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Agenda items 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting

Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard

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I. Introduction

1. The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD 2016-2025) was adopted by COP19 of the Barcelona Convention (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The whole MSSD 2016-2025 approach was based on the review and assessment of the initial MSSD (adopted in 2005), as well as on the recommendations and decisions taken at the global level in the context of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
2. MSSD 2016-2025 is based on the integration between socio-economic development and protection of natural resources. This principle is captured in the subtitle of the MSSD 2016-2025: *“Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development”*.
3. MSSD 2016-2025 is complementary with the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production for the Mediterranean and its Roadmap for implementation, which focuses on four priority areas: e.g. food, agriculture and fisheries; goods manufacturing; tourism; and, housing and construction. Those areas represent drivers of pollution generation and environmental pressures on the marine and coastal ecosystems but at the same time high contributors to the Mediterranean economies and to social well-being.
4. The monitoring process of the initial MSSD (adopted in 2005) was mainly based on a set of 34 priority indicators, updated and published every 2 years by Plan Bleu/RAC without any formalized process. For this new MSSD 2016-2025, there is a need for a more effective monitoring process with appropriate indicators and the creation of functional synergies among stakeholders. Section 3.3 of the MSSD 2016-2025 provides some details and guidelines for defining such a process.
5. Following the above, this document aims at proposing a core set of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025, as a Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard. The Proposed list of MSSD Indicators is presented in the present document, while more detailed information on the process of development and the content of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard, together with the full set of examined indicators, is presented in the Annex 1.

II. Selection of the MSSD 2016-2025 core set of indicators

6. The selection process started on the analysis of the objectives, strategic directions, actions and initiatives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the list of indicators proposed in this strategy, together with relevant existing sets of indicators.
7. A first workshop on “How to monitor the MSSD 2016-2025” was held in Saint-Laurent du Var, 30-31 March 2016, and gathered about forty participants from 15 Mediterranean countries (Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points and MCSD members) and from MAP Components, international institutions and NGOs. During this workshop a first core set of indicators was selected in order to be used in the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard.
8. A second workshop, was organised jointly with SCP/RAC in Barcelona, Spain, on 17 October 2016, on three complementary sets of indicators (SCP Action Plan, MSSD 2016-2015 and Blue Economy). The assessment of the first set of indicators and a first version of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard were presented and discussed during this workshop. The development of the Blue Economy indicators, which are linked to the 5th Objective of the MSSD 2016-2025, was supported by the project “Blue economy for a healthy Mediterranean - Measuring, Monitoring and Promoting an environmentally sustainable economy in the Mediterranean region”,

funded by the MAVA foundation.

9. The core set of indicators and the Dashboard were then presented and discussed at the 18th meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) held in Athens, Greece on 18-19 January 2017.

10. Following the recommendations of the MCSD Steering Committee, Plan Bleu/RAC prepared in February 2017 a list of 48 proposed indicators, listed per objective and accompanied by a short text containing description, relation with other/existing sets of indicators and brief information on how they will be used.

11. This document was distributed for comments to the MCSD Steering Committee members and then to the Plan Bleu National Focal Points during their meeting in Nice, France, on 25-26 April 2017. To this end, comments have been collected and consolidated by Plan Bleu/RAC, also with the aim to reduce the number of indicators.

12. As recommended by the 17th Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017), the full list of indicators, together with further relevant information for each indicator, is presented in Annex 1 of the current document. Table 1 below only presents the core set of indicators that, at present, are proposed to be retained.

Table 1: Indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025

No.	MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	Name of indicator
1	Global	Ecological footprint
2	Global	Human Development Index
3	Global	Gross Domestic Product
4	Global	Youth literacy rate
5	Global	Girl/Boy primary and secondary school registration ratio
6	1	Number of ratifications and level of compliance as reported by BC Contracting Parties
7	1	Percentage of protected coastal and marine areas [under national jurisdiction]
8	2	Water efficiency index
9	2	Number of protected areas participating in the Green list initiative
10	2	Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems
11	2	Global Food Security Index
12	2	Water demand, total and by sector, compared to GDP
13	2	Share of population with access to an improved water source (total, urban, rural)
14	2	Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system (total, urban, rural)
15	2	Proportion of agriculture quality products and Share of the agricultural land area used by organic farming
16	2	Number of Mediterranean threatened species included in legal documents
17	3	Proportion of urban population with access to a decent dwelling
18	3	Status of UNESCO world heritage sites or population trends in historic urban areas
19	3	Waste generated and treated by type of waste and treatment type
20	4	Green House Gas emissions (related to GDP)
21	4	Energy consumption (related to GDP)
22	5	Material intensity of the economy
23	6	Number of National Strategies for Sustainable Development adopted or updated [and number of updates since first edition]
24	6	Proportion of bank credit allocated to the private sector – Existence of alternative financing systems using bank credit
25	6	Public and private expenses for research and development in percentage of GDP
26	6	Existing mechanisms to ensure public participation and access to environmental publication



Annex 1:

Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard (detailed version)

Annex 1: Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard (detailed version)

List of acronyms

Barcelona Convention	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean
COP	Conference of Parties
MAP	Mediterranean Action Plan
MCSD	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development
MSSD 2016-2025	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025
NSSD	National Strategies for Sustainable Development
PB/RAC	Plan Bleu / Regional Activity Centre
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEIS	Shared Environment Information System
UN Environment (UNEP)	United Nations Environment Programme

I. Introduction

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD 2016-2025) was adopted by the Contracting Parties¹ to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) at their 19th Ordinary meeting (COP19) held in Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016. The whole MSSD 2016-2025 approach was based on the review and assessment of the initial MSSD (adopted in 2005), as well as on the recommendations and decisions taken at the global level in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Therefore, MSSD 2016-2025 is “*an integrative policy framework and a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional, sub-regional and national levels*”².

