



- that it is essential to look comprehensively at all sectoral impacts on coastal and marine systems, determine which are most serious, and set priorities.

Relating this to ocean management, the resources and systems we're trying to maintain – fish stocks, transboundary habitat like wetlands and reefs, and large marine ecosystems -- are not global. They occur

A key challenge is to tailor and focus international institutional efforts on the *particular* environmental and socio-economic conditions of *each* region, based on an ecosystems approach. In most regions, this will require stronger governance mechanisms in order to:

- develop specialized regional assessments that emphasize the environmental and socio-economic implications for those in the region who depend on ocean resources, improving the quantity and quality of information for decision-makers at national and regional levels;
- set goals and priorities in an ecosystems context;
- sort out the best use of different conventions (regional and global) and ensure the adequate and integrated expression of global conventions at the regional level;
- determine how to use the program resources of IGOs (regional and global) efficiently, taking economies of scale into account; for example, programs in information and assessment or technical and legal training; and
- draw on the knowledge and skills of NGOs and civil society, the scientific and technical community, and the private sector in setting goals and priorities and helping realize them.

It would be useful to agree on a regional mechanism(s) to better cohere the activities of UN bodies active in ocean issues and sort out relationships among other relevant bodies. An effective regional mechanism or forum could provide firm and agreed guidance for the programs carried out by global and regional bodies, in keeping with applicable conventions. In my view, this mechanism(s) should be designed/agreed in each region and provide for the involvement of civil society and the private sector. In many regions, the evolution of the regional seas arrangements toward more comprehensive ocean management offers a substantial building block. The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, already mentioned by several speakers, is a potential model for multi-stakeholder involvement.

There remain several vital roles for global ocean governance:

- the over-arching legal framework provided by the LOS Convention;
- the overview of oceans developments provided by the annual report of the U.N. Secretary-General and review by the oceans informal consultative process and the General Assembly;
- information exchange and collaboration among regional oceans programs (inter-regional), and the review of links with global IGOs and conventions, evidenced by the regular annual meetings of the regional seas arrangements under UNEP auspices; meetings of regional fishery bodies under FAO auspices; and, increasingly, efforts by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC/UNESCO) to promote information exchange among its regional programs; and
- mobilizing worldwide expertise, technology, and finance to address oceans problems, for example through the Global Programme of Action on Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA).

This would be an effective, multi-layered system of ocean governance that responds to the WSSD mandate to protect and manage the natural resource base of social and economic development.

Regional ocean governance is evolving, but we need to designate mechanisms at the regional level that can help each region use international institutions (conventions, IGOs) more effectively to tackle their specific oceans concerns and priorities and the linkages among them.