



**Decisions and Conclusions of the Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting  
Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the  
Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols**

**Zagreb, Croatia, 8-9 November 2010**

## BUREAU DECISIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

### MTF status

1. The Bureau taking note of the MAP financial situation as indicated in document UNEP/BUR/71/Inf.3, the explanation by the Secretariat (UNEP HQ and Coordinating Unit), including the presentation made by UNEP HQ decided to:

- a) *Mandate its President with support from the Secretariat to inform as a matter of urgency the Contracting Parties, through the MAP Focal Points, of the financial situation of the Mediterranean Action Plan and to distribute for this purpose an explanatory note completed with simplified graphs. The Note should also provide an explanation on the decisions taken by the Bureau with regard to the process for addressing this matter in line with the Rules and Procedures for the Conferences and Meetings of the Contracting Parties and Terms of Reference of the Bureau.*
- b) *Request a financial management audit of the MTF and the other extra budgetary funds for the period 2002-2009, to be conducted by the OIOS, according to the Terms of Reference attached to this document. The audit report shall be shared with the Bureau and the Contracting Parties.*
- c) *Urge the Contracting Parties that have unpaid pledges from previous years (Algeria and Libya) to pay their arrears as soon as possible and mandate the Secretariat to undertake urgent action to agree with the respective countries on a timetable for the collection of the arrears. Also urge the Contracting parties who have not done yet so to pay their contributions.*
- d) *Request the Secretariat and UNEP, taking note of the situation of the Trust Fund for Host Government Contribution (CAL Trust Fund), and acknowledging the specific situation related to such contributions, to provide the Greek government with all relevant Contracting Parties meeting decisions since 2001 and detailed information on the unpaid pledges since 2004 to date on an annual basis and to agree on a timetable for the payment of such arrears.*
- e) *Authorize the Secretariat to organize an extraordinary Bureau meeting inviting all other Contracting parties as observers with the view to consulting and exchanging views on ways and means to address the UNEP/MAP financial situation based on the advice received by the MAP Focal Points following the Explanatory Note by the President of the Bureau and progress/results of the audit.*
- f) *Request the Secretariat, given the financial situation, to follow a cautious approach while engaging funds for administrative purposes.*
- g) *Recommend the Secretariat to undertake preparatory work on the budget for the next biennium based on the annual income and subject to the progress/outcome of audit and the payment of the arrears including the host county contribution. Two scenarios will be proposed: with and without 2.5% annual increase.*

2. The Bureau appreciated the announcement of the special contribution of the UNEP Executive Director to reduce the negative balance of the MTF as appeared on 31 December 2009 by 1 million USD.

### **Governance**

3. The Bureau called upon the Contracting Parties to ratify all MAP legal instruments with a particular focus on the ICZM and the Offshore Protocols, taking also into account that these advanced legal instruments are pioneering and unique on the Mediterranean and global levels and provide an excellent platform for improved environmental governance in the region.

4. The Bureau called upon the Contracting Parties to submit without delay their report on measures taken during 2008-2009 biennium for implementing the Convention and its Protocols as a principal obligation under the Barcelona Convention. The Bureau, appreciating the work carried out by the Italian Government and ISPRA, acting as INFO/RAC, to make available the online MAP/Barcelona Convention reporting system and encouraged the Contracting Parties to upload their reports on line.

5. The Bureau reiterated its request on the need to develop an appropriate approach based on the relevant international framework on issues related to the possible institutional legal setups for the establishment of MPAs and SPAMIs beyond national jurisdiction and their management as well as the necessary linkages with the other UN relevant processes and agencies for this purpose.

6. The Bureau recognized the potential great risks from offshore related activities in the Mediterranean, particularly deep-sea drilling, and the necessity for appropriate prevention and response mechanisms at regional level. It recommended making an assessment of the national legal and administrative systems including authorization, inspection and preparedness and response capabilities available in the Mediterranean countries. For this purpose it also encouraged all Contracting Parties to complete in good faith the reporting format related to the Offshore Protocol, irrespective of their signature and/or ratification status.

### **MCSD/MSSD**

7. The Bureau agreed with the Secretariat proposal to the next MCSD steering committee with regard to the main themes of the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCSD. With a view to contributing to Rio+20 process as Mediterranean, the following themes may be addressed in an integrated manner:

- a) *Green economy including the Nagoya biodiversity target, The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (TEEB), payment for ecosystem services, climate change adaptation and sustainable consumption and production; and,*
- b) *Institutional framework for sustainable development linked to international environmental governance.*

### **InfoMAP System**

8. The Bureau appreciated the work carried out by INFO/RAC and the Secretariat with regard to Info/MAP and encouraged them to accelerate the release of InfoMAP regional node by the end of 2011, with a view to ensure an integrated UNEP/MAP portal as a powerful and indispensable tool to enhance UNEP/MAP visibility and its impact in the region.

9. The Bureau requests the Secretariat to elaborate a regional policy governing information management and reporting data within MAP for the consideration of the forthcoming Contracting Parties meeting.

10. The Bureau encourages the Secretariat to continue cooperation with EEA for establishing a shared information system in the Mediterranean, according to the decisions of the Contracting Parties and in the framework of Info/MAP.