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 is based on the integration between socio-economic development and protection of natural resources. This principle is encapsulated in the subtitle of the Strategy: “*investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development*”.

MSSD 2016-2025 is complementary with the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production for the Mediterranean and its Roadmap for implementation, which focuses on four priority areas: e.g. food, agriculture and fisheries; goods manufacturing; tourism; and, housing and construction. Those areas represent drivers of pollution generation and environmental pressures on the marine and coastal ecosystems but at the same time high contributors to the Mediterranean economies and to social well-being.

For this new strategy MSSD 2016-2025, there is a need for a more effective monitoring process with appropriate indicators and the creation of functional synergies among stakeholders. The point 3.3 of the MSSD 2016-2025 provides some details and guidelines for defining such a process adapted to the revised strategy.

This document aims at proposing a core set of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025, as a Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard.

At the 16th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Marrakesh, Morocco, 9-11 June 2015), the MSSD 2016-2025 was endorsed for onward submission to MAP Focal Points and COP 19. Back to Back, Plan Bleu organized a specific session on the monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation.

The MAP focal points (13-16 October 2015, Athens) endorsed the draft decision, as amended by the informal group, for consideration by the Contracting Parties at their nineteenth meeting. The MSSD 2016-2025 was adopted by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention gathered in the 19th Conference of Parties (Athens, 9-12 February 2016)

The monitoring process of the **MSSD 2005 was mainly based on a set of 34 priority** indicators, updated and published every 2 years by Plan Bleu without any formalized process. For this new strategy MSSD 2016-2025, there is a need for a more effective monitoring process with appropriate indicators and the creation of functional synergies among stakeholders.

Plan Bleu, acting as a Mediterranean Observatory on Environment and Sustainable Development, has developed an experience in collecting, managing and disseminating data on Sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean Region. This experience was mainly focused on the data needed for various regional reports and publications: “State of the environment and development in the Mediterranean – 2009”, “A sustainable future for the Mediterranean: the Blue Plan's environment and development outlook - 2005” and “the indicators for the follow-up of the implementation of the

¹ Namely the 21 Mediterranean countries and the European Union.

² Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD 2016-2025)

MSSD 2005” in relation with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In addition to the information from the international and national official sources, the observatory is using the information available in scientific institutions.

II. The selection process of the MSSD 2016-2025 core set of indicators

The selection process started on the analysis of the objectives, strategic directions, actions and initiatives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the list of indicators proposed in this strategy. This analysis was completed by the existing indicators sets and initiatives including Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A first Workshop on “How to monitor the MSSD 2016-2025” held in Saint-Laurent du Var, 30-31 March 2016 gathered about forty participants from 15 Mediterranean countries (Plan Bleu focal points and MCSD members) and from MAP/RACs, international institutions, NGO, It allowed selecting a first core set of indicators to be used in the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard.

A second Workshop organised jointly with SCP/RAC on three complementary set of indicators (SCP/AP, MSSD 2016-2015 and blue economy) Barcelona, 17th October 2016, allowed to present a first assessment of the MSSD core set of indicators and a first version of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard.

The indicators core set and its assessment were presented to the 18th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee held in Athens on 18-19 January 2017. The members of the Steering Committee suggested that some indicators were complicated and that first there should be a decision on the list of indicators before populating them with data, and publishing them online. In addition, in order to facilitate a deeper understanding of the proposed indicators, each indicator should be accompanied with a definition and with concise information on how it will be used as well as on possible links with other sets of indicators (related to, e.g., SDGs, Regional Seas, Ecosystem Approach, Sustainable Consumption and Production). Indeed, duplication of work and extra unnecessary reporting burden to countries should be avoided by using as much as possible existing datasets. The meeting also agreed on the need to reduce the number of indicators (from the 49 indicators proposed) to the extent possible. The governance process related to the indicators was also clarified, such that the list of indicators would be endorsed by the 17th Meeting of the MCSD prior of submission to the COP for approval.

In February 2017, Plan Bleu/RAC prepared a list of 49 proposed indicators (listed per objective and accompanied by a short text containing description, relation with other/existing sets of indicators and brief information on how they will be used). This document was distributed for comments to the members of the MCSD Steering Committee and then to the Plan Bleu National Focal Points during their meeting in Nice, France, on 25-26 April 2017. The received comments have been consolidated by Plan Bleu/RAC with the aim to reduce the number of indicators and to consider better all the SDGs.

The full list of indicators, together with further relevant information for each indicator, is presented in at the end of this document.

Indeed, in addition of priority indicators, Plan Bleu is suggesting to develop some additional indicators and to focus on sea and coastal issues (linked to the protocols and action plans) to provide a more realistic picture of the sustainable development in the Mediterranean in the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

For these additional indicators, there is no existing international datasets and it is essential to promote the data sharing between and within the countries in using the existing programs such as SEIS.

In the framework of a project funded by the MAVA foundation, Plan Bleu is developing an indicators core set and a dashboard on the blue economy in the Mediterranean region. The indicators selection takes into account the SDG 14 on “conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”. This selection could help to monitor the Objective 1 “Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas” and the Objective 5 “Transition towards a green and blue economy” of the MSSD 2016-2025.

The selection of the core set of indicators is based on the structure of the MSSD 2016-2025 with 6 objectives, 29 strategic directions and 147 actions.

