

**3rd EAS Partnership Council Meeting
Agenda Item 14.0: Technical Session**

**PREPARATION FOR THE MAJOR UN CONFERENCES:
RIO PLUS 20 AND CONFERENCE ON OCEANS AND SEAS IN 2014**

Background

1. Since the first UN International Conference on the Human Environment in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972, a number of environment-related international conferences were held and programmes were established, mainstreaming and putting the environment including coastal and ocean governance as one of the major global agenda.
2. The three major international conferences that have shaped and provided time-bound oriented targets related to sustainable development including oceans and seas are: (1) the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) or popularly known as the “Earth Summit” which culminated in the three Rio conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD) and the Agenda 21, and consequently led to the establishment of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF); (2) the 2000 Millennium Summit which led to the endorsement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2001; and (3) the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) (Johannesburg, South Africa) which resulted to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI).
3. The year 2012 is considered a critical year as it marks the 10th anniversary of the WSSD, 20th anniversary of the Rio Earth Summit, and 40th anniversary of the Stockholm Conference on Human Environment. However, it has been suggested that most of the targets set during these global conferences have yet to be achieved, nor has there been any overall lessening of social disparity (EEAC 2009).¹
4. The UN CSD is in the process of preparing for the Rio plus 20 in 2012 at Rio de Janeiro, Brasil; and the UN Conference on Oceans and the Seas in 2014 (venue to be determined).
5. Figure 1 shows the chronological depiction of the major UN conferences relating to the environment and sustainable development.

¹ European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils (EEAC) 2009 Annual Plenary Session, Dubrovnik, October 2009.

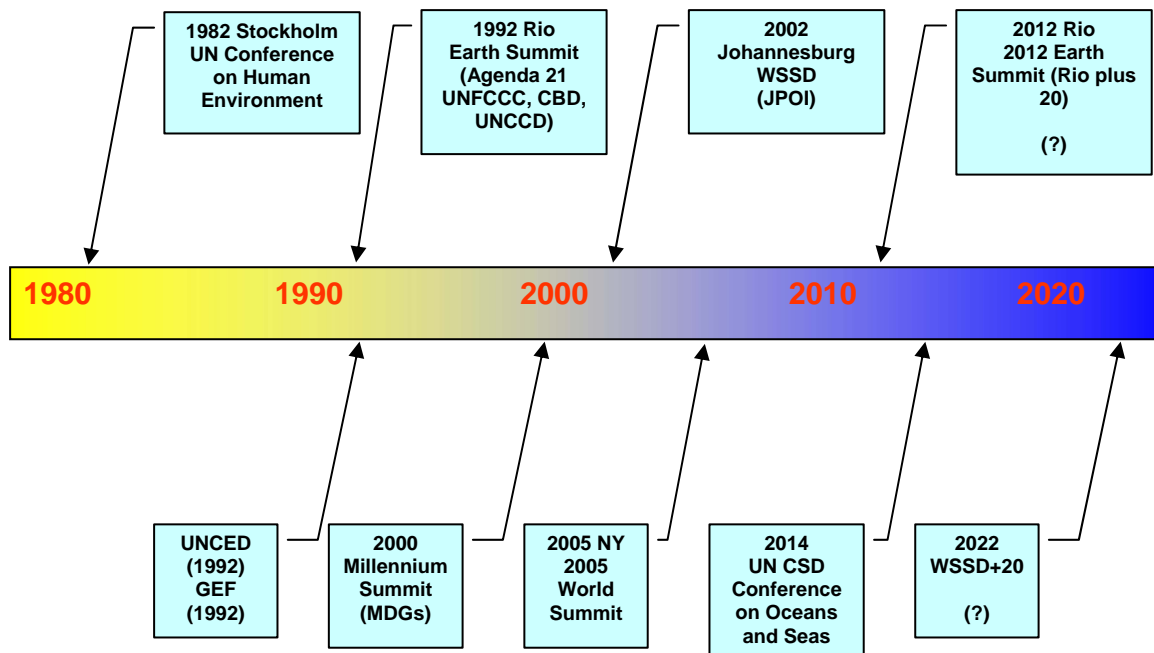


Figure 1. Major UN Conferences relating to Sustainable Development

Rio plus 20

6. In 2009, the UN General Assembly issued a resolution (A/Res/64/236) mandating the organization of the Rio plus 20 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012. In its resolution, the UNGA noted the continuing need to ensure a balance among economic development, social development and environmental protection as interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development.
7. The suggested Conference themes are:
 - a. Green Economy within the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication;
 - b. Institutional Framework for sustainable development.
8. The objectives of the Conference are:
 - a. Securing renewed political commitment for sustainable development;
 - b. Assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the action plans/declarations of the major summits on sustainable development; and
 - c. Addressing new and emerging challenges.
9. Possible outcomes of the Conference are²:
 - A revised and strengthened focus in sustainable development in the UN, possibly a Sustainable Development Council in the UN GA;

² Powerpoint presentation by Felix Dodds (Executive Director, Stakeholder Forum for Our Common Future) at the 11th Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum (MGGSF-XI), Bali, Indonesia, 21-22 February 2010. (<http://www.unep.org/Civil-Society/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=BZlstrAPkwk%3d&tabid=3269&mid=5509&language=en-US>)

- A better understanding of why the previous agreements/actions have not been implemented and actions needed;
 - Rebuilding of National Councils for Sustainable Development
 - An agenda to address positively the nexus of environment and security;
 - Possibly a new Local Agenda 21 process at the local level;
 - Possibly a meeting of three of the Rio Conventions to agree on a joint works programme around the UN-REDD Programme³;
 - The development of draft legislation to promote the green economy;
 - A global database of good practice on the green economy;
 - A review of the implementation of the Rio Declaration into domestic law.
10. In preparation for Rio+20, global publications, including the World Watch Report 2012, will focus on Rio+20, while the UNEP Global Environmental Outlook 5 will feature the Green Economy.

