Input by the Government Offices of Sweden to the Concept notes for the Partnership Dialogue

Cross cutting issues to address in the partnership dialogues

i) The need to adress the effects of climate change on oceans

Important issues to adress:

How climate change is affecting the Arctic ocean, and how climate change in the Arctic has effects on oceans elsewhere.

Rationale:

In the Background note to the Secretary-General, there is no mentioning of the Arctic. However the Arctic is a very important area in the context of climate change.

Over the past two decades, global warming and climate change have caused rapid changes in the Arctic, especially in the western Arctic Ocean. These changes include rapid sea-ice retreat and increases in sea surface temperatures, Pacific water inflow, freshwater storage, primary production, and surface CO_2 concentrations. Ocean Acidification (OA) can be detrimental to marine organisms and ecosystems. Projected climate change processes are thought to amplify Ocean Acidification (OA) in the Arctic Ocean, making it more vulnerable to rapid chemical changes than any other ocean basin. The Arctic Ocean is particularly sensitive to climate change and more rapid acidification is occurring in the Arctic Ocean than the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

Besides ocean acidification, climate change in the Arctic is on a path towards a qualitatively new Arctic with distinctly less sea ice. The decline is one of the most clear climate change signals. Some Arctic areas, as e.g. the Barents Sea, are projected to be ice-free year-around in about two decades; other regions will follow later or be at least seasonally ice-free. Little is known about the consequences of this ice retreat for the Arctic ocean, its regions and the surrounding land areas. A challenge is to understand and simulate consequences of diminished ice conditions for the ocean, its circulation, mixing, waves, coastal regions, Arctic land and ecosystem, climate-relevant gas exchanges, geo-chemical cycles, and interactions with the world ocean and climate. Resulting knowledge can be expected to feed into more capable regional and global climate simulations to assist decision making with respect to low-emission scenarios inspired by the Paris Agreement.

Via the melting of Greenland's land and mountain glaciers, the global sea levels are affected. Carbon presently locked up in permafrost on land and sea beds has the possibility to be released which would fuel the accumulation of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and speeding up climate change. Changes in Arctic temperature, precipitation and ice climate can affect the large-scale ocean circulation which in turn affects the weather pattern in mid latitudes. Ocean acidification's effects on marine organisms can, due to regional factors, become apparent in the Arctic region first, before other regions.

The increase of fresh water in combination with a temperature rise affects the density of the water column. In shallower areas, like the Baltic Sea, this makes it harder to mix oxygen to deeper, deoxygenated layers. On a large scale, this affects the thermohaline circulation.

The Arctic is hereby proposed to be included in the discussions as an area for special attention in SDG 14.3, and to be an area that deserves several call for actions.

ii) Governing and Managing Key Flows in a "Source-to-Sea" (S2S) Continuum

Important issues to adress:

The strong linkages between Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 and other SDGs, e.g. SDG 1 "No poverty", SDG 2 "Zero Hunger", SDG 6 "Water and sanitation for all" and SDG 5 "Gender Equality" call for a holistic, integrative and participatory approach to the implementation of SDG 14 and its targets. One concrete example is the strong linkages between the conservation of our oceans and coastal areas, and sustainable management of water and sanitation, which are not fully explicit in the formulation of related SDGs, targets and indicators. Such gaps point to the importance of coordinating efforts to achieve the SDGs across sectors and administrative borders. The S2S conceptual framework offers a way to recognize system linkages and to support sustainable results in S2S systems and is an aid to develop operational methods and tools to put S2S governance into practice.

The need to target and strengthen a Source too Sea consept is overall an horizontal action targeting severel of the SDG 14 targets but in particular target 14.1 and 14.2 but also i.a. 14.7.

The application of a S2S approach requires understanding the characteristics of the S2S system in question. For example, what are the priority issues in different

geographical segments and in the system as a whole? What are the dynamics of the key flows that create negative impacts or benefits in the system? What are strengths and weaknesses of the existing governance and management system in terms of addressing system linkages looking at the past and into the future? What are the triggers to engage the key stakeholders in different geographical segments? Based on such an understanding, a theory of change can be designed to guide a desired course of action with positive outcomes throughout the whole system.

