

FORTY-SEVENTH CONSULTATIVE
MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO
THE LONDON CONVENTION
&
TWENTIETH MEETING OF CONTRACTING
PARTIES TO THE LONDON PROTOCOL
27 – 31 October 2025
Agenda item 18

LC 47/18
24 November 2025
Original: ENGLISH

REPORT OF THE FORTY-SEVENTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING AND THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

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1 INTRODUCTION – ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

1.1 The forty-seventh Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972 (London Convention), convened in accordance with article XIV(3)(a) of the Convention, and the twentieth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention, 1972 (London Protocol), convened in accordance with article 19.2.1 of the Protocol, were held concurrently from 27 October to 31 October 2025. The Meetings were chaired by the First Vice-Chair, Ms. Radia Razack (South Africa). The Second Vice-Chair, Mr. Eduardo Zamora (Peru) was also present.

1.2 The Meetings were attended by delegations from Contracting Parties to the London Convention (LC), Contracting Parties to the London Protocol (LP), observers from IMO Member States not Parties to the treaties, IMO Associate Members, and observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental international organizations in consultative status, as set out in document LC 47/INF.1.

Opening of the Meetings

1.3 In opening the proceedings, the Chair welcomed all participants to both Meetings.

1.4 The governing bodies noted that the plenary sessions would be conducted in hybrid mode, i.e. remote participation enabled, taking into account the relevant decisions by the IMO Council at its 132nd session, including agreement to continue with the application of the provisional measures agreed at C 127 until revised rules of procedure incorporating the use of hybrid capabilities had been adopted.

1.5 The governing bodies therefore agreed to:

- .1 waive rule 8 of the rules of procedure, specifying that meetings shall be held at the Headquarters of the Organization, unless convened elsewhere in accordance with a decision of a previous meeting, in part, to allow participants to attend the session remotely; and
- .2 consider delegates to be regarded as "present" if they were either physically present in the Main Hall or were registered and participating remotely online using the hybrid system.

Opening address

1.6 The Secretary-General welcomed the participants and delivered an opening address. The full text of the opening address can be downloaded from the IMO website at the following link:

<https://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/secretarygeneral/pages/lc47-lc20-opening-remarks.aspx>

Chair's remarks

1.7 The Chair thanked the Secretary-General for his opening remarks and for setting a clear and inspiring tone for the deliberations, including the emphasis on the vital role the treaties play within the broader ocean governance framework, particularly in addressing new and emerging issues.

Adoption of the agenda

1.8 The agenda for the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting and the twentieth Meeting of Contracting Parties (LC 47/1), as adopted, is set out in annex 1. It includes, under each agenda item, a list of documents that were submitted for consideration. The governing bodies also agreed on a timetable for their work (LC 47/1/1, annex, as amended).

Participation of IGOs and NGOs

1.9 The governing bodies were informed that one new application for observer status had been received during the intersessional period, from the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF). The LC/LP Bureau, having reviewed the application, in accordance with the *Rules and criteria for participation of non-governmental international organizations for meetings or special meetings of Contracting Parties under the London Protocol* and the *Rules and guidelines for consultative status of non-governmental international organizations with the International Maritime Organization*, concluded that EDF met the criteria for observer status.

1.10 A representative from EDF provided a brief introduction to the work of the organization, highlighting its contribution to the work of IMO and the expertise that it could contribute to the objectives of the London Convention and Protocol.

1.11 Having noted the assessment by the LC/LP Bureau, the governing bodies agreed to grant EDF full observer status.

1.12 Consequently, the governing bodies agreed to invite the following United Nations organizations and intergovernmental organizations to the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting and the twentieth Meeting of Contracting Parties and to intersessional meetings of their respective subsidiary bodies:

UNITED NATIONS (UN)
EUROPEAN COMMISSION (EC)
ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT
(OECD)
PERMANENT COMMISSION FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC (CPPS)
HELSINKI COMMISSION – BALTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMISSION (HELCOM)
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR THE EXPLORATION OF THE SEA (ICES)
OSPAR COMMISSION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT
OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC (OSPAR COMMISSION)
PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)
INTERNATIONAL BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
(WORLD BANK)
REGIONAL SEAS CONVENTIONS UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)
IEA GREENHOUSE GAS R&D PROGRAMME (IEAGHG)

1.13 The governing bodies also decided that the following non-governmental international organizations should be invited to the forty-eighth Consultative Meeting and the twenty-first Meeting of Contracting Parties and to intersessional meetings of their respective subsidiary bodies:

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING (ICS)

WORLD ASSOCIATION OF WATERBORNE TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE
(PIANC)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PORTS AND HARBORS (IAPH)

BIMCO

OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM (OCIMF)

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF OIL & GAS PRODUCERS (IOGP)

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA (ACOPS)

GREENPEACE INTERNATIONAL

WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF)

THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERING, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(IMarEST)

INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)

WORLD ORGANIZATION OF DREDGING ASSOCIATIONS (WODA)

THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS

OCEAN CARE

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL (FOEI)

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENSE FUND (EDF)

2 STATUS OF THE LONDON CONVENTION AND PROTOCOL (LC/LP)

2.1 The Meetings were informed of the status of the London Convention and noted that 87 States had ratified or acceded to the Convention.

2.2 The Meetings were also informed that, as of 27 October 2025, 56 States had ratified or acceded to the London Protocol, the latest being Croatia in May 2025, and that in total there were now 101 Parties to the two treaties combined.

2.3 The Meetings noted that there had been progress recently with the acceptances of the outstanding amendments, with 15 Parties having accepted the 2009 amendments. Twelve Contracting Parties had also deposited declarations of provisional application of the 2009 amendment. In addition, 9 Parties had accepted the 2013 amendments.

2.4 The Meetings also agreed that it remained very important to continue the work to increase accessions to the outstanding amendments, that being one of the priorities in the Strategic Plan.

2.5 The delegation of China informed the Meetings that it had completed its domestic legal procedure for acceptance of the above 2022 amendments to the London Protocol to remove sewage sludge from the list of permissible wastes (resolution LP.6(17)) in early 2025 and had thus removed their declaration of non-acceptance to these amendments.

2.6 The delegation of France informed that they had concluded their constitutional procedures for the ratification of resolution LP.3(4), amending article 6 of the London Protocol, and would submit the instrument of ratification to the Secretary-General shortly. In addition, in line with resolution LP.5(14), France would apply the provisions of the 2009 amendment on a provisional basis, pending the entry into force of this instrument, and invited all Contracting Parties that had not yet done so to also undertake the required procedures to enable this entry into force as soon as possible.

2.7 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran conveyed that it had completed its national procedures for acceptance of the 2022 amendments to the London Protocol. While noting that the amendments had entered into force globally, the delegation informed that this necessary domestic step had been concluded in early 2025 and an instrument to this effect was in the process of being deposited with the Secretariat.

2.8 The delegation of Finland informed that it had completed its constitutional procedures with respect to the 2022 amendments and had accepted the amendments that took effect on 1 October 2025, with notification transmitted to the Secretariat on 30 September 2025.

2.9 The observer delegation from Greenpeace International welcomed the progress made and highlighted the importance of further accelerating the acceptances of the outstanding amendments.

2.10 All States preparing to join the London Protocol were encouraged to keep the Secretariat informed of developments.

3 PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LP/LC STRATEGIC PLAN

3.1 The Meetings recalled that at LC 46/LP 19 in 2024, the governing bodies had considered the work carried out in the intersessional period, in particular in relation to improved reporting and the functionality of the Global Integrated Shipping Information System (GISIS) and noted that a full report on the latter would be submitted to the next meeting (LC 47/LP 20) in 2025, in preparation for the second full review of the Strategic Plan in 2026. The governing bodies also established an intersessional correspondence group on increasing the number of ratifications of the LP and its amendments (LC 46/17, paragraphs 3.1 to 3.11).

3.2 The Meetings considered document LC 47/3 (Secretariat), providing an update on progress made towards the second review of the Strategic Plan, scheduled for 2026. In particular, the Meetings noted the report, set out in the annex to the document, outlining the measures taken over the past five years to promote ratification of the LP and its amendments, including:

- .1 technical and legal capacity-building;
- .2 regional and international outreach;
- .3 promotional activities on LP and the benefit of ratification/accession;
- .4 development and dissemination of information; and
- .5 other measures.

3.3 The Meetings also noted the efforts made to improve the reporting and functionality of the LC/LP module in the GISIS, which included:

- .1 an update to the NIL reporting function, to make it easier for Contracting Parties to enter a NIL report for a particular reporting year, without having to define the geographical location of dumpsites;
- .2 work initiated to include an LC/LP "portlet" in the GISIS reporting requirements dashboard to alert Member States when they had not provided their dumping reports; and

- .3 ongoing work to facilitate the bulk transfer of reporting data into the LC/LP GISIS module.

3.4 The Meetings considered document LC 47/3/1 (Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group), containing the report of the Correspondence Group on Increasing the Rate of Ratification of the London Protocol and its Amendments, noting that the Group had made significant progress in the intersessional period. The Meetings noted also that the Group had completed its first two tasks and had initiated work on tasks 3 and 4. In light of progress, the Group proposed the establishment of a working group during LC 47/LP 20, in order to progress on the outstanding matters.

3.5 The Meetings expressed support for the establishment of a working group and noted, inter alia, the challenges faced by developing countries, including limited legal drafting expertise, insufficient institutional capacity and constrained access to technology and finance. The need for integration of targeted technical assistance, twinning arrangements and regional training programmes within the implementation plan was also highlighted.

3.6 The Meetings considered document LC 47/3/2 (ACOPS and Greenpeace International), providing an overview of regional seas instruments adopted and their dumping provisions, with a view to investigating the extent to which they overlapped with the scope of work under the LC/LP, in order to inform the development of measures designed to improve ratifications of the LP and more generally to support the work of the LC/LP.

3.7 In the ensuing discussion, delegations commended the useful overview of the interlinkages between the LC/LP and the regional seas conventions. Several delegations noted the opportunity for LC/LP Parties to share their experiences with their respective regional mechanisms, to further enhance the implementation of both the regional conventions and the LC/LP.

3.8 It was further noted that, while many regional mechanisms incorporated elements of the LC/LP, the more progressive provisions of the LP, particularly its amendments addressing carbon sequestration and marine geoengineering, had not yet been reflected in most regional instruments. In view of this, there was an opportunity for the Secretariat and Contracting Parties to explore further dialogue and joint initiatives with regional bodies, such as the Abidjan Convention, OSPAR and HELCOM, including to raise awareness about the benefits of LP ratification and its relevance to regional marine protection frameworks.

3.9 Several delegations also noted the relevance of these discussions in relation to the BBNJ Agreement, which was further discussed under agenda item 15.

3.10 The delegation of China emphasized the value of strengthened cooperation between the LC/LP and regional seas mechanisms, noting that Parties involved in both frameworks could share experiences and best practices, while respecting regional characteristics and autonomy, to enhance the management of marine dumping activities.

3.11 The Meetings noted document LC 47/INF.5 (Peru), reporting on Peru's strengthened regulatory framework to prevent marine pollution through accession to the London Convention (2002) and its Protocol (2018) prohibiting the dumping of wastes at sea. The document outlined the process of implementing the LP in Peru, as well as some of the lessons learned throughout this process.

3.12 The Co-Chair of the Correspondence Group on Increasing Ratifications welcomed the insightful and useful information and welcomed the opportunity to discuss these experiences further; for example with respect to the barriers and mechanisms to overcome these challenges, to further inform the work of the Group.

3.13 The governing bodies thanked Peru for sharing the experiences and lessons learned in a transparent manner for the benefit of other new and prospective Parties and encouraged delegations to share their experiences through participation in the Correspondence Group on Increasing Ratifications.

3.14 The governing bodies further:

- .1 noted the efforts on outreach to encourage ratification of the LP and outstanding amendments and encouraged delegations to engage with the Secretariat to intensify such efforts at national, regional and global levels;
- .2 noted the work on improving reporting, in particular the efforts to improve the functionality of the LC/LP module in GISIS;
- .3 instructed the Secretariat to submit a full report on progress with the implementation of the Strategic Plan to LC 48/LP 21 in 2026, in preparation for the second review of the Strategic Plan; and
- .4 noted the anticipated establishment of a working group on the review of the Strategic Plan at the next session of the governing bodies, to conduct the second full review.

Establishment of a Working Group on Increasing Ratifications of the London Protocol and its Amendments

3.15 The Meetings established a Working Group on Increasing Ratifications of the London Protocol and its Amendments, under the lead of Germany, and instructed it, taking into account the information provided in documents LC 47/3, LC 47/3/1, LC 47/3/2 and comments made in plenary, to continue its work:

- .1 on the analysis of why the London Protocol and its amendments have not been ratified;
- .2 to identify an initial list of measures that could be easily implemented and which are effective to increase the number of ratifications of the London Protocol and its amendments and to develop a plan of implementation; and
- .3 to develop a work plan, based on the outcomes of tasks 1 and 2, for further intersessional work to increase the number of ratifications of the London Protocol and its amendments and inform the second full review of the Strategic Plan.

Report of the Working Group

3.16 The Chair of the Working Group, in presenting the report (LC 47/WP.5), noted that the Group had met from 28 to 29 October 2025 and had been attended by delegations from Angola, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, India, Japan, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the

United Kingdom, the United States and observers from ACOPS, IUCN, Greenpeace International and OceanCare.

3.17 In presenting the report, the Chair of the Working Group informed the Meetings that the Group had reviewed the 16 barriers to ratification, set out in annex 1 of document LC 47/3/1, identified limited funding and staff resources as additional challenges and developed a list of easily implementable measures that could be implemented within the next 6 to 12 months.

Action by the governing bodies

3.18 The governing bodies approved the report of the Working Group and in particular:

- .1 re-established the intersessional Correspondence Group on increasing the numbers of ratifications of the London Protocol and its amendments, under the leadership of Chile and Germany¹ with the terms of reference set out in annex 2; and
- .2 agreed to consider the implementation of the initial list of easily implementable measures identified (LC 47/WP.5, annex 2), within the available resources (e.g. time, fund, human resources) during the intersessional period.

4 CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC GROUPS

4.1 The Chair of the Scientific Groups, Dr. Cristian Mugnai (Italy), introduced the report of the forty-eighth meeting of the London Convention Scientific Group and the nineteenth meeting of the London Protocol Scientific Group, which were held concurrently at IMO Headquarters, from 10 to 14 March 2025. The report of the Scientific Groups had been issued as document LC/SG 48/16.

4.2 Following a brief discussion, the governing bodies approved the report of the forty-eighth session of the LC Scientific Group and the nineteenth session of the LP Scientific Group and, in particular:

- .1 noted the Groups' discussion regarding Interim Action Levels (IALs), including the request to the Secretariat (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 2.8 to 2.14 and 2.23.3);
- .2 noted the Groups' discussion on waste prevention techniques (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 2.15 and 2.16);
- .3 noted the Groups' discussion and information provided on guidelines, manuals, bibliographies and information exchange (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 2.28); and
- .4 welcomed the re-election of Dr. Cristian Mugnai (Italy) as the Chair, Ms. Jessica Mans (South Africa) as the First Vice-Chair and Dr. Yeon Chang (Republic of Korea) as the Second Vice-Chair for the intersessional period and for the forty-ninth session of the LC Scientific Group, and for

¹ Contact details of the coordinators to be communicated with the finalization of this report.

the twentieth session of the LP Scientific Group (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 15.1 and 15.2).

Revised guidance on best management practices for removal of anti-fouling coatings from ships

4.3 The Meetings recalled that the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of IMO, at its eighty-second session in October 2024, had approved the *Revised guidance on best management practices for removal of anti-fouling coatings from ships*, which was originally approved by the LC/LP in 2023 and issued as circular LC-LP.1/Circ.108/Rev.1.

4.4 At the same session, MEPC also considered further proposals for improvement of the guidance submitted by the European shipbuilding association CESA in document MEPC 82/16/5 and referred these to the LC/LP governing bodies for further advice. Recognizing the technical nature of the suggestions, the governing bodies tasked the Scientific Groups with reviewing the proposed changes and providing advice accordingly.

4.5 The Meetings considered document LC 47/4/1 (Secretariat) containing the comments prepared by the Scientific Groups on the suggestions contained in document MEPC 82/16/5, for the consideration of the governing bodies. In addition to the suggestions by CESA, the Scientific Groups provided some additional suggestions, as set out in the report of the joint session of the Scientific Groups (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 2.17 to 2.23 and annex 3).

4.6 In the ensuing discussion, delegations expressed support for the revisions to the Guidance, noting that the additional clarity provided through the revisions would be beneficial for the implementation of the Guidance, including the explicit requirement for treatment or retention of washing water where adequate facilities were not available and of promoting the use of filtration and safe handling of blasting residues.

4.7 The delegation of Nigeria further suggested that the revised Guidance should be communicated to all Contracting Parties and relevant stakeholders, including shipyards and technical operators, to foster compliance and environmental stewardship.

Action by the governing bodies

4.8 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 approved the revisions to the Guidance as proposed by the Scientific Groups;
- .2 instructed the Secretariat to issue the Revised Guidance as soon as possible by way of an LC/LP circular, following a final editorial check; and
- .3 instructed the Secretariat to inform MEPC accordingly.

4.9 The governing bodies thanked all the members of the Scientific Groups and correspondence groups for their hard work and, in particular, thanked the Chair and Vice-Chairs for their guidance and hard work in the intersessional period and during the joint session.

4.10 Other action points, as presented in document LC 47/4, were dealt with under the respective agenda items.

5 MARINE GEOENGINEERING INCLUDING OCEAN FERTILIZATION

Progress with acceptance of the 2013 amendments to the London Protocol

5.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2013, the Meeting of Contracting Parties had adopted resolution LP.4(8) on amendments to the London Protocol to regulate the placement of matter for ocean fertilization and other marine geoengineering activities.

5.2 The Meetings noted that since the LC 46/LP 19 in 2024, IMO had received three more instruments of acceptance of the amendment, from Australia, Croatia and Denmark, bringing the total number of acceptances to nine.

