'Healthy Oceans – Healthy Coasts' Are we Prepared for the Future Ocean?

Professor Larry Hildebrand

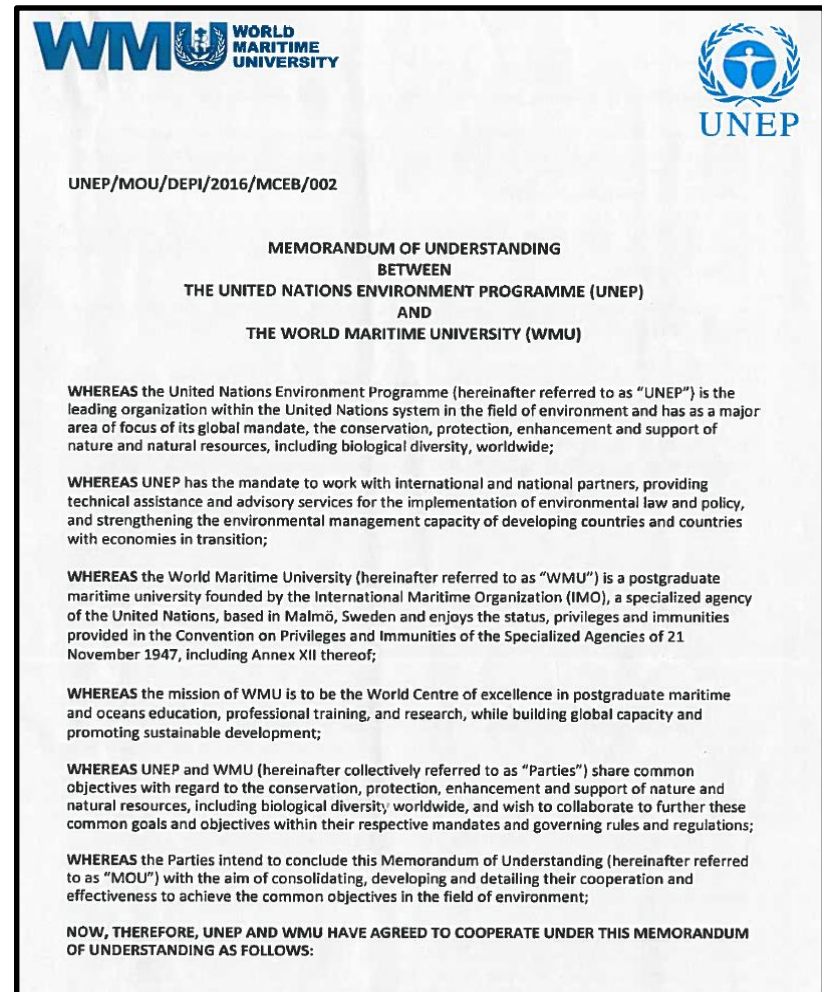World Maritime University • Malmö, Sweden

International Ocean Institute • Board of Governors

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Thinking a lot about the Future

- WMU MSc. Students – upcoming ocean leaders

- Greater cooperation and collaboration (MoU)