Rationale:

An S2S approach consolidates analysis, planning, policy-making, and decision-making across sectors and scales. It considers the entire social, ecological, and economic system, from the land area that is drained by a river system to the coastal area and even the open ocean it flows into. A S2S system includes the land area that is drained by a river system or systems, its lakes and tributaries (the river basin), connected aquifers and downstream recipients including deltas and estuaries, coastlines and near-shore waters, the adjoining sea and continental shelf as well as the open ocean. Water, sediment, pollutants, biota, materials, and ecosystem services key flows connect the sub-systems in the source-to-sea continuum and their geographies.

Partnerships:

The Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Manage-ment (S2S Platform) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that helps freshwater, coastal and marine experts to contribute to global knowledge generation on source-to-sea interconnections, connect and engage in collaborative projects, promote best practices, and take collaborative action to improve the management of land, water, coastal and marine linkages.. The secretariat is hosted by SIWI and has currently 21 members including UNDP, IUCN, UNEP- GPA, GEF, FAO and several institutes, commsions and private partnerships.

iii) Enhance coordination and cooperation between international, regional and sectoral organisations on ocean- and coastal zone related matters

Important issues to adress:

Enhanced coordination and cooperation between international, regional and sectoral organisations on ocean-related matters is crusal for the implementation of ocean and coast realted SDGs and need to be adressed as an crosscutting issue in several of the Partnership dialouges.

Rationale:

There are several areas in international governance that function well, and good progress is being made in different sectors. However, further work is needed in the current international framework to ensure that ocean and coast governance contribute sufficiently to sustainable management.

Sweden sees the need to build on existing structures to further develop ocean and coastal zone governance. The regional bodies as well as specialized organisations under the UN, are vital for the development of Ocean Governance. RFMOs, different agencies of the UN, Regional seas conventions, and others all have important roles and make important contributions in shaping a more sustainable management of the oceans and coastal zones.

There is a governance gap concerning on how different marine sectors and sectorial organizations are to work together to meet challenges requiring collective engagement at the regional level. Among the issues where such institutional cooperation is necessary are i.a. area based management, marine protected areas and protection of species, a more holistic precautionary principle and marine spatial planning. It is also of high importance to find modalities for collective arrangements between the regional and global levels.

Issues to adress in the seven partnership dialogues

Partnership dialogue 1: Addressing marine pollution.

a) Sound Chemicals Management

Important issues to adress:

A sound chemicals control is a prerequisite for achieving SDG 14:1 and thus protecting ecosystems, conserving biodiversity and ecosystem services. To achieve this goal, both national efforts in countries and joint global action are required:

- The most effective way to protect the oceans from hazardous chemical substances is to solve the problem at the source by preventive chemicals control
- Preventive chemicals control must be implemented and enforced nationally in all countries to ensure the safe handling of chemicals.

- It is important that measures can be taken to provide a global response to chemical substances of high concern due to their health and environmental hazards, which are spread internationally

We would suggest that preventive chemicals control is addressed within the partnership dialogues as an overarching issue, due to its central role in achieving SDG 14.

Rationale:

Fish are contaminated with chemical pollutants, making them unfit for human consumption. Extraordinary high levels of persistent organic pollutants have recently been reported in the endemic amphipod fauna from two of the deepest ocean trenches. Contaminant levels were considerably higher than documented for nearby regions of heavy industrialization, indicating inferring that these pollutants are pervasive across the world's oceans and to full ocean depth.[1]

Previously, hazardous substances in the oceans originated mainly from point sources that were possible to manage at the point of discharge. Today they originate from more diffuse sources, such as the articles they are incorporated in. These substances can enter the environment through direct release from the articles, by ware or at the waste stage. Substances that break down slowly persists long-time in the environment and is therefore particularly problematic. Preventive chemicals control aims at managing the problems early, before the chemicals reach the market, as such or in articles.