5.3 The Meetings were reminded of the importance of more acceptances of the 2013 amendments to the London Protocol, as their entry into force would be the best way to bring clarity to this issue and allow the Contracting Parties to finally progress the important work regarding these matters.

Action by the governing bodies

5.4 The governing bodies:

- .1 noted the importance of having more acceptances of the 2013 amendments to the London Protocol in order to bring them into force; and
- .2 encouraged delegations to accept the 2013 amendments.

Other issues

5.5 The governing bodies noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on marine geoengineering, including a request to the intersessional Correspondence Group on Increasing Ratifications to develop technical and legal seminars on marine geoengineering for countries with minimal knowledge of this issue (LC/SG 47/16, paragraphs 3.1 to 3.18). They further noted the Scientific Groups' invitation to the governing bodies to provide guidance on:

- .1 the exemption in the definition of ocean alkalinity enhancement;
- .2 the policy approach to biomass sinking; whether to broaden the definition of marine surface albedo enhancement;
- .3 the best use of limited resources (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 3.16.1 to 4); and
- .4 the Groups' decision to re-establish the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering, under the co-lead of Germany and South Africa (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 3.16.2).

5.6 The Meetings were informed that the Secretariat had issued an invitation to nominate experts for the roster of experts to provide advice on marine geoengineering activities, through circular LC-LP.1/Circ.116, dated 29 May 2025. As no nominations had been received to date, delegations were urged to nominate experts for the roster.

5.7 The Meetings considered documents LC 47/5 and LC 47/5/4, (Co-Chairs of the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group (LICG) on Marine Geoengineering), providing a progress report on the work of the LICG, which had been re-established by the governing bodies in 2024.

5.8 The LICG met between February and July 2025 to complete the tasks set out in its terms of reference for intersessional work (LC 46/17, annex 4) with the following tasks:

- .1 Task 1: further the development of the working definitions for the four prioritized marine geoengineering techniques, to be forwarded to the next meetings of the Scientific Groups in 2025, for consideration;
- .2 Tasks 2 and 3: identify potential areas where additional clarity was desired regarding the applicability of existing LC/LP provisions to the prioritized marine geoengineering techniques and develop guidance addressing those areas; continue to develop suitable regulatory text and/or text for potential listing of new techniques in LP annex 4, and address associated legal and procedural issues; and
- .3 Task 4: map the work done and the role of other international bodies in the governance of marine geoengineering, including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

5.9 The Meetings were informed that the LICG had forwarded targeted input on the working definition for ocean sinking of biomass and marine surface albedo modification (task 1) to the Scientific Groups' Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering (LC 47/5, annex 1), noting that these remained working definitions subject to further refinement. For task 4, the LICG undertook a mapping of international processes relevant to the governance of MGE (LC 47/5, annex 2), which highlighted the fragmented nature of the governance, but that the LC/LP was recognized as the only treaty directly addressing MGE (LC 47/5, annex 2).

5.10 To advance the LICG's work on tasks 2 and 3, the Group had considered seven legal questions; however, despite extensive discussions, largely related the pending entry into force of the 2013 amendment, those discussions were not concluded. The LICG noted that many of the legal issues were closely linked to policy choices by the Meeting of Contracting Parties, particularly in relation to the 2013 amendment, and therefore beyond the Group's mandate.

5.11 The governing bodies also considered documents LC 47/5/1 and LC 47/5/3 (Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering), providing a report on the progress made by the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering (MGE), which was re-established by the Scientific Groups in 2025.

5.12 The Meetings noted that the Correspondence Group on MGE had refined draft definitions for three priority marine geoengineering techniques and that discussions on marine cloud brightening were ongoing. The Correspondence Group had presented updated definitions to the LICG that supported some changes and called for further discussion. Both Correspondence Groups stressed that the definitions remained provisional and subject to refinement as work continued.

5.13 It was also noted that the Correspondence Group had continued its review of the Ocean Fertilization Assessment Framework (OFAF) and advanced draft frameworks for ocean alkalinity enhancement (OAEAF) and biomass sinking (BSAF), with final drafts expected to be submitted for consideration by the Scientific Groups in 2026. The Group was also developing

criteria for the review of scientific information, which could be applied to all four MGE techniques, drawing on the ASMAYSYS framework (<https://asmaysys.cdmmare.de/en/>) and other sources. The draft criteria were divided into three broad categories:

- .1 climate effectiveness including e.g. potential, durability and scalability;
- .2 environmental and societal impacts/risks, including e.g. risks to ecosystems and humans and conflicts with other human uses; and
- .3 any additional relevant considerations.

5.14 Several delegations thanked the Correspondence Groups for their work and highlighted the importance of establishing a precautionary and science-based framework for regulating MGE technologies, given the significant knowledge gaps and uncertainties that currently existed.

5.15 The delegation of China highlighted the complexity and uncertainty of MGE technologies and called for further discussion, before considering regulatory measures. It emphasized that any assessment frameworks should remain focused on scientific and technical aspects only.

5.16 A number of delegations also emphasized the need for legitimate scientific research on MGE techniques to evaluate their safety and efficacy and stressed the urgency of finalizing the assessment frameworks and the definitions for the prioritized MGE techniques.

5.17 There was broad support for the establishment of a working group to advance the work, taking into account the following considerations, inter alia:

- .1 the potential development of a draft resolution or statement about MGE;
- .2 the need for inclusivity and equity in shaping the future of MGE governance, integrating the perspective of developing countries;
- .3 ways of ensuring the participation of actors from different sectors, including the private sector, in legitimate scientific research; and
- .4 exploring the potential linkages between the BBNJ Agreement and the LC/LP in relation to MGE.

5.18 The Meetings were informed of the following:

- .1 the delegation of Germany informed of a position paper recently published by the German Environment Agency on marine CDR start-ups, entitled "The Wild Wild West in our Oceans? The role of start-ups in marine CDR",² which highlighted rapid growth, limited transparency and commercial scale of some operations;
- .2 the delegation from the Kingdom of the Netherlands noted that OSPAR was working on a feeder report on MGE, which would form part of the OSPAR Intermediate Assessment in 2029;

² <https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/publikationen/the-wild-wild-west-in-our-oceans>

- .3 the observer from OceanCare highlighted a recent White Paper on marine carbon dioxide removal governance³ and expressed concern that it selectively interpreted international law in an attempt to weaken existing precautionary obligations, including under the LC/LP;
- .4 the observer from FOEI informed the Meetings of a peer-reviewed article on MGE in the polar regions⁴ that could inform the Correspondence Group on MGE's work on scientific review criteria; and
- .5 the observer from IUCN noted the adoption of a motion on geoengineering by its members at the IUCN World Conservation Congress on 15 October 2025 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

5.19 The delegation of the United States noted that it viewed legitimate scientific research as including scientific research conducted or funded by government, academic, private or commercial entities. In response to the inclusion of references to the Paris Agreement and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the LICG report, the United States referred to its notice of withdrawal from the Paris Agreement, and noted that it was determining if continuing to remain in the UNFCCC was in its best interest.

5.20 The Meetings considered document LC 47/5/2 (Secretariat), providing an update on the work of GESAMP Working Group 41 on Ocean Interventions for Climate Change Mitigation (WG 41) presented by one of the Co-Chairs of the Group, Dr. Chris Vivian. The Meetings noted that WG 41 had launched a report entitled *A Scientific Summary for Policy-Makers: The State of the Science for Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal*, which was presented at the One Ocean Science Congress and UN Ocean Conference in June 2025 (the report is available at: <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000393817> and on the GESAMP website). The WG 41 had also continued work on the draft Ocean Intervention Assessment Framework (OIAF) and a dedicated expert workshop was being planned to review the draft, subject to funding. The Meetings were informed that securing resources remained a priority to enable expert review of the OIAF and continued progress on WG 41's terms of reference.

5.21 In the ensuing discussion, several delegations thanked GESAMP WG 41 and encouraged further funding to support the Group's work and;

- .1 the delegation of Germany supported the key conclusions of the recent WG 41 report that marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) approaches were still in the early stages of development, with many knowledge gaps and uncertainties, and emphasized the need for a robust regulatory framework;
- .2 the delegation of Nigeria stressed the OIAF's importance for regulators, particularly in developing States and highlighted the need for capacity-building and technology transfer for those States; and
- .3 the observer from Greenpeace International underscored the value of WG 41's reports as key references in distilling the scientific messages on the issue.

³ https://scholarship.law.columbia.edu/sabin_climate_change/255/

⁴ [Frontiers | Safeguarding the polar regions from dangerous geoengineering: a critical assessment of proposed concepts and future prospects](#)

5.22 In response to questions on how the OIAF would support the work of the LC/LP, the Co-Chair of the GESAMP Working Group explained that the OIAF consisted of eight elements to be addressed, including "ecological sustainability", under which environmental aspects and the LC/LP assessment frameworks would be considered. The level of detail would depend on the scale and circumstances of the activity being assessed and, while primarily aimed at the MGE techniques, the OIAF could also be applied to other non-climate-related activities, such as ocean fertilization for fisheries enhancement.

5.23 The Meetings considered document LC 47/5/5 (OceanCare), providing information on particle-based marine carbon dioxide removal (mCDR) activities in relation to ocean fertilization, which in the sponsors' view, were in direct contravention of the 2013 amendment to the London Protocol. The two particle-release trials involving "nano bio-composite nutrient carriers" had taken place in New Zealand's exclusive economic zone, carried out as research under the Permitted Activity Regulations of the New Zealand Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A potentially larger trial was also being planned, involving up to 1,000 cubic metres (m³) of particles.

5.24 The observer from OceanCare, in presenting the document, informed the meetings that the activities had been undertaken by a commercial operator and that in January 2025 the company had signed a contract with a company in the aviation sector to sequester 200,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (tCO₂) over a four-year period. The observer expressed the view that the rapid scale-up ambitions of the commercial operator and the absence of robust scientific evidence created the potential for significant ecological harm.

5.25 In the subsequent discussion:

- .1 a number of delegations expressed concerns regarding the rapid scale-up of commercial MGE activities that appeared to be in contradiction of the decisions on ocean fertilization and MGE under the LP, in particular the OFAF;
- .2 the delegation of the United States stated that the LC/LP regulated Contracting Parties, not private actors, and that States were responsible for overseeing private operators through their own domestic licensing procedures; the delegation further noted that the 2013 amendment to the LP had not yet entered into force; therefore, while Parties might consider it and other non-binding guidance, they were not legally binding;
- .3 the observer from Greenpeace International suggested that the delegation of New Zealand could be invited to inform either the Scientific Groups or a future session of the governing bodies about the approach it had taken to the assessment and regulation to the activities outlined in document LC 47/5/5; and
- .4 in response, the delegation of New Zealand informed the Meetings that a private company had proposed a marine carbon dioxide removal activity within its exclusive economic zone; it explained that decisions on such proposals were made independently by the EPA under New Zealand's domestic framework implementing the London Protocol; the delegation further stated that, while New Zealand had not yet accepted the 2013 amendment, it noted the Chair's call for more States to do so to enable its entry into force, and stated that it would inform future LC/LP meetings of any relevant decisions made by the EPA.

5.26 Finally, the Meetings considered document LC 47/5/6 (ACOPS and Greenpeace International) that mapped out the geography of five different categories of MGE techniques to show their relevance to Global South Countries, including the geographic "suitability" of different techniques to different sea areas according to research publications. The document builds on the information set out in document LC/SG 48/3/4 and provides a compilation of past, ongoing or projected field trials that could be extracted from public records in order to get a better understanding of the level of advancement of research projects, their geography and scale.

5.27 A number of delegations welcomed the document and stressed the importance of integrating the perspective of developing countries, particularly in the Global South, into the work of the LC/LP on MGE, even where those countries were not directly undertaking such activities.

Establishment of the Working Group on Marine Geoengineering

5.28 Following discussion, the Meetings established the Working Group on Marine Geoengineering, under the co-lead of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Panama, and instructed it, taking into account the information provided in documents LC 47/5, LC 47/5/1, LC 47/5/3 and LC 47/5/4 and any comments made in plenary, to:

- .1 develop draft terms of reference for the intersessional Group (inter alia, to continue working on definitions, governance mapping, interactions between LC/LP and other international processes, legal and policy issues);
- .2 consider the potential development of a draft resolution or statement about marine geoengineering;
- .3 discuss the feasibility of scheduling regular meetings to review and evaluate relevant scientific papers submitted by Group members, in order to ensure that the Working Group was consistently informed by sound scientific evidence; and
- .4 consider whether and how actors from all sectors, including the private sector, could be included in legitimate scientific research.

Report of the Working Group

5.29 The Co-Chairs of the Working Group, in presenting the report (LC 47/WP.4), explained that the Group had met from 28 to 30 October 2025 and had been attended by delegations from Australia, Canada, China, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Iran (the Islamic Republic of), Italy, India, Japan, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, Norway, the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Tonga, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States and observers from ACOPS, EDF, FOEI, Greenpeace International, IEAGHG, IMarEST, IUCN and OceanCare.

5.30 In the discussion that followed:

- .1 there was strong support for the amendments to the statement on MGE proposed by the delegations of Canada and Mexico;
- .2 there was a divergence of opinion on the inclusion in the statement and terms of reference of synergies with the BBNJ Agreement and the LC/LP on MGE as the Agreement had not yet entered into force; however, the Meetings noted that the Working Group considered it necessary to include the

reference if an intersessional correspondence group on the issue was not established by the Meetings; and

- .3 the delegations of Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States expressed support for the statement, on the understanding that it was not interpretative in nature.

5.31 The delegation of the United States expressed concern about the increasing focus of the LC/LP bodies on developing public statements related to marine geoengineering. It noted that extensive discussions on such statements had limited the Working Group's ability to address substantive policy matters within their mandates and had been used to attempt to set policy without consideration by the governing bodies. The delegation highlighted the importance of communicating the work of the LC/LP, but cautioned that this should not come at the expense of core technical and policy work.

Action by the governing bodies

5.32 Following discussion, the governing bodies approved the report of the Working Group and, in particular:

- .1 re-established the intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering under the co-lead of Panama and Belgium⁵ with the terms of reference set out in annex 3; and
- .2 endorsed the statement on marine geoengineering in annex 4.

5.33 The delegations of France and Germany made statements which, as requested, are set out in annex 8.

5.34 The observer from Greenpeace International welcomed the adoption of the terms of reference and the constructive discussions. In recalling the response of the LC/LP to ocean fertilization, the observer emphasized the need to maintain momentum in developing effective, science-based regulation of emerging MGE activities. The observer also encouraged Parties to advance the completion of the assessment framework and prepare proposals and documents well in advance for submission to future meetings, to ensure timely, coordinated progress on this complex and urgent issue.

5.35 The observer from OceanCare noted the need for stronger international collaboration on MGE and expressed concern over the increasing number of commercially driven MGE activities.

5.36 The observer from IUCN stressed the importance of the LC/LP's role in responding to emerging threats and urged Parties to remain true to its core objective of preventing marine pollution through the precautionary approach.

⁵ The coordinators, Ms. Veronica Herrera (Panama) and Mr. Diederik Wéreau (Belgium), can be contacted at vherrera@panamauk.org and diederik.wereau@mobilis.fgov.be, respectively.

6 CO₂ SEQUESTRATION IN SUB-SEABED GEOLOGICAL FORMATIONS

Progress with the ratification of the 2009 amendment to article 6 of the London Protocol

6.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2009, the Contracting Parties had adopted resolution LP.3(4) on the amendment to article 6 of the London Protocol, followed by the adoption of resolution LP.5(14) in 2019 on the provisional application of the 2009 amendment.

6.2 The governing bodies noted that to date, 15 Contracting Parties had deposited an instrument of acceptance of the 2009 amendment to article 6, namely Norway (July 2011), the United Kingdom (November 2011), Netherlands (Kingdom of the) (November 2014), Iran (Islamic Republic of) (November 2016), Finland (October 2017), Estonia (February 2019), Sweden (November 2020), Denmark (January 2022), the Republic of Korea (April 2022), Belgium (September 2022), Switzerland (January 2024), Australia (October 2024), Croatia (May 2025), Spain (June 2025) and France (September 2025).

6.3 The governing bodies also noted that, following the adoption of the resolution to allow the provisional application of the amendment to article 6 (resolution LP.5(14) from 2019), 12 governments had deposited declarations of provisional application (Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Norway, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom).

6.4 The Meetings also noted that, to date, 10 bilateral arrangements/agreements on CO₂ export under the 2009 amendment had been reported to the Secretariat.

6.5 The Meetings were invited to note the Scientific Group's consideration on this topic and their reminder to delegations that Contracting Parties who had entered into an agreement for the purpose of transboundary export of CO₂ for storage in sub-seabed geological formations were required to notify the Secretariat, in accordance with the amended article 6 of the London Protocol.

6.6 The delegation of Finland informed that in June 2025 it had completed the legal procedures for the provisional application of the 2009 amendment and had also signed MOUs with Denmark and Norway on the transboundary export of CO₂ for storage in the sub-seabed and had made the required declaration and notifications to IMO.

Experiences with CO₂ sequestration technologies and their application

6.7 The Meetings recalled that in 2023 the Scientific Groups had established the Correspondence Group on Experiences with the Carbon Dioxide Streams Assessment Guidelines under the co-lead of Japan and Australia to collect information regarding experiences with the application of the carbon dioxide streams assessment guidelines (LC/SG 46/16, paragraph 4.17.2).

6.8 The Meetings also recalled that in 2025 the Scientific Groups, having reviewed progress made by the Correspondence Group, agreed to keep the Group in abeyance until such time that further substantive information was available, while emphasizing the importance of continued sharing of up-to-date scientific, technical and legal information on CO₂ sequestration projects (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 4.7).

6.9 The delegation of Australia reported that it had held public consultations regarding technical guidance to support the regulation of domestically sourced CO₂ for offshore CCS. It further indicated that work was under way on the development of a framework for regulating

the transboundary movement of CO₂ and confirmed that no permit applications for offshore CCS had yet been received.

6.10 The delegation of Italy emphasized that CCS must meet high environmental standards, noting completion of phase 1 of the CO₂ injection phase under the national experimental storage programme in Ravenna in August 2025 and ongoing data analysis. It further reported that in June 2025 the operator ENI had applied for two new permits to scale up CO₂ injection (phase 2).

