

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL - IV - ON SUPPORTING STRUCTURED AND
MODUS OPERANDI FOR THE INDEPENDENT WORLD COMMISSION ON THE
OCEANS

1. After review of the proposals formulated by the preparatory consultations, and taking into account recent exchanges of views on the matter, a fourth alternative was elaborated having in mind the need to provide the required logistic support to the work of the Commission and at the same time to simplify structures and modus operandi, both for reasons of efficiency and economy. On making this proposal, recent experience in the preparation on the UN reports ocean affairs was taken into account.

2. As agreed during the consultation in Malta, a small "Office of the President" shall be established, with a view to provide the President with the required support and monitoring of the affairs of the Commission. It is envisaged that a member of the Commission be designated by the President as General Coordinator of the project and be located in his Office as well as one Special Assistant. The General Coordinator shall be Member of the Executive Council.

3. An Executive Secretary of the Commission, working full time, shall be recruited as soon as possible, as well as one or two Assistant/Technical Secretaries and a small supporting secretariat, to be located in Lisbon in the Headquarters of the Mário Soares Foundation and, temporarily

(possibly until the first quarter of 1996), in an other appropriate location (e.g. Fundação Oriente). The advantage of locating one of the Technical Secretaries in Malta, should be considered.

4. The preparation of major background thematic inputs (to be based upon the general outline of the table of contents) are expected to cover inter alia: i) Living resources, including Bio-diversity (as well as uses and management); ii) Marine non-living resources, uses and management; iii) Ocean and Climate; sea level variations; uncertainties; iv) State of Health of the marine environment and anthropogenic effects, pollution; v) Coastal Zone and multiple uses and conflicts; vi) Deep Sea and related issues; vii) Marine Science and applications, monitoring, data exchange; viii) Integrated Management of the Oceans and Coastal Zones; ix) The "new ocean regions", UNCLOS/UNCED and related legal issues; x) Institutional aspects and arrangements; xi) Public awareness and participation in the decision-making process; xii) Capacity building at national and regional levels.

These, or other selected themes, should be commissioned as soon as possible to highly qualified experts, preferably with experience in writing to general public.

The estimate fee for the preparation of each paper is about US\$ 10.000. It should, also, be considered a complementary allocation (US\$ 2.000) to compensate experts (2 or 3) to comment and interact with the main author of papers.

5. The commissioned studies will be used as background for consideration of the major topics selected by the Commission, possibly through Task Teams formed by members directly concerned, may be strengthened through co-opted or invited personalities.

6. The organization of the regional hearings on ocean affairs because of the diversity of issues are a rather complex and costly exercise. However, regional views and perspectives are essential to the success of the work of the Commission. One possible alternative approach is the organization of regional consultations to be attended by representatives/experts of active regional organizations operating in various fields of ocean affairs. With the possible exception of the Indian Ocean, where IOMAC may provide an appropriate forum, (the same may apply to the CPPS, covering the Southwest Pacific) the consultations should be organized under the guidance of the Vice-Chairman of the region concerned, and sub-contracted, case by case, to IOI, or other appropriate organizations.

As an example, regarding the Central Easter Atlantic (West Africa), the regional consultation could involve Officers/experts of the Regional Fisheries Commission of the Eastern Atlantic (CECAF, of FAO), the IOC Committee for the Eastern Central Atlantic (IOCEA), the Western Africa Regional Sea Programme of UNEP/OCAPAC, as well as other competent international organizations part of the UN System (e.g. UNECA) non governmental organizations and development projects.

Such regional consultations should be preceded by the

circulation of relevant commissioned background papers so as to facilitate a critical review and inputs, by participants, based on their views regarding major regional issues and particularities as well as by correspondence.

7. Regarding the action calendar, priority should be given in 1995 to:

- i) Mobilization of funds;
- ii) Establishment of the basic supporting structure, the recruitment of the Executive Secretary and secretariat staff;
- iii) Contacts for the preparation of thematic papers, in accordance with a standard format.
- iv) Preparation for the first session of the Executive Committee and Commission (September 1995);
- v) Arrangements for regional and thematic consultations/hearings (expected to take place in the first quarter of 1996).

8. Special attention should be given by the Executive Council to the arrangements for the preparation of the Final Report/Book, through the earlier identification and contract of a prestigious writer/editor to prepare the book (Final Report) summarising the work of the Commission in a style for general public