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83rd 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

Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016

Report: Conclusions and Recommendations

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2016

Table of contents

	Pages
Report	1-9
ANNEXES	
Annex I	List of Participants
Annex II	Agenda
Annex III	TORs for the Assessment of MAP II

Introduction

1. At the invitation of the Government of Albania, the 83rd 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 was held on 25-26 October 2016 in Tirana, Albania.

Participation

2. The President of the Bureau, Ms. Christina Baritaki (Greece), the Vice-Presidents: Ms. Klodiana Marika (Albania); Mr. Mohamed Abdel Moneim Farouk Osman (Egypt); Ms. Nassira Rheyati (Morocco), Mr. Victor Escobar Paredes (Spain) and the Rapporteur, Ms. Ayelet Rosen (Israel) attended the Bureau meeting. Ms. Marijana Mance (EU) attended the meeting as an observer. The Secretariat was represented by the Coordinating Unit (Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator, Programme Officer). The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

I. Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

3. The meeting was opened at 09:30 on 25 October 2016 by the President of the Bureau, Ms. Christina Baritaki. She welcomed the Bureau members and other participants to their second meeting of the 2016-2017 biennium.
4. The Coordinator also made a statement of welcome to the participants.

II. Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

5. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/1/Rev.1 (Annex II). No additional issues were added to the agenda item 7 "Any Other Matters".

III. Agenda item 3: Progress Report for March-August 2016

6. The Coordinator introduced the document "Progress report by the Secretariat on the activities carried out for the period March-August 2016" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/3), containing also a short section on "Issues at stake for a sound implementation of the 2016-2017 PoW". He presented highlights from the document, noting that efforts had been made to produce a focused and concise report.
7. The Secretariat also presented the updated "Progress report by the Secretariat on the implementation of COP 19 Decisions" (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/4).
8. Regarding resource mobilization, the Coordinator stressed that two main prerequisites in relation to participation in project proposals is that they should be of regional relevance and immediately linked to the Programme of Work and/or the Mid-Term Strategy.
9. Bureau members expressed appreciation of the progress achieved on the implementation of the activities carried out and advised the Secretariat in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the Bureau.

Conclusion:

10. The Bureau expressed appreciation for the work done as presented by the Secretariat, and for the efforts and results achieved so far.

IV. Agenda item 4: Report by the Secretariat on financial and administrative issues

11. The Coordinator informed the meeting on progress made regarding the financial situation since the submission of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/5 “Report by the Secretariat on financial and administrative issues”, and noted that Greece had paid the 2016 Host Country Contribution. He informed the meeting that, in addition to those included in the above-mentioned document, contributions to the MTF had also been received from Morocco, Algeria and Bosnia and Herzegovina, bringing the collection rate for 2016 to 91%.

Conclusions:

12. The Bureau noted with appreciation the high level of contributions received for the year 2016 as early as June and requested those Contracting Parties which have not done so to pay their 2016 contributions and arrears as soon as possible.

13. The Bureau took note of the actions taken by the Secretariat for the two cases of arrears for over 24 months and requested the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect the arrears and to report to the Bureau and to the Contracting Parties on the outcome of its actions.

14. The Bureau encouraged the Contracting Parties who may be able to do so to contribute human resources to the Secretariat in the areas that are mostly needed such as information and communication, resource mobilization, and Information Technology through JPO and other similar schemes.

15. The Bureau took note of the considerations expressed by the Secretariat on the needs for additional human resources in the above mentioned areas and the Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper suggesting options for consideration at its 84th meeting.

V. Agenda item 5: Specific issues

16. The Coordinator presented the “Report by the Secretariat on specific issues” (UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6).

17. The meeting discussed the matters summarized in the following paragraphs.

- 5.1. Governance

18. The Coordinator presented the update contained in the above-mentioned document on issues regarding the status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; a report describing the status of each RAC Host Country Agreement; the amended text of the Bureau TOR with the added compliance criteria in electing the members of the Bureau; and a preliminary analysis of the current status and the options and impacts for a shift to a Thematic Focal Point system.