6.11 The delegation of Germany noted that it was preparing an amendment to its Carbon Dioxide Storage Act to enable safe CO₂ transport and export, in full compliance with international obligations and environmental protection standards. The regulation would exclude CCS in coastal seas, prohibit storage in or near marine protected areas and impose restrictions to protect harbour porpoises. The delegation reiterated its readiness to cooperate with other Parties to ensure that CCS activities aligned with the Protocol's precautionary approach and marine protection objectives.

6.12 The delegation of the United Kingdom informed on progress with carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS), noting commercial agreements worth £21.7 billion over 25 years, which aimed to remove up to £8.5 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually. The delegation reported that 27 active offshore CO₂ storage licences across 11 operators were planned, with two permits already issued.

6.13 The observer from IEAGHG provided an update on activities on CCS since the last meeting of the governing bodies:

- .1 the seventh International Workshop on Offshore Geologic CO₂ Storage was held in Texas, the United States, in September 2024; the report (IEAGHG 2025-TR01) is available at the IEAGHG website, with the presentations at the University of Texas website: [Global Offshore Initiative | Gulf Coast Carbon Center](#); the eighth International Workshop is planned for 20 to 21 April 2026 in Bergen, Norway, and would include a site visit to the Northern Lights, the world's first onshore receiving facility for CO₂ transport by ships;
- .2 IEAGHG Risk Management Network and Monitoring Network Meeting 2025 was held in the Hague, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, on 27 and 28 August 2025, with presentations on offshore CO₂ monitoring and risk management experiences, as well as a field trip to the Porthos CCS project, which was under construction; and
- .3 a workshop on Carbon Management was held in Hiroshima, Japan, on 12 and 13 March 2025, hosted by New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO), co-organized by the International Satellite Communications System (ISCS) and IEAGHG, where nine large-scale CCS projects Japan was assessing were discussed, including six that would store CO₂ offshore and four involving CO₂ export by ship; presentations are available at: [Carbon Management Workshop – ICSC](#).

6.14 The delegation of Norway reported it had entered into seven bilateral agreements on transboundary CCS with Belgium, Denmark, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Sweden in 2024, and with Finland, France and Switzerland in 2025, which were all notified to IMO. The delegation highlighted over 30 years of experience with the permanent storage of CO₂ under the seabed. It also informed that 14 CO₂ storage licences had been awarded, and that the Northern Lights project, under the Longship programme, had concluded commercial agreements enabling large-scale commercial CO₂ storage.

6.15 The delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands reported on its ratification of the 2006 and 2009 amendments to the Protocol and its declaration for their provisional application. It noted two major CCS projects: the Porthos-project, set to be the EU's first operational CCS project in 2026, and the Aramis-project. CCS permits are overseen by the Dutch Ministry for Climate and Green Growth, in line with strict environmental and monitoring requirements, as set out in the Dutch Mining Act, applicable EU law and the LC/LP.

6.16 The delegation of Japan reported that the CCS Business Act, enacted in May 2024, was to be enforced in multiple stages, following the CCS project stage (exploration, test drilling and storage operations). To date, two potential reservoir areas, Tomakomai (Hokkaido) and Kujukuri (Chiba Prefecture), had been designated, with exploratory drilling approved for one. It was further noted that Japan was finalizing regulations on storage and pipeline transport operations, to be stipulated by Cabinet Order and Ministerial Ordinance in May 2026. The delegation also highlighted the importance of continued information-sharing among Parties, while the Correspondence Group on Experience with the CO₂ Stream Assessment Guidelines remained in abeyance.

6.17 The observer from Greenpeace International recognized the value of the detailed information provided during the meeting and encouraged Parties to provide a submission to the meeting to facilitate more in-depth discussions.

6.18 The observer from ACOPS stressed that in resolution LP.5(14) Contracting Parties had committed to CCS not being utilized as a substitute to other measures to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and that it should not deter the urgent need to accelerate direct emissions reductions. Resolution LP.5(14) envisaged CCS as one of a portfolio of options to reduce levels of CO₂, as an interim solution. The observer noted a gap between the mechanisms established under the LC/LP and the broader commitment to use CCS as an interim measure for hard-to-abate emissions, and enquired about measures to facilitate and support implementation.

Other issues

6.19 The governing bodies were informed of the work under other IMO bodies with respect to onboard carbon capture and storage (OCCS), and:

- .1 recalled that the Secretariat had submitted an information document (ISWG-GHG 17/INF.2) to ISWG-GHG 17 in 2024, providing information on the Organization's existing regulatory framework for the transportation of captured carbon by ships and sub-seabed CO₂ storage as background information for reference in the future development of a regulatory framework for the use of OCCS; and
- .2 noted that IMO, through its Future Fuels and Technology (FFT) Project, had organized the Technical Seminar on Onboard Carbon Capture and Storage Systems on 11 September 2025; the event aimed to enhance the understanding of the latest developments in OCCS technology, infrastructure readiness and relevant environmental, safety and human element perspectives; this was part of broader work supporting the development of a regulatory framework for the use of onboard carbon capture and storage, as outlined in the work plan approved by MEPC 83.

Action by the governing bodies

6.20 In conclusion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the information provided under this agenda item;
- .2 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 4.1 to 4.7);
- .3 encouraged Parties to submit more detailed information about CCS projects and experiences with the application of the CO₂ guidelines to the next session of the Scientific Groups, given increasing interest and urgency for the LC/LP, as highlighted at the previous Scientific Groups meeting (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 4.7);
- .4 reiterated its encouragement to Contracting Parties to accept the 2009 amendment to article 6, noting that this was a crucial element of the 2006 amendments that would effectively promote the use of CCS as an effective climate change mitigation technology and contribute to meeting the climate targets set in the Paris Agreement;⁶ and
- .5 reminded Parties that Contracting Parties that had entered into an arrangement or agreement for the purpose of transboundary export of CO₂ for storage in sub-seabed geological formations were required to notify the Secretariat, in accordance with the amended article 6 of the London Protocol.

7 COMPLIANCE ISSUES

Review of reports on dumping permits issued in 2022 and 2023

7.1 The Meetings considered the final draft compilation report containing data on permits issued in 2022 (LC 47/7) and the first draft summary report on dumping permits issued in 2023 (LC 47/7/1).

7.2 The Meetings noted that the final 2022 compilation report would be published in early 2026, following a quality check of the data, and taking into account any further submissions of dumping reports received before the end of January 2026. The Secretariat would prepare a final draft compilation report for 2023, for which submissions were requested by the end of January 2026, to the Correspondence Group on Assessment of Reports (CGAR) for review, after which these draft reports would be submitted to the next session of the Scientific Groups, in 2026, for consideration.

7.3 The Meetings also noted that, at the time of submission, 38 Parties had provided reports for 2022, 9 that were Parties only to the Convention, and 29 that were Parties to the Protocol (either only the Protocol or both the Convention and Protocol). This was equivalent to an overall reporting rate of 38%.

7.4 The Meetings further noted that with respect to the compilation of the 2023 dumping data, at the time of submission, 28 Parties had reported, 3 that were Parties to the Convention only, and 25 that were Parties to the Protocol (either only the Protocol or both the Convention and Protocol). This was equivalent to an overall reporting rate of 28% for the Parties.

⁶ The United States did not support this action.

7.5 The Meetings also noted that since the submission of the documents, the Secretariat had received corrections for 2022 and 2023 from Australia, Brazil, France and the United States, and that these would be included in the updated reports.

7.6 In response to a query regarding the bulky items reported by Peru in 2022, particularly the choice of waste category, the delegation of Peru stated that it would investigate the matter and provide clarification to the Secretariat.

7.7 The Kingdom of the Netherlands noted that, for many OSPAR Contracting Parties, reporting was submitted directly through the OSPAR Secretariat, and that this should be reflected in the dumping compilation reports.

Action by the governing bodies

7.8 In conclusion, the governing bodies:

- .1 urged all Parties, if they had not done so, to provide the Secretariat with their annual reports, including NIL reports that indicated no dumping activities in a particular year, as soon as possible, but no later than the end of January 2026 for the 2022 and 2023 activities; and
- .2 instructed the Secretariat to:
 - .1 taking into account any comments and amendments made by correspondence and in plenary, publish the final 2022 compilation report in early 2026; and
 - .2 submit a final draft 2023 summary report and a first draft 2024 summary report to the Scientific Groups and the CGAR for their review.

Review of the status of compliance requirements

7.9 The Meetings considered documents LC 47/7/2 and LC 47/INF.2 containing information on the extent to which Contracting Parties had notified the Secretariat of the annual reports on their dumping activities from 1976 up to and including 2023.

7.10 With respect to the annex to document LC 47/7/2, the Meetings noted that 55 Parties had not reported in the previous five years from 2019 to 2023 and that this number had increased compared with the two previous five-year periods. Parties were reminded of the need for timely reporting in alignment with the reporting obligations set out in the treaties, as well as the targets set in the Strategic Plan.

7.11 The Meetings noted the opportunity to engage with a number of the Parties that had not reported in the previous five years and the Co-Chairs of the B2C Steering Group agreed to convene an informal outreach session to support those countries that were struggling to report.

7.12 The Meetings were also informed by the Secretariat that, as reported under agenda item 3, in an effort to address the low reporting rate, an LC/LP "portlet" was in development for inclusion in the GISIS reporting requirements dashboard to alert Member States when they had not provided their dumping reports.

Action by the governing bodies

7.13 In conclusion, the governing bodies:

- .1 in considering the report of the Scientific Groups (LC 47/4) on this issue, noted the Groups' action on dumping reports submitted by Contracting Parties for 2021 and 2022 (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 5.1 to 5.20); and
- .2 noted the Groups' instruction to the Secretariat (LC/SG 48, paragraph 5.20.3) to:
 - .1 continue its efforts to increase reporting through collaboration with regional bodies;
 - .2 continue its review of the reporting system, including the GISIS reporting module, to address issues with reporting levels;
 - .3 include the guidance on the eligibility criteria for inert, inorganic geological material on the LC/LP website; and
 - .4 review and, if possible, revise the structure and title of agenda item 5 on reporting.

7.14 The governing bodies also:

- .1 noted documents LC 47/7/2 and LC 47/INF.2, concerning the status of compliance with the reporting requirements under article VI(4) of the London Convention and article 9.4 of the Protocol;
- .2 urged all Parties, if they had not done so, to provide the Secretariat with annual reports on their dumping activities from any years from 1976 onwards, if that information was available, including NIL reports that indicated no dumping activities in a particular year; and
- .3 reminded Parties of the importance of providing their annual reports to achieve the targets set out in the Strategic Plan.

Compliance Group matters (including the report of its seventeenth session)

7.15 Prof. Akiko Okamatsu (Japan), Vice-Chair of the London Protocol Compliance Group, introduced the report of the seventeenth meeting of the Compliance Group (LC 47/WP.3).

7.16 In considering the report, the Meetings noted the Group's discussion on the case reported by the delegation of the United Kingdom and its encouragement for other delegations to submit non-compliance cases to the Group.

7.17 The delegation of the United Kingdom, in referencing its report, expressed the hope that it could serve as a model for other Parties to share their challenges in implementing the LC/LP and encouraged further submissions of such reports.

7.18 In conclusion, the Meeting of Contracting Parties:

- .1 approved the report of the Compliance Group, as set out at annex 5 and the recommendations therein, and agreed to the proposed work programme of

the Compliance Group for the period up to and including its eighteenth session in 2026;

- .2 noted the Group's decision to continue the one-on-one engagement during the meeting of governing bodies, including the coffee break outreach sessions, and to provide a lunchtime presentation; and
- .3 noted the Group's discussion on the importance of identifying technical focal points to ensure effective communication.

7.19 The Meeting thanked the Compliance Group for its efforts and expressed its appreciation to all the members.

Status of membership in the Compliance Group

7.20 It was recalled that the current membership of the Compliance Group was:

- .1 Prof. Young Sok Kim (Republic of Korea), who was elected for three terms in 2012, extended in 2015, 2018, 2020 and 2022, membership expiring in 2025;
- .2 Prof. Akiko Okamatsu (Japan), elected for three terms in 2014, extended in 2016, 2020, 2021 and 2024, membership expiring in 2027;
- .3 Ms. Zhong Jing (China), elected for three terms in 2023, membership expiring in 2026 (resigned in the intersessional period);
- .4 Ms. Julia Brydon (Canada), elected for three terms in 2024, membership expiring in 2027;
- .5 Mr. Joe Perry (United Kingdom), elected for three terms in 2023, membership expiring in 2026;
- .6 Ms. Radia Razack (South Africa), elected for three terms in 2011, extended in 2014, 2015, 2018, 2020 and 2022, membership expiring in 2025;
- .7 Mr. Heaky Dimowo (Nigeria), elected for three terms in 2022, membership expiring in 2025;
- .8 Lt. Commander Sebastian Bravo (Chile), elected for three terms in 2021, extended in 2024, membership expiring in 2027 (resigned in the intersessional period);
- .9 Lt. Commander Jose Alberto Solano Claustro (Mexico), elected for three terms in 2022, membership expiring in 2025; and
- .10 Mr. Eric Levert (France), elected for three terms in 2023, membership expiring in 2026.

Election of members for future sessions of the LP Compliance Group

7.21 The Meeting of Contracting Parties was informed that nominations had been received from the respective delegations from China for Mr. Wei Xin, from the Republic of Korea for Professor Dr. Choi Jee-hyun, from Nigeria for Mr. Bwala Auta William, from South Africa for Ms. Feroza Albertus, and from Mexico for Mr. Carlos Genaro Valdez Olmos.

7.22 The Meeting of Contracting Parties elected, to serve as members of the London Protocol Compliance Group for three terms from 1 November 2025:

- .1 Mr. Wei Xin (China) and Professor Dr. Choi Jee-hyun (Republic of Korea) in the Asia/Pacific Group;
- .2 Mr. Bwala Auta William (Nigeria) and Ms. Feroza Albertus (South Africa) in the African Group; and
- .3 Mr. Carlos Genaro Valdez Olmos (Mexico) in the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

7.23 The Meetings noted that, despite these new members, there were still vacancies in a number of the groups, particularly in the Eastern European Group, which currently had no members, and therefore Protocol Parties were further encouraged to nominate members.

7.24 To assist LP Parties, the Meetings reconfirmed the existing agreement whereby any of the five United Nations regions that did not provide three members for the current session could do so in the intersessional period with the approval of the Chair and two Vice-Chairs of the Meetings of Contracting Parties (LC 31/15, paragraph 6.7).

8 TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE

Update on the Barriers to Compliance (B2C) Project, including recent and planned workshops

8.1 The Meetings recalled that during LC 46/LP 19 the governing bodies had approved the report of the B2C Steering Group and the amended intersessional work programme for the Group, for the period 2024 to 2025 (LC 46/17, paragraph 8.25 and annex 7).

8.2 The Meetings considered document LC 47/8/2 (Co-Chairs of the B2C Steering Group), providing an update on the activities of the B2C Steering Group since the 2024 meeting of the governing bodies. During the joint session of the Scientific Groups held in March 2025, the Steering Group met informally, and:

- .1 reviewed work programme items, agreeing to start the review of World Maritime University (WMU) LP e-Learning materials, when available, and refine "How to" guidance, and develop "How to Chair" and "How to Report" guides, during the intersessional period;
- .2 analysed regional barriers to compliance in Central America, by examining the needs assessment exercise undertaken for member countries of the Operative Regional Cooperation Network of Maritime Authorities in Central America and the Dominican Republic (ROCRAM-CA);
- .3 addressed language barriers to LC/LP compliance, including the translation of LC/LP materials, exploring potential funding from Contracting Parties and assessing how artificial intelligence (AI) tools could be used; and
- .4 discussed the promotion and accessibility of LC/LP resources and explored improved cloud-based document storage solutions.

8.3 During the intersessional period, the Group had also continued work on the drafting of the "Guide on preparing for an LC/LP meeting", the "How to guide for Correspondence Group reports", and the "How to guide for Working Group reports".

8.4 The delegation of Nigeria expressed their appreciation to the Co-Chairs of the B2C Steering Group for their sustained efforts to address the challenges that continued to limit the effective implementation of the LC/LP, particularly among developing countries, including the use of innovative solutions to support national authorities in fulfilling their reporting, permitting and monitoring obligations.

8.5 The Meetings were informed on progress with technical cooperation efforts (LC 47/8, Secretariat), and noted the activities since the last session of the governing bodies in 2024, as set out below.

8.6 Two national workshops on LP implementation were held in 2024, both within the framework of the Integrated Technical Cooperative Programme (ITCP):

- .1 The first was held in Bogota, Colombia, on 6 and 7 November 2024, in cooperation with the Maritime Authority of Colombia, hosted by the Dirección General Marítima (DIMAR). Seventy-two participants, including senior officials from key ministries and agencies, were introduced to the LP objectives, tools and national implementation mechanisms, as well as the benefits and implications of becoming a Contracting Party. The seminar,

delivered in Spanish, was delivered by an expert from Mexico and the IMO Secretariat.

- .2 The second one was held in Kenya, from 2 to 4 December 2024, hosted by the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) under the Ministry of Mining, Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs, with support from the Government of the United Kingdom. The workshop focused on incorporating the LP into national legislation and establishing permitting, reporting and monitoring systems. It also introduced participants to CCS and MGE issues under the LP.

8.7 A subregional LP workshop was also held in Guatemala City, Guatemala, from 5 to 7 March 2025, hosted by the Ministry of National Defence of Guatemala. This was co-organized with the Central American Commission for Maritime Transportation (COCATRAM) as part of phase II of the three-year thematic programme promoting the LP in the subregion of the Operative Regional Cooperation Network of Maritime Authorities in Central America and the Dominican Republic (ROCRAM-CA) (see 8.8.1 below), with additional funding from the Government of Canada. It was held back-to-back with the joint session of the Scientific Groups; therefore, participants were encouraged to attend both.