- Paying attention to the trends
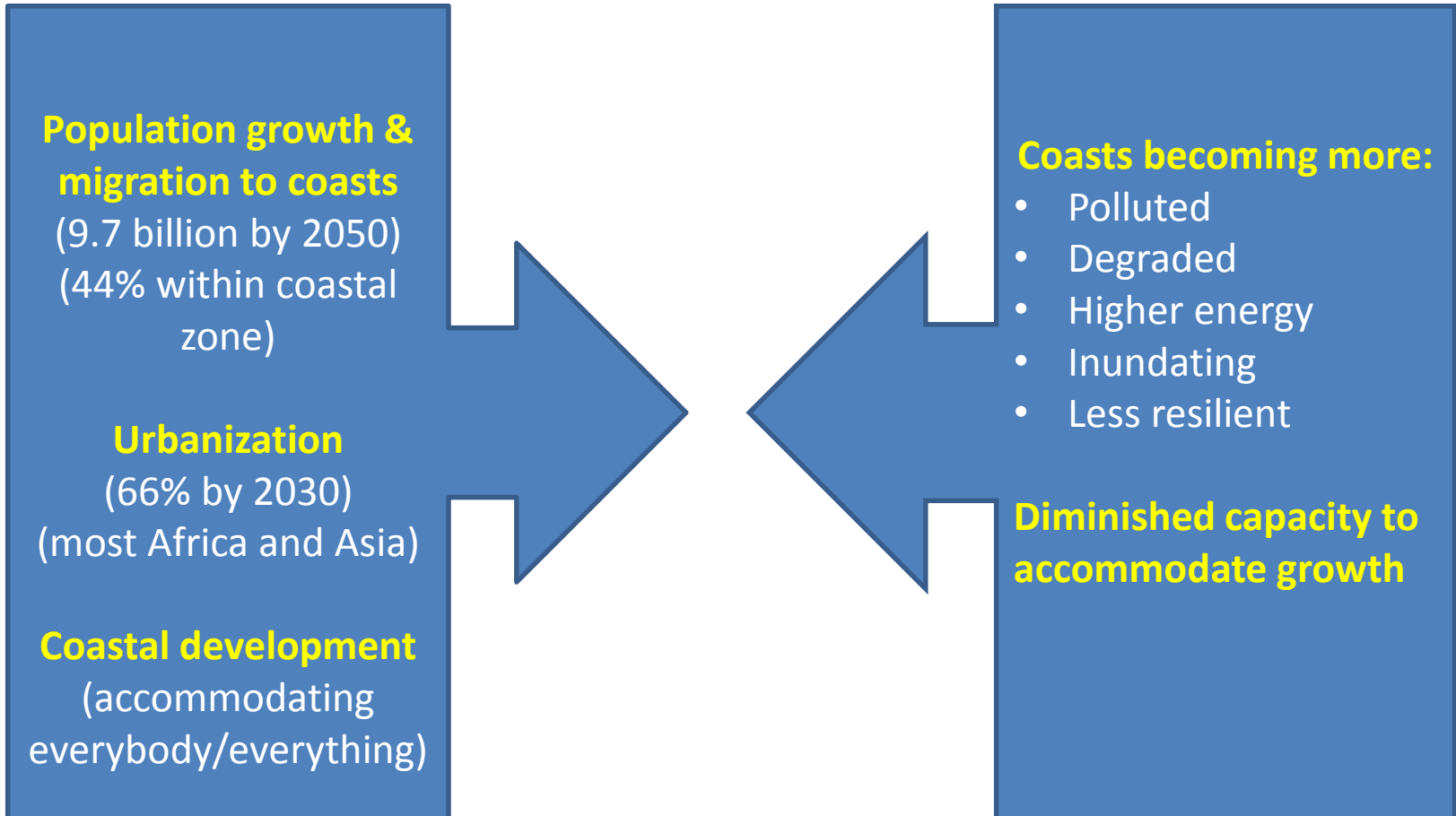
Developments in Ocean Governance