Objectives	Strategic directions	Number of actions
1. Ensuring sustainable development in marine and coastal areas	1.1: Strengthen implementation of and compliance with the Protocols of the Barcelona Convention and other regional policy instruments and initiatives supplemented by national approaches	10
	1.2: Establish and enforce regulatory mechanisms, including Maritime Spatial Planning, to prevent and control unsustainable open ocean resource exploitation	7
2. Promoting resource management, food production and food security through sustainable forms of rural development	2.1: Promote the sustainable use, management and conservation of natural resources and ecosystems	9
	2.2: Promote conservation and use of indigenous or traditional plant varieties and domestic animal breeds, value traditional knowledge and practices in rural management decisions	4
	2.3: Promote networks of ecologically protected areas at national and Mediterranean level and enhance stakeholder awareness on the value of ecosystem services and the implications of biodiversity loss	5
	2.4: Promote inclusive and sustainable rural development, with a specific focus on poverty eradication, women’s empowerment and youth employment, including equitable and sustainable access to basic local services for rural communities	4
	2.5: Ensure access of local producers to distribution channels and markets, including the tourism market	3
3. Planning and managing sustainable Mediterranean cities	3.1: Apply holistic and integrated spatial planning processes and other related instruments, as well as improved compliance with respective rules and regulations, to increase economic, social and territorial cohesion and reduce pressures on the environment	9
	3.2: Encourage inclusive urbanization and strengthen capacities for participatory and integrated human settlement planning and management	5
	3.3: Promote the protection and rehabilitation of historic urban areas	5
	3.4: Promote sustainable waste management within the context of a more circular economy	5
	3.5: Promote urban spatial patterns and technological options that reduce the demand for transportation, stimulate sustainable mobility and accessibility in urban areas	4
	3.6: Promote green buildings to contribute towards reducing the ecological footprint of the built environment	2
	3.7: Enhance urban resilience in order to reduce vulnerability to risks from natural and human-induced hazards including climate change	5
4. Addressing climate change	4.1: Increase scientific knowledge, raise awareness, and develop technical capacities to deal with climate change and ensure informed decision-making at	9

Objectives	Strategic directions	Number of actions
as a priority issue for the Mediterranean	all levels, recognising and protecting the climate adaptation and mitigation services of natural ecosystems	
	4.2: Accelerate the uptake of climate smart and climate resilient responses	5
	4.3: Leverage existing and emerging climate finance mechanisms, including international and domestic instruments, and enhance the engagement of the private and finance sectors	3
	4.4: Encourage institutional, policy and legal reforms for the effective mainstreaming of climate change responses into national and local development frameworks, particularly in the energy sector	8
5. Transition towards a green and blue economy	5.1: Create green and decent jobs for all, particularly youth and women, to eradicate poverty and enhance social inclusion	4
	5.2: Review the definitions and measurement of development, progress and well-being	2
	5.3: Promote sustainable consumption and production patterns	3
	5.4: Encourage environmentally-friendly and social innovation	5
	5.5: Promote the integration of sustainability principles and criteria into decision-making on public and private investment	4
	5.6: Ensure a greener and more inclusive market that integrates the true environmental and social cost of products and services to reduce social and environmental externalities	5
6. Improving governance in support of sustainable Development	6.1: Enhance regional, sub-regional and cross-border dialogue and cooperation, including on emergency-preparedness	3
	6.2: Promote the engagement of civil society, scientists, local communities and other stakeholders in the governance process at all levels, in order to secure inclusive processes and integrity in decision-making	3
	6.3: Promote implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements including through policy coherence based on inter-ministerial coordination	5
	6.4: Promote education and research for sustainable development	6
	6.5: Enhance regional capabilities for information management	5

III. Description of expected outcomes and results

3.1. MSSD 2016-2025 core set of indicators

Starting with a list of more than 200 indicators, 34 indicators for the 6 objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 were selected during the first workshop (March 2016) then completed by 15 additional indicators issued from the MSSD 2005 indicators core set.

Therefore, the core set of indicators includes a selection of 49 indicators distributed according to the global objective and the 6 objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025:

Objectives	Selected during the 1 st workshop	Proposed after the 1 st workshop	Total
0 Global		6	6
1 Sea & Coast	4	1	5
2 Rural & Resources	10	6	16
3 Cities	7		7
4 Climate Change	2		2
5 Green & Blue Economy	5		5
6 Governance	6	2	8
Total	34	15	49

Out of the 49 indicators of the core set, 14 are similar or linked to some SDGs Indicators.

The full list of indicators with sources/references, feedbacks and comments is presented at the end of this document.

On objective of this assessment by Plan Bleu, Contracting Parties and other partners could be the reduction of the number of indicators in the core set.

This reduction could improve the visibility of the dashboard but the complexity of the Sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean and the number of strategic directions, actions, initiatives proposed in the MSSD make this exercise difficult.

3.2. Compendium of indicators factsheets

Another output of this activity is a “compendium of indicators factsheets” available as a draft version on the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard web site. It is still a provisional version to be updated, revised: the factsheets will be adapted, revised according the comments/request of the BP/RAC focal points and the MCSD members.

The objectives of these factsheets are to have the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation monitored and evaluated on 2 years basis through the core set of indicators in line with SDG and to be presented as a Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard to be adopted by the Barcelona convention COP 20 by the end of 2017.

The “indicator” factsheets developed for monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 aim to provide a first answer to the question: **“Are the Mediterranean countries progressing towards sustainable development?”**

Each factsheet is elaborated with a similar template including: A key message answering to a Sustainable development issue/question”, a short definition of the indicator with some precautions and notes and the main source/reference, graphical representation (maps, charts). The methodological factsheets with a precise definition, calculation methods, full list of references, etc., will be elaborated and disseminated by the end of 2017.

