

COUNCIL
29th extraordinary session
Agenda item 7

C/ES.29/7
24 October 2017
Original: ENGLISH

**CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT ON THE THIRTY-NINTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING
OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE LONDON CONVENTION 1972 AND THE
TWELFTH MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE
1996 PROTOCOL TO THE LONDON CONVENTION**

Note by the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document reports on the outcomes of the thirty-ninth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention 1972 and the twelfth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention

Strategic direction: 1 and 7

High-level action: 1.1.1, 1.1.2 and 7.3.2

Output: 1.1.1.1 and 1.1.2.1

Action to be taken: Paragraph 23

Related documents: LC 39/16 and LC 39/16/Add.1

Introduction

1 The report of the thirty-ninth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the twelfth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol (LC39/16 and LC 39/16/Add.1) is submitted to the twenty-ninth extraordinary session of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Assembly resolution A.395(X), as well as London Convention Article XIV(2) and London Protocol Article 19.

2 The thirty-ninth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the twelfth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol were held, concurrently, at IMO Headquarters from 9 to 13 October 2017, chaired by Dr. Gi-Hoon Hong (Republic of Korea). The First Vice-Chair, Mrs. Azara Prempeh (Ghana), and the Second Vice-Chair, Ms. Cynthia Valente (United States), were also in attendance. The outcome of the main issues considered at the joint session of the governing bodies (LC 39/LP 12) is reported in the following paragraphs.

Status of the London Convention and Protocol

3 The London Convention (LC) has to date been ratified or acceded to by 87 States. The London Protocol (LP), which entered into force on 24 March 2006, has to date been ratified or acceded to by 50 States. There have been three accessions to the LP since the last session of the governing bodies.

Progress on the implementation of the London Protocol/Convention Strategic Plan

4 The governing bodies noted the strong links between the *Strategic Plan for the London Protocol and London Convention*, which was adopted in 2016, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the need to take urgent action in order to achieve the targets set out in the Plan.

5 The governing bodies approved the implementation plan for the Strategic Plan, and instructed the subsidiary bodies to review and revise their work programmes, in the intersessional period, in light of the considerations and recommendations set out in the implementation plan. The governing bodies also requested the Secretariat to submit a streamlined Joint Work Programme (JWP) taking into account the revised work programmes of the LC/LP subsidiary bodies, to the next joint session of the governing bodies, in 2018.

Marine geoengineering including ocean fertilization

6 The governing bodies noted that Finland had deposited its instrument of acceptance of the 2013 amendment on the regulation of the placement of matter for ocean fertilization and other marine geoengineering activities (resolution LP.4(8)), bringing the number of acceptances to two. It was also noted that other Parties were in different stages of the process of accepting the amendment.

7 The governing bodies welcomed the progress made by the GESAMP Working Group (WG 41) on marine geoengineering, which could assist LP Parties to identify those marine geoengineering techniques that it might consider for listing in the new annex 4 of the Protocol.

CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations

8 The governing bodies noted that with the acceptance of Finland during the week of the Meetings, there were now five ratifications of the 2009 amendment to article 6 of the LP on the export of carbon dioxide waste streams (resolution LP.3(4)). Contracting Parties to the LP were encouraged to do their utmost to facilitate the process to ensure entry into force as soon as possible, the acceptance of which is seen as a crucial element of the 2006 amendment to regulate CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations.

Tenth session of the Compliance Group under the London Protocol (LP only)

9 The London Protocol Compliance Group met for its tenth session from 5 to 6 October 2017 and noted that no reports of non-compliance had been referred to it.

10 The Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol (LP 12) approved the report of the Group and the recommendations therein, as well as the proposed future work programme for the period up to and including its eleventh meeting in 2018. In this regard LP 12, having noted the request by the Group to hold their next session immediately prior to the Meeting of Contracting Parties, agreed to the convening of the eleventh session of the Group, tentatively scheduled from 1 to 2 November 2018.

11 LP 12 approved an amendment to the 2007 Compliance Procedures and Mechanisms, to address participation issues and to ensure that members can, after serving three terms, be extended further, at the discretion of the Meeting of Contracting Parties.

