Sub-regional Workshop on dispersant use policy

Johannesburg, South Africa

31 October – 2 November 2023

REPORT

Hosted by South Africa

NOTE

This document has been prepared within the framework of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa as a contribution to the implementation of the biennial action envisaged for this Initiative. The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the IMO or Ipieca concerning the legal status of any State, Territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

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GI WACAF

Ms. Anaïs Guillou
GI WACAF Project Manager
anais.guillou@ipieca.org
Giwacaf-project@ipieca.org

Ms. Rim Al Amir
GI WACAF Project Coordinator
ralamir@imo.org
Giwacaf-project@ipieca.org

South Africa - host country

Ms. Stella Matlala
Deputy Director, Marine Environment Protection, Department of Transport
Mamadis@dot.gov.za

Facilitator – Oil Spill Response Ltd (OSRL)

Ms. Sarah Hall
Remote South Africa Base Manager
sarahhall@oilspillresponse.com

Facilitator – International Maritime Organisation (IMO)

Ms. Natálie Kirk
Technical Officer (on secondment from ITOPF)
nkirk@imo.org

Presentation of the GI WACAF Project

The Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa

Launched in 2006, the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa (GI WACAF) Project is a partnership between the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and Ipieca, the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues, to enhance the capacity of partner countries to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills.

The mission is to strengthen the national system for preparedness and response in case of an oil spill in 22 West, Central and Southern African Countries in accordance with the provisions set out in the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC 90).

To achieve its mission, the GI WACAF Project organizes and delivers workshops, seminars and exercises, that aim to communicate good practice in all aspects of spill preparedness and response, drawing on expertise and experience from within governments, industry and other organizations working in this specialized field. To prepare and implement these activities, the Project relies on the Project's network of dedicated government and industry focal points. Promoting cooperation amongst all relevant government agencies, oil industry business units and stakeholders both nationally, regionally and internationally is a major objective of the Project during these activities.

GI WACAF operates and delivers activities with contributions from both the IMO and seven oil company members of Ipieca, namely Azule Energy, BP, Chevron, ExxonMobil, Eni, Shell, Total Energies.

More information is available on the Project's website: www.giwacaf.net

Executive summary

Title of the event: sub-regional workshop on dispersant use policy

Date of the event: 31st October to 2nd November 2023

Type of event: sub-regional workshop

Number of participants: 26

Venue: Emperors Palace Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

Summary:

This workshop gathered national authorities from South Africa, Namibia and Angola, to discuss respective national dispersant use policies in the light of transboundary cooperation.

The overall objective of the activity was to foster discussions and cooperation between the above-mentioned countries about dispersant use. The workshop aimed at:

- Harmonising the countries' understanding of dispersant use and regulations
- Sharing and exchanging on respective national dispersant use policies
- Assessing *national* needs and priorities when utilising dispersant as a response strategy

To these ends, the dispersant workshop aimed to cover:

- the science and experience relating to dispersant use (and relevant to dispersant policy development);
- the role of dispersant in preparedness and response in the context of Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA) / Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA);
- key elements to be included in national dispersant use regulation;
- cross boundary issues and opportunities for cooperation, as well as potential support from international governments and industry;
- recognised sources of international good practice

Contents

Introduction

Context of the workshop

Angola, Namibia and South Africa show ongoing progress around the use of dispersants on national levels and would highly benefit from sharing and discussing their national dispersant use policy. In this context, the GI WACAF Project, with the assistance of the IMO propose the three neighbouring countries to organise such a workshop to foster discussions, and, ultimately, cooperation, between Angola, Namibia and South Africa on the subject of dispersant use by:

Objective of the Workshop

The overall objective of the activity was to foster discussions and cooperation between the above-mentioned countries about dispersant use. The workshop aimed at:

- Harmonising the countries' understanding of dispersant use and regulations
- Sharing and exchanging on respective national dispersant use policy
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To these ends, the dispersant workshop aimed to cover:

- The science and experience relating to dispersant use (and relevant to dispersant policy development)
- The role of dispersant in preparedness and response in the context of Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA) / Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA)
- Key elements to be included in national dispersant use regulation
- Cross boundary issues and opportunities for mutual aid / support from government and industry
- Recognised sources of international good practice

Agenda, venue, participants

Programme: please see annex 2.

Venue: Emperors Palace conference centre, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Participants: please see annex 3.

Opening ceremony

Please see annex 1.

Activities and presentations

Day 1

Presentation of the GI WACAF Project, introduction of workshop objectives

Rim Al Amir first presented the objectives and activities of the Project as well as the respective roles of IMO and Ipieca. Reference was made to the history of the GI WACAF project which was established in 2006 with a focus on strengthening the capacity of countries to prepare for and respond to oil spills through the promotion of public-private cooperation. It was highlighted that participation in the regional initiative involves 22 countries of the western coast of Africa, from Mauritania to South Africa. Since its inception, significant progress has been made in improving spill response capabilities by raising awareness through national and regional workshops and training, such as this workshop.