UN environment
United Nations Environment Programme

Plan Bleu
Mediterranean Action Plan
Mediterranean Development Plan

Water use efficiency in two sectors (drinking water and irrigation) in 2010

Definition:
This index allows the monitoring of progress in terms of the water saved as a result of the demand to reduce the water loss and wastage during the process of both the transport and the use. It is subdivided into total and sectoral efficiency (drinking water, agriculture and industry).

Precautions / Notes:
The economic efficiency of drinking water depends on invoicing mode (flat rate or metering) and may be distorted by metering malfunctions.
Real plot irrigation efficiency is awkward to measure in the field because of the difficulties in evaluating how much water the plants consume and the large number of plots. Each country has its own estimates of average efficiency for the various systems which are based on experimental pilot sites. This efficiency thus tends rather to reflect the distribution of irrigation water according to the main irrigation methods at national level (theoretical average efficiency is estimated at 40% for surface irrigation, 70% for sprinkler and 90% for localised irrigation systems).

Sources / References: FAO-AQUASTAT, Plan Bleu and national reports 2008 & 2010

IS WATER USE EFFICIENCY IMPROVING?

Total water use efficiency in Mediterranean countries (1995, 2005-2010)

It is possible to improve efficiency in all the major sectors of water use (agriculture, industry and domestic). The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development stresses the need to reduce the amount of water currently being lost or wastage (representing sources for saving) and to increase the added value created per cubic meter of water used.

Some countries set their national targets regarding global and sectoral efficiency, the alternative policy scenario from Plan Bleu for 2025 (compared to 1995) is based on the achievement of the following physical efficiencies at a regional level:

- For drinking water in municipalities: reduce loss rates stemming from distribution to 15% and leakage from users to 10%;
- For irrigation: reduce loss rates stemming from transport and distribution to 10% and increase irrigation efficiency by plot to 80% ;
- For industry: extend recycling to 50%.

Total water use efficiency from 2005-2010 lies between 40 and more than 80% in the Mediterranean countries.

In Albania and Malta, efficiency performance is better for irrigation than for drinking water.

Between 1995 and 2005-2010, most of the countries achieved encouraging progress in terms of their efficiency in the various water use sectors. In Cyprus and Israel, the total water use efficiency today is higher than 80%.

MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOLLOW-UP
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RURAL & RESOURCES / WATER EFFICIENCY INDEX

Example of Indicator Factsheet

Most of the published factsheets (24) are based on data and information available in the international sources (mainly in the UN system) in reports including MAP and Plan Bleu reports.

3.3. Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard

A prototype of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard website is available on <http://obs.planbleu.org/en/>

Plan Bleu

PLAN BLEU
Plan Bleu's mission is to provide the Contracting Parties with assessments of the state of the environment and development of the Mediterranean and a solid basis of environmental and sustainable development data, statistics, and indicators to support their action and decision making process.
[CLICK HERE : WWW.PLANBLEU.ORG](http://WWW.PLANBLEU.ORG)

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SEA AND COAST
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SUSTAINABLE CITIES
CLIMATE CHANGE
GREEN & BLUE ECONOMY
GOVERNANCE

SHEETS
Indicators sheets allow the follow-up of the Mediterranean region's environmental & sustainable development issues. They offer key-messages illustrated by cartographic representations and statistical analyses.

MAPS
It concerns the maps developed by Plan Bleu in order to illustrate its products and its reports, mostly its indicators sheets.

obs.planbleu.org/en/sheets/climate-change

Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard

This web site which was developed for the dissemination of maps, indicators factsheets, gathered in booklets/compendia is not yet finalised and will be adapted to disseminate the methodological factsheets and improved to allow data sharing within the MAP system (contracting parties and MAP components). These new developments should be implemented in cooperation with the INFO/RAC and should be compatible with the InfoMAP system.

The “compendium of indicators factsheets” for monitoring or the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025 MSSD is the first compendium available on this website. Another compendium gathering the factsheet for the indicators selected for monitoring the blue economy in the Mediterranean will be soon available.

IV. Steps toward an efficient Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard

Some steps are still necessary to get a Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard acknowledged by all the Mediterranean stakeholders but the effectiveness of the MSSD monitoring process is highly dependent of the involvement of the Contracting Parties and relevant institutions in providing/sharing data and information for populating the indicators.

- More comments from the Contracting Parties and MCSD members are welcomed on the core set of indicators;
- The consensus comments will be considered for improving the selection and the trends analysis of the indicators;
- The population of the indicators need to be improved using the national data sources and the indicators existing at the national level;
- The number of indicators of the core set could be reduced as requested by the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development;
- The feedbacks on the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard website will allow to improve this website (more information, user-friendly aspects, ...);
- Some additional indicators focusing on sea and coastal issues (linked to the protocols and action plans) could be developed to provide a more realistic picture of the sustainable development in the Mediterranean in the framework of the Barcelona Convention;
- Finally, these indicators should be used in the regional reports to be published by MAP such QSR, State of Environment and Development 2019, MED 2050.

V. Conclusions

The data sharing principles and a better coordination among the various indicators initiatives at the world level (such as SDG) and at regional level should allow to avoid duplication of works and to answer One time to the several requests.

The involvement of MAP in the ENI SEIS II South Support Mechanism project, which aim to contribute to the reduction of the marine pollution in the Mediterranean by developing a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) supporting the regular production and sharing of quality assessed environmental data, indicators and information should support the monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation.

