

## APPENDIX 1

### **Proposals of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) for recommendations concerning the Commission's assessment and prospects**

Eight years after its establishment, a considerable amount of work has been done by the MCSD in many fields of sustainable development, and a wide range of recommendations and proposals for action have been made. This has been a rich source of inspiration for the Contracting Parties and all the sustainable development partners in the Mediterranean. In order to make the work of the MCSD more efficient and visible, and to improve the participation of the different civil society groups, a review and assessment of the MCSD's organization and methods of work were considered necessary by Contracting Parties as well as the MCSD. Accordingly, the MCSD, at its Seventh Meeting held in Antalya, established a Task Force from among its members to consider the issue of its assessment and prospects. The MCSD considered the Task Force's report (finalized in April 2003 and attached for information) at its Eighth Meeting in Cavtat and decided to propose to the Contracting Parties that they adopt the following set of recommendations, aimed at further strengthening the Commission and refocusing its action in the post-Johannesburg era:

1. The MCSD should continue to be a think tank/high-level policy forum for identifying, evaluating and examining sustainable development issues in the region. The Commission should seek to better establish its credibility so as to extend its active dialogue with international and regional agencies and national governments, as well as all the bodies within MAP and civil society, in order to assist their work and strengthen their contribution to sustainable development.
2. To improve the efficiency and credibility of the MCSD, special attention should be given to the organization of dialogue on substantive policy issues at the annual meetings, to the progress of work of the thematic groups and to the networking of MCSD members with other stakeholders at regional and national levels.
3. Aiming to secure a more coherent regional approach on sustainable development and in line with the overall concern for improving global environmental governance, as evidenced by UNEP's Cartagena Agreement on governance and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, UNEP/MAP Secretariat is urged to act as a catalyst and renew initiatives for the establishment of an informal Interagency Platform in the Mediterranean in consultation with the regional offices of agencies active in the region on sustainable development issues.
4. The recommendations and proposals for action of the MCSD should not be restricted only to formal approval by the Contracting Parties (CPs), which have the major responsibility to deliver. The UNEP/MAP Secretariat, with the support of other MAP bodies, through external resources if necessary, should elaborate on the strategic recommendations and proposals for action, making them more explicit and strengthening them with detailed guidelines. Implementing the recommendations and proposals for action remains the responsibility of governments at all levels in cooperation with other stakeholders. Follow-up responsibility should mainly be entrusted to MEDU, which should also encourage all MAP bodies to integrate such recommendations and proposals for action in their regular activities and programmes of work, including in their mainstream reporting requirements.

5. The Commission will periodically review and assess implementation of its recommendations and proposals for action. In order for the MCSD to be enabled to fulfill this function, the following should be adopted:
  - The Secretariat should prepare a common reporting format, following the Commission's Programme of Action, in consultation with CPs.
  - The Secretariat, on the basis of short voluntary reports from governments and the other actors on progress made with regard to the Commission's recommendations and proposals for action, should prepare a concise report on implementation and submit it to the MCSD.
  - The MCSD should review the report, assess progress made, formulate its findings and suggestions concerning implementation and submit them to the meetings of the CPs for further consideration.
  - Selected working groups could reconvene from time to time in order to assess the results of the periodic monitoring of the implementation of their recommendations and proposals for action.
6. The Commission's composition is its main strength and any changes should maintain its open, autonomous, advisory and representative nature, with members that are informed experts from various sectors and civil society in general. The MCSD should continue to consist of 36 members, with 15 seats allocated for the non-governmental sectors, on the basis of a flexible, broad and representational approach (e.g. trade unions, federations of professionals, consumer groups, women, youth, etc); members proposed by non-governmental partners should accept that they have a responsibility to consult with the sectors they represent on any particular issue.
7. To each session two to three ad hoc members could be invited, having special competence in the matters included in the agenda of a meeting.
8. The Commission will hold ordinary meetings once every year, to last for three days and consider a limited number of issues each time. In its working methods, the Commission and its groups should be encouraged to fully utilize the potentials offered by modern technology. The practice of holding meetings in various countries will be maintained, but proposals to host such meetings should be accompanied by a substantial contribution of the host country towards the logistics of the meeting.
9. The reasons that restrict the effective and active participation of some groups should be addressed through direct contacts with the organizations concerned so as to allow all groups to take advantage of, and contribute to, the opportunities and challenges offered by the setting up of the MCSD.
10. Representatives of the various agencies to MCSD meetings should be invited not only to MCSD meetings, but also, on the basis of the relevance of the issues to their interests, to meetings of working groups, participating with equality of interaction as stakeholders.
11. Every effort must be exerted to establish connections with the Type II Initiatives launched either in Johannesburg or later which are of special interest to the Mediterranean. The Commission should also strongly encourage its members to develop additional partnership Initiatives guided by the UNCSD 11 set of criteria for partnerships.

12. The MCSD proposes to the CPs that they mandate the MAP Coordinator to identify, through outside professional advice, the appropriate means required for the MAP structure, including the MCSD, to successfully respond to the requirements for the promotion of sustainable development at regional level and make appropriate recommendations thereon to the CPs.
13. A clear distinction should be maintained between the functions of the UNEP/MAP Secretariat (coordination, policy and strategic issues, etc) and the function of the RAC support centres (basically for “thematic issues” and related activities including some kind of follow-up). All RACs are encouraged to refocus their programmes more on sustainable development issues and act as support centres for the scientific and technical aspects of the MCSD’s “thematic” activities.
14. The potentials offered by current manpower resources and relevant arrangements within MEDU should be fully utilized, with outside professional advice if necessary, in order to give greater visibility not only to the MCSD but to MAP itself, as an integral part of a structured communications strategy.
15. A multi-stakeholder fund-raising strategy should be developed as an integral part of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development under preparation within MCSD/MAP.
16. At its 2004 session, the Commission should prepare a medium-term Programme of Work for the period 2004-2007 to be endorsed by the Bureau, based on the priorities of relevant global, regional and national initiatives, such as the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) and national commissions on sustainable development, as they relate to the Mediterranean specificities; this programme will then be revised in line with the objectives and priorities of the MSSD once approved by the Contracting Parties.