

European Parliament Intergroup Seas, Rivers, Islands and Coastal Areas Conference 2 December 2015

What can Europe do for a better
international ocean governance?

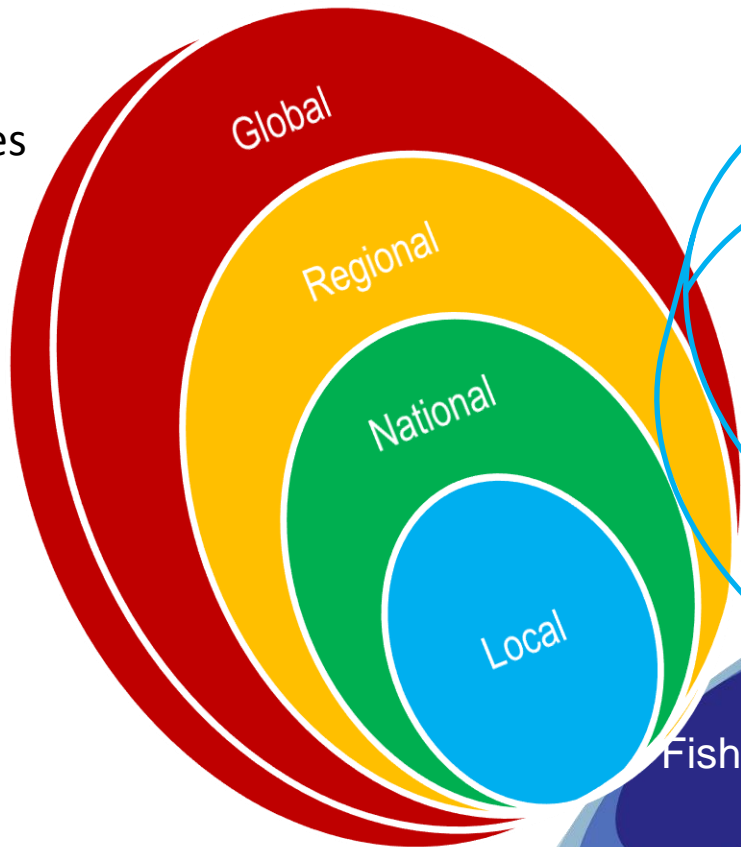
Ocean governance
Role of the United Nations



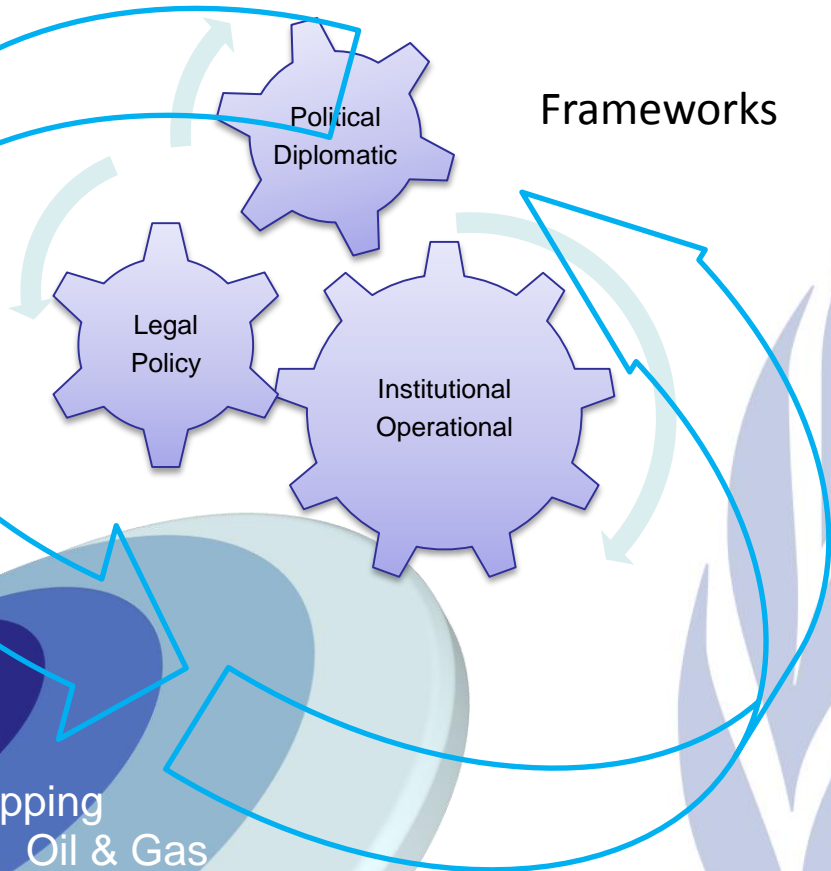
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Scales