8.8 Furthermore, the governing bodies were informed of the promotion of the London Protocol through two thematic programmes:

- .1 The first phase of a thematic programme focusing on the LP in the Central American subregion in cooperation with COCATRAM and ROCRAM-CA, initiated in 2024. In phase I of this programme, a team of consultants carried out a needs assessment to assess the readiness to ratify and effectively implement the LP in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. Phase II of the programme was now under way and included the subregional workshop held in March 2025 alongside the Scientific Groups' meeting in Guatemala. A series of national follow-up activities was also currently being planned.
- .2 In 2025, the Secretariat initiated a focused intervention to promote the LP and the Noumea Convention Dumping Protocol in the Pacific region in cooperation with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). This activity aimed to significantly enhance the Pacific region's capacity to regulate marine dumping activities and promote practices aligned with the LP and the 2006 amended Noumea Dumping Protocol. A consultancy to assess the readiness of countries to accede to and/or ratify the LP and the Noumea Convention Dumping Protocol was currently under way, which would be followed by a regional workshop, currently scheduled for early 2026. Based on the outcomes of the assessment and workshop, further activities were expected to be initiated at national level.

8.9 The Meetings were also provided with an update on the LP e-learning course, currently under development in cooperation with the World Maritime University (WMU).

8.10 In the discussion that followed, the delegation of Iraq informed the Meetings that a national workshop on the implementation of the LP in Iraq had taken place online from 10 to 11 September 2025.

8.11 The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasized the importance of continued cooperation among the Secretariat, Contracting Parties and regional organizations.

The delegation further proposed the establishment of a regional programme on technical cooperation and capacity-building for West Asia aimed at supporting the effective implementation of the LP, which could be implemented jointly with the Kuwait Regional Convention and the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), as well as the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention), in close cooperation with the Secretariat of the LC/LP and IMO. The delegation informed the Meetings that a formal proposal providing further details would be submitted through the IMO Technical Cooperation Portal for the Secretariat's consideration in the preparation of the next biennial programme.

8.12 The delegations of Nigeria and South Africa emphasized the need for expanded outreach and targeted capacity-building initiatives tailored to a regional context, namely the African region where institutional, technical and resource constraints hindered the ability to fully implement the LP, in order to ensure equitable access to technical assistance across all regions.

8.13 Several delegations acknowledged the finalization of the LP e-learning course as an important step towards supporting Contracting Parties in their understanding of the Convention, particularly developing countries with limited access to in-person training opportunities, and prospective Parties towards the ratification of the LC/LP.

8.14 The governing bodies extended their appreciation to those governments that had hosted the workshops, and thanked the Governments of Canada and the United Kingdom for providing funding for the activities reported on.

8.15 The Meetings considered document LC 47/8/1 (Secretariat) reporting on recent progress with the establishment of the "Capacity-Building for Sustainable Seas: Supporting the Implementation of the London Protocol through Education and Collaborative Research" (SMART-C LC/LP) project. Since the signing of the project agreement between IMO and the Republic of Korea in November 2024, the Secretariat had initiated the establishment of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) at IMO, anticipating that it would be fully staffed and operational by the end of the year.

8.16 The Meetings were also informed that in July 2025 IMO and the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST) had concluded an implementing partnership agreement to facilitate the delivery of the LP Engineering Master of Project Administration (LPEM) programme component of the project. The Secretariat had also initiated two preparatory studies and needs assessments, one in Mongolia and one for the Caribbean region.

8.17 The delegation of the Republic of Korea informed the Meetings that the steering committee for the project would be convened during the LC 47/LP 20, to review the future work plan and continue its efforts towards a wider ratification of the LC/LP and strengthened implementation capacity of the Contracting Parties.

8.18 The delegations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Nigeria expressed their support for the project, which made significant contributions to strengthening national and regional capacities for the effective implementation of the LP. It was proposed that such initiatives be extended to other regions, such as the African region.

8.19 The governing bodies extended their appreciation to the Republic of Korea for providing funding for this major project and capacity-building initiative.

8.20 The Meetings also noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on LC/LP technical cooperation activities, (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 6.4 to 6.13) and encouraged Contracting Parties to keep the Scientific Groups informed about bilateral technical cooperation projects of relevance for the Groups' work (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 6.13.4).

Status reports on other technical cooperation and outreach activities, and outstanding matters deferred from the Report of the Scientific Groups

8.21 The Meetings recalled that this item was intended to encourage countries and international organizations to report on bilateral capacity-building projects, or national/regional workshops planned outside the B2C or IMO ITCP.

8.22 The governing bodies were reminded that donations to the LC/LP Technical Cooperation Trust Fund were most welcome, and were invited to contact the Secretariat if they wished to receive assistance from the B2C Project during the 2026-2027 biennium.

8.23 The Meetings considered document LC 47/INF.3 (Republic of Korea) reporting on the progress of the graduate school of LPEM in the Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST).

8.24 The Meetings noted that, as reported to the Scientific Groups at their 2025 joint session, the LPEM programme adopted a biannual admission system, spring and autumn, and invited applications for the 2025 spring semester (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 6.15). To launch this new intake, the Secretariat had issued a circular (LC/LP.1/Circ.114) on 3 April 2025.

8.25 The Meetings also noted that in August 2025 three students from the Chilean Navy, the Peruvian Navy and the Philippine Coast Guard were awarded the LPEM Master's degree. Since its inception in 2018, a total of 22 students from 10 countries (Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Fiji, Ghana, Jamaica, Mongolia, Myanmar, Peru, and the Philippines) had earned the LPEM degree. The application process for the LPEM programme for the March 2026 intake began in October 2025.

8.26 The delegations of Peru and the Philippines expressed strong support for the LPEM programme, emphasizing its value and noting that graduates of the programme were now working within their administrations to support effective implementation of the LP.

8.27 Following the discussion, the Meetings thanked the Republic of Korea for the update and invited the delegation to continue providing updates on the LPEM to the governing bodies and the Scientific Groups at their sessions in 2026.

8.28 The governing bodies noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on LC/LP technical cooperation activities and encouraged Contracting Parties to keep the Scientific Groups informed about bilateral technical cooperation projects of relevance to the Groups' work (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 6.13.4).

8.29 In light of the substantial workload for the working groups established at this session, it was agreed that the B2C Steering Group would meet only informally to plan its activities during the intersessional period.

8.30 Following the informal meeting, the Co-Chairs of the B2C Steering Group informed the governing bodies that the Group had agreed to streamline and consolidate items on their work plan, remain ready to review the WMU e-learning materials if available intersessionally, and coordinate with the Compliance Group and ICG on Ratifications to optimize resources and ensure complementarity of work. A progress report would be submitted to the Scientific Groups in 2026.

9 MARINE LITTER AND MICROPLASTICS

9.1 The Meetings recalled that at LC 46/LP 19 in 2024 they had noted progress made by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, the status of the actions in the IMO Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships, as well as progress made by GESAMP Working Group 43 (WG 43) on sea-based sources of marine litter (LC 46/17, paragraphs 9.1 to 9.19).

9.2 The Meetings also recalled that at the joint session in 2025 the Scientific Groups considered the interim final report of the GESAMP WG 43, and agreed to hold the Correspondence Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics in abeyance until the INC process had been completed (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 8.5 to 8.15).

9.3 The Meetings considered document LC 47/9 (Secretariat), providing information on progress in relation to marine litter and microplastics, and noted that:

- .1 the second part of the fifth session for the development of an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution (INC-5.2), including in the marine environment, had resumed negotiations from 5 to 15 August 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland, but could not reach agreement on the text, and the meeting had been adjourned to a date to be announced in due course; for more information, see: <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution>; and
- .2 at MEPC 83, held in April 2025, the Committee continued its work in relation to marine plastic litter and adopted the 2025 Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships, on the understanding that it would be superseded at a future session by a single resolution containing the combined revised Strategy and 2025 Action Plan; the Committee also requested the Secretariat to submit information detailing the relevant work of the Organization to INC-5.2, which could be found at <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-5.2/documents#InformationDocumentUNMEAsINC5.2>.

9.4 The governing bodies also noted that the second technical report of GESAMP WG 43 on sea-based sources of marine litter had undergone peer review and was in the final stages of publication. The interim report, covering the terms of reference requested by the LC/LP membership, was considered by the Scientific Groups at their session earlier in 2025, and informed their discussions on marine litter as well as on fibreglass vessels.

9.5 In the discussions that followed, several delegations expressed their disappointment that the recent INC negotiations had not reached an agreement, and reaffirmed their commitment to ongoing negotiations to address plastic pollution, as well as to the IMO Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships.

9.6 In addition, the following information was provided by delegations:

- .1 The delegation of South Africa acknowledged the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision and the G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter, and announced the completion of the 7th Annual G20 Report on Marine Litter, which was available on the website <https://g20mpl.org>, and the technical paper titled *Current impacts of and mitigation measures for Abandoned, Lost or otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in the marine environment*.

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- .2 The delegation of Italy expressed support for IMO's continued engagement in the INC negotiations on plastic pollutions and advocated for stronger coordination with IMO measures to ensure consistency across the plastic life cycle, waste management, ship operations port reception facilities, and reduction of duplication of efforts.
 - .3 The delegation of Monaco informed of its engagement in the Beyond Plastic Med (BeMed), to combat plastic pollution in the Mediterranean, as well as with the IAEA Marine Environment Laboratories under the NUTEC Plastics Initiative, which explored the use of nuclear technologies to reduce the impact of plastic pollution in the marine environment.
 - .4 The delegation of Australia noted that, as a member of the High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution by 2040, it supported the strengthening cooperation between international frameworks, including the LC/LP, while avoiding duplication of efforts.
 - .5 The delegation of the Russian Federation informed of its participation in the INC negotiations and noted that various forums, including UNEP and the LC/LP, had discussed different aspects of plastic pollution. The delegation emphasized the priority role of the INC in consideration of plastic pollution issues and the need to avoid duplication of work.
 - .6 The delegation of Nigeria highlighted the need for enhanced international cooperation and further encouraged the Meetings to support capacity-building, awareness promotion and technology transfer.
 - .7 The delegation of Norway highlighted the urgent need for an effective, legally binding instrument to address the growing threat of plastic pollution from all sources. While noting disappointment at the lack of agreement during the INC negotiations, the delegation acknowledged that progress had been made towards compromise on key issues acceptable to most countries. Norway underscored the importance of demonstrating that multilateralism could fulfil the commitment made at the UN Environment Assembly in 2022.

Action by the governing bodies

9.7 The governing bodies:

- .1 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on marine litter and microplastics (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 8.5 to 8.15), and endorsed the Groups' decision, in particular, to:
 - .1 instruct the Secretariat to further engage with regional bodies, particularly on the issue of characterization and quantification of microplastics in sediments;
 - .2 hold the Correspondence Group on Marine Litter and Microplastics in abeyance until the INC process had concluded; and
 - .3 reiterate the invitation to Parties to provide further information in relation to the marine litter and microplastics to future sessions.

10 INTERPRETATION OF THE LC/LP

Disposal of wastes and other matter in the marine environment from mining operations, including marine mineral mining

10.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2024 the governing bodies noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on the disposal of wastes and other matter in the marine environment from mining and operations, including marine mineral mining, and endorsed the Groups' view that whether to proceed with any further actions, including guidance or best management practices, should be submitted to the governing bodies for consideration (LC 46/17, paragraph 10.6).

10.2 The Meetings were informed that the Secretariat had continued cooperation with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) on matters of common interest, including regulatory responsibilities of both organizations and how ISA could benefit from a better understanding of the method of work and good practices of the LC/LP and wider IMO. It was also noted that the ISA Council had continued its work on the draft regulations for the commercial exploitation of deep-sea minerals and that discussions would continue during the intersessional period ahead of the ISA-31 Council meetings in 2026.

10.3 The governing bodies noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on the cooperation with ISA on deep seabed mining and their request to the Secretariat to engage with ISA on LC/LP-related matters and to keep the Scientific Groups informed of any relevant developments at future joint sessions.

10.4 The delegation of Monaco, in highlighting the environmental aspects of the work of the ISA, stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen cooperation between the LC/LP and the ISA.

Disposal of fibreglass vessels

10.5 The Meetings recalled that in 2024 the governing bodies noted the Scientific Groups' discussion regarding developing guidance on the end-of-life management of fibreglass reinforced (FRP) vessels and related matters (LC 46/17, paragraphs 10.7 to 10.11), and that in 2025 the Scientific Groups had continued their consideration of the draft guidance, taking into account the interim final report by GESAMP WG 43, as well as additional information provided by UNEP (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 2.1 to 2.7 and 2.23).

10.6 The Meetings noted that the Scientific Groups had requested the Secretariat to submit a revised final version to the next joint session, as well as a proposal on the approach to communicating the FRP guidance to Contracting Parties, to ensure that those Parties that had not yet engaged were aware of the opportunity for ongoing feedback on applying the guidelines to inform any future review (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 2.1 to 2.7 and 2.23). It was expected that the guidance would be forwarded to the next session of the governing bodies, with a view to approval.

10.7 The delegation of China stated that, for the draft guidelines for the end-of-life management of FRP vessels, the registration of small vessels should be consistent with other IMO conventions.

Action by the governing bodies

- 10.8 The governing bodies endorsed the Scientific Groups' request to the Secretariat to:
- .1 insert the paragraph in annex 2 to LC/SG 48/16 in the FRP guidance and submit the revised guidance for finalization by the Groups in 2026; and
 - .2 provide a proposal for/advice on the approach to communicating the FRP guidance to Contracting Parties, to ensure that those parties that had not yet engaged were aware of the opportunity for ongoing feedback on applying the guidelines to inform any future review that might be required.

Deposition of materials jettisoned during the launch of space vehicles

10.9 The Meetings recalled that LC 46/LP 19 had noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on the issue of the deposition of materials jettisoned during the launch of space vehicles, as well as the Secretariat's engagement with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) and the Committee on the Peaceful Use of Outer Space (COPUOS) and had invited delegations to submit information on this topic to future sessions of the Scientific Groups and meetings of the governing bodies (LC 46/17, paragraphs 10.12 to 10.19).

10.10 The Meetings were informed that the issue had also been highlighted by GESAMP at their recent annual session in early September 2025. GESAMP, having noted that this matter had been under discussion for several years at LC/LP meetings and highlighted in the report of GESAMP WG 43, could also be of potential interest and relevance to GESAMP WG 38 on "Atmospheric inputs of chemicals to the ocean", based on the potential of liquid rocket fuel and solid rocket fuel boosters to introduce toxins and nutrients to the marine environment. An article on the matter had recently been published in *Science*: see <https://www.science.org/content/article/burned-satellites-are-polluting-atmosphere>. GESAMP had agreed to keep a watching brief on the issue, in case advice to any of the Sponsoring Organizations was needed.

10.11 The delegation of the United Kingdom informed of recent developments, highlighted that a launch licence had been issued to Rocket Factory Augsburg to potentially launch in the coming months from the Saxavord Spaceport in Scotland, subject to agreement with the neighbouring States. Other launches were also expected in 2026, conditional to having launch agreements in place. One operator had withdrawn their licence application with the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) to deposit jettisoned rocket components in the United Kingdom's Exclusive Economic Zone. The delegation was informed of work undertaken under OSPAR, co-led by the United Kingdom and Ireland, with a recently published report titled "OSPAR background document on impacts on the marine environment from deposition of space launch vehicles", which was available at <https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=63789>.

10.12 The observer from Greenpeace International noted that work on this issue under the OSPAR Convention was ongoing, and suggested that the Secretariat might wish to inform UNOOSA of those developments, in order to facilitate technical input from the space industry.

Action by the governing bodies

10.13 The governing bodies:

- .1 noted the information provided on the deposition of materials jettisoned during the launch of space vehicles (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 8.16 to 8.19), and the invitation to Parties to report on such activities to future sessions of the Scientific Groups;
- .2 noted the recent discussions on the matter by GESAMP;
- .3 instructed the Secretariat to continue its outreach efforts on this issue, in particular with relevant regional organizations such as OSPAR, as well as UNOOSA, and to report back as appropriate; and
- .4 reiterated the value of delegations liaising with their counterparts attending COPUOS and the opportunities for the two bodies and Secretariats to work together.

Other issues, including outstanding action points from the Report of the Scientific Groups

10.14 The Meetings considered document LC 47/10 (Sweden), presenting a summary of the investigation, prioritization and oil removal operations carried out on potentially polluting wrecks (PPWs) in Swedish territorial waters and the EEZ, in order to reduce the threat of oil spills and other hazardous substances contained in old shipwrecks. The Meetings noted that an initial list of more than 17,000 submerged objects related to shipwrecks in Swedish waters had been reduced to approximately 300 wrecks classified as potentially polluting, with some 30 classified as high risk. As of 2025, Sweden had completed oil removal operations on 10 wrecks, preventing 770 m³ (4,843 barrels) of oil from entering the marine environment.

10.15 Delegations expressed their appreciation to Sweden for sharing its experience, and provided the following comments:

- .1 The delegation of Germany informed of two projects, the EU South Baltic Interreg project BALTWRECK (2024 to 2027), aimed at a coordinated, science-based wreck management strategy for the southern Baltic, and the EU Interreg North Sea Project REMARCO, focusing on environmental monitoring of munition compounds via OSPAR.
- .2 The delegation of Canada shared their experience, which had shown that the pre-operational work of obtaining permissions, legal approval, documentation and drawings helped to reduce the cost of operations. The delegation noted, however, the unexpected challenges when working with deteriorating subsea vessels. The Canadian Coast Guard had taken on multiple projects since 2018 for subsea oil removal.
- .3 The delegation of the United Kingdom informed of experience under their wreck management programme.

10.16 In response to a question from the delegation of the Russian Federation regarding the possible importance of wrecks from the First World War, the delegation from Sweden clarified that under its current removal operations, wrecks from the Second World War were prioritized, since there were not many wrecks from the First World War in Swedish waters.

10.17 The Meetings considered document LC 47/10/1 (Denmark, Finland and Sweden), providing a summary of work carried out by the HELCOM Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Submerged Objects, in developing two thematic assessments on environmental risks from submerged objects, dumped munitions and wrecks. The assessments described the state of knowledge on the issue in the Baltic Sea Area and possible methods to reduce or remove their eventual environmental effects. It was noted that while the location of certain types of objects, such as mines, chemical munitions and wrecks were reasonably well documented, there were significant uncertainties regarding the total quantities and types of submerged hazardous objects in the Baltic Sea, their degree of corrosion and their current effects on the environment.

