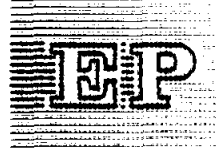




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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties  
to the Convention for the protection of the  
Mediterranean Sea against pollution and its related  
protocols

Madrid, 11 September 1986

ALTERNATIVE METHODS OF CALCULATING  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEDITERRANEAN TRUST FUND

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UNEP

Athens, 1986

## I. Introduction

1. At the Fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Genoa, 9-13 September 1985) there was extensive discussion on the apportionment of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund, reflected in the following two paragraphs of the Report of the Meeting (UNEP/IG.56/5):

"140. One delegation suggested that an examination be made of the basis for the apportionment of contributions. Others stressed the point that greater equality in apportionment was required. Some delegations did not subscribe to the proposal that the scale should be changed.

146. One delegation declared that the contribution apportionment agreed upon for 1986-1987 was understood to create no precedent for future years in the Mediterranean Action Plan or in any other international organization. The Secretariat should undertake to present, after consultation with the Contracting Parties, alternative proposals on a new apportionment formula to their next meeting."

147. Another delegation declared that it had accepted the apportionment in spirit of compromise, but that for the next meeting the budget should be presented in accordance with the scale of assessment used at the 1979 meeting of Contracting Parties in Geneva.

2. Acting upon the request contained in the last sentence of paragraph 146 above, the secretariat has prepared the present note setting out the rationale for revising the apportionment, suggesting alternative ways for calculating a new apportionment formula and proposing a time scale for its introduction.

3. During its March 1986 (Madrid) meeting, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties discussed this subject and requested the Co-ordinator to seek comments of all Contracting Parties on it in order to continue the study of this matter at the next Bureau meeting (Sept. 1986).

## II. Rationale for a revision of the apportionment formula

4. The Contracting Parties had decided that country contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund would be apportioned in accordance to the scale of assessment for the United Nations Regular Budget. Since 1979, the UN scale of assessment applicable to the seventeen Mediterranean coastal states was taken as a basis for calculating contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

5. At each Ordinary Meeting minor adjustments were adopted by consensus in order to resolve specific problems and not to replace the UN scale of assessment.

6. Any revisions to the UN scale of assessments adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations were automatically taken as a basis for subsequent calculations. The latest revision adopted in resolution 40/248 of 18 December 1985 applies to the years 1986-1988 and has been used in this note.

7. It should be noted that resolution 40/248 increased the assessment of seven Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Cyprus, Greece, Italy, Spain, Syria and Turkey), reduced those of three countries (France, Israel and Lebanon), and left seven unchanged (Egypt, Lybia, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Tunisia and Yugoslavia). This should be kept in mind when comparing the proposed scale for 1991 for the Mediterranean Trust Fund, with those for 1987 and previous years, since part of the difference between the present and the proposed percentages for the first ten countries just mentioned is due to the revision of the UN scale.

8. Furthermore, by resolution 27/2961, the General Assembly decided that "as a matter of principle, the maximum contribution of any one member state to the ordinary expenses of the UN shall not exceed 25 per cent of the total". At the time the Mediterranean Trust Fund was established no such limitation was applied to it, leading to an extremely heavy proportion of the total being contributed by one Contracting Party.

9. It is relevant to note that in all subsequent Regional Seas Trust Funds administered by UNEP the participating States have adopted apportionment formulas which are different from that of the Mediterranean Trust Fund. By adopting an "entry fee" or minimum contribution they have narrowed the gap between the lowest and the highest contribution.

10. For comparison purposes the apportionment formulas in force in other Regional Seas Programmes are reproduced in Annex II. They affect a total of fifty-one States and territories. While comparing the UN scale equivalent, shown in Column 2, and the percentage of pledges actually made, it can be seen that pledges are consistently higher for small and middle contributions, and consistently lower for the largest contributor. It is also worth noting that every country pays more than 1 per cent of its regional Trust Fund and in many cases exceeds it considerably. In fact, seventeen States participating in the West and Central African Region Trust Fund are assessed for the UN Regular Budget at the same 0.01 per cent level as the three lowest contributors to the Mediterranean Trust Fund, yet contribute to their Trust Fund fifteen times more (\$37,200 vs. \$2,387).

