



To approach the goal of comprehensive security at the regional level, in accordance with the Law of the Sea Convention, Agenda 21, and the Agenda for Peace, seven basic steps have to be taken.

1. A revision of the mandate of Regional Seas Programmes, moving them from the sectoral approach of the 'Seventies to the integrated approach required by Agenda 21 and the Agenda for Peace;
2. The establishment of mechanisms at the level of coastal communities and municipalities, which should be trans-sectoral and include all sectors of coastal populations, whether governmental, nongovernmental, scientific or private-sector, in accordance with Agenda 21. Corresponding mechanisms for planning and decision-making should be established at the national level, and proper linkages should be established between local and national planning and decision-making.
3. The new, trans-sectoral and inter-ministerial organs of decision-making should form the basis of representation at the meetings of Contracting Parties. The Ministries of the Environment, although an essential part of such organs, can no longer be the sole representatives at meetings of Contracting Parties with a mandate that now includes all uses of the Regional Seas. The expansion of the mandate also requires the participation of other intergovernmental institutions and organisations, such as regional commissions of the "Competent International Organisations of the U.N. System, Regional Economic Commissions, and Regional Development Banks, as well as nongovernmental organisations, at the meetings of Contracting Parties.
4. The expansion of the mandate from sectoral to comprehensive requires the establishment of some form of Executive body which should be elected by the Meeting of Contracting Parties. This might be the most cost-effective form of creating a Regional Commission for Sustainable Development. Following the pattern established by the U.N. Commission for Sustainable Development, the Regional Commissions for Sustainable Development might have a High-Level Segment, attended by the Ministers of the Contracting Parties. Such Ministers should come, in each case, from the Ministry responsible for the issue under discussion, on which decisions will have to be taken (e.g., fisheries, tourism, nonliving resources, joint surveillance and enforcement, etc.)
5. The expansion of the mandate and the emphasis on integrated coastal management will require reconsideration of the geographical scope of Regional Seas Programmes. If integrated coastal management includes the control and elimination of river-borne and atmospheric pollution, which may originate in the hinterland, including, in many cases, land-locked countries, these countries must be included in planning and decision-making.
6. Regional systems for joint Research and development of environmentally and socially sustainable development should be established, in accordance with Articles 276 and 277 of the Law of the Sea Convention and the requirements of Agenda 21 as well as of the Climate Convention. Such a system might be coordinated by a Regional Research and training Centre for Sustainable Development. This would be the only new institution to be created under the broadened mandate. It could be financed in accordance with the provisions of the Climate Convention.
7. New Sources of funding regional projects and assisting developing countries in the fulfilment of their responsibilities should be identified. A small tax on tourism might serve as a pilot experiment, and feasibility studies on the modalities of levying such a tax should be studied.