

STATEMENT ON MARINE GEOENGINEERING

Note: This is an advance, unedited version of the statement. The final version will be available in the report of the Meetings, document LC 47/18.

During the forty-seventh Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the twentieth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol, the Parties continued their discussions on marine geoengineering. The Parties considered updated draft working definitions of prioritized marine geoengineering techniques; the role of other international bodies in the governance of marine geoengineering; and the discussions of the Scientific Groups on marine geoengineering. The Parties also identified measures and developed a work plan to increase ratifications of the London Protocol and its 2013 amendment on marine geoengineering.

The Parties also considered the recent findings of the *Progress update by the GESAMP Working Group 41 on Ocean Interventions for Climate Change Mitigation* (LC 47/5/2), including that:

- .1 "marine carbon dioxide removal approaches are still in the early stages of development, with significant knowledge gaps and uncertainties" requiring further legitimate scientific research";
- .2 each approach "comes with trade-offs in terms of durability, energy demand and environmental impact, and would require large ocean areas if considered for large-scale implementation"; and
- .3 "while some approaches may have the potential to provide durable carbon removal, they require high energy inputs, large ocean areas and significant infrastructure, may be difficult to verify, and could potentially conflict with other ocean uses".

In addition, Parties received information from ACOPS and Greenpeace International, as well as OceanCare (LC 47/5/6 and LC 47/5/5), on the growing number of MGE activities which are by nature and scale of relevance to all countries. Parties are aware that MGE activities, including those conducted by private or commercial companies, have the potential to result in deleterious effects, as defined in Article 1, paragraph 5*bis* of the 2013 Amendment, and Parties note the need to ensure that activities are consistent with the applicable provisions and instruments under the London Convention and the London Protocol.

Furthermore, following the aforementioned received information, some Parties expressed their concerns on the possible environmental, social, and economic impacts of MGE on developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including the need for access to information and resources.

The Parties will continue to advance their scientific understanding of marine geoengineering techniques to inform their potential actions, mindful of the precautionary approach outlined in article 3 of the London Protocol and relevant resolutions of the London Convention and London Protocol.

This work of the London Convention and London Protocol Parties and the Scientific Groups will continue in the intersessional period as summarized below.

- .1 endeavour to develop a draft resolution to provide clarity and address challenges regarding the purpose and application of the LC and LP to marine geoengineering, taking into account, as appropriate, the 2013 amendment,

the relevant resolutions and the statements of 2022 and 2023 and the envisioned measures necessary to deal with the challenges identified;

- .2 further refine the working definitions for the four prioritized MGE techniques in collaboration with the other Intersessional Correspondence Group under the Scientific Groups, and forward the definitions to the Correspondence Group under the Scientific Groups, for consideration;
- .3 clarify how to apply the draft revised Ocean Fertilization Assessment Framework (OFAF) and advise on the next steps needed to promote its effective implementation by the Contracting Parties of the LC/LP and provide a way forward for the governing bodies in 2026, including the communication of the framework;
- .4 clarify how to apply the draft assessment frameworks on ocean alkalinity enhancement, biomass sinking and marine albedo modification being developed by the Scientific Groups and advise on the next steps needed to promote their effective implementation by the Contracting Parties of the LC/LP and provide a way forward for the governing bodies in 2026, including the communication of the frameworks;
- .5 identify options for the listing of the new techniques for the purpose of article 6bis and develop suitable regulatory text where appropriate and in collaboration with the other Intersessional Correspondence Groups under the Scientific Groups by considering the potential regulations of each technique separately, taking into account the review of scientific information undertaken by the Scientific Groups;
- .6 discuss the interpretation of paragraph 8.4 of annex 5 with the aim of understanding the implications of and coming to a common interpretation of this paragraph, applying the consideration that economic interests do not influence the design, conduct and/or outcome of the proposed activity and that there should not be any financial and/or economic gain arising directly from the experiment or the outcomes; and
- .7 explore, without prejudice, the work of the LC/LP with regard to MGE considering, if necessary, the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement).

Parties considered the work of other international instruments, frameworks and bodies, which have relevance to marine geoengineering, and will continue coordination with other international entities to both encourage the sharing of information and also clarify the roles of these entities in the governance of marine geoengineering.
