

## REFERENCES TO OTHER TOPICS

### IPCC-29 Deliberates on Next Steps

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a meeting focused primarily on “tooling up” to meet the new challenges that will arise as global action on climate issues is reauthorised. Well recognised as a model of technical support to international action, the IPCC’s 29<sup>th</sup> meeting focused on selecting Bureau members and developing its agenda and other tools for the Panel’s upcoming activities. The Panel reviewed its accomplishments focusing on how its work has been taken up by the various bodies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. The report of the meeting will be made available online at <http://www.ipcc.ch/meetings/index.htm>.

### Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety

The 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IFCS was held in Dakar, Senegal, on the theme “Global Partnership in Chemical Safety, Contributing to the 2020 Goal.” In a move that may serve as an example to the many international meetings which have become “fixtures,” the Forum focused significant attention on the question of whether and how to modify its objective and activities, to avoid duplication with similar bodies, enhance synergies and save costs, including potentially by merging with other bodies. Reports on the Forum are available from the ENB at <http://www.iisd.ca/chemical/ifcs6/>.

### UNEP’s Mercury Partnership Finalises a Framework

Following decision 24/3 of the UNEP Governing Council (reported at page 358, issue 37/4), the UNEP Chemicals Process convened a meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, at which the overarching framework for the Global Mercury Partnership was finalised. The framework outlines the goal, organisational arrangements (including a Partnership Advisory Group), and operational guidelines for the individual partnership areas. The official report of the meeting can be found at <http://www.chem.unep.ch/mercury/UGMP/Meeting.htm>.

### BASEL Convention COP Concludes in Bali

COP-9 of the Basel Convention adopted more than 30 decisions on a range of issues including the ongoing work on integration, cooperation and/or coordination between the Convention and the Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions (to be reported in detail early in 2009). Critical regulatory issues were also under consideration. Switzerland and Indonesia announced a joint initiative to convene an informal gathering prior to OEWG-7 on substantive

### UN: ILC 60<sup>th</sup> Session

The International Law Commission held its 60<sup>th</sup> session this summer (report to be posted at <http://untreaty.un.org/ilc/sessions/60/report>). The following agenda topics (A/CN.4/587) are of special interest to our readers:

- *Shared natural resources*: chapter IV of the Report recommends national legislative action, and adopts a first very basic draft set of articles. It refrained from addressing the draft articles’ relationship to other international agreements, or the settlement of natural-resource disputes, both expected to be tackled in future meetings.
- *Effects of armed conflicts on treaties*: chapter V adopts draft articles that list categories of treaties and their continued operation during armed conflict, together with commentaries thereto. It recommended that the Secretary General transmit articles 16–21 to Governments for comments and observations by 1 January 2010.
- *Reservations to treaties*: chapter VI adopts 23 draft guidelines dealing with formulation and withdrawal of acceptances and objections, and the procedure for acceptance of reservations, together with commentaries thereto.

The Commission also considered the thirteenth report of the Special Rapporteur (A/CN.4/600) on reactions to interpretative declarations and referred to the Drafting Committee 10 draft guidelines on reactions to interpretative declarations. The main issues in the debate concerned the relationship between conditional interpretative declarations and reservations, as well as the effects of silence as a reaction to an interpretative declaration. (MJ)

issues related to the convention’s long-proposed Ban Amendment. IISD’s report of the meeting can be found online at <http://www.iisd.ca/basel/cop9/>.

### Countries Cooperating in Forest Initiative

The Country-Led Initiative on financing sustainable forest management (SFM) in support of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) concluded their deliberations and agreed to a Summary Report which compiles views expressed during the plenary sessions and breakout groups throughout the week and will be forwarded to the UNFF’s Ad Hoc Expert Group upcoming meeting in Vienna. IISD’s report of the CLI’s ongoing process can be found online at [http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/ymbvol152num\\_4e.pdf](http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/sd/ymbvol152num_4e.pdf).

### Africa Commission Considers Climate Change

The Danish-sponsored Africa Commission – a body of African policy and law-makers and other leaders dedicated to presenting new and creative strategies to revitalise and strengthen international development cooperation with Africa – met in September to initiate its in-depth consideration of the climate change issues. The group focused on the particular application of relevant issues on Africa’s urban areas, water needs, food security, energy and forest resources. Its outputs are part of a work-in-progress, available online at <http://www.iisd.ca/africa/climate/acccca/>.

### Indian Ocean Marine Turtle Cooperation Continues

The Convention on Migratory Species/Indian Ocean South East Asia – which is actually a “Marine Turtle Memorandum of Understanding” met in Bali, focusing on coastal and fisheries interaction with marine turtles. UNEP had earlier reported mixed results in turtle protection in the region.

### Sustainable Tourism Baseline in Development

The process for development of “sustainable tourism baseline criterion has commenced under a programme launched by the Rainforest Alliance and the UN Foundation. The partners have indicated that the criteria themselves will be officially presented at the World Conservation Congress in Barcelona this fall. Further information is available through [guilia.carbone@iucn.org](mailto:guilia.carbone@iucn.org).

### EU to Include Aviation Within its Emissions Trading System

The EU has announced that it has agreed on rules for including air transport in the EU’s carbon Emissions Trading System (ETS) as of 2012, not only allowing trading of emissions reductions in the aviation sector, but including those issues in the new GHG cap. A press release on this proposal is available at [http://www.bmu.de/english/current-\\_press\\_releases/pm/print/41960.php](http://www.bmu.de/english/current-_press_releases/pm/print/41960.php).

### US EPA to Reopen Libraries

The US government has come to an agreement with the American Federation of Government Employees, which has enabled the reopening of the US/EPA libraries. The libraries were closed in 2006 (See *EPL*, Vol. 36 (2006) No. 5 on page 236).

### Chile Adopting Whale Protection

Within its declared exclusion zone, Chile through its President has stated that it will adopt legislation declaring its 5000 kilometre coastline and the associated EEZ as a protected area for whales. The country halted all whaling by its legal and regulated ships and fishermen in the 1970s.

### New Guidelines on Pollutant Release and Registration

This summer has seen the launch of a comprehensive guidance document on the UN/ECE Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers, designed to help Parties interpret and fulfil their obligations under the Protocol. It also aims to assist officials in countries considering ratification to evaluate and prepare for the obligations and to increase understanding by potential users of the system.

