

ANNOTATED PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Introduction

The 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Portoroz, 8-11 November 2005) accepted the kind offer of the Government of Spain to host the 15th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria (Spain) from 15 to 18 January 2008.

The following annotations to the proposed agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations. The opening session will be preceded, as per usual practice, by an informal meeting among the heads of delegations at 09.00 hrs.

Item 1: Opening of the meeting

The meeting will be held at the Conference and Exhibition Centre of Roquetas de Mar, Almeria, Spain and will be opened, at 10.00 hrs on Tuesday 15 January 2008.

Opening and welcoming statements will be made by:

- a) the President elected by the 14th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, H.E. Mr. Janez Prodobnik, Minister of Environment and Spatial Planning of Slovenia or his representative;
- b) the Executive Director of UNEP or his representative;
- c) the representative of the Ministry for Environment of Spain;
- d) the representative of the Regional Government of Andalusia.

Item 2: Organizational matters

2.1 Rules of procedure

The Rules of Procedure adopted for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols, as amended (UNEP/IG.4/6, Annex XI) will apply to this meeting.

2.2 Election of officers

Subject to the Rules of Procedure, the meeting shall elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties the members of the Bureau consisting of a President, four Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. It is recalled that "*the principle of equitable geographical distribution shall be observed*" (Article 19 of the Convention). According to Article III of the Terms of Reference of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties "*out of the six members, one or two members may be re-elected for one further consecutive term in order to ensure continuity*".

2.3 Adoption of the agenda

- (a) The Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat in agreement with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and finalized during the meeting of MAP Focal Points (Madrid 16-19 October, 2007) was distributed as document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/1.
- (b) Subject to the rules of procedure referred to at paragraph 2.1, the conference may wish to adopt the agenda and timetable appearing in the Annex to the present document amended as appropriate.
- (c) Simultaneous interpretation Arabic, English, French and Spanish will be available in all plenary sessions throughout the meeting.

2.4 Organization of work

- (a) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties may wish to decide that it should meet from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. subject to adjustments as necessary.
- (b) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties may wish to establish ad hoc discussion groups or drafting sub committees as it may deem necessary and to specify their mandates.
- (c) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties will feature a Ministerial segment on Wednesday 16th January and Thursday 17th January. The proposed theme for the Ministerial segment is "The Challenge of Climate Change in the Mediterranean".
- (d) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be invited to adopt the draft text of the Almeria Declaration during the Ministerial session on Thursday, 17th January, 2008.

2.5 Credentials

- (a) Rule 18 of the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties provides that each Contracting Party shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternates and advisers as may be required.
- (b) Rule 19 of the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties provides that the credentials of the representatives and the names of the alternate representatives shall be submitted by the Contracting Parties before the opening session of the meeting which the representatives are to attend. It provides also that the Bureau shall examine the credentials of representatives and submit its report to the meeting.

Item 3: Adoption of decisions and the programme of work and programme budget for 2008–2009

(a) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties has before it: a) document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/5 Draft Decisions for the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, b) document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/6 Draft Decision on the Programme of Work and Budget for 2008 – 2009, as reviewed by the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points held in Madrid, on 16-19 October, 2007 and c) document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/9 Draft Decision on the draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean, as agreed by the 5th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean held in Loutraki, on 10-11 December 2007.

(b) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties has before it UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/7 Draft Decision on the recommendations of the 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCS D).

(c) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties may wish to adopt the following draft decisions:

Decision IG 17/18: Draft Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean

Decision IG 17/1: Procedures and mechanisms on Compliance under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

Decision IG 17/2: New Reporting format for the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols

Decision IG 17/3: Guidelines for the Determination of Liability and Compensation for Damage resulting from Pollution of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area

Decision IG 17/4: Governance Paper

Decision IG 17/5: Implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of human activities that may affect the Mediterranean marine and coastal environment

Decision IG 17/6: Operational Document of MED POL Phase IV (2006-2013)

Decision IG 17/7: Implementation of NAPs and the preparation of legally binding measures and timetables required by Article 15 of the LBS Protocol

Decision IG 17/8: Guidelines Concerning Pleasure Craft Activities and the Protection of the Marine Environment in the Mediterranean

Decision IG 17/9: Guidelines on the Decision Making Process for Granting Access to a Place of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance

Decision IG 17/10: "Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles", the revised implementation timetable of the "Action Plan for the conservation of Bird species listed in Annex II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean", and