The safe handling of chemicals has to be maintained in the long term. The number of substances that are traded are very large. New chemicals are constantly being developed and their usage patterns may change over time. A continuous chemical control is necessary, as a cost-effective way to prevent hazardous substances to enter into the marine environment.

A growing proportion of the use and production of hazardous chemicals occurs in countries with inadequate chemical control, and the global trade of chemical products as well as other articles is vast. This increases the risk of serious health and environmental problems globally. The most hazardous chemicals that are spread globally need to be limited by international agreements.

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[1] Jamieson, A. J., Malkocs, T., Piertney, S. B., Fujii, T. & Zang, Z. (2017): Bioaccumulation of persistent organic pollutants in the deepest ocean fauna. Nature Ecology & Evolution 1. Article number: 0051(2017). http://www.nature.com/articles/s41559-016-0051

A large number of chemicals however continue to be used and to ensure safe handling of those national legislations and enforcement systems are needed. Support for the development of national legal systems can be given from the global arena, such as through guidance material and other means of capacity building. Each country must in the long term take responsibility for developing a sound chemicals management in their respective jurisdictions.

b) Measures to reduce the outflow of micro-plastics and the identification of Sources

Important issues to adress:

Micro-plastics are a fraction of marine litter. There is a significant lack of knowledge about sources, fate and effects, hampering the development of concrete measures to reduce their emissions. This calls for knowledge sharing, stimulation of business sectors and guidelines to decision makers on how to deal with the emerging issue of micro-plastic pollution in the marine environment. We suggest the issue of micro-plastic pollution should be addressed in the Partnership dialogue *Addressing marine pollution.*

- There is a huge need for sharing knowledge about sources, fate and effects
- Micro-plastics in the marine environment come from a multitude of sources
- Tackling this issue requires a holistic approach including a palette of measures

Rationale:

Micro-plastics are a fraction of marine litter and have been shown to be present in the aquatic environment from the Arctic to Antarctica, in both densely populated and remote areas. Hundreds of micro-plastic particles per m^3 of water can be found in surface waters in polluted areas, and up to 2000 particles per m^2 in deep oceanic sediment has been reported[2]. Global assessments of floating plastics in the world´s oceans span from thousands to hundreds of thousand tons. The uncertainty reflects current knowledge gaps in occurrence, distribution and environmental fate of micro-plastics. The risks of significant adverse effects on marine ecosystem are, however, considered big. And as for marine debris in general, the emissions of micro-plastics to the aquatic environment are estimated to increase.

[2] Kärrman et al (2016). Exposure and Effects of Microplastics on Wildlife. Örebro universitet.

Sweden has chosen to focus on the issue of micro-plastic pollution in the marine environment. Generally defined as plastic fragments of different shapes with a size between 1 nm and 5 mm, micro-plastics in the marine environment can come from a multitude of sources. E.g. some cosmetic and personal care products where they are used as exfoliation micro-beads or as unintentionally formed abrasion particles, such as fibres from clothes and particles from tyres. Other micro-plastics come from the fragmentation of larger plastic objects in the oceans. Although preventing marine plastic litter overall is crucial to also reduce the occurrence of micro-plastics in the sea, a holistic approach containing many types of measures is needed due to the large variety of sources and pathways. This could e.g. include banning the use of micro-plastic beads in cosmetic products and improving wastewater management, as well as voluntary agreements within e.g. the textile, tyre and cosmetic industries

c) Sound waste management

Important issues to adress:

Poor waste management and littering are the main causes of marine debris in large parts of the world. Activities related to tourism and recreations are primary sources. Also of high significance is the often poor standard of human settlements in coastal areas in developing countries where the incidence of poverty is high. Open landfills can also be major contributors when waste is washed out to the sea via rivers during storms and floods[3]. Improving waste management practices in many countries in the world can have a significant positive effect in reducing marine debris and pollution from waste as well as improving the overall environmental impact and human health. We suggest addressing the need for sound waste management practices within the partner dialogues, as promoting a sound waste management is an important aspect in achieving SDG 14.