Finally, the success of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard depends mainly on the appropriation of the indicators core set and data sharing principles by the relevant stakeholders including the Contracting Parties, the international and regional institutions, the scientific institutions, etc.

Mandate: Extract of the MSSD 2016-2025 related to the monitoring system

3.3. Towards a monitoring system and a regional dashboard on the implementation of the Strategy

132. *A comprehensive monitoring system and relevant indicators are necessary for the implementation of the Strategy. The following two requirements must be adequately covered:*

1. *Monitoring the implementation of the actions recommended in the Strategy: the level of implementation and gaps in the objectives in terms of actions (for example, the number of countries complying with an action);*
2. *Monitoring the progress of sustainable development issues: the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard in relation to the objectives in terms of sustainability (for example, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions).*

133. *Both are relevant to monitoring the Strategy, but the indicators and approaches are different.*

134. *The first set of indicators is mainly “response indicators” related to the implementation of the actions, as per the tables in the Strategy. The second set of indicators, generally structured according to the DPSIR (Driving forces - pressures - state - impact - responses) framework related to a systemic analysis of the issues, was used for the 2009 report entitled “State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean”. Implementation of the data-sharing principles on the indicators and data related to the monitoring system for the Strategy is needed. That process should be promoted and facilitated by a consistent platform for the exchange of information, experience and synergies, based on the European Union’s Shared Environment Information Systems principles on data sharing. The selection of the dashboard of sustainability indicators should be the result of a participative collaborative process in which the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development can play an advisory role though a sub-committee of the Commission.*

135. *Data and information sharing is facilitated by the Aarhus Convention. The UNEP Live knowledge platform aims to fill the gaps between data providers and consumers. The crowd-sourcing of data could complement the institutional data sources generally used in international reporting. The population of the indicators in the Strategy should also mobilize a data revolution for sustainable development taking into consideration more open data. (Report prepared at the request of the Secretary-General by the Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (November 2014), available from <http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/A-World-That-Counts2.pdf>)*

136. *Strategic direction 7.4 contains four actions to ensure the regular monitoring of the Strategy, the first being for national governments and regional organizations to support the monitoring process through regular and timely provision of regular data. Although much data is found through international databases, there is also the need for national governments and other stakeholders to provide some information directly. A second action highlights the potential of meetings of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development to assist with monitoring the implementation of the Strategy through discussions in breakout groups. A third action concerns the need to ensure that the Strategy monitoring systems are built taking into account the existing and planned data-sharing and information systems of the MAP. The final action focuses on the development and population of a dashboard of sustainability indicators for the Mediterranean, with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development playing an advisory role in the selection process though a sub-committee, as discussed above. The monitoring of the Strategy (dashboard) need to identify new and appropriate indicators for the Mediterranean Sea that integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development, more particularly in relation with livelihoods, trade and other socio-economic issues. Those indicators should take stock of the various global (such as the Ocean Health Index) and regional (such as the UNEP/MAP ecosystem approach indicators) ocean monitoring and assessment efforts underway, including definitions, baselines, data storage and reporting, and data quality and accessibility; that is linking to the Sustainable Development Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources” and UNEP messages*

Strategic direction 7.4: Ensure the regular monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025			
Actions	Owners	Time frame	Indicators
National			
7.4.1. Provide regular biannual support to UNEP/MAP in providing data for monitoring the Strategy.	National governments, regional organizations, UNEP/MAP	Ongoing	Status of collection of indicators
Regional			
7.4.2. Ensure the utilisation of the potential of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development meetings for monitoring the implementation of the Strategy using breakout groups.	Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, UNEP/MAP	Ongoing	Number of monitoring sessions held during the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development meetings
7.4.3. Ensure that the Strategy monitoring systems are built taking into account the existing and planned data-sharing and information systems of the MAP.	UNEP/MAP, national governments, regional organizations	Ongoing	Status of monitoring
7.4.4 Develop and populate a dashboard of sustainability indicators for the Mediterranean, with the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development playing an advisory role in the selection process through a sub-committee of the Commission.	UNEP/MAP, Plan Bleu, Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development	2018	Status of dashboard

Assessment of the Core set of indicators for the monitoring of the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025

Revised after the October 2016 joint workshop, the consultation of the MCSD Steering Committee and the consultation of Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points (May 2017), then completed in July 2017 during the 17th Meeting of the MCSD

Greece (GR), Malta (MT), Med Cities (MC), as members of the MCSD Steering Committee 2016-2017, and Tunisia (TN) as Focal Point, provided some comments. These comments and the status of the indicators with comments from Plan Bleu/RAC are presented in the following table.

Some comments from Malta (MT), Slovenia (SI), Turkey (TR) and IUCN were included during the MCSD meeting and allowed to update the assessment.

Legend

Indicators to be retained	24
Indicators in progress, could be replaced	16
Indicators with some issues (to be replaced, cancelled...)	9

Objective	Indicators	References	Sources	Comments by Countries and MSCD members	Status/Comments by PB
Global	Ecological footprint	SDG 12, MSSD 2005	GFN	GR: Suggested to be retained TN: Suggested to be retained	To be retained
Global	Human Development Index	MSSD 2005	UNDP	GR: Suggested to be retained TN: Suggested to be retained	To be retained
Global	Gross Domestic Product	SDG 8, MSSD 2005	WB/UN	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Useful though not essential. TN: Suggested to be retained	To be retained
Global	Youth literacy rate	SDG 4, MSSD 2005	UNESCO	GR: Suggested to be retained TN: Suggested to be retained	To be retained
Global	Girl/Boy primary and secondary school registration ratio	SDG 4.5, MSSD 2005	UNESCO	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Suggest not to include as not reliable for women	To be retained
Global	International tourism receipts	SDG 8.9, MSSD 2005	OMT	GR: We are wondering and questioning the objectivity of the results that may arise from this indicator, as it can have many different interpretations according to the different financial profile of each country, with regard to overall sustainability versus only economic sustainability linked to mass tourism. Could be omitted MT: Not MSSD focus TN: Propose to use the share of sustainable tourism in the national tourism activities (in number of beds or receipts)	Sustainable tourism is a crucial issue and economic sector in the Mediterranean. The indicator can be adapted to focus on sustainability.