Frameworks



Fisheries

Shipping

Oil & Gas

Other sectors

Sectors

Ocean Governance

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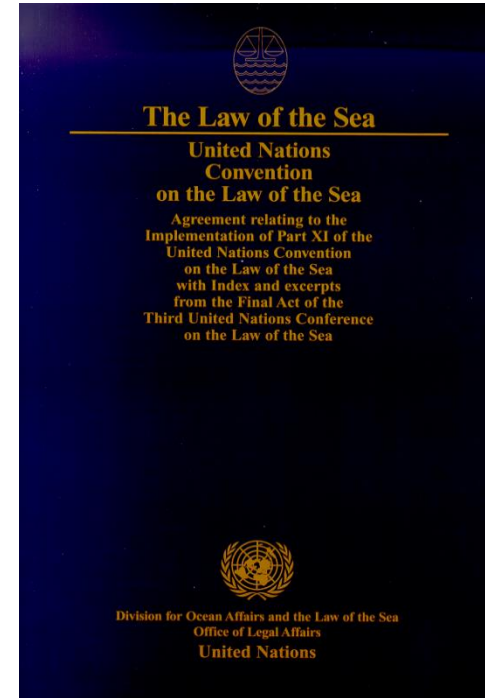
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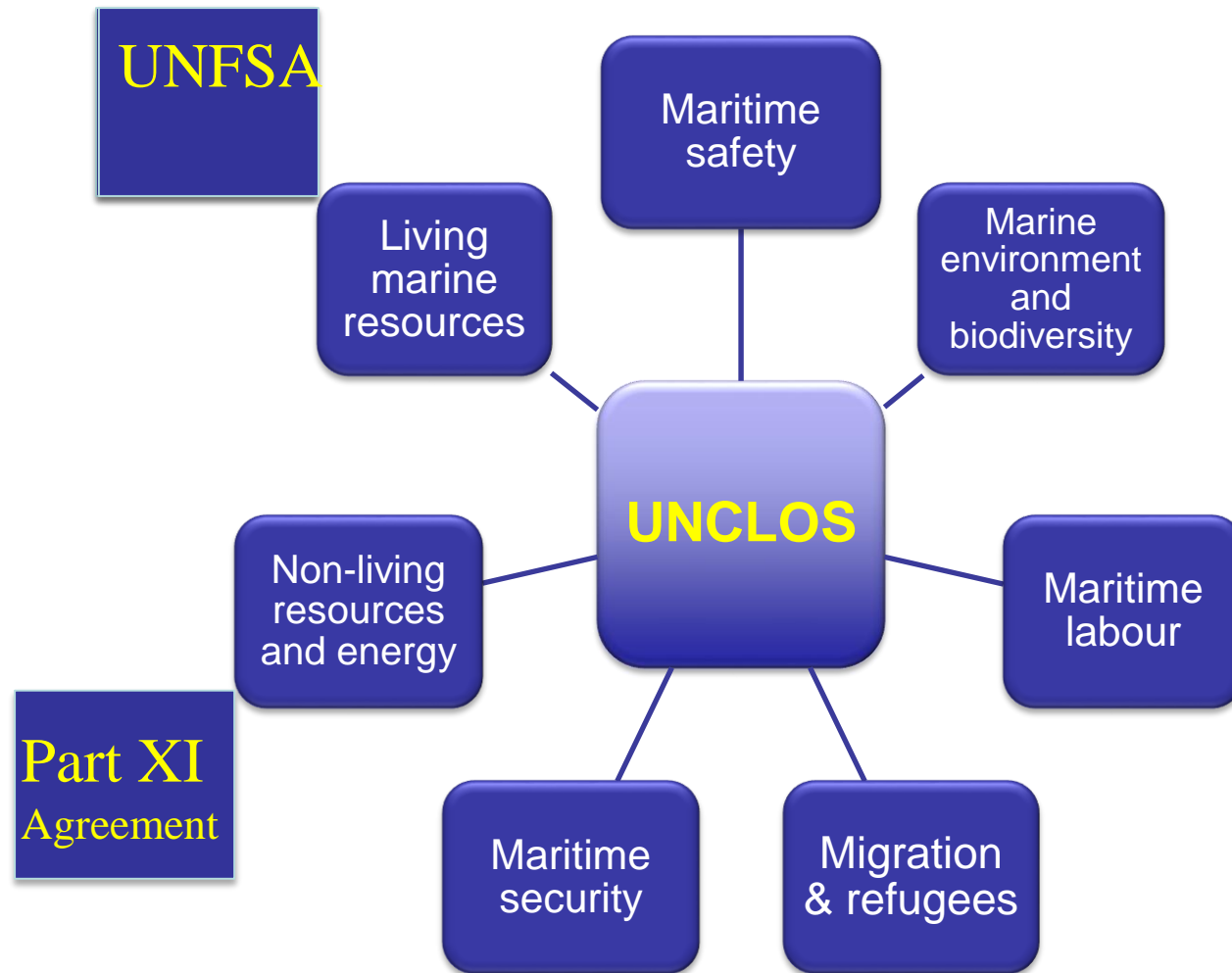
Legal/Policy Framework (Global)