10.18 The delegation of Italy informed of ecotoxicological studies in the southern Adriatic reported elevated arsenic in sediments and fish, alongside associated pathological effects, underscoring the need for precaution and post-operation monitoring. The delegation also noted the relevance of the Strong Sea Life (Survey and Treatment on ghost nets) project, focused on ghost-gear impacts and habitat conservation in areas of high biodiversity, as well as the Development of European guidelines for potentially polluting wrecks (DEEPP) project, focused on providing guidelines and criteria to address environmental threats arising from potentially polluting shipwrecks.

10.19 The delegation of Germany noted that, in total, there were an estimated 1.6 million tonnes of conventional munitions on the seabed within German waters in the North and Baltic Seas. The delegation informed of three current activities to address this matter, namely the Immediate Action Programme on munition remediation, the CONMAR project, and the MUNIMAP Project (2024 to 2027).

10.20 The delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands informed of its involvement in activities under OSPAR, as well as ongoing efforts at the national level.

10.21 The delegation of the Russian Federation noted the reference to the two World Wars, and expressed doubt that the issues with chemical munitions would relate to the First World War. The delegation also noted inaccuracies in the data set out in the document LC 47/10/1 (Denmark, Finland and Sweden) related to the Russian Federation (paragraphs 2.7.7 and 5.3). The delegation stated that all HELCOM activities were suspended until further notice, and that any of activities of the European Union Member States, which were also HELCOM Member States, related to the marine environment of the Baltic Sea could not be considered, presented and submitted on behalf of the HELCOM. The delegation stated that this was a new form of interaction of EU Member States in the Baltic Sea Area, and that any acts to the contrary represented non-compliance with the Helsinki Convention provisions (article 19.5) and the HELCOM Rules of Procedure (Rule 8.2).

Action by the governing bodies

10.22 The governing bodies:

- .1 noted the information provided in documents LC 47/10 and LC 47/10/1 and encouraged delegations to share similar knowledge and experiences from their regional and national work; and
- .2 noted the information provided to the joint session of the Scientific Groups on cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea (LC SG 48/16, paragraphs 8.21 to 8.24).

10.23 The Meetings considered document LC 47/10/2 (Peru) on the exclusion of higher-value marine areas in the planning of dumping activities, proposing a non-binding interpretative resolution within the framework of the London Protocol for the LP Contracting Parties to exclude marine areas of higher environmental and strategic value in advance during the planning of dumping activities.

10.24 Several delegations expressed support for the proposal by Peru, while others queried whether such an approach would be appropriate, and a number of questions relating to the content of the draft resolution were raised.

10.25 The governing bodies noted that while there was support, in principle, for the approach proposed in document LC 47/10/2, agreement on a proposed resolution would require further deliberation, based on the comments raised in the discussion, in particular with respect to terminology.

Action by the governing bodies

10.26 In conclusion, the governing bodies invited Peru and other interested delegations, following further consultations, to submit a revised proposal to the next session of the governing bodies.

Underwater noise

10.27 The governing bodies were informed by the Secretariat that in 2024 IMO had approved an Action plan for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping (MEPC 82/17, annex 8). The Plan aimed to address barriers to the uptake of the *Revised guidelines for the reduction of underwater noise from commercial shipping to address adverse impacts on marine life*, which were adopted in 2023, in order to further prevent and reduce underwater radiated noise (URN) from ships. MEPC, jointly with MSC, agreed to the three-year experience-building phase (EBP) for the Revised URN Guidelines. The EBP was expected to conclude by MEPC 85 in 2026, but with the possibility of an extension of up to two years, if necessary.

10.28 The Meetings were informed that a second IMO-hosted workshop on the relationship between energy efficiency and URN from ships, was scheduled for 6 to 7 November 2025. The outcomes of the workshop would be submitted to the Ship Design and Construction Sub-Committee (SDC 12) for consideration in providing recommendations to the EBP.

10.29 The Meetings noted that the Global Partnership for Mitigation of Underwater Noise from Shipping (GloNoise), a joint IMO-UNDP-GEF initiative supporting capacity-building, baseline studies, policy dialogue, and pilot projects in participating countries, had been extended through to December 2026 to continue global efforts to reduce URN from ships.

10.30 Finally, the Meetings noted Scientific Groups' discussion and the information provided on underwater noise from anthropogenic sources (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 8.25 to 8.29).

Beneficial use of wastes and experience with habitat enhancement activities

10.31 The governing bodies noted the Scientific Groups' discussion on the beneficial use of wastes and experience with habitat enhancement activities (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 9.1 to 9.7), and the Groups' request to the Secretariat to work with the Chair of the Correspondence Group to finalize the document and explore suitable options for publication (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 9.7.2).

11 MATTERS RELATED TO THE MANAGEMENT OF RADIOACTIVE WASTES

11.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2024 the governing bodies had noted the comments made and views expressed on this topic and invited delegations to share any relevant information related to radioactive wastes at future sessions. The governing bodies further invited the LC/LP and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Secretariats to provide further information regarding the possible update to the Inventory of radioactive material resulting from historical dumping, accidents and losses at sea (IAEA TECDOC-1776) to the next governing bodies' meeting, for consideration by the Contracting Parties (LC 46/17, paragraphs 11.1 to 11.7).

11.2 The governing bodies considered document LC 47/11 (Secretariat and the IAEA), providing information on the process for updating the Inventory of radioactive material resulting from historical dumping, accidents and losses at sea.

11.3 It was noted that a request to update the inventory should originate from the Contracting Parties to the LC/LP, and should the Contracting Parties make such a request, the LC/LP and IAEA Secretariats would issue formal invitations for submissions of new or historical information on dumping activities, accidents or losses involving radioactive materials. Following receipt of the initial submissions, IAEA would prepare a draft updated inventory and engage in a verification process through bilateral discussion.

11.4 A number of delegations welcomed the updating of the inventory and supported the proposal to request the IAEA, in cooperation with IMO, to initiate the process, acknowledging the importance of assessing the potential environmental impact of radioactive material resulting from historical dumping.

11.5 In addition, the delegation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands noted that an update would be timely, considering the increase in nuclear-powered ships, a new development that could be considered within the scope of the update.

Action by the governing bodies

11.6 The governing bodies:

- .1 noted the information provided in document LC 47/11, outlining the process for updating the Inventory of radioactive material resulting from historical dumping, accidents and losses at sea;
- .2 requested the IAEA to initiate an update of the Inventory of radioactive material resulting from historical dumping, accidents and losses at sea; and
- .3 instructed the Secretariat, in cooperation with the IAEA, to issue the requisite invitations to Member States and Contracting Parties, and provide a progress report to the next session of the governing bodies in 2026.

Other issues

11.7 The delegation of the Republic of Korea reiterated that the contaminated water stored at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant should be treated in a scientifically and objectively verified manner that ensured safety, in compliance with relevant international laws and standards, and with the highest regard for marine environmental protection. The delegation also requested Japan to ensure transparency through information-sharing and called on the IAEA to continue monitoring the discharge process.

11.8 The delegation of China emphasized the significance of protecting the marine environment in accordance with the LC/LP, expressing opposition to Japan's discharge of nuclear-contaminated water from Fukushima. The delegation recalled Japan's commitment to long-term international monitoring and independent sampling, involving all stakeholders including China, and urged Japan to fulfil its obligations and commitments in this regard.

11.9 The delegation of Japan reiterated its position that the discharged water from TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Station was Advanced Liquid Processing System (ALPS) treated water, not "contaminated water", and posed no risk to people or the environment. Japan further stated that the discharge was from a land-based facility into the sea and outside of the scope of LC/LP regulations; therefore, it was not appropriate for LC/LP bodies to take up this issue. The delegation also stated that evaluation conducted by the IAEA had confirmed that the concentration of radioactive materials in the discharged water was far below regulatory standards and had a negligible impact on people and the environment. Furthermore, since October 2024, in light of the interest of the concerned countries, five times of additional measures under the IAEA framework had been conducted with the participation of representatives from third-party laboratories and the published report on these additional measures to date presented the same findings. Finally, Japan emphasized that it would continue to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of the discharge into the sea in accordance with international law and practices.

11.10 The delegations of France, Monaco, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States reiterated their full support for Japan's action to discharge the treated water from the Fukushima site, expressed their satisfaction with the IAEA's monitoring and its assessment that the discharge was safe and consistent with internationally accepted nuclear safety standards. Some delegations reiterated their view that this issue did not fall under the remit of the LC/LP.

11.11 The observer from Greenpeace International noted that the ALPS-treated wastewater still contained radioactive contaminants. The observer also asked whether Japan, in addition to taking all possible measures to ensure the safety of discharge, was continuing to look at alternatives to the ongoing discharge, including treatment on land.

11.12 The observer from IAEA informed the Meetings of its ongoing monitoring and assessment of Japan's treated water discharge, including data reviews, facility inspections and environmental sampling. It confirmed that tritium levels in discharged and seawater samples remain well below operational limits, with monitoring data published regularly on the IAEA website. Collaborative comparisons with international laboratories have validated Japan's monitoring programme, and the IAEA would continue its independent review, engagement with Japanese authorities and efforts to ensure transparency and public confidence. The observer also noted a series of joint monitoring expeditions in October 2024 with experts from China, the Republic of Korea and Switzerland, which reaffirmed earlier findings.

11.13 The delegation of Japan, in response to the questions from Greenpeace International, stated that multilayered monitoring activities conducted with the IAEA and third parties, had confirmed that the discharge had been carried out safely and that the levels of the radioactivity in the discharged water were far below the regulatory standards. The delegation further noted that the results of all monitoring activities had been made publicly available. Japan also emphasized that there was no biological or long-term accumulation of radioactive substances. In regard to alternatives to the discharge, the delegation explained that there was no relevant experience either in Japan or internationally regarding the monitoring of ALPS-treated water used for agricultural purposes; consequently, no established monitoring methods existed, presenting challenges to the feasibility of discharging the water into the soil.

Action by the governing bodies

11.14 The governing bodies:

- .1 thanked delegations that had shared information on this topic;
- .2 noted the comments made and views expressed by delegations; and
- .3 invited all delegations to continue to share any relevant information related to radioactive wastes at future sessions.

12 MONITORING FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE LC/LP

Progress with the "Monitoring and Assessment Project"

12.1 The Meetings recalled that at LC 46/LP 19 the governing bodies had noted the Scientific Groups' discussion regarding the review of monitoring reports and activities; encouraged Contracting Parties to submit monitoring reports to future meetings of the Scientific Groups and to include, as appropriate, monitoring reports submitted under regional conventions to protect the marine environment; and requested the Secretariat to submit its next three-year compilation of summary information on reporting of monitoring activities to the next joint session of the Scientific Groups in 2025 (LC 46/17, paragraph 12.2).

Action by the governing bodies

12.2 The governing bodies:

- .1 noted the Scientific Groups' discussion regarding the review of monitoring reports and activities (LC/SG 48/16, paragraphs 7.1 to 7.4);
- .2 encouraged Contracting Parties to submit monitoring reports to future meetings of the Scientific Groups, including monitoring reports submitted under regional conventions to protect the marine environment; and
- .3 requested the Secretariat to submit its next three-year compilation of summary information on reporting of monitoring activities to the next joint session of the Scientific Groups in 2026.

13 REVISION OF THE LC/LP RULES OF PROCEDURE

13.1 The Meetings recalled that in 2024 the governing bodies had considered the possible review of the LC/LP Rules of Procedure and the *Rules and criteria for participation of non-governmental international organizations for meetings or special meetings of Contracting Parties under the London Protocol* (Rules and criteria for NGO participation), in particular in light of the ongoing review of related guidance documents for other IMO organs (LC 46/17, paragraphs 15.1 to 15.9).

13.2 It was also recalled that the governing bodies had agreed to place the revision of the Rules of Procedures in abeyance pending the outcome of the work within IMO, and requested the Secretariat to prepare a report on progress with the IMO process to future sessions of the governing bodies, and to submit a document on the possible review of the Rules and criteria for NGO participation to the next session of the governing bodies in 2025 (LC 46/17, paragraph 15.10).

Revision of Rules of Procedure

13.3 The governing bodies considered document LC 47/13 (Secretariat), providing an update on progress of the revision of the Rules of Procedure for IMO organs, and noted that the IMO Council, at its 133rd session in November last year, approved its Rules of Procedure, and invited the other IMO organs to consider harmonizing their respective Rules to the extent possible. In addition, at its 134th session in July 2025, the IMO Council agreed to further amend the relevant Rules to incorporate the use of hybrid capabilities.

13.4 Similarly, the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at its eighty-third session, approved its revised Rules of Procedure (MEPC.1/Circ.919), following the decisions of the Council and also noted that the IMO Assembly would be considering revisions to its Rules of Procedure at the thirty-fourth session of the Assembly, in December 2025.

13.5 The governing bodies noted the proposed timeline for the review, as well as an indicative list of specific rules to be revised, as set out in document LC 47/13.

13.6 The delegation of the United Arab Emirates noted that it would be timely to align the revised Rules of Procedure with those of other United Nations entities, in line with the revision by other IMO organs. The delegations noted that public live-streaming was currently only applied to the Council and Assembly. The delegation suggested that it may be premature to allow for public live-streaming of LC/LP meetings, but should that be the decision of the governing bodies, the Rules and criteria should be harmonized with Council resolution C.79(133).

13.7 Other delegations expressed support for the revision, including the need to further harmonize and modernize the Rules of Procedure, and consider the wider aspects of public dissemination of the work of the meetings.

Action by the governing bodies

13.8 The governing bodies:

- .1 agreed to initiate the revision of the LC/LP Rules of Procedure as a matter of priority;
- .2 noted the rules identified for urgent consideration, as set out in paragraph 13 of document LC 47/13; and
- .3 requested the Secretariat to submit draft revisions to the LC/LP Rules of Procedure to the next meeting of the governing bodies in 2026.

Revision of the Rules and criteria for NGO participation

13.9 The governing bodies considered document LC 47/13/1 (Secretariat), on the Revision of the Rules and criteria for NGO participation, and was informed that the IMO Council, at its 134th session in July 2025, had considered the outcome of the fourth session of the Intersessional Working Group on Relations with Non-Governmental Organizations (ISWG-NGO 4). The Council concurred with the need to review the Rules and guidelines and invited Member States to submit proposals in this regard to future sessions. Furthermore, the Secretariat was requested to collate the provisions used by other United Nations specialized agencies for organizations with consultative or similar status for the reference of the Intersessional Working Group to inform on this work.

13.10 The governing bodies agreed that, given that the IMO process was still ongoing, it would be prudent to await the outcome of ISWG-NGO 5, scheduled for 2026, before proceeding with the review of the LC/LP Rules and criteria for NGO participation.

Action by the governing bodies

13.11 The governing bodies noted the information provided, and:

- .1 agreed to await the outcome of the IMO Intersessional Working Group on Relations with Non-Governmental Organizations in 2026, before proceeding with the revision of the LC/LP Rules and criteria for NGO participation; and
- .2 instructed the Secretariat to provide a progress report on the discussion within IMO, as well as a proposed process and timeline for the revision of the LC/LP Rules and criteria for NGO participation, for consideration at its next session in 2026.

14 RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**Promotion of the London Convention and London Protocol through regional conventions and programmes**

14.1 The Meetings were informed of the following activities in the field of marine environment protection.

14.2 The delegation of Finland stated that the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki Convention that were Member States of the European Union had previously adopted a decision to suspend all official HELCOM meetings until further notice, owing to the geopolitical situation. This decision remained unchanged. The delegation informed that, with respect to dredged material disposal, a regional assessment covering the period 2013–2023 had recently been finalized. Furthermore, HELCOM had recently begun examining CCS, commissioning a legal and environmental analysis to clarify the regional context. Together with Finland, Sweden and Denmark, the HELCOM Expert Group on Environmental Risks of Submerged Objects had finalized two thematic assessments: one on dumped munitions and another on potentially polluting shipwrecks. Recent work had strengthened regional monitoring, including updated beach litter guidelines, pilot testing of riverine litter monitoring, and developing microlitter monitoring guidelines in biota. This work aimed to ensure more consistent data and support international cooperation, including ongoing discussions at the IMO level on marine litter and microplastics.

14.3 The delegation of the Russian Federation, in response to the intervention by Finland, stated that all HELCOM activities were suspended until further notice, and that any activities of the European Union Member States, which were also HELCOM Member States, related to the marine environment of the Baltic Sea could not be considered, presented and submitted on behalf of HELCOM. The delegation reiterated that this was a new form of interaction of EU Member States in the Baltic Sea Area, and that any acts to the contrary represented non-compliance with the Helsinki Convention provisions (article 19.5) and the HELCOM Rules of Procedure (rule 8.2). The delegation further stressed that Finland as the host country for HELCOM was not officially entitled by HELCOM to represent this forum at the LC/LP sessions and report on its behalf.

Action by the governing bodies

14.4 The governing bodies:

- .1 encouraged regional organizations, in collaboration with the Secretariat, to further strengthen cooperation at the regional level;

- .2 requested the Secretariat to continue its activities focusing on regions where the number of Parties to the treaties was low, with the aim of increasing accessions/ratifications of the LP, and to report back on achievements to the next session; and
- .3 encouraged Member States to support efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional conventions and programmes through their respective regional bodies, for example by raising the issue at appropriate regional meetings.

Contribution to the major ocean-related initiatives in the field of marine environmental protection

14.5 The Meetings recalled that in 2024 the governing bodies had noted the information provided on major ocean-related initiatives on reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment (LC 46/17, paragraphs 13.5 to 13.10).

14.6 The Meetings considered document LC 47/14 (Secretariat), providing an update on progress with some of the major ocean-related initiatives, in particular those of relevance to the LC/LP and the implementation of the 2016 Strategic Plan.

