

Decision IG.23/4

Implementation and monitoring of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean

The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols at their twentieth meeting,

Having regard to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, and in particular article 4 thereof on general obligations,

Recalling decisions IG.22/2, IG.22/5 and IG.22/17 on the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, and reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development respectively, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their nineteenth meeting (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016),

Recalling the role of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national, subregional and regional levels, and the leading role of the Barcelona Convention system of the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan in facilitating the coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14, in the Mediterranean region and in ensuring the transition towards a green and blue economy (Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development Objective 5),

Recognizing that for the successful delivery of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 a collective effort is needed, involving all Mediterranean stakeholders and partners, in particular for the implementation of the flagship initiatives,

Having considered the conclusions of the meeting of the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre National Focal Points held in Nice, France, on 25 and 26 April 2017, the eleventh meeting of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre National Focal Points, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 3 and 4 May 2017, and the seventeenth meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, held in Athens, Greece, from 4 to 6 July 2017,

1. *Welcome the work and take note of the list of indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard for the monitoring of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, set out in annex I to the present decision, as a basis for further work, and invites the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development to coordinate the work on ensuring full consistency and synergy with the ongoing work on Sustainable Development Goal indicators at the global level, within the context of the leading role of the Barcelona Convention system of the Mediterranean Action Plan in facilitating the coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the relevant Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 14, in the Mediterranean region and in ensuring the transition towards the green and blue economy;*

2. *Request the Secretariat and Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre to use existing sources of information and reliable data to populate the selected indicators, giving priority to those addressing coast-related and sea-related issues;*

3. *Encourage* the Contracting Parties to strengthen efforts to build sustainable partnerships with relevant stakeholders (such as international governmental organizations, donor agencies, non-governmental organizations, industry, business organizations and academic institutions) for the development or refining of statistical databases for populating Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators;
4. *Encourage* the Contracting Parties to participate in future editions of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism, taking into account the lessons learned from the 2016–2017 exercise and with a view to enhancing the interlinkage with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and the Voluntary National Reviews presented at the High-level Political Forum;
5. *Encourage* the Contracting Parties and partners to strengthen their efforts and leadership for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and its flagship initiatives;
6. *Welcome* the MED 2050 road map, and endorse its phase I as set out in annex II to the present decision, and request the Secretariat and the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre to undertake a participatory process for the elaboration of a foresight study on the environment and development in the Mediterranean region with the horizon 2050 and to present comprehensive information on the outcome and progress of phase I at the COP 21 to allow the Contracting Parties to provide further guidance for phase II;
7. *Welcome* the work and take note of the list of indicators for the monitoring of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, set out in annex III to the present decision, and request its further elaboration in synergy with the work undertaken for the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development indicators.

Annex I
**Indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard for the Monitoring of the
Implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025**

Annex I: Indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025

No.	MSSD 2016-2025 Objective	Name of indicator
1	Global	Ecological footprint (*)
2	Global	Human Development Index
3	Global	Gross Domestic Product (*)
4	Global	Youth literacy rate (*)
5	Global	Girl/Boy primary and secondary school registration ratio (*)
6	1	Number of ratifications and level of compliance as reported by Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention
7	1	Percentage of protected coastal and marine areas [under national jurisdiction] (*)
8	2	Water efficiency index (*)
9	2	Number of protected areas participating in the Green list initiative (*)
10	2	Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (*)
11	2	Global Food Security Index
12	2	Water demand, total and by sector, compared to GDP (*)
13	2	Share of population with access to an improved water source (total, urban, rural) (*)
14	2	Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system (total, urban, rural) (*)
15	2	Proportion of agriculture quality products and Share of the agricultural land area used by organic farming (*)
16	2	Number of Mediterranean threatened species included in legal documents (*)
17	3	Proportion of urban population with access to a decent dwelling (*)
18	3	Status of UNESCO world heritage sites or population trends in historic urban areas (*)
19	3	Waste generated and treated by type of waste and treatment type (*)
20	4	Green House Gas emissions (related to GDP)
21	4	Energy consumption (related to GDP)
22	5	Material intensity of the economy (*)
23	6	Number of National Strategies for Sustainable Development adopted or updated [and number of updates since first edition] (*)
24	6	Proportion of bank credit allocated to the private sector – Existence of alternative financing systems using bank credit
25	6	Public and private expenses for research and development in percentage of GDP
26	6	Existing mechanisms to ensure public participation and access to environmental publication (*)

