat duties in the period 2024 to 2025 and the actual costs for 2022 to 2023.

14.10 The Meetings noted the breakdown for expenditure in 2022 to 2023, as well as the budget for 2024 to 2025, provided by IMO Management Accounting and Enterprise Resource Planning Services (MAES), and noted that:

- .1 the actual expenditures for 2022 (£753,470) were lower than the budgeted expenditures for that year (£810,118);
- .2 the actual expenditures for 2023 (£807,752) were lower than the budgeted expenditures for that year (£844,426); and
- .3 the budget for 2024 to 2025 was somewhat higher than the actual expenditures in 2022 to 2023 to allow for inflationary pressure and taking into account fluctuations in the exchange rate.

14.11 In conclusion, the Meeting of Contracting Parties:

- .1 agreed that there were currently no specific requests to IMO to perform additional functions or duties for the administration of the London Protocol in the next biennium;
- .2 thanked IMO for the continued support it provided for the administration of the London Convention and Protocol; and
- .3 requested the Secretariat to report on the outcome of this discussion to IMO's Council, when it considered the draft IMO regular budget for the next biennium (2025 to 2026).

Report on the LC/LP Technical Cooperation Trust Fund

14.12 The Meetings considered document LC 46/14/1 (Secretariat), providing an audited statement of the financial performance of the London Convention/Protocol Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the year ended 31 December 2023.

14.13 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted document LC 46/14/1, containing the audited statement of the financial performance of the LC/LP Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the year ended 31 December 2023;
- .2 noted that the Trust Fund had a balance of \$141,849 on 31 December 2023; and
- .3 requested the Secretariat to report to the governing bodies in 2025 on the audited statement for the income and expenditure administered under the Trust Fund in 2024.

Substantive items for the agenda and date for the next meetings

14.14 The Meetings considered document LC 46/WP.2 (Secretariat) on substantive items for the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting and the twentieth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (LC 47/LP 20).

14.15 Following discussion, the Meetings agreed to the items to be included in the agenda of LC 47/LP 20 in 2025, as set out in annex 9.

14.16 The Secretariat informed the governing bodies on the meeting arrangements for 2024, and noted that the dates tentatively assigned for the LC/LP meetings were:

- .1 the forty-eighth meeting of the LC Scientific Group/nineteenth meeting of the LP Scientific Group (LC/SG 48): tentatively scheduled for 10 to 14 March 2025, with venue to be confirmed, with the following tentative deadlines:
 - .1 20 December 2024 for bulky documents;
 - .2 10 January 2025, for non-bulky documents; and
 - .3 7 February 2025 for commenting documents;
- .2 the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting and nineteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties (LC 47/LP 20): 27 to 31 October 2025; and
- .3 the seventeenth session of the London Protocol Compliance Group (LP-CG 17): 23 to 24 October 2025.

14.17 The Chair reminded delegations of the importance of submitting documents to the meetings of these bodies, and noted the tentative submission deadlines for the next Scientific Groups meeting in 2025, particularly for correspondence groups Chairs so they could plan their work to meet the deadlines.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Review of LC/LP Rules of Procedure and Rules and criteria for participation of NGOs

15.1 The governing bodies considered document LC 46/15 (Secretariat), on the review of the LC/LP Rules of Procedure and Rules and criteria for participation of NGOs.

15.2 The Meetings recalled that, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the governing bodies had initiated a discussion regarding a possible revision of the Rules of Procedure, but agreed to hold this task in abeyance until a sufficient amount of revisions had been identified that would warrant a review and revision of the Rules of Procedure.

15.3 The Meetings noted that the introduction of remote and hybrid meetings during the pandemic, the possible introduction of live-streaming of IMO meetings and its implications (LC 43/17, paragraphs 15.1 to 15.5), together with the outstanding revisions since 2019 (including gender-neutral language), could also provide an opportunity to address any other parts of the Rules that might benefit from improvement.

15.4 The governing bodies also recalled that the *Rules and Criteria for participation of non-governmental international organizations for Meetings or Special meetings of Contracting Parties under the London Protocol* had been revised in 2006 (LC 28/15, annex 4) and again in 2014 (LC 36/16, annex 2).

15.5 The Meetings noted that the granting of observer status for the LC/LP bodies did not automatically grant observer status in other IMO meetings, and vice versa. However, the LC/LP Rules and Criteria also specified that the IMO Rules and Guidelines for Consultative Status of NGOs with IMO, as well as the IMO practice regarding these principles, should be taken into account. Relevant IMO rules and guidelines had been updated several times over the years, most recently in 2019 (Assembly resolution A.1144(31)).

15.6 Furthermore, even though the LC/LP and IMO guidance had similarities, IMO guidance provided more detail and clarity for the entire application process, as well as the requirements of the applying organization, including a template questionnaire to be answered by the applicant. In addition, IMO rules included provisions for a periodic review of the list of non-governmental organizations (rule 12).

15.7 In the discussion that followed, the Meetings noted that a review could provide clarity for potential applications for observership, but also for the Bureau and the Contracting Parties.

15.8 Delegations expressed support for the need to review the Rules of Procedure, and the Rules and Criteria for participation of NGOs. The following views were expressed:

- .1 discussions were currently ongoing within IMO regarding the Rules of Procedures for IMO organs, in particular to incorporate changes needed to accommodate the use of hybrid/remote meeting capabilities;
- .2 similarly, there was a review under way within IMO regarding IMO rules and procedures for NGO participation;
- .3 for both the Rules of Procedure and the Rules and Criteria for NGO participation, there would be a benefit in aligning with the outcome of the IMO review processes; and
- .4 a review would provide an opportunity to introduce more transparency, and could also consider the more suitable language for the inclusion of Indigenous populations, and provide better flexibility in arrangements.