- We're learning a lot from practice

- What works, what doesn't and increasingly, WHY

- We are applying the lessons learned as we can

- But, still many <u>barriers/shortcomings</u> to <u>implementation</u>
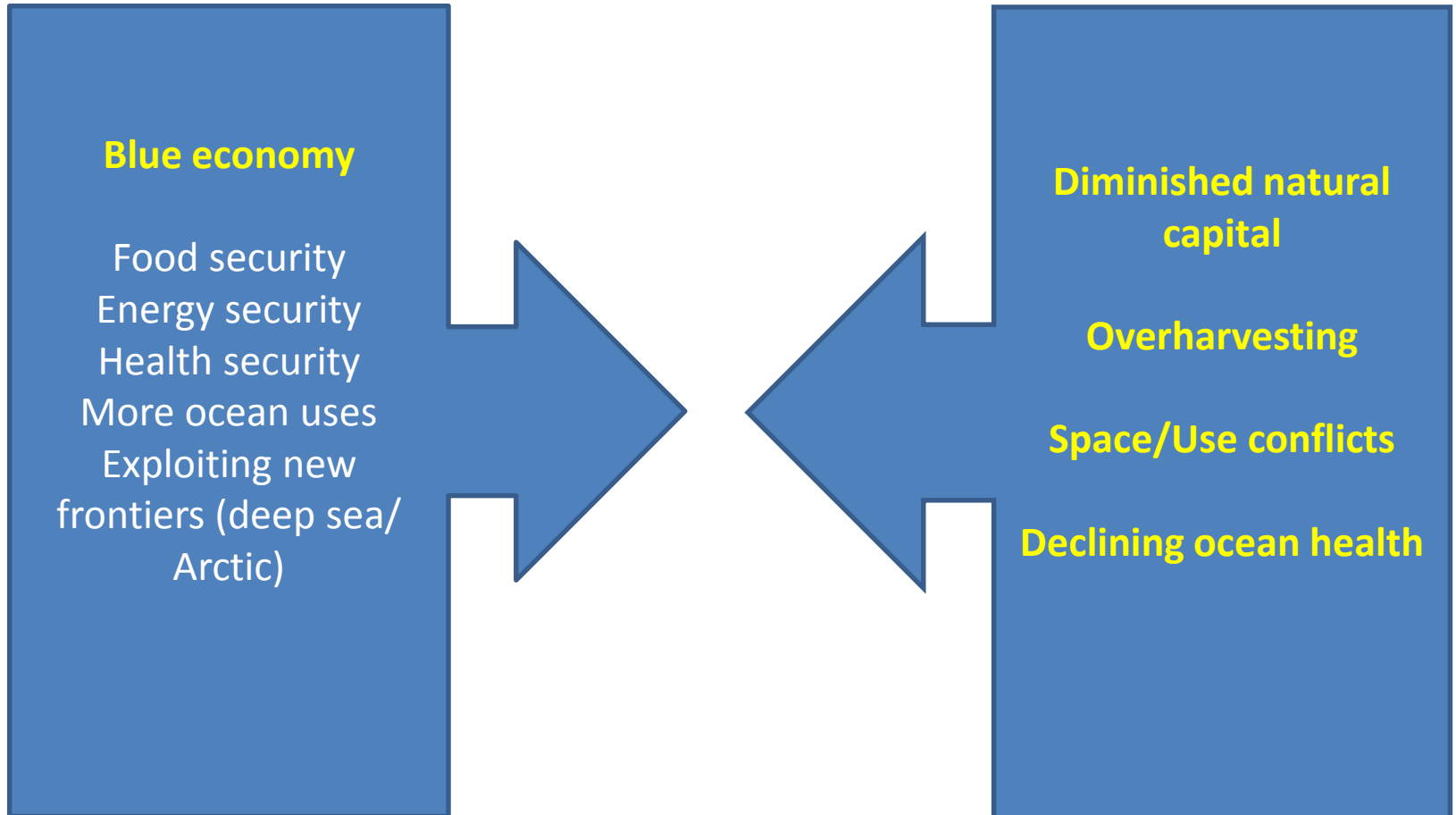
WHY?

- Are there prevailing trends, attitudes, and dynamics that are <u>overwhelming us</u> and <u>defeating our best efforts</u>?

- Are these factors <u>beyond our capacity</u> (<u>and will</u>) to respond?

Colliding Trends and Overwhelming Odds

Population & Development vs. Coastal degradation

Population growth & migration to coasts
(9.7 billion by 2050)
(44% within coastal zone)

Urbanization
(66% by 2030)
(most Africa and Asia)

Coastal development
(accommodating everybody/everything)

Coasts becoming more:
- Polluted
- Degraded
- Higher energy
- Inundating
- Less resilient

Diminished capacity to accommodate growth

Blue economy vs. Sick Ocean

Blue economy

Food security
Energy security
Health security
More ocean uses
Exploiting new frontiers (deep sea/ Arctic)

Diminished natural capital

Overharvesting

Space/Use conflicts

Declining ocean health

Science, technology & innovation

Advances in science, technology & innovation

- **Biotechnology**
- **New access**
- **Enhanced exploitive capacity**

Science, technology and innovation will save us from ourselves

Relieves us of motivation and responsibility to act today?