Objective	Indicators	References	Sources	Comments by Countries and MSCD members	Status/Comments by PB
1	Number of ratifications and level of compliance as reported by BC Contracting Parties	SDG 14.c.1	MAP	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Suggest to check again numbers in sample sheet for correctness. Suggest to present as stacked bar chart rather than map TN :To be retained but presented for each protocol	To be retained, retained but presented in a more clear form (e.g. by protocol or as in Bureau reports on specific issues).
1	Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) fisheries rates	SDG 14	CGPM/FAO	GR: More time required to examine scope and measurability resulting in objective results. Eventually would not object to be omitted MT: To keep but replaced by 'fishing ground footprint'	Not adapted for the Mediterranean sea. Could be replaced by “Fishing Grounds Footprint”.
1	Conservation status of commercial fish stocks	SDG 14.4.1, Blue Economy	CGPM/FAO	GR: Not sure regarding measurability. More time required to examine its scope and measurability resulting in objective results - Eventually would not object to be omitted MT: Propose to omit as data cannot be split by contracting party.	Available for the fishing areas. Not applicable for the countries. Propose to omit
1	Percentage of protected coastal and marine areas under national jurisdiction	SDG 14.5.1, Blue Economy	SPA/RAC, IUCN Med	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Suggested to be retained TN: Suggested to be retained, available at the national level SI: Add “and marine protected areas beyond national jurisdiction”	Ongoing. To be completed with SPA/RAC and IUCN Med To be retained
1	Proportion of the coastal urban population connected to a sanitation network	SDG 6.2, MSSD 2005	MAP	GR: Low percentage of connection to a sanitation network does not necessary indicate low level of treatment of municipal wastewater as there can be septic cesspools etc. properly operating. Moreover, in several countries more than 50% of the population could be considered as “coastal”. Could be omitted MT: Not priority issue in MSSD 2, as suggested in MSSD1.0 evaluation report. TN : Available for the urban population and for the costal urban population	Needs further consideration before omitting, since it is important to retain an indicator on sanitation in relation to urban population. Essential for Medpol, SEIS, etc.

Objective	Indicators	References	Sources	Comments by Countries and MSCD members	Status/Comments by PB
2	Share of protected areas with management processes in place	SDG 14.5.1, 15.1.2	SPA/RAC, IUCN Med	GR: Suggested to be retained TN: Suggested to be retained, available at the national level	Ongoing based on IUCN classification
2	Water efficiency index	SDG 6.4.1, MSSD 2005	Plan bleu	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Malta in the past has expressed concerns about the applicability of this index	To be retained, Need to be updated with national experts
2	Energy use efficiency	SDG 7.B		GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Too Specific on buildings. Suggest that we use the SDG indicator 7.B	To be better defined
2	Renewable energy rate	SDG 7.2.1, MSSD 2005	UN	GR: Suggested to be retained TN: Available in the NSSD as « share of renewable energy in the final energy consumption and in the production of electricity	Ongoing
2	Percentage of wastewater treated	SDG 6.3.1	MAP/PB	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: To mention that this is relevant o MSSD target in 2.1.5.4. Suggest to replace with "Percentage of populations in major cities above 2000 inhabitants (population equivalent) connected to waste water treatment plants" (to be aligned with Urban Waste Water Directive). TN: Suggested to be retained, available	To be updated with MEDPOL / SEIS
2	Number of countries participating in the Green list initiative		IUCN	GR: The participation in the Green List alone does not necessarily indicate a high level of effective protection. Moreover, countries participate with specific areas and not as a whole, so it is not objective to compare "absolute" number of participating areas across countries (as other parameters may be involved e.g. size of country, etc.). Could be omitted MT: Should mention that it's a Flagship initiative TN: Not yet applicable in Tunisia	To be retained, as it is flagship initiative of the MSSD

				IUCN: Suggestion to change 'countries' to 'protected areas' instead. In this way, this will allow to better reflect the situation when a particular country is committed to the standard and adding more protected areas to the initiative.	
2	Number of seed banks	SDG 2.5.1		GR: The number of seed banks might not provide adequate information as compared e.g. to the number of species protected. Could be omitted MT: To get from CBD MC: As discussed in the meeting in Athens, we are quite sceptical on the eagerness of countries to send this data only for the sake of monitoring the MSSD. I think we shall reduce this list on indicators depending on countries, unless this information is easy to access from outside. TN: Relevant indicator, could be change as following: Percentage of countries with seed bank(s)	Only few data for some countries. Proposal to cancel this indicator
2	Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems	SDG 15.a.1, 15.b.1	OECD/FMI/WB	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Suggest to omit as why focus only on ODA on biodiversity-related projects? Not sure if we want to include ODA stats as general indicator. TN: There are two different indicators but not so easy to get	To be retained
2	Rural poverty rates	SDG 1.1.1	WB/UNDP	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Suggest to move this to general section and have 1 poverty indicator (Poverty Rural/Urban) TN: Problem of North/South definition	Ongoing, Problem of definition North/South. To be retained for grouping rural and urban poverty.
2	Global Food Security Index	SDG 2	The Economist Intelligence Unit	GR: Suggested to be retained	To be retained
2	Water demand, total and by sector, compared to GDP	SDG 6.4, SCP, MSSD 2005	Plan Bleu	GR: Suggested to be retained MC: As discussed in the meeting in Athens, we are quite sceptical on the eagerness of countries to send this data only for the sake of monitoring	To be retained , retained but to be updated with data from national experts/sources