15.9 The issue of ensuring flexibility in arrangements for working groups was also raised, as was the need to ensure optimal planning for presentations during meeting week, to avoid interference with the work of working or drafting groups.

Action by the governing bodies

15.10 In conclusion the governing bodies agreed to:

- .1 hold the initiation of the revision of the Rules of Procedures in abeyance given the ongoing work within IMO, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on the progress with the IMO process for revision of rules of procedure to future sessions of the governing bodies; and
- .2 requested the Secretariat to submit a document on the possible review of the Rules and Criteria for NGO participation to the next session of the governing bodies in 2025.

Other issues

Information from WODA

15.11 The governing bodies noted document LC 46/INF.4 (WODA), introducing a CEDA information paper on adaptive management related to dredging projects, "Adaptive Management for Environmental Aspects of Dredging and Reclamation Projects: Reactive and Pro-active". The document provided an overview of the key aspects of all dredging project phases to support a structured decision process while implementing adaptive management. It collected case studies demonstrating how adaptive management could be applied to guarantee and/or facilitate environmental compliance, as well as ensuring project completion without significant impact on the aquatic environment. The document can be accessed online at: https://dredging.org/media/ceda/org/documents/resources/cedaonline/ceda_paper_adaptive_management_of_environmental_aspects.pdf.

15.12 The governing bodies also noted that the next World Dredging Congress (WODCON) would be held in July 2025 in San Diego, California, United States. More information regarding WODCOM is available at <https://wodcon.org/>.

Revised guidance on best management practices for removal of anti-fouling coatings from ships

15.13 The governing bodies were informed that during the recent MEPC 82 meeting, which took place from 30 September to 4 October 2024, the Committee had considered the *Revised guidance on best management practices for removal of anti-fouling coatings from ships*, which had been approved by the governing bodies in 2023 and issued as circular LC-LP.1/Circ.108/Rev.1. The Committee also had for its consideration document MEPC 82/16/5 (CESA), proposing further improvements to the Revised Guidance (CESA represented the shipbuilding industry and its supply chain from EU Member States, Norway and Turkey).

15.14 MEPC 82 approved the Revised Guidance for issuance as an AFS circular and also invited the LC/LP governing bodies to consider document MEPC 82/16/5 and advise the Committee accordingly.

Action by the governing bodies

15.15 Following discussion, the governing bodies noted that the proposed changes to the Revised Guidance were of a technical nature, and therefore:

- .1 requested the Secretariat to forward document MEPC 82/16/5 to the next Scientific Groups meeting for consideration; and
- .2 instructed the Scientific Groups to consider the changes proposed to the *Revised guidance on best management practices for removal of anti-fouling coatings from ships* and advise the governing bodies accordingly.

16 ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR BOTH GOVERNING BODIES

16.1 In accordance with rule 20 of the Revised Rules of Procedure, the Consultative Meeting unanimously elected Mr. Chakir El Aissaoui (Morocco) as Chair, Ms. Radia Razack (South Africa) as First Vice-Chair, and Mr. Eduardo Zamora (Peru) as Second Vice-Chair for the intersessional period and for the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting. In accordance with the same rule, the Meeting of Contracting Parties also unanimously re-elected the same officers for the intersessional period and for the twentieth Meeting of Contracting Parties.

17 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

17.1 The joint report of the forty-sixth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the nineteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol was adopted on the final day of the Meetings, Friday, 1 November 2024, which was followed by a commenting period of five days prior to the issuance of the final report.

ANNEX 1

AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-SIXTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE LONDON CONVENTION AND THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE LONDON PROTOCOL

1 Adoption of the agenda

LC 46/1	Secretariat	Provisional agenda
LC 46/1/1	Secretariat	Annotations to the provisional agenda

2 Status of the London Convention and Protocol

LC 46/2	Secretariat	Overview of the status of the London Convention and Protocol and their respective amendments
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3 Progress on the implementation of the LP-LC Strategic Plan

LC 46/3	Secretariat	Report on progress towards the second review of the Strategic Plan in 2026
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4 Consideration of the report of the Scientific Groups

LC 46/4	Secretariat	Action by the governing bodies
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5 Marine geoengineering including ocean fertilization

LC 46/5	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Progress report from the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering
LC 46/5/1	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Progress report from the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering: Draft resolution
LC 46/5/2	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Progress report from the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering: Considerations related to amending annex 4 to the LP
LC 46/5/3	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Progress report from the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering; Options for adding MGE techniques/activities to LP annex 4
LC 46/5/4	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Progress report from the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering
LC 46/WP.4	Co-Chairs of the Working Group	Report of the Working Group on Marine Geoengineering

6 CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations

LC 46/6	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Report of the Correspondence Group on Experiences with the Carbon Dioxide Streams Assessment Guidelines
LC 46/6/1	Secretariat	Update on the London Protocol amendments with respect to CCS activities

7 Compliance Issues

LC 46/7	Secretariat	Final draft summary on dumping reports issued in 2021
LC 46/7/1	Secretariat	First draft summary and overview of the number of dumping permits reported in 2022
LC 46/7/2	Secretariat	Status of compliance with the notification and reporting requirements under article VI(4) of the London Convention 1972 and article 9.4 of the London Protocol
LC 46/INF.2	Secretariat	Status of compliance with the notification and reporting requirements under article VI(4) of the London Convention 1972 and article 9.4 of the London Protocol
LC 46/WP.3	Secretariat	Report of the sixteenth session of the London Protocol Compliance Group