Shifting ecosystems & Static management

Shifting marine species & population distribution, abundance and productivity

Static planning

Plan to fish where we fish now

Artisanal communities' local dependency on today's conditions
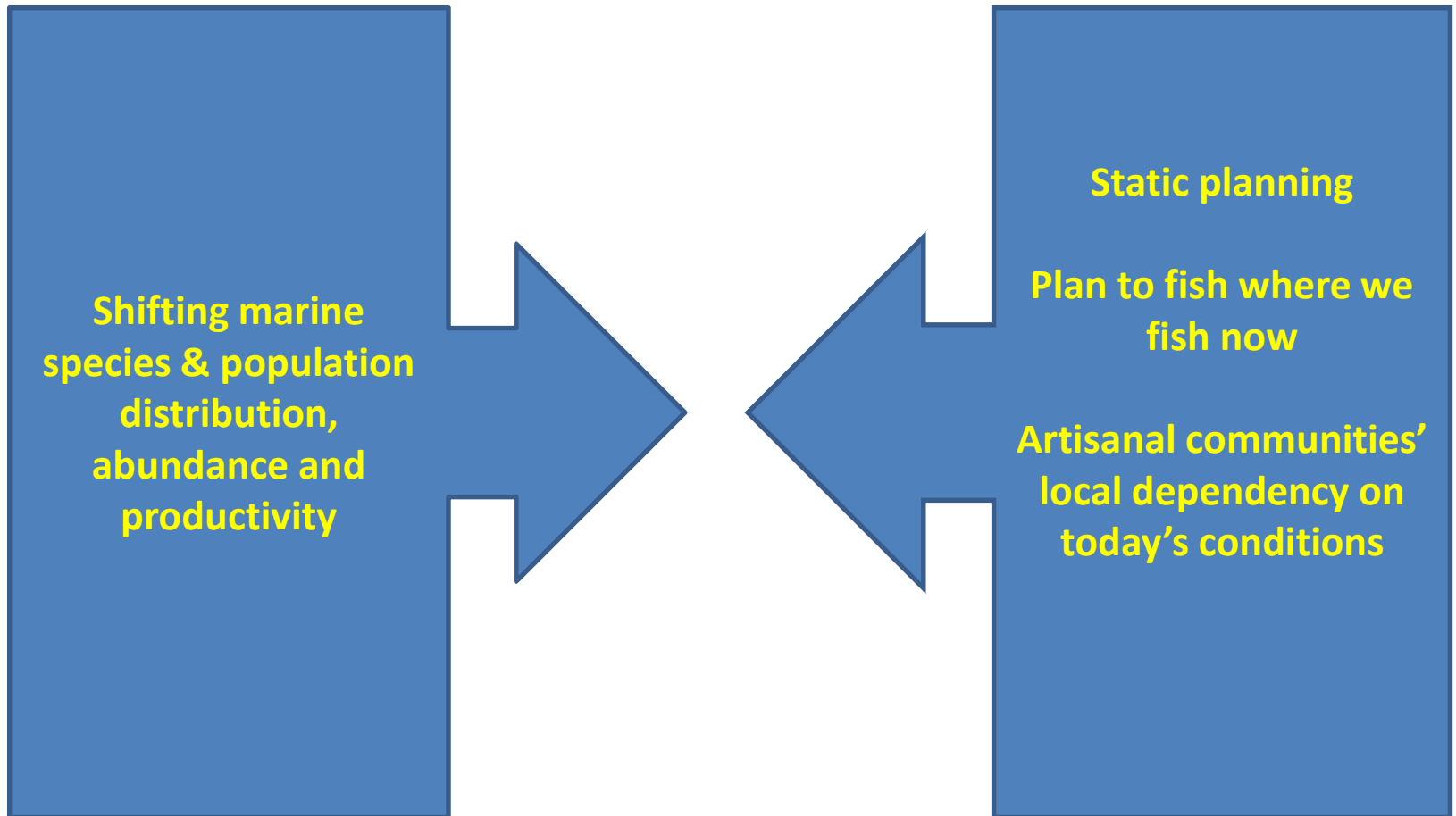
Sectoral vs. Integrated Approaches