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- General Assembly annually reaffirms that UNCLOS provides the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out
- “A constitution for the oceans”



Legal/Policy Framework



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Institutional Framework (Global)

UN bodies and organizations involved in ocean issues



UNEP



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Institutional Framework (Regional)

- Regional Seas Convention secretariats (environmental)
- Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs)
- Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs)
- Regional Political/Security/Economic Organizations



Institutional Framework (United Nations)

Intergovernmental processes dealing with ocean issues at the United Nations

- **General Assembly, including its subsidiary bodies (regular)**
- Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS (regular)
- Review Conference on the UN Fish Stocks Agreement (periodic)
- UN Conferences on Sustainable Development (periodic)
- International Conferences on Small Island Developing States (periodic)
- UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda – High-level political forum (periodic)
- Security Council (periodic)



United Nations General Assembly and oceans and the law of the sea



Annually considers the agenda item “Oceans and the law of the sea” without reference to a main committee

In its resolution 49/28, the General Assembly:

- Emphasized the principle in UNCLOS that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole
- Decided that it is the global institution with the competence to annually review and evaluate:
 - ✓ implementation of UNCLOS
 - ✓ other developments relating to oceans and the law of the sea
- Established subsidiary bodies to assist it in its work

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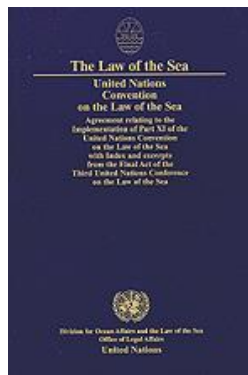
General Assembly subsidiary bodies to deal with oceans and the law of the sea

- United Nations Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea (1999)
- Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socio-economic Aspects (2008)
- Preparatory Committee - to make recommendations to the General Assembly on the elements of a draft text of an international legally-binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (2015)



UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea

In its resolution 54/33, the General Assembly decided, consistent with the legal framework provided by UNCLOS and the goals of chapter 17 of Agenda 21, to establish an open-ended informal consultative process in order to facilitate the annual review by the General Assembly, in an effective and constructive manner, of developments in ocean affairs by considering the Secretary-General's report on oceans and the law of the sea and by suggesting particular issues to be considered by it, with an emphasis on identifying areas where coordination and cooperation at the intergovernmental and inter-agency levels should be enhanced



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Areas of focus at the meetings of the Informal Consultative Process

ICP-1 (2000): Responsible fisheries and illegal, unreported and unregulated fisheries: Moving from principles to implementation;