### III. Proposed revision of the apportionment formula

11. The secretariat believes that the present formula could be modified to provide a more equitable distribution by reducing the proportion required to be paid by the largest contributor and increasing the very low contributions, whilst retaining the principles underlying the UN scale of assessment.

12. The proposal is based on the continued use of the UN scale of assessment, with the introduction of a maximum of 25 per cent and a minimum of 1 per cent, to be achieved gradually over a period of four years, from 1988 to 1991.

13. The proposal aims at the adoption of principles which can continue to be applied for a number of years.

14. Two alternatives are proposed for the calculation of the 1991 apportionment, with the procedure described in more detail below.

First step: A maximum of 25% was apportioned to two countries (France and Italy) which, according to the UN scale contribute more than 25%. A one per cent contribution was apportioned to the other fifteen countries. Thus, in the first step 65% was assigned.

Second step:

Alternative A: The remaining 35% was apportioned in accordance with the UN scale to the six countries (Greece, Israel, Libya, Spain, Turkey, Yugoslavia) which were above 1 per cent and below 25 per cent in the UN scale .

Alternative B: The remaining 35% was apportioned in accordance with the UN scale to the fifteen countries which were below 25 per cent in the UN scale.

15. It should be noted that for the smallest contributors the choice between the two alternatives makes very little difference, while Alternative B allows all countries to keep the relative position which the current UN scale assigns to them.

IV. Interim arrangements

16. Whatever alternative is adopted for 1991, it is proposed that the new scale be reached over a 4 year period, by a linear increase or decrease from the level approved for 1987. This would ensure the necessary stability in the financing of the Action Plan, independently of the actual budgets which will be adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1987 and 1989, respectively.

17. As indicated in paragraph 3 above, the secretariat approached the Contracting Parties on 11 June 1986 on this matter requesting their comments before the end of July 1986 in order to present them to the Bureau at its September 1986 meeting. As of 15 August, Algeria, Israel, Monaco, Syria and Turkey have responded. In addition, Italy conveyed informally a preliminary reaction to the secretariat.

18. The views of Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia and Yugoslavia have not yet been communicated.

19. The main observations received are as follows:

Three countries oppose a change in the present scale of contributions. One supports the need for a more equitable apportionment, but considers the proposed increases to be excessive. Another country points out that exceptions exist to the 25% maximum in other regional seas programmes and underlines the need to reflect the size of the country and its population in any revised scale. Another country observed that the proposal should maintain the relative positions of contributions, as compared with the UN scale of assessment.

20. In view of the need to reach an agreed position before the next ordinary meeting of Contracting Parties, the Bureau may wish to request the secretariat to modify its proposals on the basis of these and any additional comments received and present them to the next meeting of the Bureau.

A N N E X I

Proposed Apportionment of Contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund for 1991  
Based on the Adoption of Minimum (1.00%) and Maximum (25.00%) Percentage Contributions for 1991

Country	Approved in Genoa for 1987	Corresponding percentage	Current UN scale		Alternative A		Alternative B		1991 Total
			Per cent of Regular Budget	Per cent of MTF	Step 1	Step 2	Step 1	Step 2	
Algeria	27,174	0.97	0.14	0.98	1.00	-	1.00	1.19	2.19
Cyprus	2,386	0.08	0.02	0.14	1.00	-	1.00	0.17	1.17
Egypt	15,884	0.57	0.07	0.49	1.00	-	1.00	0.59	1.59
France	1,237,395	44.20	6.37	44.57	25.00	-	25.00	-	25.00
Greece	80,046	2.86	0.44	3.08	1.00	4.11	1.00	3.73	4.73
Israel	56,008	2.00	0.22	1.54	1.00	2.05	1.00	1.87	2.87
Italy	758,256	27.09	3.79	26.52	25.00	-	25.00	-	25.00
Lebanon	6,703	0.24	0.01	0.07	1.00	-	1.00	0.09	1.09
Libya	52,118	1.86	0.26	1.82	1.00	2.43	1.00	2.20	3.20
Malta	2,387	0.08	0.01	0.07	1.00	-	1.00	0.09	1.09
Monaco	2,387	0.08	0.01	0.07	1.00	-	1.00	0.09	1.09
Morocco	11,384	0.41	0.05	0.35	1.00	-	1.00	0.42	1.42
Spain	370,418	13.23	2.03	14.21	1.00	18.95	1.00	17.20	18.20
Syria	6,912	0.25	0.04	0.28	1.00	-	1.00	0.34	1.34
Tunisia	6,912	0.25	0.03	0.21	1.00	-	1.00	0.24	1.24
Turkey	67,870	2.43	0.34	2.38	1.00	3.16	1.00	2.88	3.88
Yugoslavia	95,228	3.40	0.46	3.22	1.00	4.30	1.00	3.90	4.90
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,799,468</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>14.29</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>65.00</b>	<b>35.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>65.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## ANNEX II