8 Technical cooperation and assistance

LC 46/8	Co-Chairs of the B2C Steering Group	Update on Barriers to Compliance (B2C) Steering Groups activities
LC 46/8/1	Secretariat	Update on technical cooperation activities
LC 46/INF.5	Republic of Korea	Progress report on the graduate school of London Protocol Engineering Master of Project Administration (LPEM)
LC 46/WP.4	Co-Chairs of the Working Group	Report of the Working Group on the Implementation of the Barriers to Compliance Project

9 Marine litter and microplastics

LC 46/9	Secretariat	Update on recent progress on issues related to marine litter
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10 Interpretation of the London Convention and Protocol

LC 46/10	Secretariat	Update on the Secretariat's engagement with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS)
LC 46/INF.3	WODA	Best management practices for deep-sea tailings disposal

11 Matters related to the management of radioactive wastes

No documents

12 Monitoring for the purposes of the London Convention and Protocol

No documents

13 Relations with other organizations in the field of marine environmental protection

LC 46/13	Secretariat	Update on major ocean initiatives
LC 46/13/1	Secretariat	Report on GESAMP activities
LC 46/INF.6	Secretariat	Sand and gravel mining in the marine environment: Summary of information collated by GESAMP

14 Administrative arrangements and future work

LC 46/14	Secretariat	Budget and financial accounts for the administration of the London Protocol (LP)
LC 46/14/1	Secretariat	Report on the London Convention/Protocol Technical Cooperation Trust Fund
LC 46/WP.2	Chair	Substantive items for the forty-sixth Consultative Meeting and the nineteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties

15 Any other business

LC 46/15	Secretariat	Review of the LC/LP Rules of Procedure and Rules and Criteria for participation of non-governmental international organizations
LC 46/INF.4	WODA	Dredging: adaptive management and the World Dredging Congress

16 Election of officers for both governing bodies

No documents

17 Consideration and adoption of the report

LC 46/17	Secretariat	Report of the forty-sixth Consultative Meeting and the nineteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties
LC 46/WP.1	Secretariat	Draft report of the forty-sixth Consultative Meeting and the nineteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties
LC 46/WP.1/Rev.1	Secretariat	Revised draft report of the forty-sixth Consultative Meeting and the nineteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties

ANNEX 2

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON INCREASING THE RATE OF RATIFICATION OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL AND ITS AMENDMENTS

The Intersessional Correspondence Group on "Increasing the rate of ratification of the London Protocol and its amendments" (ICG Ratifications) is established to analyse the reasons for non-ratifications and to contribute by proposing and implementing specific measures to increase the number of ratifications of the London Protocol and its amendments.

"ICG Ratifications" is instructed to:

- .1 in collaboration with the Secretariat, collate all measures already undertaken in the context of the London Protocol and by Contracting Parties with regard to increasing the ratifications of the London Protocol and its amendments, resulting in the production of an "Inventory of current measures";
- .2 undertake an analysis of why the London Protocol and its amendments have not been ratified. The analysis should clarify categories of barriers which have impeded the ratifications of the London Protocol and its amendments, and should include an assessment of any specific trends including regional circumstances, to advise on the development of appropriate new measures;
- .3 identify an initial list of measures which could be easily implemented and which are effective to increase the number of ratifications of the London Protocol and its amendments and develop a plan of implementation;
- .4 develop a work plan, based on the outcomes of tasks 1 and 2, for further work to increase the number of ratifications of the London Protocol and its amendments; and
- .5 submit a progress report to the governing bodies in 2025.

ANNEX 3

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON MARINE GEOENGINEERING UNDER THE SCIENTIFIC GROUPS

The governing bodies identified the following additional terms of reference for the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering re-established by the Scientific Groups in 2024. The Correspondence Group is instructed to include these in their intersessional work, with a full consolidation of these and the existing terms of reference to be undertaken by the Scientific Groups at their next joint session in 2025.

The Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering established by the Scientific Groups is instructed to:

- .1 build on existing guidance/assessment frameworks, including the Ocean Fertilization Assessment Framework (OFAF), Organic material of natural origin assessment guidelines, LC-LP.1/Circ.67, and the assessment framework in LP, annex 5, to identify and develop a list of information and/or criteria (e.g. guidance on information to be provided in permit applications) to assist regulators in assessing a proposed MGE research project, including information needed to evaluate potential impacts to the marine environment and other ocean uses from the proposed activities;
- .2 initiate the development of assessment guidelines/frameworks for individual MGE techniques, starting by evaluating the applicability of existing guidance, including that referenced in paragraph 18.1; in this connection, consider opportunities to adapt and amend existing assessment frameworks/guidance or, if appropriate, develop new guidance/assessment frameworks to assess proposed research projects on (in priority order):
 - .1 ocean alkalinity enhancement;
 - .2 ocean sinking of biomass for carbon storage;
 - .3 marine surface albedo enhancement involving reflective materials;
and
 - .4 marine cloud brightening;
- .3 further the technical development of the working definitions for the four prioritized MGE techniques, including coordinating with the LICG on the development of these definitions, and including consideration of definitions used by other international entities for the techniques; Present the working definitions at the next Scientific Groups meeting in 2025, to be forwarded to the governing bodies for approval, and apply working definitions to variations of the particular priority MGE techniques to determine the technical suitability of those definitions and evaluate the potential need for subcategories; and
- .4 continue to keep abreast of recent developments and new information on MGE techniques, including information resulting from any field research projects.