Marine pollution: Economic and social impacts of marine pollution and degradation, especially in coastal areas

ICP-2 (2001): Marine science and the development and transfer of marine technology as mutually agreed, including capacity-building;

Coordination and cooperation in combating piracy and armed robbery at sea

ICP-3 (2002): The protection and preservation of the marine environment;

Capacity-building, regional cooperation and coordination and integrated ocean management

ICP-4 (2003) Safety of Navigation; for example, Capacity-building for the Production of Nautical Charts;

Protecting Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems

ICP-5 (2004): New sustainable uses of the oceans, including the conservation and management of the biological diversity of the seabed in areas beyond national jurisdiction

ICP-6 (2005): Fisheries and their contribution to sustainable development;

Marine Debris

ICP-7 (2006): Ecosystem approaches and oceans

ICP-8 (2007): Marine genetic resources

ICP-9(2008): Maritime security and safety

ICP-10 (2009): Implementation of the outcomes of the Process, including a review of its achievements and shortcomings in its first nine meetings

ICP-11 (2010): Capacity-building in ocean affairs and the law of the sea, including marine science

ICP-12 (2011): Sustainable development

ICP-14 (2013): Ocean acidification

ICP-15 (2014): Role of seafood in global food security

ICP-16 (2015): Oceans and sustainable development: integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, environmental, social and economic

ICP-17 (2016): Marine debris, plastics and microplastics



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General Assembly and the Regular Process



- 2002 – establishment of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects
- 2008 – establishment of the General Assembly’s Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process
- First cycle of the Regular Process (2010-2014)
- 2015: output of first cycle: First Global Integrated Marine Assessment



Preparatory Committee – marine biodiversity ABNJ



2015 – establishment by the General Assembly of a preparatory committee:

- to develop elements of a draft text of an international legally-binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction by end of 2017 - package of issues
- to make substantive recommendations before the end of the 72nd session of the General Assembly
- Meetings: no less than two sessions each, in 2016 and 2017
- Process should not undermine existing relevant legal instruments and frameworks and relevant global, regional and sectoral bodies



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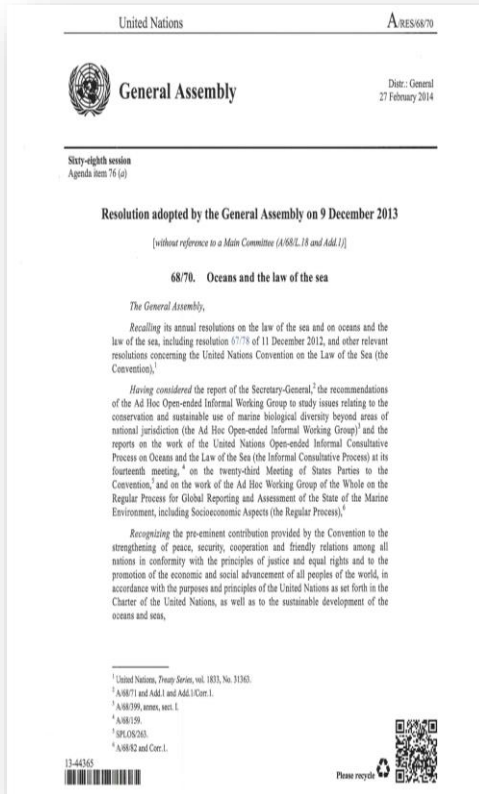
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General Assembly and oceans and the law of the sea

Issues addressed in the resolution include:

- Capacity-building
- Activities in the Area
- The Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf
- Maritime safety, security and flag State implementation
- Marine environment
- Marine biodiversity
- Marine science
- Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects



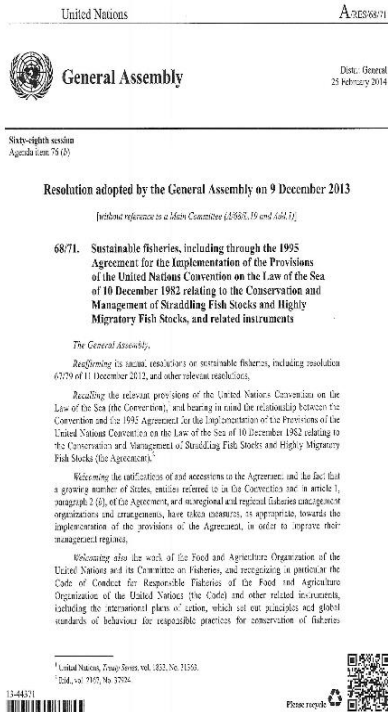
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General Assembly and sustainable fisheries