- the revised implementation timetable of the "Action Plan concerning species introductions and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea"
- Decision IG 17/11: Procedure for the revision of the areas included in the Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Interest (SPAMI) List
- Decision IG 17/12: Inclusion in the SPAMI List of: the Miramare Marine Protected Area (Italy), the Plemmirio Protected Area (Italy), the Tavolara - Punta Coda Cavallo Marine Protected Area (Italy) and the Marine Protected Area and Natural Reserve of Torre Guaceto (Italy)
- Decision IG 17/13: Common Criteria for proposing amendments to Annexes II and III of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
- Decision IG 17/14: "Action Plan for the Protection of the Coralligenous and other Calcareous Bio-concretions in the Mediterranean"
- Decision IG 17/15: Programme of Work and Programme Budget 2008-2009
- Decision IG 17/16: Draft Decision on the Recommendations of the 12th Meeting of the MCSD.

Expected outcome: The Meeting of the Contracting Parties is expected to adopt the proposed draft Decisions.

Item 4: Adoption of the MSSD Implementation Plan

- (a) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties has before it document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/8 which has a Draft Decision IG 17/17 on the Adoption of the Implementation Plan of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development approved by the 12th Meeting of the MCSD in Istanbul, Turkey on 30-31 May, 2007.
- (b) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties may wish to adopt the Implementation Plan of the MSSD as contained in the Annex to the Draft Decision IG 17/17.

Expected outcome: The Meeting of the Contracting Parties is expected to adopt Draft Decision IG 17/17 on the Implementation Plan of the MSSD.

Working documents	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/5	Draft Decisions for the 15 th Meeting of the Contracting parties
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/6	Programme of Work and Programme budget for the 2008-2009
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/7	Draft Decision on the Recommendations of the 12th Meeting of the MCSD
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/8	Draft Decision on the MSSD Implementation Plan

Information/Background Documents	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.4	Report of the MAP Focal Points, Madrid, Spain 2007
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.8	Four Annotated formats for the presentation reports for the areas proposed for inclusion in the SPAMI List: MPA "Miramare", MPA "Plemmirio", MPA "Torre Guaceto" and MPA "Tavolara-Punta Coda Cavallo"
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.7	Directory of MAP Partners
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.3	Composition of the Bureau of Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties (1975-2007)
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.11	Explanatory Text to Draft Guidelines on Liability and Compensation for damage resulting from pollution of the marine environment in the Mediterranean Sea Area
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.5	Report of the 11 th Meeting of the MCSD (Nicosia, Cyprus, 24-26 May 2006)
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.6	Report of the 12 th Meeting of the MCSD (Istanbul, Turkey, 30-31 May 2007)

Opening of the Ministerial Session

- Welcoming address and introductory remarks by H.E. Ms. Cristina Narbona Ruiz, Minister for the Environment of Spain;
- Welcoming remarks by Mr. Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP or his representative;
- Welcoming remarks by the Municipal and Regional Authorities of Andalusia.

Item 5: Topics for ministerial discussions

Item 5.1 The Challenge of Climate Change in the Mediterranean

- (a) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties has before it document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/3 "Report by the Coordinator for the 15th Contracting Parties meeting" containing reports about major achievements during the biennium as well as background document for the discussion on "The Challenge of Climate in the Mediterranean.
- (b) The Coordinator of MAP will make a brief introduction of document UNEP(DEPI) MED IG 17/3 followed by a brief presentation by the Director of Blue Plan of the background document on climate change.
- (c) Professor Wong Poh Poh Coordinating Lead Author Chapter 6 of IPCC Working Group 2 Report on "Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability" will deliver the keynote address on "The Challenge of Climate Change in the Mediterranean".

- (d) Following the keynote address the floor will be opened for discussion. Ministers and Heads of Delegations may wish to focus their interventions around the reports contained in document UNEP(DEPI) MED IG. 17/3. The questions raised in the report on "The Challenge of Climate Change in the Mediterranean" are provided for illustrative purposes only and are meant to facilitate the discussion on this topic.
- (e) Ministers and Heads of Delegations are invited to participate in the debate and to express their views on the effects of climate change in the Mediterranean and in particular about the actions that could be taken in the region within the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as in the framework of MCSD and MSSD implementation.
- (f) Given the number of Contracting Parties and the limited amount of time available, it is recommended that the duration of each statement should be of ten minutes.