ANNEX 4

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE LEGAL INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON MARINE GEOENGINEERING

The Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering (LICG) is instructed to:

- .1 further the development of the working definitions for the four prioritized MGE techniques, to be forwarded to the next meetings of the Scientific Groups in 2025, for consideration;
- .2 identify potential areas where additional clarity is desired regarding the applicability of existing LC/LP provisions to the prioritized marine geoengineering techniques, and develop guidance addressing those areas;
- .3 continue to develop suitable regulatory text and/or text for potential listing of new techniques in LP annex 4, and address associated legal and procedural issues;
- .4 map the work done and the role of other international bodies in the governance of marine geoengineering, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC); and
- .5 provide a report to the next meeting of the governing bodies in 2025.

ANNEX 5

STATEMENT ON MARINE GEOENGINEERING

During the forty-sixth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the nineteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, the Parties continued their discussions on marine geoengineering including risks to the marine environment and potential benefits for mitigating climate change.

The Parties will continue to advance their scientific understanding of marine geoengineering techniques to inform their potential actions.

This work of the London Convention and London Protocol Parties and the Scientific Groups will continue in the intersessional period as summarized below.

Parties have identified several priorities for further legal and technical analysis with regard to marine geoengineering techniques. Parties are continuing to evaluate options for appropriate action, including the applicability of the existing frameworks of LC/LP and potential further regulation. The governing bodies have prioritized refining working definitions for each of the four prioritized marine geoengineering techniques with the aim of presenting them to the governing bodies for approval during the Meeting of the Parties in 2025. The work of the Scientific Groups will include the development of guidance and assessment tools for proposed marine geoengineering research. Further intersessional legal work will focus on potential listing of additional marine geoengineering techniques to the 2013 amendment and providing clarity on application of London Convention and London Protocol provisions.

Parties have also identified a need to continue coordination with other international entities to both encourage the sharing of information and also clarify the roles of these entities in the governance of marine geoengineering.

ANNEX 6

REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL COMPLIANCE GROUP

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The sixteenth Meeting of the Compliance Group under the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention, 1972 was held on 24 and 25 October 2024, and was chaired by Lt. Commander Sebastian Bravo (Chile).

1.2 The members of the Compliance Group in attendance were:

Prof. Akiko Okamoto (Japan, Vice-Chair)
Prof. Young Sok Kim (Republic of Korea, Vice-Chair)
Ms. Zhong Jing (China)
Ms. Suzanne Agius (Canada)
Mr. Joe Perry (United Kingdom)
Mr. Eric Levert (France)
Ms. Radia Razack (South Africa)

1.3 The members unable to attend, with apologies, were:

Mr. Heaky Dimowo (Nigeria)
Lt. Cmdr. Jose Alberto Solano Claustro (Mexico)

1.4 Observers from the following Contracting Parties to the London Protocol also attended the meeting:

ANGOLA
EGYPT
IRAN
JAPAN
NIGERIA
PERU
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
SAUDI ARABIA
SIERRA LEONE
SOUTH AFRICA
TÜRKİYE

1.5 Observers from the following Contracting Parties to the London Convention also attended the meeting:

PANAMA
UNITED STATES

1.6 Observers from the following non-Contracting Parties also attended the meeting:

BRAZIL
INDIA
INDONESIA
MYANMAR
TOGO

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2.1 The Group adopted the provisional agenda for the session, as presented in document LP-CG 16/1.

3 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

3.1 The Group considered the organizational matters and agreed to prioritize tasks to ensure sufficient time for progress on key items.

4 REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS

4.1 The Group noted that there were no individual submissions on non-compliance received in accordance with paragraph 4.1 of the revised 2017 Compliance Procedures and Mechanisms (CPM), and that the meeting would focus mainly on systemic issues of non-compliance.

5 CONSIDERATION OF ANY REPORTS

Reporting under paragraphs 6.2 and 6.4 of the Compliance Procedures and Mechanisms (specifically articles 9.4.1 and 10.3)

5.1 The Group examined the final draft report on permits issued in 2021 (LC 46/7), and the first draft report on permits issued in 2022 (LC 46/7/1). The Secretariat updated the Group that no further reports had been received since the documents were issued; therefore, the overall reporting rate was currently 42% for Parties to the Convention and Protocol for 2021, and 30% for 2022. The Group noted that reporting levels were similar to previous years, between 40 to 45%, and highlighted that reporting rates need to be improved to meet the reporting targets set out in the LP/LC Strategic Plan.

5.2 The Group noted that table 1 in document LC 46/7 was based on the "at a glance" table format that the Group had recommended as set out in annex 1 of LC 41/WP.2. However, the Group recalled that the intention was for that table to include a summary of the amounts dumped annually for each waste category, as this would be more informative on what was actually happening in the marine environment, as these amounts were often less than what was permitted.

5.3 In relation to the information on the status of compliance with the notification of reporting requirements presented in document LC 46/7/2, the Group recommended that it would be useful to incorporate information on the status of monitoring reporting, in addition to dumping reporting, as a reminder to Parties of the need to report on monitoring activities.

5.4 In considering the Parties that had not reported in the period 2018 to 2022 (LC 46/7/2), the Group noted that only 13 of the 51 Parties listed did not have a National Focal Point assigned and highlighted that the 75% compliance with that requirement was very positive, as much of the outreach efforts were reliant on the currency of focal point information. The Secretariat stated that there was an ongoing effort to ensure Parties' national focal points were up to date.

5.5 In addition, the Group noted that LP-only Parties were flagged in the list of Parties that had not reported in the period 2018 to 2022 (LC 46/7/2) and that it might be useful to flag LC only Parties also, as the Group had noted previously that reporting rates were generally for countries belonging to one treaty or the other, compared to party to both treaties.

5.6 The Group also noted document LC/SG 47/5/2, that was submitted to the 2024 Scientific Groups meeting, providing a report on the progress made by the Correspondence Group on the Assessment of Reports (CGAR).