(*) Corresponding/linked to SDG indicators

Annex II

**MED 2050 Roadmap towards a Foresight Study on the Environment and Development in the
Mediterranean**

Annex II: MED 2050 Roadmap towards a Foresight Study on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean

I. Introduction

1. Since the late 1970's, Mediterranean countries have decided to cooperate to put "*at the disposal of political leaders and decision-makers all information that will enable them to develop plans likely to ensure sustained optimal socio-economic development without degrading the environment*" (Inter-governmental Meeting, UNEP/IG.5/7, 1977). The MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 reiterates the objective "*to deliver knowledge-based assessments of the Mediterranean environment and scenario development for informed decision-making and stakeholder work*" (Decision IG.22/1). To reach this objective, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention included in the Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017 the development of "*a roadmap for the preparation of Med2050 report*", a foresight study on the environment and development in the Mediterranean region at the horizon 2050, as the Main Activity 1.4.1.3 (Decision IG.22/20).

2. To prepare such roadmap, the Secretariat through its Plan Bleu/Regional Activity Centre (PB/RAC) organized an expert workshop (December 2016), conducted a benchmark study on the strengths, weaknesses and gaps of 35 recent foresight studies in the Mediterranean region, and consulted with national representatives and experts. These analyses and consultations established that a new foresight exercise on the environment and development would be necessary in the Mediterranean, and provided guidance on how this exercise should be shaped to fill gaps and facilitate decision-making in the next decade, while building on existing knowledge and resources.

3. The meeting of the Plan Bleu Focal Points (Nice, France, 25-26 April 2017) recommended to adopt a participatory process for building a shared vision of the future based on national visions and exercises, to incorporate lessons learnt and input from existing exercises and reports, and to mobilize additional external resources. The 17th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017) concluded that it was essential to include the perspective of rapid socio-economic, environmental and governance changes in MAP policies, and underlined that MED 2050 should provide valuable information on future developments based on science-based scenarios and on anticipating actions to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean region (working document UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.441/9). The meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017) insisted on synergies between MED 2050 and recent or concomitant MAP and non-MAP activities. The proposed roadmap for MED 2050 has been developed on this basis.

II. Timing for a Foresight Study on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean at the horizon 2050 (MED 2050)

4. There are five major reasons for undertaking MED 2050:
- i. Firstly, the last MAP foresight exercise was performed in 2005-2006, over ten years ago, and the context has completely changed. Oil glut, global and regional geopolitical changes, Arab Spring, European economic crisis, acceleration of climate change, transformed the environment and development context in the Mediterranean. These changes may realistically be further accentuated by 2050 in all areas – technology, demographics, geopolitics, economics, ecology, etc. It is essential to include this perspective of rapid transformation in MAP policies, as the Mediterranean is and will be particularly affected.
 - ii. Secondly, most existing foresight analyses in the Mediterranean have now too short a time frame and are not able to take into account more long-term issues, such as climate change or possible ecosystem disruptions, nor consider transitions with an effect in the long term.

