





## **DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF OCEAN AFFAIRS AND THE LAW OF THE SEA (Part II)**

Pursuant to the resolution entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea" adopted by the General Assembly on 11 December





## **Ocean Observation**

Paragraph 214 of the resolutions stresses the importance of increasing the scientific understanding of the oceans-atmosphere interface, including through participation in ocean observing programmes. In this context, the new Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Steering Committee of the IOC met in June 2012. Significant progress on its work plan was achieved by the time of its second meeting (25-27 March 2013, Qingdao, China), supported in large part by the UNESCO Emergency Fund. Some highlights of this work plan include: (i) Establishment of three disciplinary panels to determine societal requirements for sustained observations of physical, geochemical, and biology/ecosystems variables. These panels are based on the Ocean Observation Panel for Climate (OOPC) for physics, the IOCCP for carbon/geochemistry, and a new panel for biology/ecosystems, building on the legacy of the Panel for Integrated Coastal Observations (PICO) and in cooperation with the GEO Biodiversity Observing Network and OBIS. (ii) Engaging with key conventions and assessments on their needs for ocean information, including with the Convention on Biological Diversity at their 11th Conference of the Parties (October 2011, Hyderabad, India), the UN World Ocean Assessment and the GEF-