5.7 The Group discussed the need to establish closer connections with CGAR and the B2C Steering Group in order to avoid duplication of efforts and focus on collaboration, allocate time and resources more efficiently, and it was suggested that the three Groups meet informally during the session for this purpose.

5.8 The Group noted that since its last meeting, the Secretariat had not received any "Incident Information Forms" pursuant to LP article 10.3 and therefore no compilation could be prepared in accordance with paragraph 6.4 of the CPM.

Reporting under articles 9.4.2 and 9.4.3 of the Protocol

5.9 The Group recalled that in March 2009, LP Parties were invited to report on activities related to disposal of wastes or other matter at sea under articles 9.4.2 and 9.4.3 of the Protocol, including administrative and legislative measures, enforcement measures and effectiveness of such measures, and problems encountered in their application (LC-LP.1/Circ.26).

5.10 The Group also recalled that, in 2021, the Secretariat had issued a circular to support the review of the LP/LC Strategic Plan, requesting information under article 9.4.2 of the LP, and article VI of the LC, in relation to the administrative and legislative measures taken to implement provisions of the treaties (LC-LP.1/Circ.98).

5.11 The Secretariat informed the Group that, since last year, no additional Parties had reported information under article 9.4.2. However, as requested by the governing bodies at last year's session (LC 45/17, paragraph 3.11.3), the Secretariat had initiated a process for the engagement of a suitable consultant/academic partner to solicit the information requested in LC-LP.1/Circ.98, and would report to the governing bodies and the LP-CG in due course.

5.12 The Group also discussed whether the fact that a State had a monist or dualist legal system in relation to the reporting requirements was significant, and that different support might be required for those States to report under article 9.4.2 of LP.

6 IDENTIFICATION AND REVIEW OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY PROTOCOL PARTIES IN FULFILLING THEIR REPORTING OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLES 9.4.1, 9.4.2 AND 9.4.3 OF THE PROTOCOL

6.1 It was recalled that in 2018 the Group had continued to identify activities and review factors contributing to the difficulties experienced in fulfilling reporting obligations under article 9.4.1 of the Protocol and had made several recommendations for further action (document LC 40/16, annex 3, paragraphs 6.1 to 6.22).

6.2 The Group noted that recommendations to improve the reporting rate under the Protocol was a recurring discussion in the LP-CG, as well as in the governing bodies, and the number of Parties who provided information on legal and administrative measures, which was set out in document LC 46/7/1, annex, had increased recently.

Outreach to non-reporting countries

6.3 The Group shared a view that non-reporting countries and new Parties were facing difficulties in implementing LP. A number of difficulties were discussed, including differences in capacity, human/financial resources and lack of awareness/experience.

6.4 The Group noted that efforts to provide outreach remotely during the intersessional period were not successful. Instead, the Group would explore various options including the coffee break outreach sessions to maximize in-person outreach during the governing bodies meetings and other relevant meetings. The Group recommended arranging one-on-one engagement and discussions during the session and suggested extending written invitations to non-reporting/new member countries. The Group also suggested inviting countries who had recently initiated reporting or recently acceded to the treaty, to share their experiences during the session.

6.5 The Group agreed that language barriers were one of the difficulties that many countries were experiencing in implementing the LP, and suggested collaborating Parties and with regional conventions, developing materials in various languages and holding regional workshops.

6.6 The Group discussed the challenges with identifying and updating contact details for individuals in each Administration responsible for reporting, noting this was often different to the National Focal Point (NFP). It was also discussed that communication with other organs within IMO (MEPC) and other entities (WMU) could be effective in handling this matter.

7 CONSIDERATION OF COMPLIANCE ISSUES RELATED TO THE "BARRIERS TO COMPLIANCE" (B2C) PROJECT

7.1 The Group noted progress made by the B2C Steering Group in the intersessional period, particularly the addition of an action to review and feed into finalization of the e-learning training course on the implementation of the London Protocol, which was being developed by the World Maritime University (WMU) and a consultant.

7.2 The Group also noted the intersessional activities undertaken by the Secretariat related to the promotion and implementation of the LP including a national workshop held in Madagascar, a thematic programme for ROCRAM-CA, developing LP e-learning course, and collaboration with regional conventions and programmes, particularly with OSPAR, HELCOM and UNEP/MAP.

8 REVIEW OF PROGRESS OF MAKING HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL AVAILABLE ON THE LC/LP WEBSITE

8.1 The Group recalled that in 2017, it had concluded its work to locate and scan historical documents related to the development of the London Protocol, but that the information was not yet available on the LC/LP website.

8.2 The Secretariat informed that it had initiated an internal discussion on this matter and was reviewing the way to upload those documents on the LC/LP website before the next meeting.

8.3 The Group noted the effort of the Secretariat and agreed to keep the item on the agenda, and to review progress made with respect to the online availability of these documents.

9 COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND OUTREACH: REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIALS AND INPUTS INTO THE WORK OF OTHER LP BODIES

9.1 The Group reviewed recent progress under major ocean-related initiatives of relevance to the London Convention/Protocol for compliance promotion and outreach.

9.2 The Group noted the ongoing efforts of the Secretariat and agreed that formal/informal engagement in the meetings gave valuable opportunities to promote LC/LP ratification including recent amendments and to provide advice for compliance.

9.3 The Group agreed that various materials were already developed and noted the need to make the documents accessible in a single place and to create a list of categorized documents/guidance for better user-friendly accessibility.

