

RESOLUTION 5.8

RIO +20 PERSPECTIVES FOR ACCOBAMS

The Meeting of the Parties to the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Contiguous Atlantic Area:

Fully aware of “The Future We Want”, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (Rio + 20),

Convinced that the document “The Future We Want” is to be considered as a very valuable source of inspiration also for future actions within the ACCOBAMS framework,

Noting that several among the principles enshrined in the 1992 Rio Declaration of Environment and Development and reaffirmed in “The Future We Want”, such as the principle of sustainable development, the principle of the benefit of present and future generations, the precautionary principle and the principle of integration of actions to preserve the environment with activities related to the socio-economic development, are recalled also in the ACCOBAMS,

Emphasizing that the vulnerability of cetaceans to threats from several sources warrants the implementation of specific conservation measures,

Recalling, as provided for in the ACCOBAMS on the basis of Articles 65 and 120 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, that must be permitted only economic uses of cetaceans, such as cetacean watching , which do not consist in any deliberate taking, hunting, fishing, capturing, harassing or killing, ,

1. *Commits* itself to base its present and future actions for the implementation of the ACCOBAMS on the spirit and objectives of the document “The Future We Want”, emphasizing the following aspects of the document as particularly relevant in the ACCOBAMS framework:
 - a) The necessity to promote harmony with nature, in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations, recognizing the rights of nature in the context of promotion of sustainable development¹;
 - b) The call for holistic and integrated approaches to sustainable development that will guide humanity to live in harmony with nature and lead to efforts to restore the health and integrity of the Earth’s ecosystem²;
 - c) The importance of involving all relevant decision makers in the planning and implementation of sustainable development policies³;
 - d) The important role that local authorities and communities can play in implementing sustainable development, including by engaging citizens and stakeholders and providing them with relevant information⁴;
 - e) The essential character of broad public participation and access to information and judicial and administrative proceedings for the promotion of sustainable development⁵;

¹ See para. 39 of “The Future We Want”.

² See para. 40 of “The Future We Want”.

³ See para. 42 of “The Future We Want”.

⁴ See para. 42 of “The Future We Want”.

⁵ See para. 43 of “The Future We Want”.

- f) The need for meaningful involvement in sustainable development of all major groups, such as women, children, youth, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions, business and industry, the scientific and technological community⁶;
- g) The support to public-private partnerships and to the involvement of business and industry in sustainable development initiatives, taking into account the importance of corporate social responsibility⁷;
- h) The recognition of the important contribution of the scientific and technological community to sustainable development and the commitment to close the technological gap between developing and developed countries and to strengthen the science-policy interface, as well as to foster international research collaboration on sustainable development⁸;
- i) The valuable contribution that non-governmental organizations make in promoting sustainable development through their well established and diverse experience and capacity, especially in the area of analysis, the sharing of information and knowledge, promotion of dialogue and support of implementation of sustainable development⁹;
- j) The call to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed¹⁰;
- k) The acknowledgement of the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development, which can complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level¹¹;
- l) The need to ensure effective linkage among global, regional, subregional and national processes to advance sustainable development¹²;
- m) The necessity to promote, enhance and support more sustainable fisheries and aquaculture that is economically viable, while conserving water, plant and animal genetic resources, biodiversity and ecosystems and enhancing resilience to climate change and natural disasters¹³;
- n) The need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building that promote environmental awareness, conserve and protect the environment, respect wildlife, flora, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity, and improve the welfare and livelihoods of local communities by supporting their local economies and the human and natural environment as a whole¹⁴;
- o) The commitment to protect and restore the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, to maintain the biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply the ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities having an impact on the marine environment¹⁵;
- p) The concern that the health of oceans and marine biodiversity are negatively affected by marine pollution, including marine debris, especially plastic, persistent organic pollutants, heavy-metal and nitrogen-based compounds, from

⁶ See para. 43 of "The Future We Want".

⁷ See para. 46 of "The Future We Want".

⁸ See para. 48 of "The Future We Want".

⁹ See para. 53 of "The Future We Want".

¹⁰ See para. 73 of "The Future We Want".

¹¹ See para. 97 of "The Future We Want".

¹² See para. 100 of "The Future We Want".

¹³ See para. 111 of "The Future We Want".

¹⁴ See para. 130 of "The Future We Want".

¹⁵ See para. 158 of "The Future We Want".

- a number of marine and land-based sources, including shipping and land run-off, and the commitment to take action to reduce the incidence and impacts of such pollution on marine ecosystems¹⁶;
- q) The commitment to enhance action to manage adverse ecosystem impacts from fisheries, including by eliminating destructive fishing practices¹⁷;
 - r) The commitment to enhance actions to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems from significant adverse impacts, including through the effective use of impact assessments¹⁸;
 - s) The importance of area-based conservation measures, including marine protected areas, consistent with international law and based on best available scientific information, as a tool for conservation of biological diversity and sustainable use of its components¹⁹;
 - t) The reaffirmation of the intrinsic value of biological diversity, as well as the ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values of biological diversity and its critical role in maintaining ecosystems that provide essential services, which are critical foundations for sustainable development and human well-being²⁰;
 - u) The call upon all countries to prioritize sustainable development in the allocation of resources in accordance with national priorities and needs and the recognition of the crucial importance of enhancing financial support from all sources for sustainable development for all countries, in particular developing countries²¹;
 - v) The call to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed²²;
 - w) The need for enhanced capacity-building for sustainable development and, in this regard, the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, reiterating the importance of human resource development, including training, the exchange of experience and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance Scientific Committee members.²³

¹⁶ See para. 163 of "The Future We Want".

¹⁷ See para. 168 of "The Future We Want".

¹⁸ See para. 168 of "The Future We Want".

¹⁹ See para. 177 of "The Future We Want".

²⁰ See para. 197 of "The Future We Want".

²¹ See para. 253 of "The Future We Want".

²² See para. 269 of "The Future We Want".

²³ See para. 277 of "The Future We Want".