

G20 Leaders Conclusions on Oceans, 2008-2010

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G20 Research Group, August 9, 2011

Summary of Conclusions on Oceans in G20 Leaders Documents

Year	# of Words	% of Total Words	# of Paragraphs	% of Total Paragraphs	# of Documents	% of Total Documents	# of Dedicated Documents
2008 Washington	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 London*	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2009 Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2010 Toronto*	51	0.5	1	0.7	1	50	0
2010 Seoul	252	1.6	3	1.4	2	40	0
Average	60.6	0.42	0.8	0.42	0.6	18	0

Notes:

Data are drawn from all official English-language documents released by the G20 leaders as a group. Charts are excluded.

“# of Words” is the number of ocean-related subjects for the year specified, excluding document titles and references. Words are calculated by paragraph because the paragraph is the unit of analysis.

“% of Total Words” refers to the total number of words in all documents for the year specified.

“# of Paragraphs” is the number of paragraphs containing references to oceans for the year specified. Each point is recorded as a separate paragraph.

“% of Total Paragraphs” refers to the total number of paragraphs in all documents for the year specified.

“# of Documents” is the number of documents that contain ocean subjects and excludes dedicated documents.

“% of Total Documents” refers to the total number of documents for the year specified.

“# of Dedicated Documents” is the number of documents for the year that contain an ocean related subject in the title.

* Meeting in addition to annual scheduled meeting.

Introduction and Definition of Issue Area

Covering roughly 75% of the earth’s surface, the oceans control the planet’s climate; produce approximately 80% of its oxygen; and serve as the primary source of food for over a billion people. In spite of the apparent immensity of the world’s oceans, what was once considered inexhaustible and resilient has become finite and fragile. From the disappearance of fish stocks and coral reefs, to the growing threats of climate change, global warming, rising sea levels and the increasing pressure of excessive human use is destroying ocean life and vital coastal habitats. Making matters worse are the rising threats of maritime piracy and terrorism, which pose a significant threat to global trade and security, along with the Westphalian state’s monopoly of force itself.

If current trends continue, and if there is a failure to responsibly govern the world’s oceans, there is risk of much greater problems in the near future, coming at a much accelerated pace. The deadly oil drilling accident in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010, which quickly created the greatest environmental disaster in American history, showed how concentrated crises can erupt to cripple the oceans, and how hard it is for the world’s greatest power, acting alone, to effectively respond. Together such challenges to the planet’s oceans require effective collaboration at the international level if there is to be any hope of success.

The G20 has primarily been concerned with global marine environment protection when dealing with offshore oil and gas exploration.

Search Terms

The following keywords were used for this report.

Inclusions

Coral, deep-seabed mining, fisheries, International Maritime Organization (IMO), land base, marine, maritime, maritime pollution, maritime security, navigation, oceanographic exploration, oceans, oil spills, saltwater, sea ice, seas, seabed, tankers, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS).

Exclusions

Freshwater, lakes

Coding Rules

The unit analysis is the paragraph/sentence.

Need a direct reference to oceans or a cognate term.

Cognate or extended terms can be used without reference to “oceans” if they have previously been directly associated together in Summit communiqué history.

Conclusions on Oceans in G20 Leaders Summit Documents

2008: Washington DC, November 14-15

No references.

2009: London, April 1-2

No references.

2009: Pittsburgh, September 24-25

No references.

2010: Toronto, September 26-27

The G20 Toronto Summit Declaration

Other Issues and Forward Agenda

43. Following the recent **oil spill** in the Gulf of Mexico we recognize the need to share best practices to protect the **marine environment**, prevent accidents related to **offshore**

exploration and development, as well as transportation, and deal with their consequences.

2010: Seoul, November 11-12

The G20 Seoul Summit Leaders' Declaration

13. To provide broader, forward-looking leadership in the post-crisis economy, we will also continue our work to prevent and tackle corruption through our Anti-Corruption Action Plan; rationalize and phase-out over the medium term inefficient fossil fuel subsidies; mitigate excessive fossil fuel price volatility; safeguard the **global marine environment**; and combat the challenges of global climate change.

The Seoul Summit Document

The Global Marine Environment Protection

64. We welcome the progress achieved by the **Global Marine Environment Protection (GMEP) initiative** toward the goal of sharing best practices to protect the **marine environment**, to prevent accidents related to **offshore exploration** and development, as well as **marine transportation**, and to deal with their consequences. We recognize the work done by the **GMEP Experts Sub-Group** and take note of the progress made on reviewing international regulation of **offshore oil and gas exploration**, production and transport with respect to **marine environmental protection** as a first step to implement the Toronto mandate.

65. Future work on the **GMEP initiative** should benefit from relevant findings, as they become available, from the National Commission on the **BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill** in the United States and the Montara Commission of Inquiry in Australia. We ask the **GMEP Experts Sub-Group** to provide a further report, with the support of the **IMO**, **OECD**, **IEA**, **OPEC**, **International Regulators Forum**, and **International Association of Drilling Contractors** and, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, to continue work on the effective sharing of best practices at the 2011 Summit in France.