Revised guidance on national implementation of the London Protocol

12 The governing bodies approved the *Revised guidance on National Implementation of the London Protocol*, and instructed the Secretariat to publish it, as soon as possible, with a view to assisting countries in ratifying and implementing the London Protocol. The revised document replaces the initial guidance, adopted in 2001.

Development of further guidance for the development of action lists and action levels for dredged material

13 The governing bodies approved the *Step-by-step guidance on simple approaches to creating and using action lists and action levels for dredged material*, aimed at countries that are in the early stages of implementing the LP. The guidance is intended as an aid to begin developing systems to assess whether dredged material is acceptable for disposal at sea, and complements the other LC/LP low cost, low technology guidance documents already available.

Revision of the Specific Guidelines for assessment of platforms or other man-made structures at sea

14 The governing bodies, endorsed the Scientific Groups decision to establish a Correspondence Group on the Revision of the *Specific guidelines for assessment of platforms or other man-made structures at sea*, which were adopted in 2000. The governing bodies welcomed the progress made by the Correspondence Group, and provided further direction and guidance on several issues, in order for the Group to continue its work. The completion target date for this activity is 2019.

Disposal of fibreglass vessels

15 In 2016, the governing bodies (LC 38/LP 11), having reviewed the Scientific Groups discussion on the widespread nature of the problem of disposing of fibreglass vessels, particularly those that have been abandoned, instructed the Groups to propose recommendations regarding whether to develop advice on the disposal of fibreglass vessels, for consideration at the next joint session of the governing bodies.

16 The governing bodies, noting the discussion by the Scientific Groups, instructed the Secretariat to:

- .1 engage a consultant to collate, inter alia, information on the scale of the problem and to identify key knowledge gaps relating to impacts of fibre-reinforced plastic vessels dumped or placed in the marine environment;
- .2 consult within IMO, and with other relevant treaty bodies, regarding the end-of-life management of fibre-reinforced plastic vessels; and
- .3 provide this information to the Scientific Groups.

17 The governing bodies also instructed the Scientific Groups to:

- .1 consider the consultant's report and the information from the Secretariat, in order to advise the governing bodies whether there is a need to regulate the disposal at sea of fibre-reinforced plastic vessels or vessels with fibre-reinforced plastic components; and
- .2 consider whether there is a need for guidance to be developed.

18 Delegations were encouraged to submit information on the matter of disposing of fibreglass vessels to the next Scientific Groups meeting in 2018.

Riverine and marine disposal of tailings and associated wastes from mining operations, including deep seabed mining

19 The governing bodies noted progress made by the recently established GESAMP Working Group (WG 42) on the impacts of wastes and other matter in the marine environment from mining operations including marine mineral mining.

Marine litter and microplastics

20 The governing bodies urged Parties to redouble efforts to share knowledge and technical expertise with regard to the analysis of plastics, including microplastics, in dredged material and sewage sludge in particular, with a view to developing methods to enable routine, reliable monitoring, assessment and reporting of microplastic contaminant levels in such waste streams as soon as possible. Delegations were also encouraged to share information on successful and effective methods to reduce microplastics entering the environment through the waste streams under the LC/LP.

Joint session of the Scientific Groups

21 The governing bodies agreed to convene the next joint session of the Scientific Groups, scheduled tentatively for 30 April to 4 May 2018, to be hosted by the Government of Chile in Valparaiso, Chile, which would be preceded by a regional workshop.

Election of the Chair and the Vice-Chair

22 The Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention unanimously elected Mrs. Azara Prempeh (Ghana) as Chair, Ms. Cynthia Valente (United States) as First Vice-Chair, and Mr. Gildardo Alarcon Daowz (Mexico), as Second Vice-Chair, for the intersessional period and for the fortieth Consultative Meeting. The Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol also unanimously elected the same officers for the intersessional period and for the thirteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties.

Action requested of the Council

23 The Council is invited to take note of the information provided in this document and to comment as it may deem appropriate.