UN Conference on Oceans and the Seas

11. UN CSD discharges its functions in accordance with the implementation cycle, with 2004/2005 being the cycle #1. Each cycle has various themes for which the CSD will focus on. As for cycle #6, the Year 2014/2015 (CSD-22/CSD-23) will be devoted to the themes: i) Oceans and Seas; ii) Marine Resources; iii) Small Island Developing States; and iv) Disaster Management and Vulnerability. The implementation cycle and thematic cluster of UN CSD is attached as Annex 1. Detailed information about the 2014 Conference has yet to be released.

PEMSEA Preparation Strategy

12. In preparation for the upcoming major UN Conferences, PEMSEA will build on the work being done in relation to the implementation of the SDS-SEA, particularly on: i) regional assessment report on SDS-SEA; ii) advancement in regional ocean governance; iii) demonstration of working model of the PEMSEA Partnership arrangement; and iv) codification and recognition of good practices and case studies in integrated coastal and ocean management.
13. The preparatory activities for the upcoming international conferences may be used as an opportunity to promote PEMSEA as a recently established international legal entity specializing in integrated coastal and ocean management and providing services through intergovernmental and intersectoral partnerships to the countries of the region to achieve sustainable development of the Seas of East Asia..
14. The upcoming conferences will also be considered in the planning and preparation of the following activities:
- a. Regional assessment of the SDS-SEA implementation

³ UN-REDD Programme: UN Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries

The summary report on SDS-SEA implementation and study on the emerging trends and priorities across the EAS region will serve as basis in the development of the SDS-SEA implementation and will also be a useful document and can serve as the region's contribution to the Rio plus 20.

b. State of the Coasts (SOC) Report

PEMSEA has initiated the development of the State of the Coasts (SOC) Reporting system and a number of local ICM sites are already developing and finalizing their SOC reports. The consolidated local SOC reports are envisioned to be rolled up into national reports and a regional report. This initiative may also be highlighted in PEMSEA's participation to the UN Conference on Oceans and Seas in 2014.

c. EAS Congress 2012 theme

As the next EAS Congress also falls on 2012, it is important to consider the various emerging issues and developments in the region as well as the key themes being tackled by other international and regional forums.

d. Participation to the UN Conferences

- Organizing a Regional Seminar or Workshop
In collaboration with various PEMSEA Partners, a workshop or seminar featuring PEMSEA's experience in ICM and SDS-SEA implementation may be proposed.
- Setting up an Exhibition booth
An exhibition booth highlighting PEMSEA's partnership mechanism and achievements in SDS-SEA implementation may be considered.

e. Publications

A special issue of the Tropical Coasts magazine may be devoted to promote the best practices and innovative actions undertaken in the EAS region in line with the SDS-SEA implementation with linkage to the Rio plus 20 theme of "Green Economy". Case studies and policy briefs will also provide useful information that will help PEMSEA Partners in preparing for the upcoming events.

Actions for consideration by the Technical Session:

15. The Technical Session is invited to:

- a. Provide comment and suggestions on PEMSEA's preparation strategy for the upcoming major UN Conferences; and
- b. Identify possible collaborative activities among Partners as part of the preparation for the major UN Conferences.

UN CSD Implementation Cycle and Thematic cluster

Cycle	Thematic cluster	Cross-cutting issues
2004/2005 CSD-12/CSD-13 Implementation Cycle #1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water • Sanitation • Human Settlements 	Poverty eradication, Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production, Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development, Sustainable development in a globalizing world, Health and sustainable development, Sustainable development of SIDS, Sustainable development for Africa, Other regional initiatives, Means of implementation, Institutional framework for sustainable development, Gender equality, and Education
2006/2007 CSD-14/CSD-15 Implementation Cycle #2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy for Sustainable Development • Industrial Development • Air Pollution/Atmosphere • Climate Change 	same as above
2008/2009 CSD-16/CSD-17 Implementation Cycle #3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Rural Development • Land • Drought • Desertification • Africa 	same as above
2010/2011* CSD-18/CSD-19 Implementation Cycle #4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport • Chemicals • Waste Management (Hazardous & Solid Waste) • Mining • A Ten Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and 	same as above

	Production Patterns	
2012/2013* CSD-20/CSD-21 Implementation Cycle #5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forests • Biodiversity • Biotechnology • Tourism • Mountains 	same as above
2014/2015* CSD-22/CSD-23 Implementation Cycle #6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oceans and Seas • Marine Resources • Small Island Developing States • Disaster Management and Vulnerability 	same as above
2016/2017 CSD-24/CSD-24 Implementation Cycle #7	Overall appraisal of implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme of Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	