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## ABSTRACT

The presentation will highlight the work of the OSPAR Convention, which works through a mix of legally binding decisions and other Agreements, such as Recommendations and Guidelines. OSPAR is guided by the ecosystem approach to the integrated management of human activities in the North-East Atlantic. The work of OSPAR focuses on the objectives under the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy;

1. To halt and prevent by 2020 further loss of biodiversity in the OSPAR maritime area, to protect and conserve ecosystems, and to restore, where practicable, marine areas which have been adversely affected;
2. to combat eutrophication in the OSPAR maritime area, with the ultimate aim to achieve and maintain a healthy marine environment where anthropogenic eutrophication does not occur;
3. to prevent pollution of the OSPAR maritime area by continuously reducing discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances, with the ultimate aim to achieve concentrations in the marine environment near background values for naturally occurring substances and close to zero for man-made synthetic substances;
4. to prevent and eliminate pollution and take the necessary measures to protect the OSPAR maritime area against the adverse effects of offshore oil and gas activities by setting environmental goals and improving management mechanisms, so as to safeguard human health and to conserve marine ecosystems and, when practicable, restore marine areas which have been adversely affected;
5. to prevent pollution of the OSPAR maritime area from ionising radiation through progressive and substantial reductions of discharges, emissions and losses of radioactive substances, with the ultimate aim of concentrations in the environment near background values for naturally occurring radioactive substances and close to zero for artificial radioactive substances;
6. to ensure integrated management of human activities in order to reduce impacts on the marine environment, taking into account the impacts of, and responses to, climate change and ocean acidification.

In achieving the overall objectives of the strategy and to contribute to, and regionally implement, the work required by international legal frameworks and various ongoing initiatives at the global level OSPAR cooperates with international organisations, such as the Arctic Council, the International Maritime Organization, the International Council for

Exploration of the Sea and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

The presentation will propose areas for future cooperation in the Arctic to protect the marine environment. OSPAR and the Arctic Council working groups are in a unique position to work on emerging issues to enhance understanding of the state of the Arctic ecosystem and the decisions linked to the management of human activities in the region, and to enhance comparability. OSPAR and the Arctic Council Working Groups can work across 'borders' to link up with non-Arctic convention areas from neighbouring seas and oceans to share best practice for implementing the ecosystem approach to management of the marine environment.