- How to strengthen developing and transitioning countries to develop coherent legislative framework, policies and strategies on waste management? How to strengthen public institutions at different government levels, including capacity to improve the living conditions among people living in poverty in coastal settlements? What is required to monitor sound waste management practices, to enforce regulations and penalties for illegal handling and disposal of waste?
- Examining financial mechanisms for sustainable waste management practices in developing and transitioning countries.

[3] Havs- och vattenmyndigheten: https://www.havochvatten.se/hav/fiske--fritid/miljopaverkan/marint-skrap.html

- How can different actors such as the private sector, the research community, civil society, the informal waste sector and communities and households contribute to creating sound waste management?

Rationale:

It is estimated that, since 2008, more than half of the world's population does not have access to basic waste management services (e.g. collection and disposal in engineered landfills). Furthermore, many developing countries face challenges when dealing with the mounting waste streams in rapidly growing urban areas. Despite the fact that waste management is estimated to account for a large portion of municipal budgets in developing and transitional countries, the collection rates are often low and disposal standards remain poor[4].

When it comes to hazardous waste, many countries dispose of this together with non-hazardous waste or release it into the environment without proper treatment. This poses a serious risk to human health, other living organisms and to the environment. Also, the increased flow of materials includes a growing flow of chemicals in different products making waste streams more complex to recycle and dispose of.

Improving waste management practices in many countries in the world can have a significant positive impact in reducing marine debris and pollution from waste. However, establishing sound waste management practices can be challenging for many countries, partly because it requires involvement from multiple levels of government as well as from different actors in the private sectors as well as civil society, local communities and households. The widespread occurrence of poverty in coastal areas of developing countries is obviously a major challenge. It is also critical to find sustainable financial mechanisms for sound waste management practices.

[4] Ölund Wingqvist, Gunilla and Slunge, Daniel, 2013. Governance Bottlenecks and Policy Options for Sustainable Materials Management - A Discussion paper. United Nations Development Programme and the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency.

d) Governing and Managing Key Flows in a “Source-to-Sea” (S2S) Continuum

Important issues to adress:

The S2S conceptual framework offers a way to recognize system linkages and to support sustainable results in S2S systems and is an aid to develop operational methods and tools to put S2S governance into practice. The need to target and strengthen a Source too Sea consept is overall an horizontal action targeting severel of the SDG 14 targets but in particular target 14.1.

Partnership dialouge 1 should therefor in particular adress the need to apply the Source-to-Sea” (S2S) Continuum and strenghtening the work on partnerships and measures in this regard. The current Action Platform for Source-to-Sea Manage-ment (S2S Platform) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that helps freshwater, coastal and marine experts to contribute to global knowledge generation on source-to-sea interconnections, connect and engage in collaborative projects including research projects, promote best practices, and take collaborative action to improve the management of land, water, coastal and marine linkages.. The secretariat is hosted by SIWI and has currently 21 members including UNDP, IUCN, UNEP- GPA, GEF, FAO and several institutes, commsions and private partnerships.

Partnership dialogue 2: Managing, protecting, conserving and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems.

Development of MSP and area based management

Important issues to adress:

Strengthen the use and role of area based management, including ecosystembased marine and coastal spatial planning, to be able to achieve 14.2.

Rationale:

Area based management, including ecosystembased marine and coastal spatial planning, is emerging around the world as a practical tool for promoting ecosystem based management. Forecasts for 2030 show that that marine spatial planning is likely to strongly increase as an important governance tool amongst countries and in regions the coming decade (www.msp2017.paris).