14.7 The Meetings noted the following:

- .1 Following the adoption of the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), in 2023, the Agreement met its entry-into-force conditions on 19 September 2025, and would enter into force on 17 January 2026. The first meeting of Contracting Parties was expected to be held in late 2026 or early 2027. To prepare for the entry into force and the convening of the first meeting of the Conference of the Parties (UNGA resolution 78/272), the UN General Assembly had already established a Preparatory Commission. The first and second substantive sessions of the Commission were held from 14 to 25 April 2025 and from 18 to 29 August 2025 (A/AC.296/2024/4), and the third session was scheduled for late March/early April 2026. More information, including the text of the final agreement, can be found at: <http://www.un.org/bbnj>.
- .2 The UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) was formally launched on 1 January 2021 to support efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that would ensure ocean science could fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the ocean. The eighth Call for Actions for the Ocean Decade (Call No.08/2024) was launched in October 2024, focusing on initiatives to bridge science and knowledge gaps in coastal resilience, society's relationship with the ocean, and the ocean-human health nexus. More information can be found at: <https://oceandecade.org>.
- .3 The third high-level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development was held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025, co-hosted by France and Costa Rica (UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/78/128). IMO supported the hosts and the wider UN system in the preparations for the Conference, and

attended the Conference, contributing to the Ocean Action Panels, Special Events and side-events. More information about IMO's participation can be found at: <https://www.imo.org/en/about/events/pages/imo-at-the-un-ocean-conference-2025.aspx>. More information on the 2025 UN Ocean Conference can be found at: <https://sdgs.un.org/conferences/ocean2025>.

- .4 The fifteenth Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), COP 15, approved the Post-2020 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which provides a strategic vision and a global road map for the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems for the next decade and beyond. More information about the GBF can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/gbf>. More recently, COP 16 of the CBD was held over two sessions, the first from 21 October to 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia, and from 25 to 27 February 2025 in Rome, Italy. More information can be found at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-16>.

14.8 The observer from FOEI informed that at COP 16 the CBD, under Decision 16/22 had reaffirmed its decision from COP 9 on ocean fertilization, and its decisions from COPs 11 and 13 on climate-related geoengineering. Decision 16/22 further urged CBD Parties and other Governments to ensure implementation of these prior decisions.

14.9 In the subsequent discussion, a number of delegations informed of their recent ratification of the BBNJ Agreement and highlighted the interlinkages between the BBNJ Agreement and the LC/LP.

14.10 Some delegations supported the establishment of an intersessional correspondence group to explore the interlinkages between the BBNJ Agreement and the LC/LP.

Action by the governing bodies

14.11 Following discussion, the governing bodies invited delegations to submit information on the linkages between the LC/LP and the BBNJ Agreement to the next session of the governing bodies in 2026.

Recent progress by GESAMP on matters of interest to the LC/LP

14.12 The Meetings considered document LC 47/14/1 (Secretariat) providing a progress report on activities under GESAMP since the last session of the governing bodies in 2024.

14.13 GESAMP held its fifty-second annual session from 15 to 19 September 2025, hosted by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France. The full report of the session will be available on the GESAMP website, <http://www.gesamp.org>, in due course.

14.14 The governing bodies were also informed that, at the recent annual session, GESAMP had responded to the request from the LC/LP Scientific Groups, who had considered a scoping paper by GESAMP with respect to sand and gravel mining at their joint session in March 2025 (document LC/SG 48/14/1). Having reviewed the document, the LC/LP Scientific Groups requested the Secretariat to approach GESAMP to develop a scope of work on the issues under the remit of the LC/LP. GESAMP agreed that the coordinator of the scoping paper would develop a draft scope of work for consideration by the LC/LP Scientific Groups at their next meeting in March 2026.

Action by the governing bodies

14.15 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted the information provided with respect to major ocean initiatives;
- .2 encouraged delegations to promote the London Protocol and the work of the LC/LP at relevant ocean-related meetings and processes in the intersessional period;
- .3 instructed the Secretariat to continue its work to promote the LC/LP in major ocean-related meetings and processes, and provide a report to the governing bodies next year;
- .4 noted the information provided on recent progress by GESAMP; and
- .5 instructed the LC/LP Scientific Groups to provide advice to the governing bodies with respect to a possible scope of work in relation to sand and gravel mining and the LC/LP, taking into account the information to be provided by GESAMP.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS AND FUTURE WORK**Review of the Joint Work Programme for the period 2025 to 2027**

15.1 The Meetings noted that the Joint Work Programme (JWP) for 2025-2027 had been published as LC-LP.1/Circ.112 in February 2025, covering activities agreed by the governing bodies in 2024.

15.2 The governing bodies, having reviewed the progress made in implementing the JWP, requested the Secretariat, taking into account achievements during the current session, to prepare the JWP for the period 2026-2028, to be issued as a circular.

LC/LP Scientific Groups Work Programme

15.3 The Meetings were informed about the proposed work programme of the Scientific Groups (2025-2027), as set out in their report (LC/SG 48/16, annex 6), and noted the high-priority issues as indicated in the table.

Action by the governing bodies

15.4 Following a short discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 confirmed that the Chair, together with the Secretariat, would update the table in the JWP in light of the achievements during the week;
- .2 requested the Secretariat, taking into account developments at the current session, to prepare the JWP for the period 2026 to 2028 to be issued as a circular; and
- .3 approved the LC/LP Scientific Groups Work Programme for 2025 to 2027 and the priorities for their next joint session in 2026, as set out in annex 6.

Topic for "Science Day 2026"

15.5 With regard to the selection of a suitable topic for Science Day 2026 to be held during LC/SG 49, the Meetings noted the following three topics recommended by the Scientific Groups for consideration by the governing bodies (LC/SG 48/16, paragraph 11.8):

- .1 the interaction between climate change and acidification with ecotoxicology;
- .2 the effects of climate change on permitting and monitoring under the LC/LP;
and
- .3 marine geoengineering research: perspective of the Global South.

Action by the governing bodies

15.6 Following a short discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Scientific Groups, in cooperation with the Secretariat, would confirm the topic and format for Science Day 2026;
and
- .2 invited the Scientific Groups to prepare a recommendation on the topic for Science Day 2027.

Report on the LC/LP Technical Cooperation Trust Fund

15.7 The Meetings considered document LC 47/15 (Secretariat), providing an audited statement of the financial performance of the London Convention/Protocol Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the year ended 31 December 2024.

15.8 Following discussion, the governing bodies:

- .1 noted document LC 47/15, containing the audited statement of the LC/LP Technical Cooperation Trust Fund for the year ended 31 December 2024;
- .2 noted that the Trust Fund had a balance of \$164,350 on 31 December 2024;
and
- .3 requested the Secretariat to report to the governing bodies in 2026 on the audited statement for the income and expenditure administered under the Trust Fund in 2025.

Substantive items for the agenda and date for the forty-eighth Consultative Meeting and twenty-first Meeting of Contracting Parties

15.9 The Meetings considered document LC 47/WP.2 (Secretariat) on substantive items for the forty-eighth Consultative Meeting and the twenty-first Meeting of the Contracting Parties (LC 48/LP 21).

15.10 Following discussion, the Meetings agreed to the items to be included in the agenda of LC 48/LP 21 in 2026, as set out in annex 7.

15.11 The Secretariat informed the governing bodies on the meeting arrangements for 2026, and noted that the dates tentatively assigned for the LC/LP meetings were:

- .1 the forty-eighth meeting of the LC Scientific Group/nineteenth meeting of the LP Scientific Group (LC/SG 49): tentatively scheduled for early March 2026 at IMO Headquarters;
- .2 the LC/LP governing bodies (LC 48/LP 21): 5 to 9 October 2026; and
- .3 the eighteenth session of the London Protocol Compliance Group (LP-CG 18): 1 to 2 October 2026.

15.12 The Chair reminded delegations of the importance of submitting documents to the meetings of these bodies, and noted the tentative submission deadlines for the next Scientific Groups meeting in 2026, particularly for chairs of correspondence groups, so they could plan their work to meet the deadlines.

16 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1 The governing bodies noted document LC 47/INF.4 (World Organization of Dredging Associations (WODA)), providing reference to two initiatives by WODA.

- .1 a summary of the basic facts about dredging and dredged material disposal/beneficial use, available at:
https://dredging.org/media/ceda/org/documents/ceda/dredging_the_facts_-_update_2025.pdf; and
- .2 a study of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in the dredging sector, available at:
https://www.dredging.org/news/594/a-study-of-the-united-nations-sustainable-development-goals-in-the-dredging-sector?news_type=7

17 ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR BOTH GOVERNING BODIES

17.1 In accordance with rule 20 of the Revised Rules of Procedure, the Consultative Meeting unanimously elected Ms. Radia Razack (South Africa) as Chair, Mr. Eduardo Zamora (Peru) as First Vice-Chair, and Ms. Meggie Salomonsz (Kingdom of the Netherlands) as Second Vice-Chair for the intersessional period and for the forty-eighth Consultative Meeting (LC 48). In accordance with the same rule, the Meeting of Contracting Parties also unanimously re-elected the same officers for the intersessional period and for the twenty-first Meeting of Contracting Parties (LP 21).

18 CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

18.1 The joint report of the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the twentieth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol was adopted on the final day of the Meetings, Friday, 31 October 2025, which was followed by a commenting period of five days prior to the issuance of the final report.

ANNEX 1

AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-SEVENTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE LONDON CONVENTION AND THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE LONDON PROTOCOL

1 Adoption of the agenda

LC 47/1	Secretariat	Provisional agenda
LC 47/1/1	Secretariat	Annotations to the provisional agenda

2 Status of the London Convention and Protocol

LC 47/2	Secretariat	Overview of the status of the London Convention and Protocol and their respective amendments
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3 Progress on the implementation of the LP-LC Strategic Plan

LC 47/3	Secretariat	Update on progress made with respect to the second full review of the Strategic Plan
LC 47/3/1	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Progress Report from the Correspondence Group on Increasing the Rate of Ratification of the London Protocol and its Amendments
LC 47/3/2	ACOPS and Greenpeace International	Legal regulations and work under regional seas' mechanisms that are relevant to LC/LP matters
LC 47/INF.5	Peru	New regulation harmonizes Peruvian national laws, aligning them with the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention for the Protection of the Oceans

4 Consideration of the report of the Scientific Groups

LC 47/4	Secretariat	Action by the governing bodies
LC 47/4/1	Secretariat	Comments on the Revised guidance on best management practices for removal of anti-fouling coatings from ships

5 Marine geoengineering including ocean fertilization

LC 47/5	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Progress report from the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering
LC 47/5/1	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Progress report from the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering: Further developing and applying definitions of the four marine geoengineering techniques
LC 47/5/2	Secretariat	Progress update by the GESAMP Working Group 41 on Ocean Interventions for Climate Change Mitigation

LC 47/5/3	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Further progress report from the Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering
LC 47/5/4	Co-Chairs of the Correspondence Group	Progress report from the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Geoengineering – second part
LC 47/5/5	Ocean Care	Information on particle-based marine carbon dioxide removal activities in relation to ocean fertilization
LC 47/5/6	ACOPS and Greenpeace International	Marine geoengineering research activities and interests are not restricted to the Global North

6 CO₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations

LC 47/6	Secretariat	Update on the London Protocol amendments with respect to carbon dioxide capture and sequestration (CCS) activities
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7 Compliance Issues

LC 47/7	Secretariat	Final draft summary on dumping reports issued in 2022
LC 47/7/1	Secretariat	First draft summary and overview of the number of dumping permits reported in 2023
LC 47/7/2	Secretariat	Status of compliance with the notification and reporting requirements under article VI(4) of the London Convention 1972 and article 9.4 of the London Protocol
LC 47/INF.2	Secretariat	Status of compliance with the notification and reporting requirements under article VI(4) of the London Convention 1972 and article 9.4 of the London Protocol

8 Technical cooperation and assistance

LC 47/8	Secretariat	Update on recent and planned capacity-building activities
LC 47/8/1	Secretariat	Progress of the SMART-C LC/LP project
LC 47/8/2	Co-Chairs of the B2C Steering Group	Update on Barriers to Compliance (B2C) Steering Groups activities
LC 47/INF.3	Republic of Korea	Progress report on the graduate school of London Protocol Engineering Master of Project Administration (LPEM)

9 Marine litter and microplastics

LC 47/9	Secretariat	Update on recent progress on issues related to marine litter
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10 Interpretation of the London Convention and Protocol

LC 47/10	Sweden	Results of Sweden's national work concerning potentially polluting wrecks (PPWs)
LC 47/10/1	Denmark, Finland and Sweden	HELCOM thematic assessments on environmental risks from submerged objects - dumped munitions and wrecks
LC 47/10/2	Peru	Promoting the exclusion of higher-value marine areas in dumping planning

11 Matters related to the management of radioactive wastes

LC 47/11	Secretariat and the IAEA	Information on the process to update the inventory of radioactive material at sea resulting from historical dumping, accidents and losses
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12 Monitoring for the purposes of the London Convention and Protocol

No documents

13 Revision of the LC/LP Rules of Procedure

LC 47/13	Secretariat	Update on progress with the revision of Rules of Procedure for IMO organs
LC 47/13/1	Secretariat	Revision of the Rules and criteria for NGO participation

14 Relations with other organizations in the field of marine environmental protection

LC 47/14	Secretariat	Update on major ocean initiatives
LC 47/14/1	Secretariat	Report on GESAMP activities

15 Administrative arrangements and future work

LC 47/15	Secretariat	Report on the London Convention/Protocol Technical Cooperation Trust Fund
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16 Any other business

LC 47/INF.4	World Organization of Dredging Associations (WODA)	"Dredging: The Facts" brochure and status of Sustainable Development Goals reporting in the dredging sector
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17 Election of officers for both governing bodies

No documents

18 Consideration and adoption of the report

No documents

ANNEX 2

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON INCREASING RATIFICATION OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL AND ITS AMENDMENTS

The Intersessional Correspondence Group on Increasing Ratification of the London Protocol and its Amendments (ICG Ratifications) in coordination with the B2C Steering Group and the LP Compliance Group, and in consideration of the SMART-C LC/LP project, is instructed to:

- .1 reassess and finalize the tables of core barriers set out in LC 47/WP.5, annex 1;
- .2 assess and finalize the initial list of easily implementable measures in addition to those which the governing bodies agree to implement until the next session in 2026, further clarifying who should be responsible for their implementation;
- .3 assess and finalize the tables of measures under consideration by the Group, and consider revising the order of the measures as appropriate;
- .4 develop a road map for the implementation of the easily implementable measures and all other measures; and
- .5 submit a progress report to the governing bodies in 2026.

ANNEX 3

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON MARINE GEOENGINEERING UNDER THE GOVERNING BODIES

Being aware of the work of the London Convention/London Protocol (LC/LP), in particular by the Legal Intersessional Correspondence Group since 2022, and taking into consideration relevant national and international policy developments and the role of other international bodies in the governance of marine geoengineering (MGE), the Intersessional Correspondence Group on MGE is instructed to:

- .1 endeavour to develop a draft resolution to provide clarity and address challenges regarding the purpose and application of the LC and LP to MGE, taking into account, as appropriate, the 2013 amendment, the relevant resolutions and the statements of 2022 and 2023 and the envisioned measures necessary to deal with the challenges identified;
- .2 further refine the working definitions for the four prioritized MGE techniques in collaboration with the other Intersessional Correspondence Group under the Scientific Groups, and forward the definitions to the Correspondence Group under the Scientific Groups, for consideration;
- .3 clarify how to apply the draft revised Ocean Fertilization Assessment Framework (OFAF) and advise on the next steps needed to promote its effective implementation by the Contracting Parties of the LC/LP, and provide a way forward for the governing bodies in 2026, including the communication of the framework;
- .4 clarify how to apply the draft assessment frameworks on ocean alkalinity enhancement, biomass sinking and marine albedo modification being developed by the Scientific Groups and advise on the next steps needed to promote their effective implementation by the Contracting Parties of the LC/LP and provide a way forward for the governing bodies in 2026, including the communication of the frameworks;
- .5 identify options for the listing of the new techniques for the purpose of article 6*bis* of the 2013 amendment and develop suitable regulatory text where appropriate and in collaboration with the intersessional Correspondence Groups under the Scientific Groups, by considering the potential regulations of each technique separately, taking into account the review of scientific information undertaken by the Scientific Groups;
- .6 discuss the interpretation of paragraph 8.4 of annex 5 of the 2013 amendment, with the aim of understanding the implications of and coming to a common interpretation of this paragraph, applying the consideration that economic interests do not influence the design, conduct and/or outcome of the proposed activity and that there should not be any financial and/or economic gain arising directly from the experiment or the outcomes;

- .7 explore, without prejudice, the work of the LC/LP with regard to MGE considering, if necessary, the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement); and
- .8 submit a report to the next meeting of the governing bodies in 2026.

ANNEX 4

STATEMENT ON MARINE GEOENGINEERING

During the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the twentieth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, the Parties continued their discussions on marine geoengineering. The Parties considered updated draft working definitions of prioritized marine geoengineering techniques; the role of other international bodies in the governance of marine geoengineering; and the discussions of the Scientific Groups on marine geoengineering. The Parties also identified measures and developed a work plan to increase ratifications of the London Protocol and its 2013 amendment on marine geoengineering.

The Parties also considered the recent findings of the *Progress update by the GESAMP Working Group 41 on Ocean Interventions for Climate Change Mitigation* (LC 47/5/2), including that:

- .1 "marine carbon dioxide removal approaches are still in the early stages of development, with significant knowledge gaps and uncertainties" requiring further legitimate scientific research";
- .2 each approach "comes with trade-offs in terms of durability, energy demand and environmental impact, and would require large ocean areas if considered for large-scale implementation"; and
- .3 "while some approaches may have the potential to provide durable carbon removal, they require high energy inputs, large ocean areas and significant infrastructure, may be difficult to verify, and could potentially conflict with other ocean uses ["]].

In addition, Parties received information from ACOPS and Greenpeace International, as well as OceanCare (LC 47/5/6 and LC 47/5/5), on the growing number of MGE activities which are by nature and scale of relevance to all countries. Parties are aware that MGE activities, including those conducted by private or commercial companies, have the potential to result in deleterious effects, as defined in article 1, paragraph 5*bis* of the 2013 Amendment, and Parties note the need to ensure that activities are consistent with the applicable provisions and instruments under the London Convention and the London Protocol.

