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Meeting on the Contribution of Mediterranean  
bilateral and multilateral programmes to the  
objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan

Brussels, 23 - 26 October 1984

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE STRENGTHENING OF CO-OPERATION  
IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

1. The Third Meeting of Contracting Parties (Dubrovnik, 1983) heard a proposal from the secretariat that a meeting be authorized on the Mediterranean Action Plan with the participation of bilateral and multilateral donor agencies. As the Deputy Executive Director explained in his statement, "the purpose would not be to obtain an artificial earmarking of funds for Mediterranean activities, but a fair hearing for the many solid projects that might mobilize effective assistance and co-operation". (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex II).
2. In discussing the matter, several delegates stressed the need for a meeting to review and analyze the contributions of the existing Mediterranean bilateral and multilateral programmes to the objectives of the Action Plan and to formulate proposals for strengthening existing channels and programmes. They adopted a budget for the meeting and accepted the invitation of the delegation of the European Economic Community to host the meeting in Brussels (UNEP/IG.43/6, paragraph 81).
3. The Contracting Parties, thus, widened the terms of reference of the proposed meeting from a review of existing project proposals to an examination of their own bilateral programmes leading to their greater use in the future.
4. In order to gather information on the extent of the contribution of bilateral and multilateral programmes to the objectives of the Action Plan, a Questionnaire was circulated by the secretariat on 19 September 1983. The response of the Contracting Parties and the response of the UN Agencies are contained in document UNEP/WG.104/INF.4.
5. As a background documentation the following texts have also been issued to participants, since they provide useful information for the discussion:
  - The Declaration of environmental policies and procedures relating to economic development (UNEP/WG.104/INF.3)
  - The UNEP Clearing House Experiment (UNEP/WG.104/INF.7)
6. The contribution of the bilateral programme appears to be very modest at the present time, leaving much scope for expansion. Significantly, however, no negative comments were received questioning the use of bilateral co-operation programmes for the objectives of the Action Plan. The reasons for the present lack of projects apparently lie elsewhere: in the fact that marine environment protection is a recent preoccupation of the coastal States, that environmental protection agencies are still inadequately represented at the negotiating table, and that the positive impact of marine and coastal protection activities on national development is only beginning to be realized.

7. In fact, replies to the Questionnaire record considerable interest in such co-operation. The present meeting will have to suggest ways and means by which such interest can be met through existing channels.
8. The interest of the European Economic Community for the protection of the Mediterranean has been shown from the very first Barcelona meeting and has grown steadily ever since. The action programme of the European Community on the environment finally adopted by its Council on 7 February 1983, attaches considerable importance to the "Mediterranean dimension". A communication submitted by the Commission to the Council on 24 April 1984 on the protection of the environment in the Mediterranean basin, aims at developing strategy and resources for the Mediterranean, through bilateral action and through a firmer commitment to the Mediterranean Action Plan.
9. Another important recent development is the resolution concerning the integration of the environmental dimension in development assistance, adopted at Luxembourg, on 28 June 1984 by the European Ministers of the Environment, under the French presidency.
10. The specialized Agencies of the United Nations have shown a welcome interest in projects related to marine and coastal protection of the Mediterranean. The present meeting, and the Contracting Parties may wish to record their appreciation and encouragement to the Agencies, because in most cases their secretariats have no specific Mediterranean mandate, and operate under a variety of programme headings.
11. UNEP, while serving as the secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, and having invested extensively from its Environment Fund in the Action Plan, continues to provide indirect support through a number of activities financed from other budget lines. The contribution from UNEP is contained in document UNEP/WG.104/INF.6.
12. The Mediterranean Action Plan appears to offer the most suitable framework for expanding Mediterranean co-operation. It has the widest geographical coverage with seventeen out of the eighteen Coastal States (Albania is entitled to join without any special formalities, under the terms of Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention). It deals with a far-ranging set of issues, from integrated planning of the development and management of the resources in the Mediterranean Basin, to the co-ordinated pollution monitoring and research programme, to the development of region-wide legal instruments.
13. The Action Plan possesses a solid institutional and financial basis, developed and tested over a number of years: regular meetings of the Contracting Parties, an elected Bureau providing inter-sessional guidance, technical committees for MED-POL, Blue Plan and PAP, a Co-ordinating Unit in Athens, four specialized regional activity centres in Malta, Split (Yugoslavia), Sophia Antipolis (France), and Tunis. It has direct links with over eighty marine research laboratories in the region and works in close co-ordination with FAO, WHO, UNESCO, IOC, WMO and IAEA.