The target 14.2 indicator measure progress in the proportion of national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches Highlighting further action on area based management, including marine spatial planning, fits well with the ambition to increase the proportion of area managed using ecosystem based approaches, strengthening the work achieving the Aichi targets. Spatial planning not only enhances cross-sector integration but also multi-level governance, being important on local, national, regional as well as global level. An example is the importance of mangroves for the sustaiability of tropical coastal and marine areas. Furthermore, the interrelationships between SDG 14 and several other SDGs point to the importance of participatory approaches. This includes partnerships between governments, agencies, researchers and local communities, e.g. for the protection of rich but also sensitive marine areas. It is also of great significance to apply a gender pespective to the use and management of marine and coastal resources, in recognition of the very often significant role played by women in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture and, overall, in the value-chain from catch and harvesting to consumption and marketing.

As of now the use of Spatial planning, and especially Marine and Coastal Spatial Planning, is not mentioned in the background note, but acknowledged in the draft call for actions. Giving attention to this issue within the partnership dialogue would be a concrete example of how to move forward on the implementation of Agenda 2030. Marine and coastal spatial planning delivers on partnership dialogue 2 but also on dialogue 7, which is valuable as to show

that governance tools like marine spatial planning is importance for the delivery on many parts of the Agenda. It is likely that new partnerships and commitments can be launched related to this issue at the time of the Ocean conference.

Partnerships:

UNESCO/IOC and EU Commission (DG Mare) has launched a joint initiative to strengthen MSP globally. Several UN Organisations and bodies address area based management on a national and regional context for example, UNEP and the Convention on Biological Diversity. Within the framework of the Nairobi Convention, initiatives are also taken by other organisations, e.g. WWF and CORDIO.

Within the EU sea basins several cooperation projects and partnerships are under development. In the Baltic Sea region cross-border cooperation projects are being developed.

Partnership dialogue 3: Minimizing and addressing ocean acidification.

Important issues to adress:

How climate change is affecting the Arctic ocean, and how climate change in the Arctic has effects on oceans elsewhere.

Rationale:

Same rationale as brought forward earlier in the document under "Cross-cutting issues".

Partnership dialogue 4 – Making fisheries sustainable

Ecosystem based fisheries management

Important issues to adress:

Implementation of the ecosystem approach to fisheries needs to be strengthened at the national and regional level in order to make fisheries sustainable to address SDG targets 14.2, 14.4, 14.6, 14.7, 14.9, 14.b and 14c, as well as SDG 1 and several other SDGs.

Further dialogue is needed to exchange experiences and identifying management instruments for the implementation of the ecosystem approach at different scales. This would include gathering knowledge on the ecosystem function as such at the local level and exploring the interaction with local governance mechanisms, rules and regulations.

A prerequisite for any successful management reform is knowledge about the system as a whole. This argues for investments into both the ecosystem function as a whole as well as the understanding of governance and management alternatives adapted to the specific context.

Rationale:

In order to achieve targets for restoring fish stocks and to maximise the long-term social and economic benefits of fish and fisheries, we need to understand and account for interactions of fish with other species, their environment and the people who rely upon them for their income, food and well-being. A gender perspective of fisheries is necessary, considering the important role very often played by women in value-chain from small-scale fisheries, to fish handling , marketing and as a source of food for family consumption.

The ecosystem approach to fisheries management has been recognised in many parts of the world as an integral component in achieving sustainable fisheries while dealing with the increasingly complex challenges facing our oceans and coastal zone development. This requires participation, collaboration, and continuous development and sharing of knowledge between sectors to achieve adaptive management cycles. The socioeconomic valuation of management alternatives is a critical part of this approach.

Partnership:

At the regional level it could include e.g. strengthening the collaboration between Regional Fisheries Management Organisations (RFMOs), Regional Seas conventions, where appropriate, and the broader Regional Economic Communities such as the ASEAN, CARICOM, SADC, and IOC by linking fisheries management to cross management instruments such as marine spatial planning in which multiple economic sectors interact and ecosystem integrity is pursued. Regional research collaboration is also highly significant, e.g. through the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA).