- iii. The third reason is that previous foresight exercises overlooked impacts on the sea, or even on the marine economy, which does not reflect the concerns of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system.
- iv. Past work has only focused on one possible aspect of foresight: forecasting. The aim of foresight is not only to extrapolate current statistics to reveal trends in some well-understood variables or problems. Undertaking a new exercise would provide the opportunity to alert policy-makers to possible disruptions, to promote comparison of visions and discussion, involving decision-makers and stakeholders in a participatory approach, and to jointly build and compare long-term strategies for the diversity of the Mediterranean countries.
- v. Finally, experience has shown that major foresight exercises can be very useful tools for communication and funding, including for the general public and media. Undertaking MED 2050 would put the MAP system back in the heart of public debate on the environment and development in the Mediterranean.

III. Key directions for MED 2050

5. Following the results of the aforementioned benchmark and consultations, the proposed MED 2050 roadmap adopts a participatory strategic foresight approach. It relies on a combination of futures analysis (forecasting, forward thinking); planning (strategic analysis and priority setting through backcasting); and networking (stakeholder participation and dialogue). In addition, MED 2050 will capitalize on existing and on-going studies. Specific synergies with foresight studies and scientific networks have already been identified, others will be organized as MED 2050 and on-going works develop. As detailed in the working document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/22, MED 2050 activities will also be conducted in close synergy with other MAP activities, in particular activities on indicators, and the 2019 State of the Environment and Development Report.

6. The proposed roadmap is organized around six key sets of activities, all of which scientists and MAP experts will be associated to. It is tentatively planned over two biennia. However, distinct activities are proposed for each biennium with specific outputs. It is important to note that, since this is still an early stage of the initiative, further consultation is planned with Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on the design of MED 2050. An updated version of the roadmap will be presented at COP 21, based on further consultations and achievements during biennium 2018-2019.

7. A core set of activities – sufficient to produce a MED 2050 report by COP 22 – will only rely on technical partnerships, MTF funding and limited co-funding. The corresponding activity budget has been estimated at 200,000 Euros over two biennia. Additional or more ambitious activities would require mobilising additional co-funding or partnerships. MED 2050's organisation in modules and sets of activities will help research funding associated with explicit activities and outputs.

Tentative planning (further detailed in working document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.23/22)

Component	Period	Deliverable
1. Mobilizing existing resources and building a network on Mediterranean futures. Capitalization; Consultation with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention; Networking; Science-policy interface – stakeholder dialogue	- 2018: Setting up - Continuation over the entire period	Web-based products (broad audience): - Newsletters (starting 2018) - Thematic booklets/briefs - Updated roadmap for COP 21
2. Assessing trends, breakthroughs and scenarios in a new Mediterranean context. Business-as-usual scenario as basis for development of other scenarios	- 2018-2019 in close coordination with SoED, QSR, etc.	- Workshops or webinars - Chapter
3. Zooming on under-documented priorities with a focus on sea and marine ecosystems	- 2019: trends - 2020: scenarios	- Workshops or webinars on sea and marine ecosystems - Chapter
4. Comparing and sharing contrasted visions across the Mediterranean. Co-construction of alternative scenarios, following a wide participatory approach	- Mid-2020	- Workshops or webinars - Consultation (questionnaires or sub-regional/country workshops) - Chapter
5. Co-constructing transition paths and strategies for the short, medium and long-terms	- Late 2020, early 2021	- Workshops or webinars - Chapter
6. Disseminating the results; transferring to action Capacity building and technical assistance	- Whole period (communication) - 2020-2021 (transfer)	- Broad communication - Final Report: for consultation in 2021 and presentation at COP 22 - Regional and national workshops

Annex III

**Indicators for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable
Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean**

Annex III: Indicators for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean

Thematic area covered and indicator n°	Indicators identified	Is the indicator currently available?	Is it a SDG indicator?	Is it an MSSD indicator?	Is it included in the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting?	Indicator type (I/R) Thematic issue: I Response: R	
LAND USE							
1a- <i>Futur</i>	Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	No	Yes	2.4.1	No	TBC	I
1b- <i>Temporary</i>	Agricultural area organic, total	High	No	Target 2.4	Yes	TBC	I
2	Global food loss index	No	Yes	12.3.1	No	No	I
3a- <i>future</i>	Index of sustainable forest management	No	Yes	15.2.1	No	TBC	R
3b- <i>temporary</i>	Area of Certified forest	Low	No	Target 15.2	No	TBC	R
WATER (EFFICIENCY)							
1	Freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (also known as water withdrawal intensity)	Low	Yes	6.4.2	No	No	I
2	Water Productivity	High	No	Target 6.4	Yes	Yes	I
3	Degree of integrated water resources management (IWRM) implementation (0-100)	No - Only aggregates	Yes	6.5.1	No	No	R
ENERGY (EFFICIENCY)							
1	Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption	High	Yes	7.2.1	Yes	Possibly	I
2	Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP	High	Yes	7.3.1	Yes	Yes	I
3	Amount of fossil-fuel subsidies per unit of GDP (production and consumption) and as a proportion of total national expenditure on fossil fuels	No	Yes	12.c.1	Yes	Possibly	R
POLLUTION							

Thematic area covered and indicator n°	Indicators identified	Is the indicator currently available?	Is it a SDG indicator?		Is it an MSSD indicator?	Is it included in the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting?	Indicator type (I/R) Thematic issue: I Response: R
1	CO2 emission per unit of value added	High	Yes	9.4.1	No	Yes	I
2	Signatory of 1 to 3 international multilateral environmental agreements (Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions) on hazardous waste, and other chemicals	High	Yes	12.4.1	No	No	R
3	Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter (e.g. PM2.5 and PM10) in cities (population weighted)	High	Yes	11.6.2	No	Possibly	I
RESOURCE (EFFICIENCY)							
1a- future	Material footprint (MF) per GDP	High	Yes	12.2.1; 8.4.1	Yes	Yes	I
1b- temporary	Domestic material consumption (DMC) per GDP	High	Yes	12.2.2; 8.4.2	No	Yes	I
2a- future	Material footprint (MF) per capita	High	Yes	12.2.1; 8.4.1	No	Yes	I
2b- temporary	Domestic material consumption (DMC) per capita	High	Yes	12.2.2; 8.4.2	No	Yes	I
3a- future	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels	No - only global result available	Yes	14.4.1	Yes	No	I
3b- temporary	Marine Trophic Index (also called Mean Trophic Level (TL) of fisheries landings)	Not freely available	No	Target 14.4	No	No	I
BEHAVIOR (PRODUCERS & CONSUMERS)							
1	Number of countries with sustainable consumption and production (SCP) national action plans or SCP mainstreamed as a priority or target into national policies	No	Yes	12.1.1	No	No	R

Thematic area covered and indicator n°	Indicators identified	Is the indicator currently available?	Is it a SDG indicator?		Is it an MSSD indicator?	Is it included in the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting?	Indicator type (I/R) Thematic issue: I Response: R
2	SPP/GPP as a percentage of total public procurement (in terms of monetary value)	No International database	No	Target 12.7	Yes	TBC	R
3	Green Patents (also called Patents of Importance to Green Growth and Development of environment-related technologies, % all technologies)	High	No	Target 12.7	No	TBC	R
4	Generation of waste	Low	No	Targets 11.6 & 12.4	Yes*	Yes	I
5	Organic agriculture (retail sales, all million euro) (also available as euro per person)	Low	No	SDG 12	No	TBC	I
6	Index of coastal eutrophication and floating plastic debris density	No	Yes	14.1.1	No	TBC	I
7	Prevalence of overweight and obesity	High	No	Target 2.2	No	No	I
THEMATIC MACRO-INDICATORS							
1	Carbon Footprint	Low	No	Target 9.4	No	Yes	I
2	Water Footprint	Yes	No	Target 6.4	No	Yes	I
3	Ecological Footprint	Yes	No	Targets 12.2 & 8.4	Yes	Yes	I