19. The Coordinator reported that regarding the 1995 Amendments to the Barcelona Convention, only the ratification by Bosnia and Herzegovina was still pending.

20. The President noted that Greece has initiated the process for the ratification of the ICZM Protocol.

21. Furthermore, in relation to reporting, the Secretariat informed Bureau members that regarding the 2012-2013 reporting period, 12 Contracting Parties had officially submitted their reports, two Contracting Parties have provided final drafts, four Contracting Parties have provided working drafts and four Contracting Parties have not provided texts. Regarding the 2014-2015 biennium, 12 Contracting Parties have provided at present their draft reports. Reminders are being sent on a regular basis.

22. The Coordinator reported also on the progress of the preparation of a simplified reporting format for the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as on the programme of work and membership of the Compliance Committee.
23. Following the request of the 82nd Bureau meeting, the Secretariat updated the Bureau on the issue of the letter received on 21 March 2016 from the chairman of the Environment Quality Authority regarding “support to the participation of Palestine in the Barcelona Convention conferences of parties and meetings”.
24. In this respect, the Bureau recalled Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols.
25. In addition, it was noted that at its 55th Meeting in 2000, the Bureau had decided to endorse the request from the Palestinian Authority to take part in MAP’s activities. At that time, the Bureau had recommended that “As a first stage, the Palestinian Authority would be associated with the MED POL programme and MCS D activities. The Secretariat would, within reason, assure the appropriate resources for this purpose.”. Following discussions the Bureau agreed to continue the current practice.
26. It was further noted that by Decision IG 22/17, the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Regional of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) requested the Secretariat “to invite Palestine to attend future MCS D meetings as an observer”.

Conclusions:

27. **The Bureau took note of the current status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and urged the Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to ratify without further delay the legal instruments.**
28. **The Bureau congratulated Italy for the ratification of the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and Israel for the ratification of the ICZM Protocol.**
29. **The Bureau encouraged the President and the Secretariat to continue efforts to achieve the full ratification of the revised Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in a timely manner.**
30. **The Bureau took note of the current status of development of the Host Country Agreements for RACs as reported by the Secretariat and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its work with the concerned Contracting Parties and UNEP Headquarters and submit a report to its 84th Meeting describing the progress of negotiation for each Agreement since the 83rd Meeting, including a proposed timetable for the implementation of the respective COP Decisions, in order for the Bureau to advise on the way forward.**
31. **The Bureau took note of the amended text of the TORs that will be submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting in 2017 and to COP 20.**
32. **The Bureau welcomed the preliminary analysis of the current status and the options for a shift to Thematic Focal Points presented by the Secretariat as a follow-up of the Governance Decisions 21/13 and 22/1.**
33. **The Bureau invited the Secretariat to further develop option I, i.e. shift on a trial basis of the PAP/RAC and SPA/RAC Focal Points to ICZM and SPA/BD Focal Points respectively. The paper will clarify in particular the Terms of Reference for one of the two Thematic Focal Points for consideration at the 84th Bureau meeting.**
34. **The Bureau urged the remaining Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, namely Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Monaco, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and the European Union to proceed with the “official submission” of their 2012-2013 reports without further delay.**

35. The Bureau urged all Contracting Parties to expedite the submission of their 2014-2015 reports, in order to comply fully with the deadline set by the COP 19 Decision IG.22/16.

36. The Bureau reiterated the importance of a timely analysis of the information mentioned in the national reports in order to draft a report addressing the general status of the progress in the region, on the legal, institutional and technical points of view, in the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (as mandated by Operational Paragraph 9, Decision IG.22/16).

37. The Bureau elected Dr. Joseph Edward Zaki, national of Egypt, as Member of the Compliance Committee for a term of four years until COP 21, as per Decision IG 21/16.