				<p>the MSSD. I think we shall reduce this list on indicators depending on countries, unless this information is easy to access from the outside.</p> <p>TN: to be clarify: is it a global demand, per sector or per economic activities.</p>	
2	Exploitation index of renewable natural (water) resources	SDG 6.4.2, MSSD 2005	Plan Bleu	<p>GR: Suggested to be retained. If it refers only to (renewable) natural drinking water resources as the note indicates, we would like to retain it. Otherwise, we would like more time to examine its measurability.</p> <p>MT: suggest to omit as data will be needed from Contracting Parties and this will not be a simple process (it took us months to be able to get a simple approximation for Malta)</p> <p>MC: As discussed in the meeting in Athens, we are quite sceptical on the eagerness of countries to send this data only for the sake of monitoring the MSSD. I think we shall reduce this list on indicators depending on countries, unless this information is easy to access from the outside.</p> <p>TN: To specify the natural resources (water, land, forest, ...)</p>	<p>To be updated with data from national experts/sources.</p> <p>Proposed to be retained if the issue of access to data is resolved. (This indicator concern water)</p>
2	Share of population with access to an improved water source (total, urban, rural)	SDG 6.1.1, MDG, MSSD 2005	OMS/UNIC EF	<p>GR: Suggested to be retained</p> <p>TN: Access to drinking water (NSSD indicator)</p>	To be retained, To keep as a MDG indicator
2	Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system (total, urban, rural)	SDG 6.2.1, 6.2.2, MDG, MSSD 2005	OMS/UNIC EF	<p>GR: Suggested to be retained</p> <p>MT: Suggest to be omitted as very similar to Indicator “Proportion of the coastal urban population connected to a sanitation network”; as this is not a priority issue in the Mediterranean, as the MSSD1.0 evaluation report indicated and as reflected in the MSSD 2016-2020.</p> <p>TN: Distinguish sanitation in urban areas and in rural areas</p>	To be retained, To keep as a MDG indicator
2	Ratio of agricultural population vs. rural population	MSSD 2005	FAO	<p>GR: Suggested to be retained</p> <p>MT: Not clear what the indicator is expressing as situation is complex due to agricultural intensification</p> <p>TN: Suggested to be retained</p>	Ongoing

2	Proportion of agriculture quality products and Share of the agricultural land area used by organic farming	SDG 2.4.1, MSSD 2005	FAO	GR: The indicator could present frequent fluctuations over time as a result of the financial profile/situation of a country. Could be omitted MT: Suggest to omit as there are queries regarding certification of organic farmland. TN : suggest to be retained but there two different indicators to distinguish	To be retained due to direct link with pollution from nitrates. Data are available.
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Objective	Indicator	References	Sources	Comments by Countries and MSCD members	Status/Comments by PB
3	Urban public open space	SDG 11.7.1	HABITAT	GR: We feel this indicator even though linked to an important aspect of the quality of life, cannot be easily measurable in practice and might not lead to objective results as there are no limits and thresholds but only indicate a comparison between countries. Possibly an indicator measuring density of urban built environment could give a more objective indication of the quality of life. Could be omitted MT: Suggest to omit as data not available easily MC: We shall cancel those indicators whose measurement is not reliable. In example, on “Urban public opens space”, if we know that the data available shows only green areas, we should limit the indicator to green areas. Maybe is not as good as it would be public spaces but I prefer to have reliable data on a non-top-important issue before having unequal input for each country. TN: Suggest to change as following: Area of green areas and urban parks (NSSD indicator)	The definition is not clear: could concern only green areas in the main cities. Could be omitted.
3	Number of countries with participatory mechanisms enshrined in spatial planning legislation			GR: Suggested to be retained MT: To take from relevant question from the Barcelona Convention National Implementation Report MC: We shall cancel those indicators whose measurement is not reliable. This applies also to the next indicator “Number of countries with participatory mechanism” TN: Suggested to be retained	Need to be better defined.

Objective	Indicators	References	Sources	Comments by Countries and MSCD members	Status/Comments by PB
3	People living in informal settlements (%)	MSSD 2005	HABITAT	GR: Relates a lot to the different (and thus possibly incomparable) circumstances in each country. Could be omitted MT: Suggest to omit as data not available TN: Suggest to use : ratio of substandard housing (NSSD indicator)	To be retained, People living in slums only available for some southern countries. Propose to change it to "Proportion of urban population with access to a decent dwelling". It is very much linked to SDG 11
3	Urban poverty rates	SDG	WB	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: suggest to express urban poverty with overall poverty indicator TN: Problem of North/South definition	Ongoing, problem of definition North/South. To be retained in grouping rural and urban poverty.
3	Status of UNESCO world heritage sites or population trends in historic urban areas	SDG 11.4	UNESCO	GR: To be retained, however the actual value of each site conserved cannot be easily assessed and compared. TN: To be retained, data is available	To be retained
3	Waste generated and treated by type of waste and treatment type	SDG 12, 12.5.1, 11.6.1	SEIS/Eurostat/Sweep Net	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: To be retained as this is a key sustainability issue and data is being compiled under the SEIS project. TN: To be retained	Ongoing, Data available for Municipal waste, need to be completed with the SEIS project. To be retained
3	Transport modal split in main cities	SDG 11.2.1	UITP	GR: To be retained, however very important for the quality of life would an indicator that measures for instance the number of vehicles per surface area of road per hour or the "density of vehicles" per passenger. Moreover, the aspect of noise instead of only the aspect of atmospheric pollution should also be captured somehow. MC: On the "Transport modal split in main cities", we think also this is hard to collect. Maybe we should simplify it and find something easier to find on urban mobility like % of population using public transport daily, or something like this.	Important indicator for quality of life. Ongoing, data need to be bought or provided by the countries, for big/polluted cities.

