

IUCN intervention 2 at UNICPOLOS, June 2010

Mr. Co-Chair,

My delegation joins others in thanking you for preparing a composite streamlined list of issues that could benefit from attention in future work of the General Assembly.

We share an interest in reviewing the role of prior environmental assessment in the conservation and management of oceans and human activities that affect the marine environment. We note that there are a number of requirements in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and its implementing agreements to conduct assessments. These include those found in Article 206 with respect of the need of States to assess, as far as practicable, the potential effects of activities under their jurisdiction or control that may cause substantial pollution of or significant and harmful changes to the marine environment. Other assessment references also come to mind, for example the environmental implications of activities in the Area or a general principle that States in implementing the duty to cooperate with respect of certain fish stocks are to “assess the impacts of fishing, other human activities and environmental factors on target stocks and species belonging to the same ecosystem or associated with or dependent upon the target stocks;”¹. Since 1982, the concept and practice of prior environmental impact assessment has been further developed. Thus, it would be useful to address in an informal and consultative process issues related to **the development and use of harmonized and cross-sectorial prior environmental impact assessment, including of cumulative impacts, and strategic environmental assessment for all human activities with the potential for significant adverse impacts on the marine environment, living marine resources and biodiversity.**

Mr. Co-Chair,

In the composite streamlined list that you provided to us, you have referenced two issues with respect of climate change and oceans. My delegation believes that – given the projected harmful impacts of climate change on oceans and coasts and their concomitant consequences on the societies and the economies of coastal communities – **the importance of ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change on oceans and coasts** would benefit from attention in future work of the General Assembly on ocean affairs and should be included in the list as a priority.

¹ UNFSA, Art 5(d)