Furthermore, following the aforementioned received information, some Parties expressed their concerns about the possible environmental, social and economic impacts of MGE on developing countries, especially least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS), including the need for access to information and resources.

The Parties will continue to advance their scientific understanding of marine geoengineering techniques to inform their potential actions, mindful of the precautionary approach outlined in article 3 of the London Protocol and relevant resolutions of the London Convention and London Protocol.

This work of the London Convention and London Protocol Parties and the Scientific Groups will continue in the intersessional period as summarized below.

- .1 endeavour to develop a draft resolution to provide clarity and address challenges regarding the purpose and application of the LC and LP to marine geoengineering, taking into account, as appropriate, the 2013 amendment, the relevant resolutions and the statements of 2022 and 2023 and the envisioned measures necessary to deal with the challenges identified;
- .2 further refine the working definitions for the four prioritized MGE techniques in collaboration with the other Intersessional Correspondence Group under the Scientific Groups, and forward the definitions to the Correspondence Group under the Scientific Groups, for consideration;
- .3 clarify how to apply the draft revised Ocean Fertilization Assessment Framework (OFAF) and advise on the next steps needed to promote its effective implementation by the Contracting Parties of the LC/LP and provide a way forward for the governing bodies in 2026, including the communication of the framework;
- .4 clarify how to apply the draft assessment frameworks on ocean alkalinity enhancement, biomass sinking and marine albedo modification being developed by the Scientific Groups and advise on the next steps needed to promote their effective implementation by the Contracting Parties of the LC/LP and provide a way forward for the governing bodies in 2026, including the communication of the frameworks;
- .5 identify options for the listing of the new techniques for the purpose of article 6*bis* and develop suitable regulatory text where appropriate and in collaboration with the other Intersessional Correspondence Groups under the Scientific Groups by considering the potential regulations of each technique separately, taking into account the review of scientific information undertaken by the Scientific Groups;
- .6 discuss the interpretation of paragraph 8.4 of annex 5 with the aim of understanding the implications of and coming to a common interpretation of this paragraph, applying the consideration that economic interests do not influence the design, conduct and/or outcome of the proposed activity and that there should not be any financial and/or economic gain arising directly from the experiment or the outcomes;
- .7 explore, without prejudice, the work of the LC/LP with regard to MGE considering, if necessary, the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

Parties considered the work of other international instruments, frameworks and bodies which have relevance to marine geoengineering, and will continue coordination with other international entities to both encourage the sharing of information and also clarify the roles of these entities in the governance of marine geoengineering.

ANNEX 5

REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL COMPLIANCE GROUP

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The seventeenth Meeting of the Compliance Group under the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention, 1972, was held on 23 and 24 October 2025, and was chaired by Prof. Akiko Okamatsu (Japan). The session did not reach a quorum, which was two thirds of the Members, i.e. six Members for this session. However, considering the significance of the agenda items, the Group agreed to proceed with the Meeting as an informal session, to report the outcomes to the Meeting of Contracting Parties, and to seek ex post endorsement from the Members at the next session of the Compliance Group in 2026.

1.2 The members of the Compliance Group in attendance were:

Prof. Akiko Okamatsu (Japan, Vice-Chair)
Ms. Radia Razack (South Africa)
Ms. Julia Brydon (Canada)
Mr. Joe Perry (United Kingdom)
Mr. Eric Levert (France)

1.3 The members unable to attend, with apologies, were:

Mr. Heaky Dimowo (Nigeria)
Prof. Young Sok Kim (Republic of Korea, Vice-Chair)
Lt. Cmdr. Jose Alberto Solano Claustro (Mexico)

1.4 Observers from the following Contracting Parties to the London Protocol also attended the meeting:

ARGENTINA	NIGERIA
CHILE	PHILIPPINES
CHINA	REPUBLIC OF KOREA
EGYPT	SAUDI ARABIA
JAPAN	SOUTH AFRICA
MEXICO	UNITED KINGDOM

1.5 Observers from the following Contracting Party to the London Convention also attended the meeting:

BRAZIL

1.6 Observers from the following non-Contracting Party also attended the meeting:

TÜRKİYE

2 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

2.1 The Group adopted the provisional agenda for the session, as set out in document LP-CG 17/1.

3 ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

3.1 The Group considered the organizational matters and agreed to prioritize tasks to ensure sufficient time for progress on key items.

4 REVIEW OF INDIVIDUAL SUBMISSIONS

4.1 The Group noted that there was one submission on non-compliance received in accordance with paragraph 4.1 of the revised 2017 Compliance Procedures and Mechanisms (CPM), and considered document LP-CG 17/3 (United Kingdom), reporting on a case of disposal of contaminated dredged sediment to the marine environment in 2014 by the Isle of Man Government.

4.2 The Compliance Group noted the outcomes of an investigation by the United Kingdom's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on a case of disposal of contaminated dredged sediment to the marine environment in 2014, indicating that action had initially not been taken in accordance with the London Protocol. However, the delegation of the United Kingdom informed the Groups of a number of management actions that had been taken since 2014 by the Isle of Man Government to improve its disposal practice for dredged sediment to ensure that all future dredging and disposal would be carried out in line with relevant international obligations.

4.3 The Group also noted that the case had been reported by the United Kingdom itself, including a description of the actions taken, which the Group considered to be sufficient and therefore did not recommend that the Meeting of the Contracting Parties take any further measures, as stipulated under article 5 of the CPM.

4.4 In the ensuing discussion, the Group highlighted the implications of the case for Parties with separate territories under different legislative and regulatory frameworks, particularly regarding the alignment of domestic regulations with relevant international obligations. The Group also noted the lessons learned from the case on how to improve communication with local authorities, including the establishment of relevant focal points among several departments to ensure compliance with the international treaties prohibiting the dumping of waste at sea.

4.5 The Group thanked the United Kingdom for voluntarily providing the case of non-compliance and for sharing the experiences and actions taken, which the Group commended, and encouraged other delegations to follow this example when such cases arose.

5 CONSIDERATION OF ANY REPORTS

Reporting under paragraphs 6.2 and 6.4 of the Compliance Procedures and Mechanisms (specifically articles 9.4.1 and 10.3)

5.1 The Group examined the final draft report on permits issued in 2022 (LC 47/7) and the first draft report on permits issued in 2023 (LC 46/7/1). The Secretariat updated the Group stating that no further reports had been received since the documents had been issued. Consequently, the overall reporting rate was currently 38% for Parties to the Convention and Protocol for 2022 and 28% for 2023. The Group noted that reporting levels were similar to the ones from previous years, varying over the years between 33% to 42%, and highlighted that reporting rates needed to improve to meet the reporting targets set out in the LP/LC Strategic Plan.

5.2 The Group reviewed the documents LC 47/7/2 and LC 47/INF.2 reporting on the status of compliance with the reporting requirements under article VI(4) of the London Convention and article 9.4 of the Protocol. The Secretariat provided the summary, for the five-year period from 2019 to 2022 (not including the first draft summary data for 2023), that the average response rate was 39, when including Parties that had reported since the submission of the document. The Group was also informed that, to date, 55 Parties had not reported in the five-year period (2019 to 2023) and that this number had risen slightly, when compared to the periods 2018-2022 and 2017-2021, where 51 Parties had not reported.

5.3 The Group noted that the reporting rate for 2022 (38%) had slightly decreased compared with 2021 (42%). The Group discussed the fact that, while the introduction of GISIS had initially contributed to improving the reporting rate, the rate had remained relatively steady over recent years. In the ensuing discussion, the Group recognized the importance of the full review of the Strategic Plan scheduled for 2026 and agreed on the need to develop or allow for a more accessible online repository, recognizing the low usage rate of GISIS. The Group further highlighted the need to ensure accurate identification and communication of National Focal Points, in order to improve reporting rates.

5.4 The Group noted that, since its last meeting, the Secretariat had not received any Incident Information Forms pursuant to LP article 10.3, and therefore no compliance could be assessed in accordance with paragraph 6.4 of the CPM.

Reporting under articles 9.4.2 and 9.4.3 of the Protocol

5.5 The Group recalled that in 2021 the Secretariat had issued a circular to support the review of the LP/LC Strategic Plan, requesting information under article 9.4.3 of the LP and article VI of the LC, in relation to the administrative and legislative measures taken to implement provisions of the treaties (LC-LP.1/Circ.98).

5.6 The Group also recalled that, at the last session, it had noted that since 2023 no additional Parties had reported information under article 9.4.2, with only 24 out of 54 Parties to the LP having reported information so far. However, as requested by the governing bodies at the LC 45/LP 16 meeting (LC 45/17, paragraph 3.11), the Secretariat had initiated a process for the engagement of a suitable consultant/academic partner to solicit the information requested in LC-LP.1/Circ.98 (LC 46/17, paragraph 3.7).

5.7 The Secretariat provided an update that it had recently initiated discussions with the World Maritime University (WMU) to assist in this endeavour.

5.8 The Group noted the Secretariat's ongoing efforts and, being aware of the costs associated with such an extensive task, encouraged the Secretariat to continue looking for an appropriate consultant or partner for this undertaking, and requested to report back on progress to the next session of the governing bodies. The Group also discussed the potential to broaden the scope of the task to reporting under article 9.4.1 and agreed that the Secretariat should consider this idea.

6 IDENTIFICATION AND REVIEW OF FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY PROTOCOL PARTIES IN FULFILLING THEIR REPORTING OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLES 9.4.1, 9.4.2 AND 9.4.3 OF THE PROTOCOL

6.1 The Group recalled that in 2018 it had continued to identify activities and review factors contributing to the difficulties in fulfilling reporting obligations under article 9.4.1 of the Protocol and several more recommendations for further action (LC 40/16, annex 3, paragraphs 6.1 to 6.22).

6.2 The Group noted that recommendations to improve the reporting rate under the Protocol was a recurring discussion in the LP-CG, as well as the governing bodies, and the reporting rate for the LP Parties varied over the years between 33% to 42%.

6.3 The Group recalled that in 2024 the Group had agreed that language barriers were one of the difficulties that many countries were experiencing in implementing the LP, and suggested collaborating with regional conventions, developing materials in various languages and holding regional workshops.

Outreach to non-reporting countries

6.4 The Group recalled that a number of measures that should be taken in an effort to improve rates for all types of reporting were required under this sub-item at last year's meeting, and discussed progress made during the intersessional period and any outstanding actions for further action and recommendation.

6.5 The Group shared its experience from the coffee break and lunchtime outreach sessions held in 2024 during the meeting of governing bodies. The Group noted that this approach had been useful to maximize in-person outreach during the meetings, and agreed to further develop the session in a more structured and strategic manner based on their findings. It was noted that the difficulties of non-reporting countries varied depending on whether they were Parties to the London Convention or the London Protocol, as well as their geographic and regional contexts.

6.6 In the discussion that followed, the Group decided to continue the one-on-one engagement during the governing bodies' meeting, including the coffee break outreach sessions this year, and to organize a lunchtime presentation entitled "Navigating the London Protocol: How to comply".

6.7 The observer from Egypt highlighted the need to consider different regional contexts and suggested organizing a regional workshop with the support of the IMO Regional Office in Egypt, which had been established recently.

6.8 The Group also agreed that there were difficulties in identifying technical focal points (e.g. those responsible for issuing dumping permits and submitting dumping reports) and highlighted the need to secure relevant focal points to ensure effective communication.

7 CONSIDERATION OF COMPLIANCE ISSUES RELATED TO THE "BARRIERS TO COMPLIANCE" PROJECT

7.1 The Group considered document LC 47/8/2 (Co-Chairs of B2C Steering Group) providing an update on the Barriers to Compliance (B2C) Steering Group, since the meeting of the governing bodies in 2024.

7.2 The Group noted the activities of the B2C Steering Group since the last session, including the review of WMU LP e-learning materials, once these were available, the analysis of regional barriers to compliance in Central America, by examining the needs assessment exercise to assess the readiness for ratification in that region, and suggestions to address language barriers to LC/LP compliance.

7.3 The Co-Chairs of the B2C Steering Group and the Groups recognized that many of the LC/LP materials, including "How to" guidelines currently being updated by the B2C Group, were available only in IMODOCS, and highlighted the need to make them accessible on the IMO website to ensure wider dissemination.

8 REVIEW PROGRESS OF MAKING HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL AVAILABLE ON THE LC/LP WEBSITE

8.1 The Group recalled that in 2017 it had tasked the Secretariat to locate and scan historical documents related to the development of the Protocol, and in 2022, the Group agreed to keep the item on the agenda, to review progress made with respect to the online availability of these documents.

8.2 The Secretariat provided an update on this matter and informed that it had an opportunity to review the existing files, and had initiated discussions with academics to secure a suitable intern or student to assist with the final stage.

8.3 The Group noted the effort of the Secretariat and agreed on the need to convert certain scanned documents into a searchable transcript to facilitate access by Internet users. Recognizing the significant time and human resources required for such work, the Group recommended exploring the use of appropriate AI tools, taking into account the IMO guidelines on the utilization of AI tools. The Group further agreed to keep the item on the agenda, and to review progress made with respect to the online availability of these documents.

9 COMPLIANCE PROMOTION AND OUTREACH: REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT OF MATERIALS AND INPUTS INTO THE WORK OF OTHER LP BODIES

9.1 The Group reviewed the intersessional activities undertaken with the assistance of the Secretariat, related to compliance promotion and outreach activities, including major ocean-related initiatives, with a view to preparing recommendations intended to promote compliance.

9.2 The Group considered document LC 47/8 reporting on the technical cooperation activities related to the promotion and implementation of the LP which had been conducted since the last meeting of the governing bodies in October 2024.

9.3 The Group also considered document LC 47/8/1, presenting recent progress with the SMART-C LC/LP project, and document LC 47/14, providing an update on recent progress with some of the major ocean-related initiatives, in particular those of relevance to the LC/LP and the implementation of the 2016 Strategic Plan.

10 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME OF THE COMPLIANCE GROUP FOR THE PERIOD UP TO AND INCLUDING ITS SEVENTEENTH SESSION IN 2025

10.1 The Group reviewed and updated its ongoing work programme, which is set out in the annex.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 The Secretariat informed that the Compliance Committee of the Stockholm Convention, a global treaty aimed at protecting human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs), had been established in 2023, and had invited IMO to their first meeting to be held online from 24 to 26 November this year.

11.2 The Group noted the importance of collaborating and communicating with the Compliance Committee of the Stockholm Convention, particularly given the close relevance between the London Protocol and the Stockholm Convention as global treaties rather than regional instruments.

11.3 The Group expressed concern that there would be 11 vacancies after this session, if no new nominations were received, and further noted that all three posts allocated to the Groups of Africa, Central Europe and Eastern Europe (CEE), and Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) would remain vacant. In this regard, the Group agreed on the need to promote the work of the Compliance Group and the limited ways that the Group could resolve the problem on its own and agreed to continue further discussion.

11.4 The Group noted the importance of in-person participation, rather than online engagement, in order to foster more active involvement.

12 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR(S) FOR THE NEXT TERM

12.1 The Group elected Prof. Akiko Okamatsu (Japan) to serve as Chair for two years (i.e. through to the end of the 2027 Meeting of Contracting Parties) and Mr. Joe Perry (United Kingdom) was confirmed to serve as Vice-Chair through to the end of 2026.

13 ACTION REQUESTED OF THE GOVERNING BODY

13.1 The governing body is invited to approve the report in general and, in particular, to:

- .1 note the Group's discussion on the case reported by the delegation of the United Kingdom, and the Group's encouragement for other delegations to submit non-compliance cases to the Group;
- .2 note the Group's decision to continue the one-on-one engagement during the meeting of governing bodies, including the coffee break outreach sessions, and to provide a lunchtime presentation; and
- .3 note the Group's discussion on the importance of identifying technical focal points to ensure effective communication.