				TN: To be retained, with some information on passengers and freights transport	
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Objective	Indicators	References	Sources	Comments by Countries and MSCD members	Status/Comments by PB
4	Green House Gas emissions (related to GDP)	SDG 9.4.1, MSSD 2005	UNFCCC/WRI-CAIT	GR: To be retained, however could be accordingly formulated so as to include, if possible, all emissions from fossil fuels and not only from solid fuels. Moreover, it could refer to the total emissions per country according to the UNFCCC reports. TN: To be retained. Tunisia, within the framework of the UNFCCC and in order to fulfil its commitments as member of the Non-Annex I List of Parties to the Convention is being prepared a Third National communication considering: - GHG Inventories and mitigation - Vulnerability and adaptation	To be retained
4	Energy consumption (related to GDP)	SDG 7.3.1, MSSD 2005	WB/UN	GR: Suggested to be retained TN : To be retained with a batter definition of the indicator	To be retained

Objective	Indicator	References	Sources	Comments by Countries and MSCD members	Status/Comments by PB
5	Share of green jobs		Green economy study	GR: Not sure regarding measurability. Could be omitted MT: Requests more information about methodology used to calculate green jobs and accuracy of the data obtained, as Malta does not have figures for green jobs. If data reliable we would include this indicator. TN: The National strategy for a green economy has led to an action plan for promoting green jobs globally or per sector. But there are no standards or statistics on green jobs	On going, To be validated
5	Fuel subsidies / Environmentally-harmful subsidies	SDG 12.c.1, SCP	IEA for the fossil fuels subsidies	GR: Could be omitted MT: suggest to omit as data not available for most countries MC: As discussed in the meeting in Athens, we are quite sceptical on the eagerness of countries to send this data only for the sake of monitoring the MSSD. I think we shall reduce this list on indicators depending on countries, unless this information is easy to access from the outside	Data for fuels subsidies available only for 3 producer countries. To be completed with data on Fuel taxes or other environmentally-harmful subsidies Could be omitted
5	Share of green financial instruments		Green economy study	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: To be retained	On going, To be validated
5	Share of green or sustainable public procurement		Green economy study	GR: Suggested to be retained	On going, To be validated
5	Material intensity of the economy	SDG 8.4.1	WU Global Material Flows Database	GR: Suggested to be retained TN: to be clarified	To be retained

Objective	Indicators	References	Sources	Comments by Countries and MSCD members	Status/Comments by PB
6	Environmental Democracy Index (The Access Initiative)		ACCESS initiative	GR: Suggested to be retained	Data available for only 2 countries (Turkey, Israel). To be cancelled!
6	Number of countries adopting the Aarhus Convention	SDG 16.10.2	Aarhus secretariat, UNECE	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Aarhus convention is open for accession by all countries TN : To be retained TR : To be excluded from the list.	To be retained but only for the UN/ECE countries and the EU countries in the Mediterranean. To be completed for the southern countries To be excluded
6	Number of countries with application of environmental impact assessments (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in development policies		No source identified	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Source Barcelona Convention National Implementation Report MC: As discussed in the meeting in Athens, we are quite sceptical on the eagerness of countries to send this data only for the sake of monitoring the MSSD. I think we shall reduce this list on indicators depending on countries, unless this information is easy to access from the outside. TN: EIS is required for all project but SEA is only required for “big” projects	It can be retained if data is available (e.g. from BC national implementation report)
6	National Strategies for Sustainable Development	SDG 17.14.1, 17.16.1	No source identified	GR: Suggested to be retained MT: Indicator source not clear. Do not agree to use assessment on page 45 of the study as have concerns over methodology. We suggest to use 'presence or otherwise of NSSD and number of updates since first edition' TN: Suggested to be retained, there is a NSSD (2015-2020) with a set of 50 indicators available	To be retained but “the status of the National Strategies for Sustainable Development” need to be updated by the countries. Need to differentiate Green economy strategies et NSDD.
6	Number of countries that have launched national strategies on education for sustainable development		MIO	GR: Suggested to be retained TN: Suggested to be retained, there is a national strategy which need to be updated and officially validated	Ongoing. Data from MIO or from the countries

6	Number of themes for which data is shared at regional level/status of regional SEIS (Per country)	SEIS	SEIS	GR: Not enough information on this indicator as it is characterised as "tbc". Could be omitted MT: The idea is to indicate progress on SEIS project, as this is a Flagship Initiative.	Too much linked to the SEIS project, to be replaced. The progress of SEIS project, as a Flagship Initiative could be followed separately.
6	Proportion of bank credit allocated to the private sector – Existence of alternative financing systems using bank credit	MSSD 2005	OCDE	GR: "It is very much linked to the current financial situation in a country thus could present fluctuations due to ""external"" reasons. More time required to examine its scope and measurability resulting in objective results - Eventually would not object to be omitted"	To be retained
6	Public and private expenses for research and development in percentage of GDP	SDG 9.5.1, MSSD 2005	OCDE	GR: Suggested to be retained TN: to be retained	To be retained