14. It operates a Mediterranean Trust Fund based on voluntary contributions, with authorized expenditures of \$ 8.4 million for the 1984-1985 biennium. Within this structure a programme for the protection of the Mediterranean is being developed, which can only succeed with active national participation and the support of bilateral programmes.
15. It is worth recalling at this stage those features of the Mediterranean Action Plan that make participation of the bilateral programmes essential for its success. The first general undertaking under Article 4 of the Convention is to take all appropriate measures, individually or jointly, to prevent, abate and combat pollution and to protect and enhance the marine environment of the area. The Protocol on Land-Based Sources of pollution specifies that programmes and measures shall include in particular common emission standards and standards of use. To achieve quality objectives, specific action programmes and investments are essential and they can only come from national sources, supplemented by international co-operation and solidarity.
16. The concept of solidarity has been embodied in the Convention (Article 11.3) and in all its protocols: On Dumping (Article 9), on Emergencies (Article 10), on Land-Based Sources (Article 10) and on Specially Protected Areas (Article 15). They contemplate a variety of technical and financial assistance, subject to request by the countries concerned.
17. Lack of investment in pollution control is delaying the attainment of the objective of a clean Mediterranean. Already a certain impatience is voiced by the press, always a strong supporter of the programme, over the slow visible progress being made. It would probably be difficult for any country to put a figure to its annual investment in marine protection, or for the secretariat to produce a region-wide estimate. And yet, without such figures there is no yardstick to measure the real effort made by the Contracting Parties, or to identify the productive sectors that benefit directly from such investments.
18. The scientific and legal components must be seen to be leading to concrete measures by which the major threats of pollution, once identified, are firmly dealt with. Only concrete measures will produce the visible reversal in the state of pollution of the Mediterranean sea that is the ultimate goal of the Barcelona Convention.
19. In recommending a greatly increased flow of technical and financial means for the clean-up of the Mediterranean, the secretariat is careful not to exceed its catalytic and co-ordinating role. It is not seeking any direct involvement in the negotiation, decision-making or management of such concrete projects. They should be developed through existing bilateral and multilateral channels without adding a new level of negotiation. Even if asked to do so, the Co-ordinating Unit could not accept any direct involvement in such projects, given the small staff resources at its disposal.

20. The secretariat is suggesting a soft approach, with no target figures to be reached, nor earmarking of funds for Mediterranean projects, following in this the philosophy of UNEP's Clearing House experiment endorsed by its Governing Council.
21. It is suggested that, given a fair hearing, projects related to marine protection and rational coastal development will not fail to attract the support of donor programmes. The results of not taking action are sufficiently well documented through the Med-Pol data, the expectations of public opinion so well voiced by the media, that the need for supporting such projects is often self-evident.
22. The first group of projects submitted for consideration in document UNEP/WG.104/4 have been developed within the framework of the Action Plan and are, therefore, directly relevant to its objectives. They have often benefitted from considerable preparatory and development work, financed partly by UNEP and partly by other UN bodies and specialized Agencies.
23. In order to develop relevant proposals in the future the secretariat needs the guidance of the Contracting Parties as to the type and nature of projects most likely to be financed. The only significant guidance will emerge from actual financing decisions by the appropriate national authorities.
24. Non-governmental organizations (NGO) concerned with environmental protection are natural allies of governments in their endeavour to clean the Mediterranean and develop more rationally their coastal areas. At a meeting in Athens in October 1983, the NGOs adopted a resolution on Mediterranean issues which is reproduced in document UNEP/WG.104/INF.5. In response to it, the European Environmental Bureau has taken the initiative of convening a meeting of Non-governmental organizations on the Mediterranean (Brussels, 19-21 October 1984) to be held in conjunction with the present meeting and with financial support from the Contracting Parties. The meeting should consider carefully any proposals from the NGOs aiming at involving them, together with their membership, in support of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
25. The present meeting has been given a pioneering role in this field. It has a chance to set in motion additional support for individual projects and to give new stimulus to the Mediterranean Action Plan by suggesting to the Ministerial Conference of 1985 the idea of a new package of measures for the Mediterranean.