Recognized need for more integrated and coordinated ocean management

Entrenched sectoral interests and institutions

Defence of status quo

Why should I change?
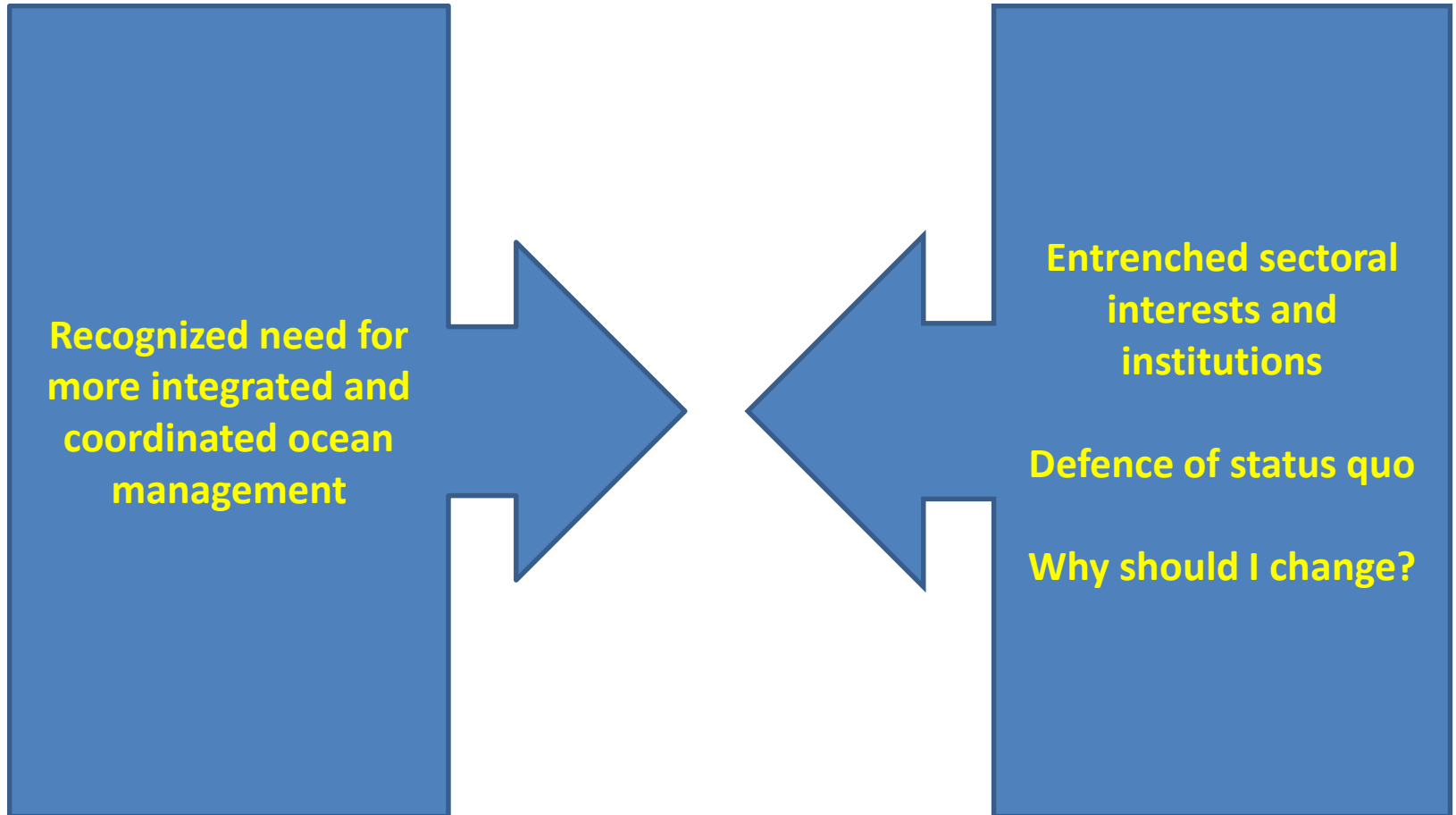
What's in it for me?

- <u>Nations</u>: how will this advance our economic and social priorities?

- <u>Government Ministries</u>: how will this advance my mandated objectives?

- <u>Ocean industries</u>: will ICOM bring more predictable governance and ensure access rights?

What do we need to do Today to Prepare for the Future Ocean?

- Acknowledge these trends and consider their serious social, economic and political implications

- Ask what are the policy, planning, management and governance steps that we must be taking now to prepare and adapt?

- Think beyond the 2030 Agenda and SDGs – 2050 …

- How do we 'future-proof' ocean governance?