Sarah Hall then introduced the current workshop, highlighting the objectives and expected outputs.

Participants were given the opportunity to present themselves and provide details of their experience in the subject matter at hand.

Session 1: Reminders about dispersant – technical sessions

Overview of oil spill response strategies – focus on dispersant and capabilities and limitations of dispersant

This presentation focused on an overview of at-sea spill response options - the response toolbox. Emphasis was placed on encountering oil quickly being key to an effective offshore response, highlighting that the efficiency of at-sea containment and recovery operations can vary widely depending on operational, logistical and environmental constraints., and recovery is usually limited to between 5% and 20% of the initial spilled volume.

Next the advantages and challenges of different response techniques were explained including at-sea containment and recovery, in-situ burning and the main focus - surface dispersants. We covered what dispersant is, dispersant products, application techniques, when they should be used, why they are used, their limitations and dispersant logistics. We also touched on the capabilities of subsea dispersants including when they are used and why they are used.

When to spray surface dispersant in an incident

The next presentation focused on when to spray dispersants, highlighting that dispersant use is only appropriate under certain conditions. Factors to consider include oil type and weathering state, weather conditions and implications for environmental and economic resources.

The ITOPF video on at-sea response techniques was shown which explained how the above listed factors influenced the success of dispersant use during the 1996 Sea Empress incident.

Dispersant toxicity and dispersant toxicity tests were discussed, emphasising that any negative impacts of dispersant spray operations are generally due to dispersed oil and not to the dispersant itself. The potential negative impacts on environmental and economic resources were discussed and the concept of Net Environmental Benefit Analysis was introduced. Ipieca's dispersant use decision aide – a simple one-page infographic developed to help first responders decide if dispersant use is appropriate – was presented and participants were given the opportunity to utilise it during the tabletop exercise which took place in the afternoon.

Equipment types and resources

Next the focus was on equipment types and resources - an overview of tier 1, 2 and 3 resources was given and delegates were asked what tier 2 resources they knew of in their respective countries.

Following this the presentation focused on the Tier 3 surface dispersant resources available with examples given from Oil Spill Response Ltd (OSRL) including dispersant spray aircraft, dispersant stockpiles, vessel dispersant spray and dispersant effectiveness monitoring equipment, dispersant effectiveness tests and capping toolkits.

We lightly covered the technology of SubSea Mechanical Dispersant (SSMD) touching on the advantages (adding to the response toolkit a method to achieve subsea dispersion, without the use of chemicals enhancing oil spill response capability) and limitations (until its tried, demonstrated and proven in a real sub-sea event, confidence levels vary as to whether it will work).

Monitoring techniques

Lastly, we presented on SMART - Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies including Tier 1 (visual monitoring), Tier 2 (visual monitoring, real time water column monitoring and Tier 3 (expands on Tier 2 - monitoring at multiple depths (fluorometer) and water quality measurements / more extensive water samples. We showed photographs and videos of dispersant working and not working effectively.

Session 2: Tabletop exercise highlighting the potential impacts of cross boundary incidents

Participants took part in a tabletop exercise on dispersant use during a cross boundary oil spill. The scenario was an offshore well blow out resulting in an oil spill which impacted the waters and shorelines of two fictitious neighbouring countries. Fictitious dispersant policies and equipment lists were also provided. The participants had two tasks:

1. List and discuss the potential impacts on the environment, the economy, the industry and on regulators, and;
2. Mount a credible response which is in line with the national dispersant policies of both countries and takes into account the constraints imposed by the equipment lists provided.

The objective of the exercise was to explore the real-life implications of national dispersant policies and identify areas requiring cross-boundary alignment and coordination.

During the exercise, the participants pinpointed several critical areas pertaining to national regulations on dispersant use, the overarching preparedness framework, and cross-boundary cooperation. Careful consideration of these aspects is essential for the effective regulation of chemical dispersant use. These points are summarised in the GI WACAF ‘Recommendations’ section of this document.

Presentations: Day 2

Session 3: what does good look like? What’s our common goal?

What to consider when developing a national dispersant policy

Angola, Namibia, and South Africa are currently in different stages of revising or developing their national regulations for dispersant use. The first session of day two aimed to assist participating countries in navigating this process. To accomplish this objective, two guidance documents were supplied - one created by the GI WACAF and the other by The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

These documents provide examples of how to structure a dispersant policy and offer guidance on handling crucial decisions, including approval of dispersant products, establishing geographical boundaries for dispersant use, and specifying post-application monitoring requirements.

Participants were given time to familiarise themselves with both documents, enabling them to easily refer to them for guidance in the future when working on their respective national regulations.