9.4 The Group suggested using visualized materials such as videos or screenshots rather than spreadsheets when developing materials for compliance promotion and outreach activities. The Group also, taking advantage of being together in person, undertook the following actions during the meeting:

- .1 drafting the revision of the "Benefits of the LC/LP" leaflet; and
- .2 compiling the "Low-Tech, Low-Cost WAG" series of documents into a signposting document to be recommended for publication on the LC/LP web pages.

10 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMPLIANCE GROUP FOR THE PERIOD UP TO AND INCLUDING ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION IN 2025

10.1 The Group reviewed its ongoing work programme, which is set out in the annex.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 A member of the Group was of the view that the discharge from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station could constitute a discharge from a man-made structure at sea and could constitute dumping under the LP. One member of the Group also considered that this constituted a violation of the spirit and objectives of the LP. The Group was of the view that determining the scope of the LP was not a task for the LP-CG, and noted that there was a divergence of opinion among members as to whether there was ambiguity in the interpretation of what constituted a man-made structure at sea.

11.2 The Group noted the need to maintain the two-day duration for the Compliance Group's meeting, recognizing the growing workload of the Group. The Group also noted the constraints of having an in-person meeting with hybrid capabilities, which limited discussions, and discussions between participants, while acknowledging the importance of the hybrid capabilities for participation of some countries. It was suggested that a smaller room with a round table would be more suitable for transparency and effectiveness, and that hybrid capabilities should not be provided at the expense of in-person meeting efficacy and benefits.

11.3 The Group noted that the governing bodies might want to consider clarifying how the provisions of the existing London Protocol (without the 2013 amendments) applied to marine geoengineering activities that involved the addition of matter to the sea from a ship, aircraft, platform or other man-made structure at sea. It was observed that not all current Parties were applying the dumping prohibition and placement exemption to these activities in the same way.

12 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR(S) FOR THE NEXT TERM

12.1 The Group recalled that in 2023, it had elected Lt. Commander Sebastian Bravo (Chile) to serve as Chair for three years (through to the end of the 2026 Meeting of Contracting Parties) and Prof. Young Sok Kim (Republic of Korea) as Vice-Chair through to the end 2025. The Group re-elected Prof. Akiko Okamatsu (Japan) as Vice-Chair for a further three terms (until the end of 2027), subject to her renomination and re-election as a member at the next Meeting of Contracting Parties.

13 ACTION REQUESTED OF THE GOVERNING BODY

13.1 The governing body is invited to approve the report in general and in particular to:

- .1 note the Group's decision to establish closer connections with the CGAR along with the B2C Steering Group in order to avoid duplication efforts and complement and collaborate with each other;
- .2 note the Group's recommendations to the Secretariat to reconvene in-person coffee break outreach sessions, including one-to-one meetings and engagement with non-reporting countries and new Contracting Parties;
- .3 note the Group's discussion on language barriers as a difficulty that many countries are experiencing in implementing LP, and the need for collaborating with Parties and regional conventions, developing materials in various languages and holding regional workshops; and
- .4 note the Group's request to maintain the two-day duration of the Compliance Group's meeting, and to seek a more suitable meeting format for more effective engagement and discussion.

ANNEX

FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE LONDON PROTOCOL COMPLIANCE GROUP

SD	Description	2025	2026	2027	Target completion date
SD2	1. Treat individual submissions of possible non-compliance as a priority in the work programme when they arise				ongoing
SD2	2. Continue working relationships with other relevant LP Groups including the B2C Group, and the CGAR as well as regional bodies working on related compliance issues				ongoing
SD2	3. Continue to review dumping reports referred to the Compliance Group pursuant to paragraph 6.2 of the CPM, including where concerns have been identified by the LP Scientific Group				ongoing
SD1	4. Consistent with the CPM, assist non-Contracting Parties requesting support in acceding to the Protocol				ongoing
SD1	5. Assist Contracting Parties to meet compliance obligations, and support interested non-Contracting Parties in strengthening reporting and other requirements that would facilitate their accession to the Protocol				ongoing
SD2	6a. Continue to identify and review the factors contributing to the difficulties experienced by Contracting Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under article 9.4.1 and 10.3; identify options to address those factors; and make recommendations for improving the rate of reporting under the Protocol and mechanisms for gathering information from Parties, and keep under review the presentation of the information contained in the reports				ongoing

SD	Description	2024	2025	2026	Target completion date
SD2	6b. Continue to identify and review the factors contributing to the difficulties experienced by Contracting Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under article 9.4.2 and 9.4.3; identify options to address those factors; and make recommendations for improving the rate of reporting under the Protocol and mechanisms for gathering information from Parties, and keep under review the presentation of the information contained in the reports				ongoing
SD2	7. Examine reports received under all other relevant LP articles, use these results in combination with historical documents to clarify the intention behind these requirements, and develop materials to facilitate compliance with these reporting requirements				ongoing
SD2	8. Ensure historical documents related to the development of the London Protocol are available to Contracting Parties				2025
SD2 SD3	9. Review and develop materials and inputs regarding its role in compliance promotion in collaboration with the Secretariat				2025
SD2	10. Facilitate the creation of tools to support countries in the development of implementing legislation for the London Protocol				ongoing
SD2	11. Continue to develop recommendations to increase participation in the Group as required				ongoing
SD4	12. Consider emerging issues that may represent potential incidents of non-compliance and make recommendations to the governing body as appropriate				ongoing

ANNEX 7

BARRIERS TO COMPLIANCE (B2C) STEERING GROUP WORK PLAN FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL PERIOD 2024-2025