West and Central African Region Trust Fund

Country	UN Scale	Equivalent Per cent	1986 Pledge US Dollars	Per Cent
Angola	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Benin	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Cameroon	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Cape Verde	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Congo	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Equatorial Guinea	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Gabon	0.03	7.32	49,400	4.96
Gambia	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Ghana	0.01	2.44	61,600	6.11
Guinea	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Guinea-Bissau	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Ivory Coast	0.02	4.87	61,600	6.17
Liberia	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Mauritania	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Nigeria	0.19	46.33	220,100	22.00
Sao Tome & Principe	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Senegal	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Sierra Leone	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Togo	0.01	2.44	37,200	3.72
Zaire	0.01	2.44	49,400	4.96
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.41</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>1,000,100</b>	<b>100.00</b>

East Asian Seas Trust Fund

Country	UN Scale	Equivalent Per cent	1986 Pledge US Dollars	Per Cent
Indonesia	0.14	26.41	33,000	34.88
Malaysia	0.10	18.87	18,700	19.78
Philippines	0.10	18.87	20,900	22.09
Singapore	0.10	18.87	1,100	1.16
Thailand	0.09	16.98	20,900	22.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>94,600</b>	<b>100.00</b>

## ANNEX II (Cont'd)

Caribbean Trust Fund

Country	UN Scale	Equivalent Per cent	1986 Pledge US Dollars	Per cent	1987 Pledge US Dollars	Per cent
Bahamas	0.01	0.12	7,128	1.30	9,322	1.31
Barbados	0.01	0.12	7,128	1.30	9,322	1.31
Belize	0.01	0.12	6,500	1.18	8,500	1.19
Br. Virgin Islands	-	-	5,500	1.00	5,500	0.77
Colombia	0.13	1.56	13,406	2.44	17,534	2.46
Costa Rica	0.02	0.24	7,755	1.41	10,143	1.43
Cuba	0.09	1.08	13,406	2.44	17,534	2.46
Dominican Republic	0.03	0.36	8,383	1.52	10,964	1.54
France	6.37	76.38	162,487	29.53	212,513	29.86
Grenada	0.01	0.12	7,128	1.30	9,322	1.31
Guatemala	0.02	0.24	7,755	1.41	10,143	1.43
Guyana	0.01	0.12	7,128	1.30	9,322	1.31
Haiti	0.01	0.12	7,128	1.30	9,322	1.31
Honduras	0.01	0.12	7,128	1.30	9,322	1.31
Jamaica	0.02	0.24	10,832	1.97	14,168	1.99
Mexico	0.89	10.67	108,320	19.69	141,680	19.91
Montserrat	-	-	2,500	0.45	2,500	0.35
Netherlands Antilles	-	-	15,000	2.73	15,000	2.11
Nicaragua	0.01	0.12	7,128	1.30	9,322	1.31
Panama	0.02	0.24	7,775	1.41	10,143	1.43
St. Kitts-Nevis	-	-	2,500	0.45	2,500	0.35
St. Lucia	0.01	0.12	6,500	1.18	8,500	1.19
St. Vincent & Grenadines	0.01	0.12	6,500	1.18	8,500	1.19
Suriname	0.01	0.12	7,128	1.30	9,322	1.31
Trinidad & Tobago	0.04	0.48	8,383	1.52	10,964	1.54
Turks & Caicos Is.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Venezuela	0.60	7.19	99,659	18.11	130,341	18.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.34</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>550,185</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>711,703</b>	<b>100.00</b>