Example of a regional joint plan on marine pollution preparedness and response

The aim of this sub session was to illustrate 'what good looks like' by giving an example of a regional plan – the 'Joint Plan on Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response between Norway and the United Kingdom' - the NORBRIT plan. The objective of the NORBRIT plan is to establish procedures to be followed during joint Norway / United Kingdom counter-pollution operations at sea. The plan largely applies to spills resulting from major incidents involving offshore installations, such as blow-out and damage to submarine pipelines. However, it is not only confined to such events, and includes any marine pollution incidents (of whatever origin) within the NORBRIT Region which are of sufficient severity to warrant joint action. The plan details notifications, initial response actions, responsibilities and resources.

Participants were given time to read the NORBRIT plan and asked to complete two tasks;

1. List the key information in the plan which you think is key to include
2. List anything else you think you would be useful to include

Participants identified a number of points they valued as being key to include such as having clear responsibilities between countries, not overriding national legislation, having a clear defined geographical scope, being flexible when defining which country leads the response and having the ability to transfer control depending on the scenario, the operator remaining responsible to the home country, exercises being planned in advance and the UK and Norway sharing resources.

Following the review of the NORBRIT plan we gave an overview and lessons learned from a major UK / Norway exercise (exercise Shen) that tested the NORBRIT plan in 2018 during a three day exercise, held in Scotland, UK. The objective was to test the UK National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) for marine pollution from shipping and offshore installations and to test the NORBRIT plan. The scenario revolved around the release of oil from a sub-surface well head in the North Sea, 30NM from the UK shoreline, and 90NM from the median line. The exercise report can be found on the UK government website here Exercise SHEN Final Report V2.0 (publishing.service.gov.uk).

Self-assessment: identifying the 'key buckets' for the dispersant roadmap

Next, we asked two questions of the participants;

1. If a spill occurred and the dispersant response was a success, what would have been the key *considerations* that would have been successfully implemented during the incident?
2. If the spill was a cross boundary incident between two countries what other key *considerations* would have been successfully implemented during the incident?

We asked participants to divide into groups and list the '*key buckets of consideration'* to focus on during a dispersant response e.g. clear and concise notification contact list and process and also the '*key buckets of consideration'* to focus on during a cross boundary incident.

The outcome of this session was identifying a list of '*key buckets of consideration'* (during an incident utilising dispersant) that each country would then use on day three to self-assess against its own dispersant policy progress which may be useful in identifying future development areas. The list was then summarised into a 'roadmap' that countries can continue to refer to moving forward - see annex 4 for a template of the roadmap.

What's our common goal?

To close out day two and after illustrating to participants 'what good looks like' (GIWACAF and REMPEC dispersant policy templates and the NORBRIT plan) we wanted to discuss and agree the wording of a common goal that we wished to achieve as a sub-regional group. The following goal was agreed;

"Be better prepared to respond to national and sub-regional oil spill incidents utilising dispersants"

Presentations: Day 3

Session 4: country self-assessment and updates

National representatives were given time to review their national dispersant policy against the key "buckets" of consideration identified during day 2. The objective was to take stock of the state of the national regulation development or review and identify areas of focus for further efforts. The resulting roadmap serves as a dynamic tool, allowing regulators to continuously update and track their progress throughout the review or development process.

Each country's representative then shared with fellow attendees the key aspects of their national regulations concerning dispersants. These presentations, along with ensuing discussions, served as a platform for neighbouring nations to acquaint themselves with each other's regulations and identify potential areas for collaborations and alignment.

Each country has been provided with a summary of its self-assessment as a separate document from this report.

Closing ceremony

Please see annex 5.

Recommendations from GI WACAF

Prior to and during the workshop, the GI WACAF team familiarised themselves with existing and draft regulations governing chemical dispersant use in the three participating countries. They engaged in discussions with policymakers, national representatives, and private sector representatives, addressing current challenges in the ongoing development of these regulations.

Subsequently, based on these discussions, the team formulated a set of recommendations designed to assist participating countries in enhancing their national dispersant use regulations and facilitating cross-boundary cooperation in the event of an oil spill. Ultimately, these recommendations seek to enhance the countries' overall preparedness for oil spills. The recommendations are divided into two categories:

(1) recommendations pertinent to **cross-boundary cooperation** during potential incidents requiring the use of chemical dispersants, and;

(2) recommendations focused on **national dispersant** *regulation*.

Please be advised that the following are solely recommendations based on technical expertise. It is evident that the formulation of policies and regulations is the prerogative of national experts and policymakers. The below recommendations are presented for their thoughtful consideration.

General recommendations applicable to all three countries

1. **Cross-boundary cooperation**

- Information sharing: include information that would facilitate cross-boundary collaboration in the event of an incident. For example, neighbouring countries could enhance their preparedness for cross boundary incidents by incorporating a concise overview of each other's regulations or policies, along with identified contacts in both administrations into bi-lateral or regional agreements, plans or other relevant documents.
- Regional and international approved dispersant products: when developing lists of nationally approved dispersant products, contemplate the inclusion of dispersant products which are already available in the region (particularly those approved by neighbouring countries) and large-scale international stockpiles, provided they meet the necessary efficacy and toxicity criteria. Specifically, consider the three dispersant types which make up the OSRL Global Dispersant Stockpile (GDS), namely Corexit EC 9500A, Dasic Slickgone NS, and Finasol OSR52.
- Exercises and drills: where there is a reasonable likelihood of cross-boundary incidents, develop a program of cross-boundary exercises (practice) and drills (test) with neighbouring countries.

