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INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
(of Unesco)

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY
AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION
ON MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

This Memorandum of Understanding between the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) defines areas where the IAEA and the IOC have common interests and objectives in protecting the marine environment, and, in relation to these areas, identifies activities that they could jointly undertake to implement the programmes adopted by the General Conference of the IAEA and by the Executive Council or Assembly of the IOC. It thus provides a framework for continuing co-operation, and a basis for further joint programming between IAEA and IOC.

I. GENERAL

IAEA has responsibilities under various international conventions for the protection of the marine environment from the discharges of radioactivity to the sea. Through its International Laboratory of Marine Radioactivity in Monaco, the IAEA carries out studies of radioactive and, to a limited extent, non-radioactive pollutants in the sea, provides technical assistance and training and provides intercalibration and data quality control services to laboratories on a world-wide scale.

The main functions of the IOC are to promote, plan and co-ordinate through the concerted action of its Member States, international co-operative marine research and monitoring, and to provide the Member States with related ocean services, including the International Oceanographic Data Exchange System (IODE). The IOC is responsible for the co-ordination of the Long-term and Expanded Programme of Oceanic Exploration and Research (LEPOR), "designed to assist in a better understanding of the marine environment through science ..." (ref. United Nations General Assembly, resolution 2414 (XXIII), 17 December 1968). The IOC, acting as a joint specialized

mechanism, also provides for the co-ordination of the scientific programmes relating to oceanography, and for the relevant training, education and mutual assistance activities of the UN Organizations that are Members of the Inter-secretariat Committee on Scientific Programmes Relating to Oceanography (ICSPRO).

The objectives of the IAEA and IOC thus coincide in a number of areas, and in working together to achieve these shared objectives they hereby undertake to co-ordinate their programmes in order to attain results of a practical and tangible nature of direct benefit to their respective Member States.

Further activities and/or projects within the activities already identified may be proposed by the Director General of the IAEA or the Secretary of the IOC. Joint programming and/or projects will be agreed by both of them.

II. AREAS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND CO-OPERATION

1. Marine Pollution Data Quality Control

IOC has developed through its Programme on Global Investigation of Pollution in the Marine Environment (GIPME) a Marine Pollution Monitoring Programme (MARPOLMON) which is supported technically by the Group of Experts on Methods, Standards and Intercalibration (GEMSI) of GIPME.

IAEA is providing reference materials for intercalibration of marine analytical data for radioactivity and other pollutants which are used in studies on marine pollution on a global scale.

Where mutual interests exist or arise in these matters as they concern the marine environment, the IAEA and IOC will co-operate in the implementation of joint programmes and services so as to avoid overlap and achieve financial economies in their activities related to the control and management of marine pollution.

2. Technical Assistance, Education and Training related to Marine Pollution Control

IOC promotes and co-ordinates Training, Education and Mutual Assistance (TEMA) in the marine sciences and related aspects through all of its existing global and regional programmes.

IAEA offers training to fellows from Member States in radioecology, marine radioactivity analysis, and other aspects of the behaviour of marine pollutants where facilities permit.

Co-operative efforts in these marine environmental matters will be maintained and developed using the expertise and facilities available to IAEA and to IOC.

3. Marine Pollution Monitoring and Research

The GIPME programme relies upon national programmes and regional activities of the IOC and is complementary to those of other U.N. organizations (e.g. UNEP, FAO). IAEA is conducting a number of regional investigations of marine radioactivity and co-operates with U.N. organizations (e.g. UNEP) in other regional studies of marine pollution.

In national and regional marine pollution studies with similar objectives, IAEA and IOC will co-operate in the development and execution of programme activities for reasons of efficiency, as well as to achieve maximum economies and harmonization of effort.

III. ARRANGEMENTS FOR CO-OPERATION

IAEA and IOC will maintain a close working relationship in accordance with the provisions of this Memorandum of Understanding and such arrangements as may be agreed upon by the Secretary of IOC and the Director General of IAEA. This will be achieved through regular consultations, participation in relevant meetings, visits and correspondence.

The joint activities defined in this Memorandum of Understanding will be reflected in programme and budget proposals submitted to the Board of Governors of the IAEA and the Executive Council or Assembly of IOC.

The formulation of joint programmes between IAEA and IOC will be a continuous process. The IAEA and IOC recognize the financial constraints inherent in their respective programmes and budgets and undertake to encourage either individually or jointly, appropriate financial assistance from external sources.

IV. FINAL PROVISIONS

This Memorandum of Understanding is without prejudice to agreements concluded by the IAEA or the IOC with other organizations or programmes within the United Nations System.

This Memorandum of Understanding will enter into effect upon its signature by both Parties. It may be terminated by either Party by giving to the other written notice six months prior to the proposed date of termination.



M. Ruivo
Secretary
Intergovernmental
Oceanographic Commission



Hans Blix
Director General
International Atomic
Energy Agency

Date: 18 May 1982

Date: 10 May 1982