ANNEX

WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE LONDON PROTOCOL COMPLIANCE GROUP

SD	Description	2026	2027	2028	Target completion date
SD2	1. Treat individual submissions of possible non-compliance as a priority in the work programme when they arise				ongoing (considering the deadline of submission)
SD2	2. Continue working relationships with other relevant LP Groups, including the B2C Group, and the CGAR as well as regional bodies working on related compliance issues				ongoing
SD2	3. Continue to review dumping reports referred to the Compliance Group pursuant to paragraph 6.2 of the CPM, including where concerns have been identified by the LP Scientific Group				ongoing (considering the deadline of submission)
SD1	4. Consistent with the CPM, assist non-Contracting Parties requesting support in acceding to the Protocol in collaboration with the ICG for Ratification and with the support of the Secretariat				ongoing
SD1	5. Assist Contracting Parties to meet compliance obligations, and support interested non-Contracting Parties in strengthening reporting and other requirements that would facilitate their accession to the Protocol				ongoing
SD2	6a. Continue to identify and review the factors contributing to the difficulties experienced by Contracting Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under articles 9.4.1 and 10.3; identify options to address those factors; and make recommendations for improving the rate of reporting under the Protocol and mechanisms for gathering information from Parties, and keep under review the presentation of the information contained in the reports				ongoing

SD	Description	2025	2026	2027	Target completion date
SD2	6b. Continue to identify and review the factors contributing to the difficulties experienced by Contracting Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under articles 9.4.2 and 9.4.3; identify options to address those factors; and make recommendations for improving the rate of reporting under the Protocol and mechanisms for gathering information from Parties, and keep under review the presentation of the information contained in the reports				ongoing
	6c. Continue to identify and review the factors contributing to the difficulties experienced by Contracting Parties in fulfilling their reporting obligations under articles 9.4.1, 9.4.2, 9.4.3 and 10.3 in using GISIS				ongoing
SD2	7. Examine reports received under all other relevant LP articles, use these results in combination with historical documents to clarify the intention behind these requirements, and develop materials to facilitate compliance with these reporting requirements				ongoing
SD2	8. Ensure historical documents related to the development of the London Protocol are available to Contracting Parties				ongoing
SD2, SD3	9. Review and develop materials and inputs regarding its role in compliance promotion in collaboration with the Secretariat				ongoing
SD2	10. Facilitate the creation of tools to support countries in the development of implementing legislation for the London Protocol in working with the ICG for Ratification				ongoing
SD2	11. Continue to develop recommendations to increase participation in the Group as required				ongoing
SD4	12. Consider emerging issues that may represent potential incidents of non-compliance and make recommendations to the governing body as appropriate				ongoing
	13. Work with the Secretariat to review the availability of the technical focal points ensuring appropriate communication				ongoing

ANNEX 6

WORK PROGRAMME OF THE LC/LP SCIENTIFIC GROUPS (2025-2027)

L = Low; M = Medium; H = High Cells with dashed background indicate issues not under the Scientific Groups remit.															
Supports Strategic Directions						Description	WHEN				WHO				
SD1	SD2	SD3	SD4				2025	2026	2027	Target Completion Date	GBs (Contracting Parties)	SGs	LP CG	B2C	OLCP (Sec)
	✓	✓	✓	1		Review and develop guidance and address technical and scientific issues to enhance implementation of the London Convention and Protocol				Ongoing	✓	✓			
	✓	✓	✓	1.1		Waste Assessment Guidance (WAG): Generic and Specific Assessment Guidelines				Ongoing	✓	✓			
						.1 Review of Generic and Specific Guidelines	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
						.2 Review of and experience with Specific Guidelines for the assessment of platforms and other manmade structures at sea	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
						.3 Development of recommendations regarding guidance on fibre reinforced plastic (FRP) vessels	M	L		2025		✓			
						.4 Review and experience of further guidance on disposal site selection	L	L	L	Ongoing		✓			
						.5 Development of recommendations about further guidance on marine cumulative effects assessment	L			2025		✓			
						.6 Review of and experience with practical implementation of the WAGs	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
						.7 Update of the interim action levels (IALs) every five years at a minimum	M	M	M	2026		✓			
						.8 Collection of information on protection of higher trophic levels as related to the WAGs	L	L	L	Ongoing		✓			
						.9 Waste prevention techniques	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
						.10 Consideration of the consequences of new waste prevention techniques on implementation of the LP/LC	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
						.11 Revision of the guidance on removal of anti-fouling coatings	H			2025		✓			
✓	✓	✓		1.2		Other technical and scientific issues					✓	✓			
						.1 Habitat modification/enhancement	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
						.2 Beneficial use of waste or other materials	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
						.2.1 Inventory on beneficial use and habitat enhancement activities (info submitted to LC/LP)	M			2025		✓			
✓	✓	✓		1.3		Monitoring and Assessment					✓	✓			
						.1 Reports and assessment of field monitoring	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓			
						.2 Research results, new techniques and strategies	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
				1.4		Science Day					✓	✓			
✓	✓	✓				. 1 Identify Science Day topic to support effective implementation of the LP/LC or to identify and evaluate emerging issues. As appropriate, invite experts to participate in Science Day formatted as an open symposium	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
✓		✓		2		Address and manage climate change					✓	✓			
✓		✓		2.1		CO ₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations (LP)					✓	✓			
						.1 Experience with implementation of CO ₂ sequestration guidelines/technologies and their application	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓			
						.2 Compilation of information on ongoing projects and experiences with the application of the CO2 sequestration guidelines	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓		✓	

Supports Strategic Directions				Description		WHEN				WHO					
SD1	SD2	SD3	SD4			2025	2026	2027	Target Completion Date	GBs (Contracting Parties)	SGs	LP CG	B2C	OLCP (Sec)	
	✓		✓	2.2	Marine Geoengineering				Ongoing	✓	✓				
					.1 Keep under review the marine environmental implications of marine geoengineering	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓				
					.2 Evaluation of GESAMP (WG 41 phase 2) report on marine geoengineering activities	H	H	H	2025		✓				
					.3 Compilation of information on planned and ongoing marine geoengineering projects	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓				
✓	✓		✓	3	Boundary issues and emerging matters of concern					✓	✓	✓			
✓	✓	✓	✓	3.1	Cooperation with certain UN agencies and industry orgs., as appropriate, with regard to:				Ongoing	✓	✓				
					.1 Riverine and marine disposal of tailings and associated wastes from mining operations						✓				
					.1.1 Evaluation of GESAMP WG 42 report Vol. A on impacts of wastes and other matter in the marine environment from mining operations, including marine mineral mining	M	M	L	2024		✓				
					.1.2 Share information on actions undertaken by other bodies, e.g., OSPAR				Ongoing	✓					
					.2 Marine Litter and Microplastics						✓				
					.2.1 Update the inventory on issue of marine litter and microplastics (LP/LC relevant issues)	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓				
					.3 Cooperative measures to assess and increase awareness of environmental effects related to waste originating from chemical munitions dumped at sea	M	M	L	tbd		✓				
					.4 Deep Seabed Mining						✓				
					.4.1 Deep seabed mining in Area: Evaluation of relevant GESAMP report Vol. B; provision of expertise regarding waste assessment to ISA	H	H	L	Ongoing		✓				
					.4.2 Deep seabed mining in areas of national jurisdiction: development of summary of seabed mining activities/projects taking place in areas of national jurisdiction	L	L	L	tbd		✓				
					.5. Outstanding cooperative work						✓				
					.5.1 Jettisoned space vehicle components - dialogue with COPUOS	L	L	L	Ongoing		✓			✓	
	✓			3.2	Underwater noise from anthropogenic sources (LP-LC noise related issues only)	L	L	L	Ongoing	✓	✓				
	✓	✓		4	Address matters related to the management of radioactive wastes and other matter					✓	✓				
	✓	✓		4.1	Review of ongoing issues in relation to dumping of radioactive wastes and other matter	L	L	L	Ongoing	✓	✓				
	✓			5	Promote and improve compliance with the LP and LC					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	✓			5.1	Implementation of compliance procedures and mechanisms (LP)	H	H	H	Ongoing			✓			
	✓			5.2	Improve reporting under the LP and LC	H	H	H	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	✓			5.3	Compliance with the reporting requirements under the LP and LC	H	H	H	Ongoing	✓		✓			
	✓				.1 Contracting Parties submit annual reports on dumping permits issued	H	H	H	Ongoing	✓					
	✓				.2 Contracting Parties submit their compliance and field monitoring reports	H	H	H	Ongoing	✓					
	✓				.3 Contracting Parties submit their legislative and administrative measures, and the effectiveness of the measures				Ongoing	✓					
	✓				.4 Provide assistance existing and prospective parties to strengthen reporting				Ongoing			✓	✓	✓	
	✓				.5 Implementation of electronic reporting of dumping activities	M	M	M	2026					✓	

Supports Strategic Directions				Description	WHEN				WHO				
SD1	SD2	SD3	SD4		2025	2026	2027	Target Completion Date	GBs (Contracting Parties)	SGs	LP CG	B2C	OLCP (Sec)
	✓			.6 Enhanced collaboration with regional bodies on reporting	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓		✓		✓
	✓			.7 Review, circulate and publish summary reports with data for target SD1	H	H	H	Ongoing					✓
	✓			.8 Review, circulate, and publish all data associated with target SD2, including annual summaries of reports received (e.g. dumping, permits issued, monitoring, legislative and admin measures, and the effectiveness of the measures).	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓	✓		
	✓			5.4 Implementation of the Action Plan to Improve Reporting under the LP and LC	H	H	H	Ongoing	✓	✓	✓	✓	
	✓			5.5 Technical/Scientific review and assessment of dumping and monitoring reports	H	H	H	Ongoing		✓			
	✓			5.6 Reporting of observed dumping incidents which may be in violation of international treaties	L	L	L	Ongoing	✓		✓		
✓	✓	✓		6 Promote LP through outreach, technical cooperation and assistance to existing members for implementation and prospective members for ratification or accession					✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
✓	✓		✓	6.1 Provide technical cooperation and assistance to existing and prospective members	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓	
				.1 Complete "Barriers to Compliance" Project Work Plan	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓	
				.2 Reporting on the Technical Co-operation Trust Fund	M	M	M	Ongoing					✓
				.3 Create tools to support countries in the development of LP implementing legislation							✓	✓	✓
✓		✓		6.2 Provide outreach materials to prospective new Contracting Parties and existing members new communications materials, including regional workshops and country-to-country outreach strategies	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓	
				.1 Improvement/update of the LP and LC website	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓	✓
				.2 Promotion of the LP and LC at international meetings, including high level audiences	M	M	M	Ongoing					✓
				.3 Update all existing publications and prepare new publications, and promote approved publications in accordance with communications plans (LC/LP publications)	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓		✓	✓
	✓	✓		.4 Manuals, Bibliographies and Information Exchange (related to other bodies)	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
✓	✓	✓		.5 Establish a communications group or dedicated individual or promotions officer to support SD1, SD3	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓		✓	✓
✓	✓	✓		.6 Create a virtual centre of excellence in SGs (e.g., on dredging and disposal, geoengineering, etc., through better proposition of guidance and technical assistance				Ongoing	✓			✓	✓
				.7 Development of e-Learning course on the implementation of the LP	M	M	M	Ongoing		✓			
	✓			6.3 Update national focal points, technical contact points and expert registration	M	L	L	Ongoing	✓				✓
	✓	✓	✓	7 Promote the work of the LP and LC externally through relations with other organizations in the field of marine environmental protection					✓	✓	✓		✓
		✓		7.1 Improve and further develop the implementation of collaborative arrangements with other UN entities, IGOs and NGOs	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓			✓
	✓		✓	7.2 Advice from international organizations on specific issues – GESAMP	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓			✓
	✓	✓		7.3 Contribution to the major ocean-related initiatives on reporting and assessment of the state of the marine environment	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓			
				.1 Follow up with Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (UN Regular Process)	M	M	M	Ongoing	✓	✓			
				7.4 Promotion of LP/LC scientific groups as formal body for scientific cooperation and collaboration				tbd					

Supports Strategic Directions				Description	WHEN				WHO				
SD1	SD2	SD3	SD4		2025	2026	2027	Target Completion Date	GBs (Contracting Parties)	SGs	LP CG	B2C	OLCP (Sec)
				8	Address overarching and cross-cutting issues, including assessment of implications of changes to marine environment (SD4 first task of implementation plan)								
✓	✓	✓	✓	8.1	Operationalize and implement the Strategic Plan for the London Protocol and London Convention				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	✓			8.2	Review Work Programmes				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

ANNEX 7

SUBSTANTIVE ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA FOR THE FORTY-EIGHTH CONSULTATIVE MEETING AND THE TWENTY-FIRST MEETING OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

No.	Item
1	Adoption of the agenda
2	Status of the London Convention and Protocol (LC/LP)
3	Progress on the implementation of the LP/LC Strategic Plan
4	Consideration of the report of the Scientific Groups
5	Marine geoengineering including ocean fertilization
6	CO ₂ sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations
7	Compliance issues: .1 consideration of the report of the 18th session of the Compliance Group (LP) .2 other issues
8	Technical cooperation and assistance
9	Marine litter and microplastics
10	Interpretation of the LC/LP
11	Matters related to the management of radioactive wastes
12	Monitoring for the purposes of the LC/LP
13	Revision of the LC/LP Rules of Procedure
14	Relations with other organizations in the field of marine environmental protection
15	Administrative arrangements and future work: .1 review of the Joint Work Programme for the period 2026 to 2028; .2 budget and financial accounts for the administration of the London Protocol; .3 report on the LC/LP Technical Cooperation Trust Fund; and .4 substantive items for the agenda and date for the forty-ninth Consultative Meeting and twenty-second Meeting of Contracting Parties (2027)
16	Any other business
17	Election of officers for both governing bodies
18	Consideration and adoption of the report

Legend:

"LP": Specific agenda item for the Meeting of Contracting Parties
No marking: Joint items

ANNEX 8

STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS *

ITEM 5 – Report of the Working Group

Statement by the delegation of France

"Madame la Présidente, chers délégués,

Nous souhaitons remercier sincèrement les co-présidentes du groupe de travail sur la géo-ingénierie marine, ainsi que l'ensemble des délégués et observateurs investis dans ce même groupe, pour les échanges et le travail accomplis lors de cette réunion.

Tout au long de cette semaine, la France a activement participé au groupe de travail sur la géo-ingénierie marine. Nous saluons la constructivité des échanges qui s'y sont tenus.

Tout comme vous, nous attachons une importance particulière à la prévention des sources potentielles de pollution affectant les écosystèmes marins. A cet égard, nous réaffirmons notre position de grande prudence à l'égard des techniques de géo-ingénierie marine, qui présentent des risques potentiels pour l'environnement et les sociétés humaines, qui ne peuvent être ignorés. Au regard des connaissances scientifiques limitées, ces techniques restent encore largement immatures et devront faire l'objet d'une recherche rigoureuse, encadrée et holistique. Le développement récent de certaines initiatives commerciales, non conformes aux principes de la recherche scientifique légitime, renforce la nécessité de poursuivre la régulation internationale des techniques de géo-ingénierie marine. En ce sens, nous sommes convaincus de l'importance des travaux que nous menons dans le cadre de la Convention et du Protocole de Londres.

Tel qu'indiqué dans le rapport soumis par Greenpeace et ACOPS international, les activités de géo-ingénierie marine concernent l'ensemble des pays. Nous encourageons donc les Parties ici présents qui le souhaiteraient, à se joindre aux travaux des groupes intersessions. Les termes du mandat approuvés pour le groupe de correspondance intersessionnel sur la géo-ingénierie marine nous semblent fournir une base de travail satisfaisante pour la poursuite des travaux.

La déclaration annexée au rapport du groupe de travail présentée aujourd'hui représente le fruit d'échanges approfondis et de nombreux compromis, nécessaires pour parvenir à un consensus commun. Si le texte final se révèle moins ambitieux que la version que nous soutenions initialement, nous saluons la volonté collective d'aboutir à un accord. Nous regrettons néanmoins que certains éléments importants pour nous et d'autres délégations, notamment en matière de protection de l'environnement et de régulations des initiatives commerciales, n'aient pas été retenus. Nous tenons également à souligner que nous ne souhaitons pas que certaines pratiques observées durant cette semaine de négociations, constituent un précédent au sein de ces réunions. En effet, les décisions déjà prises par les Parties continuent de nous engager.

Nous rappelons que ces réunions devraient constituer des espaces de dialogues permettant de définir des orientations, mais aussi notamment de réguler les activités avec un cadre

* Statements have been included in this annex as provided by delegations/observers, in the order in which they were given, sorted by agenda item, and in the language of submission (including translation into any other language if such translation was provided). Statements are accessible in all official languages on audio file at: <http://docs.imo.org/Meetings/Media.aspx>

normatif contraignant, nécessaires pour la poursuite de nos travaux. Nous espérons que le groupe de travail intersessionnel, dans le cadre du point n°1 du mandat, permettra d'avancer en ce sens.

Nous tenons néanmoins à féliciter l'adoption par consensus de cette déclaration, qui témoigne de la possibilité d'un dialogue multilatéral. Nous sommes convaincus que cette déclaration contribuera à rendre plus visible hors de notre enceinte l'ampleur du travail entrepris et les prochaines étapes qu'il nous reste à accomplir. Nous réaffirmons notre engagement à contribuer à ce travail lors de la prochaine période intersessionnelle. "

Statement by the delegation of Germany

"Good morning colleagues, thanks chair,

We would like to thank all colleagues for their constructive approach to our work with regard to MGE and in particular to the joint, committed and constructive drafting of the statement that we just endorsed. We think this is a great outcome of this week. We also look forward to the work in the intersessional period.

We would like to reemphasize that we had hoped for more. We still believe, that the draft statement proposed by France and Germany, with its core elements – what has happened, what LP has done and what needs to be done – is more than timely and highly relevant.

We are convinced that more international cooperation and collaboration is needed to ensure that the international community can adequately address the challenges ahead with regard to marine geo-engineering: These are:

- To ensure that only high-quality and responsible research is undertaken, providing a reliable basis on which to decide how to move on with climate change policy, and to allow for science-based decision on which – if any- MGE techniques, are capable to contribute to counteracting climate change.
- To safeguard that the marine environment is not further polluted by the conduction of unapproved and ineffective MGE techniques.
- To ensure that projects claiming to be MGE do not only serve the economic interests of some entities without having a significant effect on climate change.
- To ensure that the economic social and cultural interests of countries of the Global South are not negatively affected.

We would like to emphasize that more international cooperation is needed. More international cooperation requires commitments. Commitments to change the behaviour at home as well. Germany has committed itself to apply the core elements of the 2013 amendment as well as the 2022 and 2023 statements by amending its domestic legislation. What are these core elements?

- No commercial deployment as there is no scientific evidence for its effectiveness so far.
- To establish an ex ante regime with regard to all MGE research projects.
- To apply the Annex 5 as a tool of ensuring the protection of the marine environment.

- And to ensure trust and cooperation with all partners by following the consultation requirements pursuant to Annex 5.

We believe that assessment and governance tools which are developed and agreed upon by the Contracting Parties should be implemented domestically. However, we understood that several CP which have ratified the 2013 amendment do not apply the core elements domestically. National transposition has been postponed until the 2013 amendments enters into force internationally. Meaning a long way off. This is of high concern for us.

Furthermore, we need to emphasize that in our view, CP agreed by unanimously endorsed the statement of 2022 and 2023 that CP should use Annex 5 of 2013 amendment to assess current project applications. We are convincing that the internal implementation of Annex 5 and the AF to be developed are necessary to avoid negative effects on the marine environment. As Annex 5 also requires the consultation of other potentially affected states and international regimes, the use of Annex 5 is also a trust-building mechanism, in essence, an instrument to strengthen international cooperation.

Let me conclude: We see the increasing number and size of MGE projects, partly undertaken by private or commercial entities, including start-ups, as a significant challenge and concern to us. we therefore are of the view, that more international cooperation and coordination is needed. And we would like to stress that international cooperation and coordination require trust and commitment. Commitment in the sense that instruments, mechanisms and tools which have been developed at international level meaning in context of LC and LP are to be implemented domestically.

Only thereby, and we would like to emphasize that we will be able to cope with our responsibility to protect the oceans for current and future generation.

Many thanks."