No.	Action	Action by	Priority (1 - 3)
1	Review the WMU LP e-Learning materials	All to review (pending provision by the Secretariat)	1
2	Develop a "How-To" guide outlining the basic information of how to be compliant with the requirements of the LC/LP		1
3	Review the status of and discuss the repackaging of the Low-Cost, Low-Tech series of Waste Assessment Guidance documents	Co-chairs to write to the Secretariat on behalf of the B2C members	2
4	Subgroup website quick fixes	Subgroup to lead (United States, Canada, ACOPS)	2
5	Review the national/regional LP workshop materials	All to review	2
6	Develop a "How to Chair" guide for Working and Correspondence Groups	Canada to lead; all to review once available	3
7	Develop a "How to write reports" guide for Working and Correspondence Groups	United States to lead; all to review	3
8	Interim, Default Action Levels (IDAL) review	Co-chairs to write to Secretariat on behalf of the B2C members	3
9	Continue supporting the Secretariat in promoting technical cooperation activities, through webinars or online meetings, to raise awareness among national/regional stakeholders about the benefits of accession to and implementation of the London Protocol	Co-chairs to facilitate assistance of the B2C group ad hoc	N/A
10	Regular talks / presentations relating to compliance, e.g. "How to report", or to highlight specific challenges or recent successes	All ad hoc	N/A

ANNEX 8

LC/LP SCIENTIFIC GROUPS WORK PROGRAMME (2024-2026)

L = Low; M = Medium; H = High Cells with dashed background indicate issues not under the Scientific Groups remit.

Supports Strategic Directions				Description	WHEN				WHO				
SD1	SD2	SD3	SD4		2024	2025	2026	Target Completion Date	GBs (Contracting Parties)	SGs	LP CG	BZC	OLCP (Sec)
	✓	✓	✓	1	Review and develop guidance and address technical and scientific issues to enhance implementation of the London Convention and Protocol				Ongoing	✓	✓		
	✓	✓	✓	1.1	Waste Assessment Guidance (WAG): Generic and Specific Assessment Guidelines				Ongoing	✓	✓		
					.1 Review of Generic and Specific Guidelines	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		
					.2 Review of and experience with Specific Guidelines for the assessment of platforms and other manmade structures at sea	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		
					.3 Development of recommendations regarding guidance on fibre reinforced plastic (FRP) vessels	M	M	M	2024		✓		
					.4 Review and experience of further guidance on disposal site selection	L	L	L	Ongoing		✓		
					.5 Development of recommendations about further guidance on marine cumulative effects assessment	L			Ongoing		✓		
					.6 Review of and experience with practical implementation of the WAGs	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		
					.7 Update of the interim action levels (IALs) every five years at a minimum	M	M	M	2026		✓		
					.8 Collection of information on protection of higher trophic levels as related to the WAGs	L	L	L	Ongoing		✓		
					.9 Waste prevention techniques	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		
					.10 Consideration of the consequences of new waste prevention techniques on implementation of the LP/LC	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		
					.11 Revision of the guidance on removal of anti-fouling coatings	H			2024		✓		
✓	✓	✓		1.2	Other technical and scientific issues					✓	✓		
					.1 Habitat modification/enhancement	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		
					.2 Beneficial use of waste or other materials	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		
					.2.1 Inventory on beneficial use and habitat enhancement activities (info submitted to LC/LP)	M	M	M	2024		✓		
✓	✓	✓		1.3	Monitoring and Assessment					✓	✓		
					.1 Reports and assessment of field monitoring	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓		
					.2 Research results, new techniques and strategies	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		
				1.4	Science Day					✓	✓		
	✓	✓	✓		.1 Identify Science Day topic to support effective implementation of the LP/LC or to identify and evaluate emerging issues. As appropriate, invite experts to participate in Science Day formatted as an open symposium	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		
✓		✓		2	Address and manage climate change					✓	✓		
✓		✓		2.1	CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations (LP)					✓	✓		
					.1 Experience with implementation of CO ₂ sequestration guidelines/technologies and their application	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓		
					.2 Compilation of information on ongoing projects and experiences with the application of the CO ₂ sequestration guidelines	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓		✓
✓		✓		2.2	Marine Geoengineering				Ongoing	✓	✓		
					.1 Keep under review the marine environmental implications of marine geoengineering	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓		
					.2 Evaluation of GESAMP (WG 41 phase 2) report on marine geoengineering activities	H	H	H	2025		✓		