2. National dispersant regulation

- Consider all sources of pollution: when formulating regulations for dispersant use, it is important to account for all potential sources of pollution, including maritime traffic and the offshore petroleum industry. The established rules and processes should be adaptable to all sectors, ensuring that they can be followed effectively by all.
- Identification of responsibility: specify the responsible national authority and the designated position within that authority tasked with approving dispersant use, both in the context of pre-authorization requests and requests for dispersant use during ongoing incidents.
- Clear and efficient application and decision-making process: establish an efficient, clear and transparent application and decision-making process for dispersant use. The significance of a well-defined and streamlined procedure becomes particularly evident during emergencies, given the constrained timeframe for dispersant deployment. It is important to intentionally design the application and evaluation process with this restricted window of opportunity in mind so that it corresponds to the urgent demands of the situation.
- Clear geographical boundaries: establish clear geographical boundaries, typically based on depth and distance from the shore, that delineate the region where chemical dispersion can be reasonably conducted without causing harm from an environmental and socioeconomic standpoint (such as in deep waters sufficiently distant from shore). It is recommended that the national dispersant regulations allow the exceptional possibility of dispersant use outside of this specified zone (such as shallower waters, proximity to the shore, or near sensitive areas). Nonetheless, dispersant use in these situations should be subject to case-by-case approval, contingent upon justification through a comprehensive Net Environmental Benefit Analysis.
- Pre-approval process: integrate a provision into dispersant regulations that allows potential polluters with known risks to seek pre-authorisation for the use of dispersants as part of the contingency planning process. This allows both applicants and the responsible national authority to conduct a more comprehensive Net Environmental Benefit Analysis for credible scenarios during “peacetime”, expediting decision-making and action in the event of an emergency. In all instances, the national authority would retain the prerogative to halt or prevent dispersant use if the spill's circumstances fall outside the scenarios for which pre-authorisation was granted or if, for any other reason, chemical dispersion is deemed inappropriate in a given situation.
- Technical support: Ensure policymakers consult technical experts while formulating national dispersant use regulations, aiming for a policy that is tailored to its purpose by considering the specific technical constraints associated with chemical dispersion.
- Response ready resources: ensure sufficient response capability (dispersant spray equipment, personnel and dispersant stocks) is available in country to permit prompt commencement of dispersant spray operations and to sustain the operations until regional or global resources can be mobilised. These resources can be state-owned, private sector-owned or a combination of the two. It is important that equipment is

stocked in suitable conditions, at locations which permit fast deployment (e.g. ports or airports) and that it is regularly maintained and tested.

Overall appreciation

Feedback from participants were positive.

100% of the participants who responded to our evaluation questionnaires found the timing of the event to be “just right” and considered that the objective of the event was met.

Topics of the most relevance to the responding participants were the communicated as the following:

- Dispersant technical session x2
- The response plans from other regions and the dispersant use guideline
- Dispersant policy. Different exercises on the guidelines for developing dispersant policy x4
- Technical Presentation on Dispersants. Presentation by Angola.
- Pre-approval process of dispersant
- Types of oil dispersants; use of dispersant, drawbacks and advantages
- Approved dispersants list from neighbouring countries
- Limitations of the various methods of combating oil spills and maximising the return of investment into assets to results.
- How to optimise a cross boundary dispersant response Potential impact of cross boundary x2
- The regional approach for using dispersants
- Dispersant risk to environment vs other detergents

When asked if any topics should be added, the following answers were given:

- Link to ICS and NOSCP
- International standards legal framework for oil dispersant to be developed if none at the moment.
- Assistance in building bilateral agreements between neighbouring countries.
- Monitoring of the bioaccumulation of dispersed oil in aquatic organisms.

Conclusions

The feedback from the participants and facilitators of the workshop was positive. Comments from the participants included that they felt the self-assessment exercise was a ‘wakeup call’, helped identify gaps and by the end of it they felt they had a clear way forward to finalise their dispersant documents. They felt the workshop developed their understanding of dispersant as a response technique and importantly gave them time to concentrate on the subject, as sometimes it can be a resource challenge to set aside time to devote to such work.

The next steps are for South Africa and Namibia to work on the identified gaps highlighted in the self-assessment exercise and use the country specific 'dispersant roadmap' to finalise their dispersant policies. Angola is considering if it should update the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and the dispersant policy within the plan (keeping everything together) or concentrate on developing a separate dispersant policy. Once developed, for all countries, the policies should be exercised.