Working document	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/3	Report by the Coordinator for the 15 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.
Information/Background Documents	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.4	Report of the MAP Focal Points meeting, 16-19 October 2007, Madrid, Spain
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.320/3	Progress report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the 2006-2007 biennium
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.9	Analysis and synthesis of reports submitted in conformity with Article 26 of the Barcelona Convention by the Contracting Parties on measures taken for the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols during 2004-2005 biennium
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.6	Report of the 12 th Meeting of the MCSD (Istanbul, Turkey, 30-31 May 2007)

Item 5.2 Almeria Declaration

- (a) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties has before it document UNEP(DEPI) MED IG.17/4 Draft Almeria Declaration which will be introduced by the representative of Spain.
- (b) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties is invited to discuss and adopt the Almeria Declaration which provides for a strategic future orientation of MAP as well as actions needed in order to cope with the challenge of climate change in the Mediterranean region.

Expected outcome: The Almeria Declaration is expected to be adopted by the Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Working document/s	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/4	Draft of the Almeria Declaration
Information/background document	
UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/Inf.4	Report of the MAP Focal Points meeting, 16-19 October 2007, Madrid, Spain

Item 6: Date and place of the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2009

The meeting will be invited to consider the dates and place of the 16th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to be convened in 2009.

Expected outcome: A decision is taken about the date and the venue of the 16th Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

Item 7: Other business

- (a) The Meeting of the Contracting Parties may wish to consider other matters raised during the meeting.
- (b) As agreed during the meeting of MAP Focal Points in Madrid on 16-19 October 2007, a communication by Italy on the new entity to assume the role of the RAC on communication and information hosted by Italy, would be discussed under this agenda item.

Item 8: Adoption of the Report

At its final session, the Meeting of the Contracting Parties will be invited to consider and adopt the report of the meeting as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Item 9: Closure of the Meeting

It is expected that the meeting will be closed by the President at 18.00 hrs on Friday 18 January 2008.

ANNEX

SUGGESTED TIMETABLE

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME		
Date	Agenda items	Working Documents
Tuesday 15 January 2008		
09.00 - 10.00	Registration	
10.00 – 11.00	<p>Agenda item 1 Opening of the meeting</p> <p>Agenda item 2 Organization of work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rules of Procedure 2. Election of officers 3. Adoption of the Agenda 4. Organization of work 5. Credentials 	<p>UNEP(DEP)/MED IG.17/1</p> <p>UNEP(DEP) MED IG.17/2</p>
	Coffee break	
11.30 -13.00	<p>Agenda item 3</p> <p>Adoption of Decisions and the programme of work and programme budget for 2008 – 2009</p>	<p>UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/5</p> <p>UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/6</p>
	Lunch break	
14.30 - 16.00	<p>Agenda item 3 - continued</p> <p>Adoption of Decisions and the programme of work and programme budget for 2008 – 2009 and 12th MCSD recommendations</p>	<p>UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/5</p> <p>UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/6</p> <p>UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/7</p>
	Coffee break	
16.30 - 18.00	<p>Agenda item 4</p> <p>Adoption of the MSSD Implementation Plan</p>	<p>UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/8</p>

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME		
Date	Agenda items	Working Documents
Wednesday 16 January 2008		
10.00 –10.30	Opening of the Ministerial session	
10.30 – 11.00	<p>Agenda item 5.1</p> <p>The Challenge of climate change in the Mediterranean</p> <p>(a) Presentation of the “Report by the Coordinator for the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties”</p> <p>(b) Keynote address on “The Challenge of Climate Change in the Mediterranean”</p>	UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/3
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break	
11.30 – 13.00	Agenda item 5.1 - continued	UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/3
	Lunch break	
15.00 – 16.00	Agenda item 5.1 – continued	UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/3
	Coffee break	
16.30 – 18.00	Agenda item 5.1 - continued	UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/3

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME		
Date	Agenda items	Working Documents
Thursday 17 January 2008		
09.00 – 11.00	Agenda item 5.1– continued	UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/3
	Coffee Break	
11.30 – 13.00	Agenda item 5.1 – continued	UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/3
	Lunch Break	
14.30 – 16.00	Agenda Item 5.2 Almeria Declaration	UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/4
	Coffee Break	
16.30 – 18.00	Agenda item 5.2 - continued Agenda items 6. Date and Place of the 16 th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2009 7. Other business	
Friday 18 January 2008		
09.00 – 15.00	no session (in order for the Rapporteur to prepare the Draft Report of the Meeting)	
	Coffee Break	
15.00 – 18.00	Agenda items 8. Adoption of the Report 9. Closure of the Meeting	