

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2021 P4G Seoul Summit and Green Future in Ocean

Submitted by the Republic of Korea

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information on "Building Back Bluer through Oceans", a session of the Green Future Week held in conjunction with the 2021 P4G Seoul Summit in Seoul, the Republic of Korea, on 26 May 2021. From the session, seven implementation strategies came out, followed by the adoption of the Seoul Declaration as an achievement of the Summit.

Strategic direction, if applicable: 3 and 4

Output: 4.3 and OW 24

Action to be taken: Paragraph 21

Related documents: None

Introduction

1 The Republic of Korea hosted the 2021 P4G Seoul Summit from 30 to 31 May 2021 in conjunction with the "Green Future Week", a week-long pre-event to the Summit with the theme of "Inclusive Green Recovery Towards Carbon Neutrality". The Summit included thematic sessions on five primary sectors, i.e. food and agriculture, water, energy, cities and the circular economy. A Green Future Session that was also included as a programme of the Summit covered a range of themes in relation to the ongoing global dialogue on climate response, as follows: Carbon Neutrality; Green New Deal; Civil Society; Oceans; Business Forum; Biodiversity; Green Technology; Forests; Green Finance; and Future Generation Sessions.

2 In particular, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries (MOF) of the Republic of Korea held the Oceans Session on Wednesday, 26 May 2021 with the theme of "Building Back Bluer through Oceans" as set out in the annex.

Background

3 P4G, "Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030", is a global initiative launched in 2017 to address the most imminent challenges that our planet faces: responding to climate change and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. P4G explores, nurtures, and supports cooperation partnerships among the governments, private sector, and civil societies in five key areas with respective SDGs:

- .1 food and agriculture (SDG 2);
- .2 clean water (SDG 6);
- .3 clean energy (SDG 7);
- .4 sustainable cities (SDG 11); and
- .5 circular economy (SDG 12).

4 The strategic purpose of P4G is to support innovative public-private partnerships that address global sustainable development needs. In doing so, P4G will help promising partnerships to begin and scale up their efforts and inspire the world to replicate their success stories.

5 P4G works in partnership with countries, global organizations and businesses targeting to achieve sustainability. P4G's partner countries are Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia and South Africa. All have committed to the Global Goals and the Paris Agreement and have enacted measures to promote sustainable and green growth.

6 P4G's organizational partners include the Global Green Growth Institute, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, International Finance Corporation, World Economic Forum, hosting partner World Resources Institute and more than 140 business partners.

7 The first P4G Summit was hosted by Denmark on 19 to 20 October 2018 in Copenhagen with the theme of "Accelerating Partnerships" to seek to form a global coalition for sustainable growth through innovative partnerships. Resonating the success of the inaugural P4G Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, the Republic of Korea hosted the second P4G Summit in Seoul in 2021.

Summary of the Oceans Session in the 2021 P4G Seoul Summit

8 The Oceans Session consisted of two parts, as follows: carbon neutrality in maritime shipping and marine plastic litter.

9 The first part of the session with the theme of carbon neutrality in maritime shipping commenced with keynote addresses. Drawing attention to the initial IMO GHG Strategy (2018) to reduce annual GHG emissions from shipping by 50% from 2008 levels by 2050, it highlighted the importance of carbon neutrality in the maritime sector, as sea-borne transportation plays a crucial role in international trade, carrying 90% of global trade and that emissions from maritime transport in 2019 will account for 10% of global emissions by 2050 if no remedial actions are taken.

10 Presentations were rendered on the Getting to Zero Coalition/P4G Partnership and carbon-neutral innovation of zero-emission vessels. The presenters highlighted both growth and business opportunities in maritime decarbonization and introduced their ground-breaking low-carbon solutions on clean energy from wind and solar power, ammonia-fuelled ships and the smart centre for the shipbuilding process through decarbonization partnerships.

11 The panel emphasised the role of governments in formulating policies on the development of technology and carbon-neutral vessels as well as the necessity of investment in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. In addition, as shipping is one of the most crucial sectors accounting for the largest proportion of the global logistics, it was deemed that shipping could be a catalyst for the global decarbonization transition by minimizing risks and securing economies of scale. In particular, the discussion covered hydrogen as one of the most viable fuels in the shipping industry in the carbon-neutral era. In this context, the discussion noted that ports can play a major role in creating carbon-neutral shipping by providing facilities where sufficient hydrogen can be produced and supplied.

12 The second part of the session opened with a video on "no plastic in the ocean challenge", followed by keynote speeches. Warning of rapidly increasing marine litter and its impact on human health, the speakers called with one voice that immediate action must be taken through a multilateral framework about the concrete implementation such as a levy on the production of virgin polymers and the full lifecycle of plastics management.

13 As a side event of the session, MOF held a signing ceremony with the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) to launch a new alliance, the East Asian Seas Initiative on Clean Oceans. The Initiative includes NGO partners from the Philippines, Indonesia and Viet Nam, and is to build capacity in the marine litter management.