Overall, the workshop objective of fostering discussions and cooperation between South Africa, Namibia and Angola about dispersant use were achieved. The workshop harmonised the countries' understanding of dispersant use and regulations and information was shared and exchanged on respective national dispersant use policies. The needs and priorities of each country relevant to dispersant use were discussed.

The workshop was originally about paving a pathway to develop a sub-regional dispersant agreement. While the exercise on day one clearly highlighted to participants the potential cross boundary issues during an incident the focus of the workshop was more about developing national dispersant policies. Moving forward the priority for each country should be developing and refining their own dispersant policies, including the provision for cross boundary dispersant use, before concentrating on a sub-regional dispersant agreement. Following the finalization of policies, the next step could involve conducting an exercise between South Africa and Namibia, as well as Namibia and Angola, to simulate a cross-boundary oil spill scenario, with participation from the industry.

Finally, it is pertinent to highlight the insight given by industry representatives before the workshop as to what they would welcome as the outputs from the workshop. The three outputs, listed below, are being worked on by the respective countries but as highlighted above there is still work to do before these outputs can be achieved. However, the workshop has given the countries a clear way forward to finalise the dispersant documents and is on the pathway to achieving these outputs.

1. *Pre-approved dispersant product lists*: industry would welcome the development by each country of a list of dispersant products which are approved for use in waters under national jurisdiction (and preferably consolidated in the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan). The aim is to provide direction to industry as to what dispersants should be stockpiled.
2. *Dispersant buffer*: industry would like the approved list of dispersants to contain the dispersant types in the OSRL Global Dispersant Stockpile (Finasol OSR 52, Dasic Slickgone NS and Corexit 9500)
3. *Concrete steps*: towards a "good practice" dispersant use policy both at national and sub-regional level.

Annex 1: Opening speeches

Ms. Tsepiso Taoana Mashiloane, Chief Director:Implementation,Monitoring And Evaluation, Department of Transport, Republic of South Africa

Dear Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a great pleasure for me to deliver the welcome address on behalf of the Republic of South Africa. I welcome the delegations of Angola, Namibia, International Maritime Organization (IMO), IPIECA, SAMSA, DoT, DFFE and all the participants to this Sub-regional workshop on Dispersant use Policy.

South Africa as a coastal state is at risk from shipping activities in its maritime waters including the increased traffic to and from its major ports and increasing offshore oil and gas exploration. This has driven the need for further development and refinement of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) which was approved by the Department of Transport in December 2019.

The South African NOSCP is in formulated in two parts, Volume 1, which is the Implementation Framework and Volume 2, which deals with the Response Strategies.

The development of the dispersant policy by the competent National Authority, (Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE)) forms a critical part of national oil spill contingency planning processes.

The purpose of the policy is to establish a common understanding of what is required for approval and effective use of dispersants, and to provide guidance on how this may be accomplished. Dispersant use authorization addresses the question of when and where approved dispersants may be used. In many countries there will be existing legislation on environmental protection that prohibits the release of chemicals to the marine environment.

The first consideration is therefore to ensure that an exemption in such legislation exists, or is developed, to allow the authorized use of dispersants, without criminal or financial penalty under a marine environmental protection law.

Dispersants are a valuable response tool and, if used correctly, can greatly facilitate the protection of sensitive shorelines and other resources. However, when used inappropriately, the dispersants have the potential to cause long term deleterious effect to the environment and cannot be used for all hydrocarbon types. Accurate information on the exact type of hydrocarbon involved in the spill is therefore critical for decision-making on chemical dispersant use.

The NOSCP for South Africa is available on the GI WACAF website for your perusal.

The GI WACAF project was launched in 2006 and aims in strengthening the capacity of countries to prepare for and respond to oil spills through the promotion of public-private cooperation. Since its inception, significant progress has been made in improving oil spill

response capabilities by raising awareness through national and regional workshops and training that aims to communicate good practice in all aspect of spill preparedness and response. I will leave the project team to provide more details on the project with you.

The recent oil spill incident that occurred in Algoa Bay in May 2022 is a reminder that as a country we need to be prepared for any event of a spill. To ensure effective response, government and the industry should work hand in hand to achieve this responsibility.

South Africa has a long-standing relationship with the GIWACAF project and supported South Africa in many activities since 2015. I am sure the team of experts from ITOPF and OSRL will provide a greater insight for the development and subsequent adoption of the policy for all three countries.

On behalf of the Department of Transport I welcome you and encourage delegates to participate actively during the two days, and to ensure a successful outcome of this Sub-Regional Dispersant workshop which will be one step closer to finalisation of the dispersant use policy in your country.

I thank you.

Rim Al Amir, GI WACAF Project Coordinator, IMO/Ipieca

Distinguished Guests,
Workshop Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

I am Rim Al Amir, GI WACAF Project Coordinator. It is an honor for me to deliver this welcome address as representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and IPIECA, the global oil and gas association for environmental and social issues. I would like to welcome all of you to this subregional workshop on the subject of Dispersant use.