#### Recommendations for action

26. A set of draft recommendations is contained in Annex I and II of the present document, for review and adoption.

ANNEX I

Draft Recommendations

The Meeting,

having in mind the goals of protection and enhancement of the Mediterranean sea area embodied in the Action Plan, the Barcelona Convention and its related protocols;

recalling the concept of region-wide solidarity reflected in each of the above legal instruments;

reaffirming the urgency of promoting practical action based on the scientific, legal and socio-economic components of the Action Plan;

Recommends to the Contracting Parties:

1. to increase concrete measures and projects aiming at the protection of the Mediterranean sea against pollution and at the rational development of their coastal areas;
2. to increase mutual aid and co-operation in these areas, aiming at the best utilization and full use of available resources;
3. to consider, in their negotiations of bilateral co-operation, projects related to the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and to the rational development of the coastal areas;
4. to adopt a check-list of activities for use in bilateral negotiations, as suggested in Annex II;
5. to finance individually or jointly - projects contained in document UNEP/WG.104/4 since they are directly relevant to the programme and have received contributions from UNEP and other UN Agencies for their development costs;
6. to include in their annual reports required under Article 20 of the Convention, relevant information on projects financed as a result of such review exercises;
7. to welcome the support expressed for the Mediterranean programme by Non-Governmental organizations and to encourage their participation in practical activities relevant to the programme;
8. on the occasion of the Ministerial Conference scheduled to take place in Genoa in September 1985 marking the tenth anniversary of the Mediterranean Action Plan, to adopt a bold new package of measures and projects to enable visible progress to be achieved towards a clean Mediterranean.

ANNEX II

DRAFT CHECK-LIST

of activities for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and for the rational development of its coastal areas

Objectives

The check-list is to be used in negotiating bilateral and multilateral co-operation programmes with Mediterranean Coastal States to identify projects that would contribute to the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution and to the enhancement of its marine and coastal environment.

Legal basis

The Mediterranean Action Plan adopted by the Intergovernmental Meeting on the protection of the Mediterranean (Barcelona, 1975);

The Convention for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution (Barcelona, 1976)<sup>1/</sup> and its related protocols;

The recommendations of the Meeting on the contribution of Mediterranean bilateral and multilateral programmes to the objectives of the Mediterranean Action Plan (Brussels, 1984);

Decision of the 4th Meeting of Contracting Parties (Genoa, 1985)

Scope

Bilateral and multilateral programmes of the Contracting Parties, UNEP, UNDP; the regular programmes of the specialized agencies of the United Nations; other regional organizations; major lending institutions.

Structure

Topics in the Check-list are arranged in accordance with the structure of the Mediterranean Action Plan budget, as approved by the Contracting Parties.

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<sup>1/</sup> The Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention are:  
ALGERIA, EEC, CYPRUS, EGYPT, FRANCE, GREECE, ISRAEL, ITALY, LEBANON,  
LIBYA, MALTA, MONACO, MOROCCO, SPAIN, SYRIA, TUNISIA, TURKEY, YUGOSLAVIA

Item 1. LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

E.g. provision of experts for national legislation and regulations on land-based sources of pollution; off-shore exploration and exploitation; liability for environmental damages; regulation of and permits for dumping.

Item 2. MONITORING AND MARINE RESEARCH

E.g. assistance to marine research laboratories through experts, fellowships, laboratory equipment and supplies, joint cruises, financing of research vessels.

Item 3. POLLUTION BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

E.g. provision of experts, fellowships, financing of equipment and dispersants, agreements on exchange of equipment and personnel.

Item 4. PORT RECEPTION FACILITIES FOR WASTE WATERS

Assistance in the design through experts, case studies, training. Capital investment for the construction.

Item 5. TRAINING IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Provision of fellowships, training courses, exchange of data, joint case studies, environmental impact assessment.



Item 6 DATA BANKS ON THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

Provision of experts, fellowships, facilities and equipment, access to computerized information from satellite images and aerial photography.

Item 7 PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT

Provision of experts, training, equipment and audiovisual material.

Item 8 WATER MANAGEMENT FOR ISLANDS AND WATER DEFICIENT COASTAL AREAS

Provision of experts, case studies, fellowships, capital investment in pilot projects.

Item 9 REGIONAL PLANNING OF COASTAL AREAS

Provision of experts, case studies, fellowships.

Item 10 REHABILITATION OF HISTORIC COASTAL TOWN CENTRES

Provision of experts, training, financing of pilot projects.

Item 11 LIQUID AND SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL IN COASTAL TOWNS

Provision of experts, design and installation of treatment plants, capital investment, management training.

Item 12 AQUACULTURE PROJECTS

Provision of experts, design and installation, training, joint ventures.

Item 13 SOIL PROTECTION IN COASTAL AREAS

Provision of experts and fellowships on use of marginal lands, loss of arable land to urbanization, prevention and control of forest fires.

Item 14 IMPACT OF TOURISM ON COASTAL AREAS

Provision of experts, fellowships for case studies, development of environmentally sound tourism, financing of pilot projects.

Item 15 RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

Provision of experts, fellowships, financing of case studies, capital investment for solar and wind energy projects on islands and coastal areas.

Item 16 PROTECTION OF MARINE ANIMALS AND PLANTS

Provision of experts, fellowships, field surveys, establishment and management of marine parks and protected areas.