Partnership dialogue 5: Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

Development of Marine Spatial planning as a tool for Blue Economy

Important issues to adress:

The need to address Spatial Planning, especially Marine Spatial Planning, as a useful tool for achieving a Sustainable Blue Economy in the partnership dialogue 5 concerning Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

Investment in the ocean have traditionally included those sectors whose returns are linked to the ocean's living renewable resources, such as fisheries, as well as those who exploits the ocean's non-renewable resources such as oil and gas, not to forget the shipping sector. Technological innovations are making way for new approaches to use the oceans resources, which might lead to economic growth and development especially for developing countries. The importance of marine and coastal resources for people living in poverty in developing countries must be highlighted. But the need for sustainable growth in maritime activities in all countries shall not be underestimated since development in more developed countries can host the invitations necessary for enabling desired technical transfer and capacity building. One crucial factor to allow the wanted innovations for a more sustainable use of the seas and oceans is more functional and goal based regulatory frameworks. Too technical and detailed rules will not pave the way for the innovations necessary.

Emerging industries such as e.g. deep seabed mining, marine-based renewable energy and pharmaceutical development through marine bio-technology are developing. In addition the ocean and its costal zones provides us with a wide array of ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water filtration, atmospheric and temperature regulation, protection from erosion and extreme weather events. A genuine understanding of these values and the valuation of ecosystem services is important in the move towards an environmentally and sustainable Blue economy. It will therefore be crucial to balance interests in the use of the ocean, recognising that these interests have different weights.

The tools to achieve this will include Marine Spatial Planning, Integrated Coastal Zone Management, and Ecosystem-based management for

environment and fisheries. It is therefore important that attention will be given to these tools in the partnership dialogue 5 concerning Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets, and that the tools include options for participation by local communities. As of now the use of Spatial planning, and especially Marine Spatial Planning, is not mentioned in the background note.

Rationale:

Marine spatial planning is emerging around the world as a practical tool for promoting a more rational and wise use of the oceans. This was acknowledged UNESCO/IOC and EU Conference on Marine Spatial Planning in Paris 15-17 March. Marine spatial planning is gaining recognition at the national and regional level around the globe. Benefits of spatial planning include efficient use of maritime space (bedrock, water pillar, surface and above), prevention of conflicts, faster decision-making, reduced costs and a better investment climate. Marine spatial planning is a national process, but requires cooperation between states, as well as the involvement of local communities, in order to achieve the desired sustainable results, not at least on a regional level. Marine spatial planning, involving consultations with local communities dependent on marine and coastal resources, is an important tool for identifying the most suitable geographic area for an activity. Identifying and highlighting areas worth protecting and the connectivity between them in order to protect them from exploitation is also important aspect.

Innovations wanted and needed for a growth in sustainable ocean based economy. Too detailed and too technical rules are not the best conditions for the innovations and technical development desired. Sweden works since a couple of years with adapting it's regulatory framework to more functional and goal based rules.

Partnerships:

UNESCO/IOC and EU Commission (DG Mare) has launched a joint initiative to strengthen MSP globally. Several UN Organisations and bodies address area based management on a national and regional context for example, UNEP and the Convention on Biological Diversity. National and regional research institutions and organisations possess valuable experience, knowledge and networks.

Within the EU sea basins several cooperation projects and partnerships are under development. In the Baltic Sea region cross-border cooperation projects are being developed.

Governance of tenure in small-scale fisheries and resource management (Target 14.b:Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets)

Important issues to adress:

The need to address the importance of governance of tenure for small-scale artisanal fisheries in partnership dialogue 5 concerning Increasing economic benefits to SIDS and LDCs and providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets

Key priority areas of actions to be considered further in national and regional implementation planning processes

The SSF Guidelines establish the need for fishing communities to have secure tenure rights. They also point out that States, in accordance with their legislation, should ensure that small-scale fishers, fish workers and their communities have secure, equitable, and socially and culturally appropriate tenure rights to fishery resources and to small-scale fishing areas and adjacent land, and considering the very often significant role played by women in fisheries, aquaculture and other uses of marine and costal resources.

