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Intergovernmental Meeting of Mediterranean
Coastal States on the "Blue Plan"
Split, Yugoslavia
31 January - 4 February 1977

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

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I. Introduction

1. At the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean, held at Barcelona from 28 January to 4 February 1975, the Governments of the region declared themselves ready to consider proposals aimed at reconciling the demands for development with the need to protect and improve the quality of the Mediterranean environment. The Intergovernmental Meeting adopted an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Mediterranean Region 1/ in which it requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in collaboration with the Governments of the region, the organizations of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and regional organizations concerned, to draw up a co-ordinated programme aimed at a better utilization of resources in the interests of the countries of the region and their development in accordance with sound long-term environmental principles.

To give effect to these directives and to follow up the steps taken by Governments and international organizations in the Mediterranean region, the Executive Director of UNEP undertook to convene an Intergovernmental Meeting of Coastal States of the region in order to submit the "Blue Plan" project to them. The "Blue Plan", a co-ordinated programme of regional co-operation, is conceived as a continuous process of research and activity having as its foremost objective the economic and social development of the region on a sound ecological basis.

3. The following notes on the provisional agenda are intended to facilitate the work of the Intergovernmental Meeting.

II. Notes on the agenda

Item 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Meeting will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, 31 January 1977, in the conference hall of the Hotel Lav at Split in Yugoslavia. The opening ceremony will comprise a speech by a representative of the host Government and another by the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Item 2. Election of the Chairman

The Meeting will elect a Chairman to preside over the plenary meetings and over the Bureau.

Item 3. Adoption of the rules of procedure

In accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure of the UNEP Governing Council, the rules of procedure of the Meeting will be, mutatis mutandis, those of the Governing Council as set forth in document UNEP/GC/3/Rev.1.

Item 4. Election of officers

In addition to the Chairman, the Meeting will elect two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur, who will constitute the Bureau of the Meeting. The Bureau will assist the Meeting in the general conduct of business and will co-ordinate its work.

Item 5. Adoption of the agenda.

The Meeting will be invited to adopt the agenda. A provisional agenda (UNEP/IG.5/1) is submitted to it for this purpose.

Item 6. Appointment of the Credentials Committee

On beginning its work, the Meeting will appoint a Credentials Committee with not more than five members to examine the credentials of representatives and report on this subject to the Meeting.

The Meeting may perhaps decide that this Committee shall be composed of its Chairman and the two Vice-Chairmen.

Item 7. Organization of work of the Meeting

A draft programme for the Meeting is submitted in document UNEP/IG.5/1. It is proposed that all the work of the Meeting should be done at plenary meetings, at which all agenda items will be examined.

Item 8. The "Blue Plan"

On the basis of the views expressed by Mediterranean experts and by representatives of various United Nations specialized agencies and other bodies, the Executive Director of UNEP is submitting to the Meeting an introductory report on the origin, objectives and proposals for the implementation of the "Blue Plan" (UNEP/IG.5/3). This document, several aspects of which are enlarged upon in other documents submitted to the Meeting, will serve as a basis for discussion. One of the Meeting's main objectives will be to study all these documents and, in the light of its deliberations, to draw up a programme of co-ordinated action whose foremost aim is to promote the economic and social development of the Mediterranean region while at the same time preserving and improving the quality of the environment.

Subitem 8.1. Objectives

The long-term and immediate objectives proposed are set out in document UNEP/IG.5/3, paragraphs 10-18. They are made more explicit in the other working documents. The Meeting is invited to examine these objectives and to give its directives on the subject.

Subitem 8.2. Methods of implementation

The "Blue Plan" project covers forward-looking studies of the Mediterranean basin and practical action to be taken in the immediate future. It is proposed that the forward-looking studies should be undertaken by the method described in document UNEP/IG.5/4. The practical action might take the form of pilot projects in which all the Mediterranean States would participate and from which they would all benefit. This would be considered under item 9.

Subitem 8.3. Institutional and financial implications

The Executive Director has set out in document UNEP/IG.5/5 some preliminary views on the institutional and financial implications of the "Blue Plan". The proposals made in the document are designed to associate the Governments of the Mediterranean region and the participating international bodies as closely as possible with the conception, execution and financing of the project. This is one of a number of approaches made in an endeavour to respond to specific decisions of the Governing Council. ^{2/} The Meeting might adopt this approach or propose others to the Executive Director.

Subitem 8.4. Recommendations

To facilitate the work of the Meeting, the Executive Director has prepared, on the basis of the working papers and information documents, some proposed recommendations which he has set out in document UNEP/IG.5/. The sole purpose of these proposals is to shed more light on the decisions which the Meeting will have to take. The Executive Director will be glad to receive other proposals both before and during the Meeting at Split.

Item 9. Priority Actions

One of the immediate objectives of the integrated development planning component of the Action Plan for the Mediterranean is to undertake a series of practical steps in what the Mediterranean Government see as priority areas. In co-operation with various agencies of the United Nations system and with other bodies, UNEP has prepared a series of information documents dealing with certain areas (UNEP/IG.5/INF.3-13). These documents are far from exhaustive; they are submitted merely to illustrate the problems arising in the areas dealt with and to provide some examples of the steps which might be taken to solve them. The Meeting is invited to suggest other priority areas of action in addition to those described in the information documents submitted to it

Subitem 9.1.

The Governments are expected to decide on the list of proposed priority activities in paragraphs 10-32 of document UNEP/IG.5/6.

Subitem 9.2.

It is proposed that the implementation of whatever priority actions the Governments may decide to launch should be considered in the light of the relevant information documents (UNEP/IG.5/INF.3 et seq.)

Subitem 9.3.

The Governments are expected to give guidance on:

- (a) Need for a small secretariat to co-ordinate the implementation of activities to be launched under this item and the possible location of such a secretariat.
- (b) Principles for costing these activities (based on their scope) and sharing of these costs.

^{2/} Decision 47(IV), paragraph 9, and decision 50 (IV), paragraph 7.

Subitem 9.4.

Views of Governments regarding recommendations proposed by the Executive Director in document UNEP/IG.5/6 relating to this item.

Item 10. Other business

Item 11. Adoption of the report

Item 12. Closure of the Meeting.