

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

1. In accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) a meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD is being convened on 30 and 31 March, 2009 at the premises of the Coordinating Unit (48 Vassileos Konstantinou Avenue, Athens, Greece).
2. The following annotations to the provisional agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting of the Steering Committee in its deliberations.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the meeting

3. The meeting will be opened at 09:30 hrs on Monday 30 March 2009, by the President of the Steering Committee.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work

4. The Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, was distributed as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.332/3.
5. The meeting will review and adopt the Provisional Agenda. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for all sessions.
6. It is expected that the Steering Committee will tackle all items of the Provisional Agenda during its one and a half day meeting including the adoption of a list of conclusions. It is envisaged to close the meeting of the Steering Committee at mid-day on 31 March, 2009. The report of the meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat and distributed to the members of the Steering Committee for comments and approval through electronic means.

Agenda item 3: Progress Report on MCSD activities

7. The Secretariat will present the "*Progress Report by the Secretariat for the 13th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee*" UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.332/2.
8. The members of the Steering Committee are invited to comment on the progress report on the implementation of the activities carried out since the last meeting of the Steering Committee on 19 – 20 June, 2009 in Athens. In particular the Steering Committee is expected to consider the progress report with respect to:-
 - National Strategies and Initiatives for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Region;
 - Support to NSSD formulation and implementation;
 - NSSD and Adaptation to Climate Change in three countries (Egypt, Syria, Montenegro).

9. The meeting is expected to have an exchange of views on these issues and provide the Secretariat with their views and guidance as appropriate. In particular, the meeting is invited to have a broader discussion on the way the MCSD is tackling the issues of NSSD

preparation and implementation, taking into account the 1st Progress Report on the Updating Review 2009 of the NSSD (Annex III of the report)

Agenda item 4 **Activities by MAP Components in support of the MSSD**

10. The Steering Committee is invited to review the reports submitted by MAP components with respect to their activities carried out in support of the MSSD in the following priority fields of actions as outlined in the MSSD:-

- Implementation and monitoring of MSSD (BP/RAC);
- Marine and coastal biodiversity and marine resources (RAC/SPA);
- Reduction of pollution of the marine environment (MEDPOL);
- Sustainable consumption and production (CP/RAC);
- Integrated coastal zone management (PAP/RAC).

Following a short presentation by the MAP components of their progress report on their activities in support of the MSSD, the Steering Committee is invited to comment on the presentations and to advise the Secretariat as they deem appropriate.

Agenda item 5 **Functioning of the MCSD**

11. The Steering Committee will be informed by the Secretariat about the developments since the last MCSD meeting with respect to the composition of the Commission and in particular with regard to the nomination of the representatives of the three new categories to sit on the MCSD. The Steering Committee will also be informed about the decision of the Bureau with respect to the nomination of these representatives and will be invited to comment and provide guidance to the Secretariat.

12. The Steering Committee is also invited propose how to foster synergies and dialogue between the different MCSD members and the concerned entities (the SC itself, MAP components and other actors that may not be represented in the MCSD).

Agenda item 6: **Thematic programme of work of the MCSD**

13. Apart from the reports by Blue Plan with regard to the thematic programme of work of the MCSD which are featured under section VI of the Secretariats progress report, the Steering Committee will be briefed about the thematic issues that will be addressed during the cycle 2009-2010. The Steering Committee will be invited to give its comments on the proposed thematic issues.

Agenda item 7: **In-depth assessment of the MSSD**

14. The Secretariat will introduce the Terms of Reference for the recruitment of a consultant to carry out an in-depth assessment of the MSSD in line with the MCSD Programme of Work. As agreed by the Executive Coordination Panel during its last meeting in Tunis in February, 2009, the Terms of Reference are being submitted to be discussed first with the Steering Committee of the MCSD (Annex V of the report) etc. The Steering Committee is invited to review the Terms of Reference and advise the Secretariat as appropriate.

Agenda item 8: 13th Meeting of the MCSD

15. The Secretariat will introduce the draft Agenda for the 13th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development for the consideration and approval of the Steering Committee (Annex VII of the report).

Agenda item 9: Any other business

16. The meeting will consider other issues which may be raised during the meeting.

Agenda item 10: Conclusions of the meeting

17. The Secretariat will submit for adoption a set of conclusions on the basis of the discussions on the different items of the agenda. The report of the meeting will be circulated to the members of the Bureau at a later stage for adoption.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the meeting

18. The meeting will be closed by the President of the Steering Committee at approximately 12:00 hrs on Tuesday, 31 March, 2009.

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