To this end, there is a need to improve the legal frameworks to better reflect regional and international instruments and guidelines, and ensure that fishing communities are aware of their rights and responsibilities. Existing zones and preferential access arrangements for small-scale fisheries need to be recognised and protected. Further, land- as well as water-use legislation, needs to contain provisions for consultations with all relevant stakeholders, specifically including small-scale fisheries actors, men as well as women, in order to involve them in the formulation and implementation of access regimes and management arrangements. Transparency and accountability are crucial elements that need to be a central part of any tenure and management system.

However, small-scale fisheries actors are not always sufficiently organised to be able to effectively represent and defend their interests. Where organisations exist, they do not necessarily have the capacity and capability to participate in

policy and decision-making processes. There is a need to strengthen small-scale fisheries organisations to ensure that they are represented at all levels where decisions are made on fisheries access and development and that they represent all stakeholders.

In this context, it should be noted that while women in many cases play an important role in the small-scale fisheries sector and their communities, this role is often not recognised. The structural and/or regional sociocultural perceptions and circumstances, as well as legislation, that hinder women's access to resources and participation in decision-making processes concerning resource governance and development, should be addressed.

Rationale:

For millions of people in developing countries, not the least for the majority of people living in poverty, fisheries provide the only available source of work, income and animal protein. The constraints associated with this, including the lack of clear legislation and effective management in small-scale fisheries, represent a substantial policy and governance challenge for many developing countries. Most people would agree that allocation mechanisms and transparency are fundamental for effective natural-resource management, and that ineffective governance of tenure constitutes a major obstacle to the sustainable, efficient and equitable use of fishery resources. Importantly, secure access to marine and aquatic resources needs to be achieved in the context of poverty eradication, food security and social justice.

Partnership dialogue 7: Enhancing the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Improved efforts to promote the signing, ratification and effective implementation of key global and regional ocean governance instruments

Important issues to adress:

The need to improve ocean governance through a rules-based approach and effective implementation of relevant international law, the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, and decisions taken by relevant UN bodies. This include to step up efforts to promote the signing, ratification and effective implementation of key global and regional ocean governance instruments.

Rationale:

Sweden believes that one of the most important factors and major contributors to the overall inadequacy in environmental performance in costal and marine areas is the absence of effective, domestic regulation and policy ensuring sustainable management. This is because many activities are carried out under national jurisdiction, activities which to a large extent have an effect outside the scope of their maritime zones.

International ocean governance starts beyond the territorial sea and can only to a limited extent compromise or set conditions for coastal states' sovereign right to exploit the resources in their exclusive economic zones (EEZ). A vast number of activities that have a negative effect on the marine environment fall outside the scope of international ocean governance. These include the impact of land-based (source) activities on the marine environment, such as eutrophication and the proliferation of pollution, as well as airborne pollution.

There is partly a significant lack of compliance with and enforcement of existing rules and regulations that have already been decided on by different existing bodies dealing with different aspects of ocean governance. Sanctions are often lacking or ineffective, or their use varies.

Hence, improved efforts to promote that states sign, ratify and effectively implement key global and regional ocean governance instruments domestically ought to be the top priority in any endeavour to improve international ocean governance.

Sweden believes that ocean governance must clarify the rights and responsibilities of states and stakeholders to improve the benefits and harmonise the actions of different sectors in order to reduce conflicts between different users. Introduced rules and regulations must reduce uncertainty and maintain a level playing field, to enable industry to make sound and sustainable investment decisions. In this area there are still some gaps.

There are multiple examples of already negotiated instruments that are not implemented or in force due to a lack of states acceding to the instruments can be given. Examples include the United Nations Fish Stocks Agreement together with specific agreements, the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and Flag State Performance guidelines, the London Protocol and the IMO Ballast Water Convention. If enforced and fully implemented, would radically reduce problems such as illegal fisheries, dumping and the risk of invasive species.