I would like to deeply thank the South African Department of Transports, as well as the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), for the organization of this event. This workshop also benefits from the technical and financial support of the IMO and Ipieca, within the framework of the Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa: the GI WACAF Project. The main objective of the GI WACAF Project is to enhance preparedness and response to oil spills on the western coastal countries of the continent - from Mauritania to South Africa.

Over the years, amongst the 22 West African countries the GI WACAF Project works with, we have worked individually with Angolan authorities, Namibian authorities and South African authorities, on improving national preparedness and response to oil spills. Today, this

subregional event gathers various maritime authorities from South Africa, as well as members from the Namibian Department of Works and Transport, and members from the Angolan Ministry of Mineral Resources, Petroleum and Gas.

A dispersant policy is a major part of Oil Spill Contingency Planning.

When considering the response to large oil spills, dispersants can be a most effective means to mitigate the environmental consequences of the spill. However, more than for any other response technics, the use of dispersants needs to be rigorously prepared, prior to the incident, at a national level but not only.

An oil spill will not be stopped at border control and can become a major transboundary issue in a matter of hours. This eventually reminds of the important role that transboundary cooperation can play in strengthening the level of preparedness and response to oil spill in the WACAF Region. Besides, this is why transboundary cooperation has been defined as one of the GI WACAF Project's main focus for the 2023-2024 biennium.

Today's gathering is a translation of this focus into action.

I know that Angola, Namibia and South Africa have work in progress to develop or update their respective dispersant use policies. And I'd like to take the opportunity to congratulate you once again for your active engagement and the great progress that has been done so far. That's why we thought it would be a good idea for its three neighbouring countries to exchange views on the dispersant issue. Our goal here is to play a role in:

- *Firstly, harmonizing the understanding of dispersant use and regulations*
- *-Secondly, sharing and exchanging on respective national dispersant use policies*
- *Finally, in assessing national needs and priorities when using dispersant as a response strategy.*

As you may have understood, the overall objective of the activity is to foster discussions, and, ultimately, cooperation, between governments of Angola, Namibia and South Africa around dispersant use.

This 3-day workshop has been prepared, and will be guided, by two international consultants that are here with us: Sarah Hall, from Oil Spill Response Limited, and Natalie Kirk, from ITOPF, and seconded to the International Maritime Organization. I trust their expertise will guide your discussions in a most productive way.

We encourage you to participate actively, to ask questions and to foster dialogue this week, to ensure interactive discussions.

I wish to extend, once again, my sincere appreciation to the South African Government, and particularly to the Department of Transports as well as the South African Maritime Safety Authority, for supporting this important event.

Thank you for your kind attention. I wish you all a very productive and successful workshop.

Annex 2: Programme

Day 1 – Tuesday 31 October	
08:30	**Connection and registration of participants**
Opening ceremony	
09:00	**Opening ceremony and workshop introduction** Welcome address SA, *Ms. Tsepiso Taoana Mashiloane, Chief Director, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation* Opening remarks GI WACAF *Rim Al Amir, GI WACAF Coordinator*
Introduction of the workshop - *Rim Al Amir*	
10:00	**Presentation of the GI WACAF Project** **Introduction of workshop objectives** *Introduction of the facilitators / participants and objectives of the workshop and programme*
10:30	*Group photograph and coffee break*
Session 1: Reminders about dispersant – Technical sessions - *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*	
11:00	- Overview of oil spill response strategies – focus on dispersant. - Capabilities and limitations of dispersant - When to spray surface dispersant in an incident - Equipment types and resources - Monitoring techniques
13:30	*Lunch*
Session 2: Potential impacts of cross boundary - *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*	
14:30	**Cross boundary spill scenario and discussion of impacts:** *Discuss an example of a cross boundary spill response utilising dispersant without an agreed approach and understand potential impacts on the environment, economy, industry and regulators*
16:30	Summary of day 1 and planning for day 2 / Feedback - *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*

Day 2 – Wednesday 1 November	
Welcome	
09:00	**Welcome: recap of day 1 and review of day 2 timetable -** *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*
Session 3: What does good look like / What's our common goal? - *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*	
09 :30	**What does a good cross boundary dispersant response look like?** *Discuss a good example of a cross boundary spill/exercise utilising dispersant*
10:30	*Coffee break*
11:00	**What to consider when developing a national dispersant policy** *Present and discuss a good example of a national dispersant policy*
12:30	*Lunch*
13:30	**How to optimise a dispersant response?** *Incorporate Operator feedback from industry sessions completed before the workshop* *Brainstorm and agree the key 'buckets'*
15:30	*Coffee break*
16:00	**What's our common goal?** *Discuss and agree the wording of a common goal that we wish to achieve as a sub-regional group*
16:30	Summary of day 2 and planning for day 3 – Feedback **-** *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*