#### **Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work**

11. The Bureau agreed with:

- a) *The conclusion of the ECP that the current five year programme is already set to accommodate emerging issues of MAP relevance such as post CBD Nagoya COP 10 and the expected post Rio+20 development; and,*
- b) *The Secretariat approach to fully develop such elements in the forthcoming biennium programme of work 2012-2013.*

#### **Ecosystem Protection**

12. The Bureau agreed to mandate GESAMP to undertake a peer review of the ecosystem approach assessment report of the Mediterranean and marine coastal environment that should consider *inter alia* ways and means to update this assessment on a regular basis, as well as the contribution in the context of other relevant processes at the regional and global levels.

13. Based on the results of this experience, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a proposal for the consideration of the next Contracting Parties with regard to the establishment of a Mediterranean scientific expert group that would support future peer review processes.

14. The Bureau concurred with the proposal made by the Secretariat as presented in document UNEP/BUR/71/4 on the expected outcome for the 17<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties meeting on implementing ecosystem approach roadmap and the proposed related priorities that take into account the necessary synergies to be established with other relevant processes and particularly the EU MSFD processes during the forthcoming biennium (2012-2013).

#### **Implementing ICZM Protocol: A proposed Roadmap**

15. The Bureau agreed with the proposed outline of and the roadmap for the ICZM Protocol implementation strategy as presented in document UNEP/BUR/71/4, highlighting in particular the special importance of Governance issues and encouraged the Secretariat, PAP/RAC and its focal points to accelerate the finalization of the implementation strategy for consideration by the next Contracting Parties, as appropriate.

#### **Adaptation to climate change: a proposed outline and roadmap**

16. The Bureau agreed on the proposed outline and roadmap for preparing the regional framework as presented in document UNEP/BUR/71/4 and requested the Secretariat to take fully into account the adaptation/mitigation interactions and linkages.

17. The Bureau welcomed the information provided by Greece on the Mediterranean Climate Change Initiative and stressed the need for synergies between the various actors and initiatives in the region.

### **Marine Offshore Energy**

18. The Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to continue working in this field taking into account other efforts and expertise already existing outside MAP. In this context, the Bureau noted that MAP could bring an added value with regard to integrated maritime spatial planning, implementation of precautionary and ecosystem approaches as well as environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental impact assessment tools on projects and programmes dealing with offshore marine energies.

### **17<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties meeting**

19. The Bureau congratulated France as the next Contracting Parties meeting host country for the proposed vision for the meeting and the political relevance of the topics suggested.

20. The Bureau took note of the statement made by France that the financial situation of MTF should be clarified before the 17th Contracting Parties.

21. The Bureau agreed that the Contracting Parties would focus on issues related to: 1) a clean, healthy and productive Mediterranean based on the ecosystem approach and 2) improving the regional environmental governance (ICZM and MCSD). The balance proposed between the regional and the global was also recognized as well as the important contribution that it would allow MAP to make to Rio+20 and to establish synergies with other regional initiatives.

22. The Bureau requested the Secretariat in consultation with the host country, to prepare a set of priority topics to be discussed under the two overarching themes above mentioned and a roadmap for the preparation of the next Contracting Parties meeting that should include interim consultations on the background papers for Ministerial discussion and a flexible interaction between the members of the Bureau so as to allow a successful meeting.

23. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to develop, for the consideration of the next Bureau meeting and Contracting Parties, an approach based on clear criteria with regard to the utilization of the MTF in supporting the strategic and cross-cutting priorities of the Five year Strategic Programme of Work, including the biennium programme of work 2012-2013.

## ANNEX

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AUDIT UNEP ADMINISTRATED FUNDS FOR THE BARCELONA CONVENTION ATHENS - GREECE**

The Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention has requested in its 71<sup>st</sup> meeting which took place in Zagreb Croatia, from November 8 to 9, 2010, that UNEP requests the OIOS to carry out, as a matter of urgency, a Financial Management Audit of the UNEP administrated funds for the purposes of the Barcelona Convention, namely MTF, QML and CAL. The audit should take in consideration the implementations of the recommendations from previous audits, specifically the OIOS report dated 2008.

1. The OIOS should review the budgetary processes and components presented to the approval of the (but not limited to) 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> COP of the Barcelona Convention.
2. The OIOS should review the reality of the revenues constitutive of the budgets presented to the approval of the (but not limited to) 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> COP of the Barcelona Convention.
3. The OIOS should review the costing of the budgets components presented to the approval of the (but not limited to) 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> COP of the Barcelona Convention.
4. The OIOS should review the methodology of allotment of the COP approved budget into the IMIS system (system supporting the UNEP financial information).
5. The OIOS should review the reasons (if applicable) by which the revenue of a biennium were not tallying with the approved COP budget.
6. The OIOS should review the reasons (if applicable) by which the expenditure of a biennium has exceeded the approved COP budget.
7. The OIOS should evaluate the reasons and the amount (if applicable) of expenditure which may have been mis-posted to a wrong source of funding.
8. The OIOS should review and analyze the compatibility with the existing UNEP information system and the UN rules and regulations of a budgetary process and reporting based in EURO and formulate recommendations.
9. The OIOS should review and analyze the impact on the utilization of a budget fixed EURO/USD exchange rate for conversion of EURO expenditure corresponding to the biennium and issue recommendations.
10. The OIOS should review the system of checks and balances, reporting and responsibilities between the Regional Centers, The Secretariat to the Barcelona Convention, UNEP and UNON. Their performance and the impact on budgetary situation should be evaluated and recommendations made to ensure an appropriate attribution of responsibilities.
11. The OIOS should make recommendations to be applied to the budgetary process also considering the prevailing financial situation of the Trust Funds for the Barcelona Convention.