14 It was followed by presentations on marine litter response and prevention projects, and regional efforts on marine plastics. The marine litter clean-up technology utilizing floating booms, with the goal of completely cleaning up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, was introduced, and the preventative project of the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to raise awareness on the issue and enable lasting behaviour change for citizens was also presented. In addition, the activities of the Southeast Asia Marine Plastics Program (SEA-MaP) in tackling marine debris such as reducing upstream input, enhancing waste management and minimizing leakage, and creating value, were noted.

15 A panel discussion considered the paradigm shift required in plastic waste management, public-private partnerships and regional knowledge gaps in marine debris and plastic pollution. In particular, it was emphasized that marine plastics can be addressed not through a single solution, but multiple complementary policies considering its full lifecycle at national, regional and international levels. The importance of and necessity for researching microplastics were mentioned as well. Ultimately, to reduce the generation of plastic waste, it was suggested to approach from a recycling perspective and replace products using plastics with products that can be recycled.

Outcome

16 Sixty-seven leaders from different parts of the world and more than 200 representatives from government, international organization, business, civil society and even the future generation participated in the P4G Summit. Through the Summit, the political commitment of the international community on climate action has been renewed while elevating the level of attention on what P4G stands for and how important public-private partnerships are.

17 The leaders and experts of governments, industries, international organizations and civil societies that participated in the summit called for partnerships and solutions for climate action, raised the awareness of the public on carbon neutrality and gathered global resolve.

18 The Seoul Declaration adopted in this summit encompasses the necessity for cooperation, solidarity and support of the international society in order to overcome the pandemic and climate crisis; implementation of the Paris Agreement; transition and practice efforts in the economic and social sector for achieving sustainable development; expansion of efforts of civil society and businesses to solve climate issues; and the need for international cooperation to tackle marine pollution. The full text of the Seoul Declaration is posted on the 2021 P4G Seoul Summit webpage (<https://2021p4g-seoulsummit.kr/notice/detail.do>).

19 Also, the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of the Republic of Korea derived seven implementation strategies in the Oceans Session, as follows: hydrogen port construction; HMM 2050 carbon-neutral strategy; super-large ammonia-fuelled container ship design; cooperation plan for a smart port in Rotterdam; new alliance the East Asian Seas Initiative on Clean Oceans; a master plan for marine waste and contaminated sediment management; and cooperation on marine litter with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

Future plan

20 The third P4G summit is scheduled to be hosted by Columbia in 2023.

Action requested of the Committee

21 The Committee is invited to note the information provided in this document.

ANNEX

Ocean Session Programme of 2021 P4G Seoul Summit

Session I (Zero-Emission Vessels) Programme

Keynote Speeches	
Seong-hyeok Moon (Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, Republic of Korea (ROK))	"Oceans: Solutions for a Net-zero Future"
Ki-tack Lim (Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO))	"IMO Collaborating towards a Greener Future"
Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan (Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Investment, Indonesia)	
Partnership Presentation	
Johannah Christensen (Managing Director, Global Maritime Forum, Denmark)	"The Getting to Zero Coalition/P4G Partnership: Growth and Business Opportunities in Maritime Decarbonization"
Na-rae Han (Principle Engineer, Daewoo Shipbuilding and Maritime Engineering (DSME), ROK)	"Carbon Neutral Innovation: Highlights of Collaboration for Zero-Emission Vessels"
Panel Discussion	
Moderator: Boo-ki Kim (President, Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering, ROK)	Allard Castelein (CEO, Port of Rotterdam, The Netherlands)
Mark Darley (President for Marine and Offshore, Lloyd's Register, U.K.)	Jae-hoon Bae (CEO, Hyundai Merchant Marine (HMM), ROK)
Sung-geun Lee (CEO, DSME, ROK)	Anne Steffensen (CEO, Danish Shipping, Denmark)

Session II (Marine Plastic Litter) Programme

Keynote Speeches	
Peter Thomson (UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Ocean, Fiji)	"Assuring a Blue Future"
Per Bolund (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Environment and Climate, Sweden)	"A Blue Ocean without Litter"
Side event "Launching 'East Asian Seas Initiative on Clean Oceans' " Seong-hyeok Moon (Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, ROK), Sang-keun Song (Deputy Minister of Oceans and Fisheries, ROK), Aimee T. Gonzales (Executive Director, PEMSEA, The Philippines), Won-bae Kim (Head of Planning and Partnership Development of PEMSEA, ROK), Sun-wook Hong (Director of Our Sea of East Asia Network, ROK)	
Partnership Presentation	
Boyan Slat (Founder & CEO, The Ocean Cleanup, The Netherlands)	"The Largest Clean-up in History"
Nicole Leboeuf (Acting Assistant Administrator, NOAA, U.S.)	
Ky-Anh Nguyen (Director of Sustainable Development, ASEAN Secretariat)	"Southeast Asia Marine Plastics Program (SEA-MaP)"
Panel Discussion	
Moderator: Wonjoon Shim (Principal Researcher, Korea Institute of Ocean Science and Technology (KIOST), ROK)	Inger Andersen (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Denmark)
Sang-hee Hong (Principal Researcher, KIOST, ROK)	Hans Axel Kristensen (CEO, PLASTIX, Denmark)
Marco Lambertini (Director General, WWF International, Switzerland)	Micheal Danagher (Canadian Ambassador to Korea, Canada)