Day 3 – Thursday 2 November (Attendees: Day 3 is reserved for those delegates who are directly involved in developing national dispersant policies; The delegation of Angola, The delegation of Namibia, and representatives of South Africa's Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment, Department of Transport, and SAMSA.)	
Welcome	
09:00	**Welcome: recap of day 2 and review of day 3 timetable -** *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*
Session 4: Country self-assessment and updates - *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*	
09:30	**Country self-assessment** *Each country privately reviews its own progress against the identified 'buckets' and identifies what it may need to focus on developing*
11:30	*Coffee break*
12:00	**Country presentations – South Africa** *Each country presents to the group the results of the self-assessment and its national needs and priorities when utilising dispersant as a response strategy*
12:30	**Country presentations – Namibia** *Each country presents to the group the results of the self-assessment and its national needs and priorities when utilising dispersant as a response strategy*
13:00	*Lunch*
14:00	**Country presentations – Angola** *Each country presents to the group the results of the self-assessment and its national needs and priorities when utilising dispersant as a response strategy*
Session 5: The regional Approach - *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*	
14:30	**Discussion on the regional approach for using dispersant** *What is needed to be able to work together across boundaries spraying dispersant e.g. common guidelines/documents*
15:30	*Coffee break*
Session 6: Finalising the dispersant roadmap - *Sarah Hall / Natálie Kirk*	
15:45	**Final agreement on the dispersant road map** *Agreement on country and regional specific actions to take forward*
16:30	**Closing ceremony / Feedback**

	Closing Remarks, *Ms Tsepiso Taoana Mashiloane: Chief Director: Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation*
17:00	*End of the workshop*

Annex 3: List and contact of participants

Name	Position	Organisation	Email
Feroza, ALBERTUS	Control Environmental Officer	Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment	falbertus@dffe.gov.za
Lona Azola Sinethemba Nondaka	Environmental Officer Specialised Production	DFFE	Lnondaka@dffe.gov.za
Richard Robertson	General Manager	SMIT Salvage	r.robertson@smit.com
Nic du Preez	Director	Drizit	nic@drizit.co.za
Tsepiso Taoana-Mashiloane	Chief Director: Implementation,Monitoring and Evaluation	Department of Transport	MashiloT@dot.gov.za
Flynn Padayachee	Salvor	Salvage industry	fpadayachee@resolvemarine.com
Khuliso MUDAU	Environmental Coordinator	TotalEnergies EP South Africa	Khuliso.mudau@totalenergies.com
Neil Mouton	Ship Surveyor	SAMSA CT Operations	nmouton@samsa.org.za
Ntobeng Kabelo Molabe	Environmental officer	Spill Tech	Kabelo.molabe@spilltech.co.za
Sibusiso Rantsoabe	Manager: OHS & Maritime Welfare	South African Maritime Safety Authority	srantsoabe@samsa.org.za
Tebogo Mojafi	Snr Manager- Maritime Research	SAMSA	tmojafi@samsa.org.za
Pretty Molefe	Head: Sea Watch and Response	South African Maritime Safety Authority	pmolefe@samsa.org.za
Ntlhane Brian Kekana	Maritime Awareness, Outreach & Youth Development	South African Maritime Safety Authority	brian.kekana@gmail.com
Stella Matlala	Deputy Director: Marine Environment ProtectionEP	Department of Transport (Maritime)	mamadis@dot.gov.za
Kagisho Shabangu	Marine Environmental Officer	Department of Transport	Maphakak@dot.gov.za
Mulalo Mutshinyafulo	Assistant Director: Marine Environment Protection	Depart,ent of Transport	MutshinM@dot.gov.za
Shapua Kalomo	Control Administrative Officer: Marine Pollution Control & SAR	Ministry of Works and Transport	Shapua.Kalomo@mwt.gov.na

Christiaan Sheyouyuni FIKUNAWA	ACTING DIRECTOR OF MARITIME AFFAIRS	MINISTRY OF WORKS AND TRANSPORT/DIRECTORATE MARITIME AFFAIRS	Sheyouyuni.Fikunawa@mwt.gov.na
Diame Katuvuninu Correia Lukoki Lende	Técnica	Ministério dos Recursos Minerais, Petróleo e Gás	diame.lende@mirempet.gov.ao
Manuel Paz Luís Pinto	Técnico	Ministério dos Recursos Minerais, Petróleo e Gás-MIREMPET	manuel.pinto@mirempet.gov.ao

Annex 4: Road Map template – National Dispersant Policy

Insert Country Road Map - National Dispersant Policy				
Key:				
Developed				
In progress				
Not started				