Issues addressed in the resolution include:

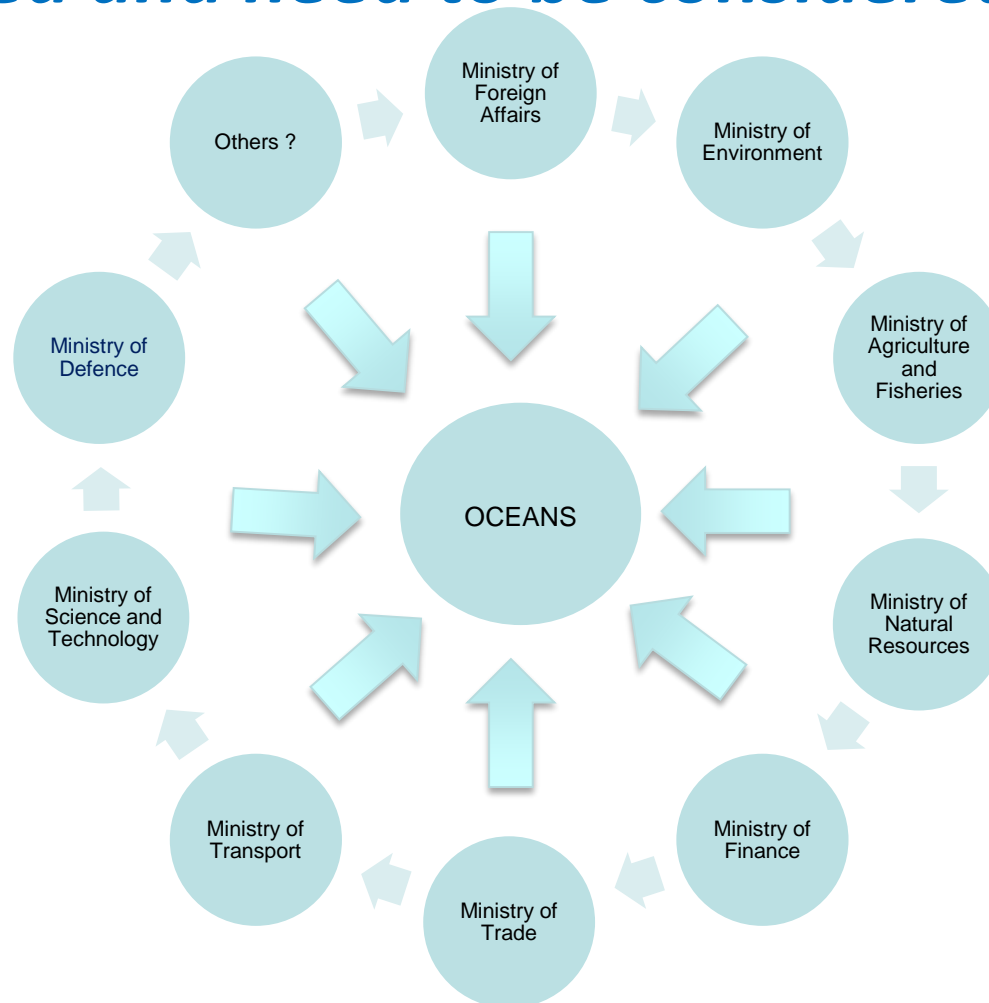
- Implementation of the UN Fish Stocks Agreement
- Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
- Monitoring, control and surveillance and compliance and enforcement
- Fishing overcapacity
- Large-scale pelagic drift-net fishing
- Fisheries by-catch and discards
- Subregional and regional cooperation
- Responsible fisheries in the marine ecosystem
- Capacity-building



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“The problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as whole”



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Thank you for your attention!

**Division for Ocean Affairs and the
Law of the Sea**

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