

REFERENCES TO OTHER TOPICS

UN

– Post 2015 development agenda

The UN Secretary General has transmitted to the General Assembly a report entitled “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development”. It is the key outcome document of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Report: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/67/890&referer=http://www.google.de/url?sa=t&Lang=E. (WEB)

– Marine environment

The Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects have presented the report of their work to the General Assembly. Report: <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N13/334/83/PDF/N1333483.pdf?OpenElement>. (WEB)

ICJ

– Aerial Spraying

The International Court Of Justice (ICJ) has removed from its list of cases the 2008-filed case, “Aerial Herbicide Spraying (*Ecuador v. Colombia*)”, which alleged that toxicity from aerial spraying in Colombia was causing harm in Ecuador. The action follows receipt of a letter from Ecuador, notifying the ICJ of an Agreement between the Parties dated 9 September 2013 “that fully and finally resolves all of Ecuador’s claims against Colombia” in the case, and indicating its wish to discontinue the proceedings. Order: <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/138/17528.pdf>.

– Costa Rica/Nicaragua Cases

The ICJ has denied the request of Costa Rica for a modification of interim measures ordered in the joined *Costa Rica v. Nicaragua* and *Nicaragua v. Costa Rica* cases. By a vote of 15–2, the Court finds “that the circumstances, as they now present themselves to the Court, are not such as to require the exercise of its power to modify the measures indicated in the Order of 8 March 2011”, reiterating that “[the Parties] refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve”. Costa Rica had requested reconsideration of the ICJ’s order limiting its future actions sending personnel into the area, based on the large number of Nicaraguans it has noted in the area, which are not, according to Nicaragua, governmental officials or project developers, but rather private organisation members, undertaking conservation activities; Press Release: <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/150/17482.pdf>.

– Nicaragua/Colombia Dispute Continues

The ICJ’s final decision (EPL 43(1) p 22-25) in the maritime dispute between the governments of Nicaragua and Colombia has not apparently settled the matter. While Colombia has issued a statement that it no longer recognises the ICJ’s jurisdiction, Nicaragua has filed a new claim seeking a ruling on the exact boundary between the two countries’ maritime areas, reportedly in preparation for its commencement of petroleum drilling in the area. Colombia’s president says that he will also pull out of the Bogota Treaty on which the ICJ’s decision was based. It has specifically stated that, as a legal matter, the ICJ decision “cannot be implemented”. Reported: <http://www.icj-cij.org/docket/files/154/17530.pdf>; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-24120241>; and <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-20533659>.

ITLOS to Issue EEZ Fisheries Advisory Opinion

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) has agreed, for a second time, to exercise its advisory powers, acquiescing to a request for an advisory opinion, this time from the Sub-Regional Fisheries Commission (comprised of West African coastal States), to address the respective rights and responsibilities of flag States with regard to flagged fishing vessels fishing in another country’s exclusive economic zone (EEZ). It has requested that interested UNCLOS State Parties submit comments or information on these questions by 29 November

2013. Order: http://www.itlos.org/fileadmin/itlos/documents/cases/case_no.21/C21_Ord_2013-2_24.05_E.pdf.

IRENA: Off-Grid Renewable Energy

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) has published the key findings and recommendations of the International Off-Grid Renewable Energy Conference (IOREC). Recommendations for policy-makers: http://www.irena.org/DocumentDownloads/Publications/IOREC_Key%20Findings%20and%20Recommendations.pdf. (WEB)

Africa Food Security Conference

The First Africa Food Security Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya in August, spurred by memories of the severe droughts experienced in the Sahel in 2012 and in the Horn of Africa in 2011, coupled with the realisation that Africa’s population is expected to constitute about 23 percent of the global population by 2050. IISD meeting briefing: http://www.iisd.ca/food/afsc1/brief/afsc1_brief.pdf.

International Conference on Small Island Developing States

The world’s small island developing states (SIDS), numerically the overwhelming majority of UN Member States, recently held its 3rd international conference, to identify “practical and pragmatic actions that could be taken by all countries” on issues of concern. Outcome document: <http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/265Barbados%20Outcome.pdf>.

USA: Climate Change Plan proposed

In his June climate action plan, President Obama proposed reducing the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the national power plants, investing in clean energy technology, as well as limiting warming chemicals and further efforts relating to the “Montreal Protocol”. The author of this item urges all parliamentarians to join this very necessary course of action and no longer delay taking action on environmental matters. Reported: http://www.nytimes.com/2013/08/02/opinion/a-republicancase-for-climate-action.html?_r=0. (WEB)

Japan: Fukushima Continuing Issues

Two years and five months after the nuclear disaster, Greenpeace has reported that 300 tonnes of highly contaminated water have escaped from storage tanks at the nuclear facility site in Fukushima, Japan – a condition which the government has categorised as a “level 3” (serious) incident. Other commentators, stating that scientifically radiation has little impact on seawater environments and that the large amount of spillage is quite small when compared with the amount of water in the ocean, have dismissed the event as a matter of small concern. Reported: <http://greenpeaceblogs.org/2013/08/23/worst-incident-at-fukushima-for-two-years/>.

ENB seeking funding

Addressing all recipients of the Earth Negotiation Bulletin (ENB), the Vice President of the International Institute for Sustainable Development explained the ENB’s vital coverage and is seeking new funding partners to continue its important work. Reported: <http://www.mail-archive.com/enb@lists.iisd.ca/msg00490.html>. (WEB)

First African Government-backed REDD+ Project Goes Operational

The Wildlife Conservation Society reports that carbon credits generated from protecting thousands of hectares of endangered rainforest in northeastern Madagascar have now been certified for sale. This is the first African project under the Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) program of the international climate-change framework to reach this stage. See Butler, R.A. 19 Sept. 2013 “Credits from first African government-backed REDD+ project go on sale”, <http://news.mongabay.com/2013/0917-makira-carbon-madagascar.html>.

(All references TRY unless otherwise noted)