					.3 Compilation of information on planned and ongoing marine geoengineering projects	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓								
✓	✓		✓	3	Boundary issues and emerging matters of concern						✓	✓	✓						
✓	✓	✓	✓	3.1	Cooperation with certain UN agencies and industry orgs., as appropriate, with regard to:				Ongoing		✓	✓							
					.1 Riverine and marine disposal of tailings and associated wastes from mining operations							✓							
					.1.1 Evaluation of GESAMP WG 42 report Vol. A on impacts of wastes and other matter in the marine environment from mining operations, including marine mineral mining	M	M	L	2024			✓							
					.1.2 Share information on actions undertaken by other bodies, e.g., OSPAR				Ongoing		✓								
					.2 Marine Litter and Microplastics							✓							
					.2.1 Update the inventory on issue of marine litter and microplastics (LP/LC relevant issues)	M	M	M	Ongoing			✓							
					.3 Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea	M	M	L	tbd			✓							
					.4 Deep Seabed Mining							✓							
					.4.1 Deep seabed mining in Area: Evaluation of relevant GESAMP report Vol. B; provision of expertise regarding waste assessment to ISA	H	H	L	Ongoing			✓							
					.4.2 Deep seabed mining in areas of national jurisdiction: development of summary of seabed mining activities/projects taking place in areas of national jurisdiction	L	L	L	tbd			✓							
					.5. Outstanding cooperative work							✓							
					.5.1 Jettisoned space vehicle components - dialogue with COPUOS	L	L	L	Ongoing			✓							✓
✓				3.2	Underwater noise from anthropogenic sources (LP-LC noise related issues only)	L	L	L	Ongoing		✓	✓							
✓	✓			4	Address matters related to the management of radioactive wastes and other matter						✓	✓							
✓	✓			4.1	Review of ongoing issues in relation to dumping of radioactive wastes and other matter	L	L	L	Ongoing		✓	✓							
✓				5	Promote and improve compliance with the LP and LC						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
✓				5.1	Implementation of compliance procedures and mechanisms (LP)	H	H	H	Ongoing				✓						
✓				5.2	Improve reporting under the LP and LC	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
✓				5.3	Compliance with the reporting requirements under the LP and LC	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓		✓						
✓					.1 Contracting Parties submit annual reports on dumping permits issued	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓								
✓					.2 Contracting Parties submit their compliance and field monitoring reports	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓								
✓					.3 Contracting Parties submit their legislative and administrative measures, and the effectiveness of the measures				Ongoing		✓								
✓					.4 Provide assistance existing and prospective parties to strengthen reporting				Ongoing				✓	✓	✓				
✓					.5 Implementation of electronic reporting of dumping activities	M	M	M	2026										✓
✓					.6 Enhanced collaboration with regional bodies on reporting	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓						✓
✓					.7 Review, circulate and publish summary reports with data for target SD1	H	H	H	Ongoing										✓
✓					.8 Review, circulate, and publish all data associated with target SD2, including annual summaries of reports received (e.g. dumping, permits issued, monitoring, legislative and admin measures, and the effectiveness of the measures).	H	H	H	Ongoing			✓	✓						

✓			5.4	Implementation of the Action Plan to Improve Reporting under the LP and LC	H	H	H	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓		
✓			5.5	Technical/Scientific review and assessment of dumping and monitoring reports	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓				
✓			5.6	Reporting of observed dumping incidents which may be in violation of international treaties	L	L	L	Ongoing	✓		✓			
✓	✓	✓	6	Promote LP through outreach, technical cooperation and assistance to existing members for implementation and prospective members for ratification or accession					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
✓	✓		6.1	Provide technical cooperation and assistance to existing and prospective members	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓		
				.1 Complete "Barriers to Compliance" Project Work Plan	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓		
				.2 Reporting on the Technical Co-operation Trust Fund	M	M	M	Ongoing						✓
				.3 Create tools to support countries in the development of LP implementing legislation							✓	✓	✓	
✓		✓	6.2	Provide outreach materials to prospective new Contracting Parties and existing members new communications materials, including regional workshops and country-to-country outreach strategies	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓		
				.1 Improvement/update of the LP and LC website	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓	✓	
				.2 Promotion of the LP and LC at international meetings, including high level audiences	M	M	M	Ongoing						✓
				.3 Update all existing publications and prepare new publications, and promote approved publications in accordance with communications plans (LC/LP publications)	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓	✓	
✓	✓			.4 Manuals, Bibliographies and Information Exchange (related to other bodies)	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓				
✓	✓	✓		.5 Establish a communications group or dedicated individual or promotions officer to support SD1, SD3	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓		✓	✓	
✓	✓	✓		.6 Create a virtual centre of excellence in SGs (e.g., on dredging and disposal, geoengineering, etc., through better proposition of guidance and technical assistance				Ongoing	✓			✓	✓	
				.7 Development of e-Learning course on the implementation of the LP	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓				
✓			6.3	Update national focal points, technical contact points and expert registration	M	L	L	Ongoing	✓					✓
✓	✓	✓	7	Promote the work of the LP and LC externally through relations with other organizations in the field of marine environmental protection					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
		✓	7.1	Improve and further develop the implementation of collaborative arrangements with other UN entities, IGOs and NGOs	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓			✓	
✓		✓	7.2	Advice from international organizations on specific issues – GESAMP	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓				✓
✓	✓		7.3	Contribution to the major ocean-related initiatives on reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓				
				.1 Follow up with Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (UN Regular Process)	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓				
			7.4	Promotion of LP/LC scientific groups as formal body for scientific cooperation and collaboration				tbd						
			8	Address overarching and cross-cutting issues, including assessment of implications of changes to marine environment (SD4 first task of implementation plan)										
✓	✓	✓	8.1	Operationalize and implement the Strategic Plan for the London Protocol and London Convention	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
✓			8.2	Review Work Programmes	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

ANNEX 9

**LIST OF SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-SEVENTH
CONSULTATIVE MEETING AND THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF
CONTRACTING PARTIES**

No.	Item
1	Adoption of the agenda
2	Status of the London Convention and Protocol
3	Progress on the implementation of the LP/LC Strategic Plan
4	Consideration of the report of the Scientific Groups
5	Marine geoengineering
6	CO ₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations
7	Compliance issues: .1 consideration of the report of the seventeenth session of the Compliance Group (LP); and .2 other issues
8	Technical cooperation and assistance
9	Marine litter and microplastics
10	Interpretation of the London Convention and Protocol
11	Matters related to the management of radioactive wastes
12	Monitoring for the purposes of the London Convention and Protocol
13	Revision of the LC/LP Rules of Procedure
14	Relations with other organizations in the field of marine environmental protection
15	Administrative arrangements and future work: .1 review of the Joint Work Programme for the period 2025 to 2027; .2 report on the LC/LP Technical Cooperation Trust Fund; and .3 substantive items for the agenda and date for the forty-eighth Consultative Meeting and twenty-first Meeting of Contracting Parties (2026)
16	Any other business
17	Election of officers for both governing bodies
18	Consideration and adoption of the report

Legend:

"LP": Specific agenda item for the Meeting of Contracting Parties
No marking: Joint items