

The following statement was adopted by the 45th Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the 18th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol (LC 45/LP 18) and is taken from LC 45/18, annex 4.

STATEMENT ON MARINE GEOENGINEERING

This statement builds on the work on marine geoengineering carried out so far by the following:

- the governing bodies of the London Convention and London Protocol (including their statement from October 2022);¹
- the Scientific Groups to the London Convention and London Protocol (including their statement from March 2023);² and
- the resolutions adopted by these bodies on marine geoengineering to date (resolutions adopted in 2008,³ 2010⁴ and 2013⁵), including the 2013 resolution adopting the amendment to the London Protocol to regulate marine geoengineering.

The governing bodies of the London Convention and London Protocol, mindful of the precautionary approach outlined in article 3 of the LP, endorse the conclusions of the Scientific Groups that:

- each of the four marine geoengineering techniques prioritized for evaluation has the potential for deleterious effects that are widespread, long-lasting or severe; and
- there is considerable uncertainty regarding their effects on the marine environment, human health, and on other uses of the ocean.

Marine geoengineering techniques include both marine carbon dioxide removal and solar radiation management. The four techniques evaluated are ocean alkalinity enhancement; biomass cultivation for carbon removal; marine cloud brightening; and surface albedo enhancement involving reflective particles and/or other materials.

The LC and LP Parties are continuing to evaluate options for appropriate action, including the applicability of the existing frameworks⁶ of LC and LP and potential further regulation.

The governing bodies reiterate the urgency of this work against the background of the rapidly growing interest into marine geoengineering techniques and the number and diversity of marine geoengineering projects that have either been conducted, are currently being

¹ As agreed at the forty-fourth Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter, 1972, convened in conjunction with the seventeenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention, 1972. <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/pages/Marine-geoengineering.aspx>

² <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/Pages/WhatsNew-1854.aspx>

³ [https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/LCLPDocuments/LC-LP.1%20\(2008\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/LCLPDocuments/LC-LP.1%20(2008).pdf)

⁴ [https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/LCLPDocuments/LC-LP.2\(2010\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/LCLPDocuments/LC-LP.2(2010).pdf)

⁵ [https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/LCLPDocuments/LP.4\(8\).pdf](https://wwwcdn.imo.org/localresources/en/KnowledgeCentre/IndexofIMOResolutions/LCLPDocuments/LP.4(8).pdf)

⁶ The LP/LC frameworks include the provisions of these treaties, resolutions and guidance documents that are of relevance in this regard, including those mentioned in paragraph 1 above.

undertaken or are planned for the future and that in some cases are being driven by commercial interests.

In addition, the governing bodies are of the view that there are risks of adverse environmental impacts of these techniques with limited knowledge of their effectiveness, and as such activities other than legitimate scientific research should be deferred.

The governing bodies are of the view that the requirements set out in the Assessment Framework for Scientific Research Involving Ocean Fertilization⁷ and the Assessment Framework for Matter that May be Considered for Placement Under annex 4, as applicable, including criteria for legitimate research, form the appropriate basis for the assessment of proposed research and development projects relating to marine geoengineering, and strongly encourage their application thereof.

Furthermore, the governing bodies of the London Convention and London Protocol encourage Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Paris Agreement, the Convention on Biological Diversity, signatories to the Agreement under 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), bodies thereof as well as other relevant bodies such as UNEP and UNEA to take the work by the LC/LP on marine geoengineering into account, under their respective mandates, including to address climate change. The governing bodies of the London Convention and London Protocol also invite active cooperation with all those bodies that are working on issues to which marine geoengineering, and geoengineering more broadly, are of direct relevance.