Bucket (key considerations)	Description	Assessment (GI VACAF key)	Task owner	Who does the work?
National Considerations				
Document	Distinguish between the definition of a plan and policy (to be clear on the objective of the document)			
Introduction/Scope	General information on the country's opinion on dispersant use			
	Applicable legislation			
	Objective of the dispersant policy			
	Geographical scope			
	Acronym list			
Governance	National authority in charge of the policy			
	National authority in charge of the approval of dispersant products			
	National authority in charge of the dispersant pre-approval and approval			
	Technical specialists or advisory body			
	Responsibilities of operators: oil and gas operators, ports, etc.			
	Stakeholder engagement plan before and during a reponse			
Technical information on	Types of oils			
	Dispersibility limits (viscosity table)			
	Oil spill modelling to understand weathering of the oil and the window of opportunity			
	Weather limitations of spraying dispersant			
	Toxicity of dispersed oil (including on environmental sensitivities including wildlife)			
	Advantages and limitations of dispersant as a response technique			
	Explanation of Net Environmental Benefit Analaysis (NEBA) / Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA)			
Geographical limits	Depth limitation			
	Distance from shore			
	Environmental sensivity mapping (defined areas where dispersant use is permitted / not permitted / on a case by case basis)			
	A note on allowing dispersant spraying on a case by case basis applying Net Environmental Benefit Analaysis (NEBA) / Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA) - avoiding too much rigidity			
Dispersant approval	List of approved dispersants			
	Approved dispersants are compatible with neighbouring countries			
	The approval of dispersant types in large stockpiles is considered e.g. OSRL Global Dispersant Stockpile (Corexit, Finasol, Slickgone NS)			
	Process for approving new dispersant types in the country - develop own process or consider adopting other country's approved dispersant e.g. UK, France, USA, Australia			
	Fast track process for approving new dispersans in the country during an emergency situation (if stocks of approved dispersants are depleted)			
Dispersant use approval	Pre-approval for dispersant spraying (for operators, ports etc. with predictable spill scenarios)			
	Do those with pre-approval need to demonstrate that the incident is alligned with pre-approval conditions (short form completion) during an oil spill incident or can they spray without notification to the authorities?			
	Clear and practical dispersant spraying approval process for during a spill when no pre-approval is in place (considering the window of opportunity)			

Dispersant and spray equipment availability	Recommendation for quantities of dispersant and dispersant equipment (Tier 2 stockpiles should be appropriate to oil spill risk profile and should complement Tier 3 capability) (consider the mobilisation time of a Tier 3 dispersant spray aircraft and build Tier 2 capability that is sufficient for response in the meantime)			
	Recommendation on the type of dispersant to be stockpiled			
	Inventory of any nationally owned dispersant equipment with a method of keeping it up to date			
	Inventory of any privately owned dispersant equipment with a method of keeping it up to date e.g. link to Oil Spill Contingency Plans (OSCP)			
	Process for mobilising international stockpiles as part of international aid (also see "Logistics" section below)			
Logistical processes	Engagement with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to identify requirements for aerial dispersant operations e.g. country entry permits, low level flight permit, location of suitable airports etc.			
	Engagement with Customs to identify how to fast track oil spill equipment in an emergency oil spill response			
	Pre-identified dispersant storage locations in preperation for an oil spill response incident (undercover, cool environment)			
Preparedness	Recommend exercise and drill frequencies			
	Recommend training requirements for decision makers involved in dispersant preparedness and / or response			
	Consider conducting a foundation study before the policy is written to understand the risk profile of oil and gas and shippping activities and how dispersant may be utilised in a spill response			
Operations	How to spray dispersant (tactics, dispersant dosage, safety, etc.)			
	Process of pre-application effectiveness testing (shakey bottle test and vessel spray test)			
	Process on dispersant efficacy monitoring during dispersant spray operations (Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies - SMART)			
	Process to notify authorities of the dispersant operational plan and to report on the progress of operations, in particular on effectiveness of dispersant			
	Consideration of the deconflicting vessel and aerial operations including suggestion of a communication plan			
Safety	Recommend safety requirements for operational personnel e.g. PPE			
Inland waters	Guidance on dispersant spraying in inland waters			
Cross Boundary Considerations				
Introduction/scope	General outline on approach to cross boundary incidents			
	Geographical scope			
	Applicable legislation			
MOU / Bi-Lateral Agreement	Implementation of an agreement between multiple countries (with clear objectives)			
Outline of both/all national	Key points of Country A legislation			
	Key points of country B legislation			
Command and Control	System for deciding which country takes the lead			
	Considerations for transfer of control between authorities			
	How does the supporting country integrate into the lead country's incident command system e.g. should representatives of both countries be in the same incident command location?			
	Identification of mirror-positions within both jurisdictions			

Annex 5: Closing speech

Mr Mojafi, The South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA), Republic of South Africa.

Mr Mojafi delivered his special thanks to the IMO, GI WACAF, IPIECA, and other delegations from Namibia and Angola, as well as the different institutions in South Africa and private sector presenters yesterday.

He underlined that technical presentations on dispersants have been one of his main takeaways, as well as how to collaborate - understanding the importance to engage internally between different departments.

He mentioned the need to deconflict policies internally, on a national scale, to ensure alignment. Completing the dispersant roadmaps shows that there is work that still needs to be done – he underlined the need for further talks within the region, with the guidance of the facilitators here present.

After expressing his thanks for the hard work, he noted that he looks forward to continued collaborations on oil spill preparedness and response.