38. The Bureau strongly urged Algeria and Monaco to nominate their candidates without further delay, to enable smooth operation of the Compliance Committee. Once such nominations are received, the Secretariat will seek the Bureau's concurrence to their election by electronic means.

- 5.2. Assessment of MAP II

39. The Coordinator noted the outcome of COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016), where the Parties decided in favor of the option ii contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/23 on the implementation of decision IG.21/16 on *Assessment of the Mediterranean Action Plan*, as well as of the discussions held during the 82nd Meeting of the Bureau that took place on 19-20 April 2016, in Athens, Greece. He presented the main elements of the TORs for the assignment that were prepared by the Secretariat.

40. As agreed at the 82nd Bureau Meeting, the Bureau nominated one of its members to lead the work of the open-ended Working Group that may be established for this purpose. The Egyptian member indicated that Egypt is considering hosting the meeting of the Working Group.

Conclusions:

41. The Bureau approved the TORs for the assignment prepared by the Secretariat in their general lines, as revised and attached to this report (Annex III), with the understanding that they may be further refined according to the needs specified by the Open-ended Working Group.

42. The Bureau assigned Mr. Ahmed Abou Elseoud of Egypt, Vice President of the Bureau, to lead the Open-ended Working Group.

43. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to continue undertaking the course of action for the implementation of the COP 19 conclusions on this matter, as per the conclusions of the 82nd Bureau Meeting (paragraph 34 of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.82/7). In this context the Secretariat was also requested to identify the process for the approval of the updated text of MAP II.

44. The Bureau called upon the Contracting Parties to provide the necessary additional resources to ensure the full implementation of the process and their involvement.

- 5.3. Cooperation and Partners

45. The Coordinator presented an overview of cooperation with International and Regional Organizations and bilateral cooperation agencies, updated Bureau members on the operationalization of current agreements and progress in development of new ones.

46. The Bureau discussed and provided its guidance in relation to the "Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN".

47. With reference to the operative paragraphs of Decision IG.22/18 on Cooperation and Partners, the Coordinator updated Bureau members on the evaluation of the application by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) through the Università di Siena (UNISI), for accreditation as UNEP/MAP Partners.

Conclusions:

48. The Bureau welcomed the progress achieved on issues related to Cooperation and Partners and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its work on these issues.

49. The Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to engage in further efforts for enhancing collaboration with the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med based on the existing bilateral agreements, and with MedPAN. The Bureau having considered the draft "Joint Cooperation Strategy on Spatial-based Protection and Management Measures for Marine Biodiversity among the Secretariats of ACCOBAMS, GFCM, IUCN-Med, UNEP/MAP through SPA/RAC and in collaboration with MedPAN", concluded that the engagement of the Contracting Parties is to be sought, in developing a joint cooperation strategy on marine protected areas and other area-based management tools among the Intergovernmental Organizations, in order to enhance the protection and sustainable use of marine biodiversity. For this purpose, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper for consideration at the next MAP Focal Points Meeting in 2017.

50. The Bureau welcomed the approval of the MedProgramme by the GEF Council and expressed appreciation for the work done by the MAP Secretariat for this achievement.

51. The Bureau invited the Secretariat to continue supporting the sub regional initiative of the Western Mediterranean sub-sea basin and considered it as an opportunity to support the commitments under the MAP/Barcelona Convention and the MSSD objectives at sub regional level.

52. The Bureau endorsed the results of the evaluation conducted by the Secretariat of the application submitted by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) through the Università di Siena (UNISI) for accreditation as UNEP/MAP Partner.

- 5.4. Outreach, Information and Communication

53. The Coordinator presented a brief update of the information and communication activities and the further plans for the biennium, noting the need to enhance the capacity of the Coordinating Unit in this area.

Conclusion:

54. The Bureau expressed appreciation for the very good results of the information and communication work, and highlighted the need for making every effort to enhance visibility of the UNEP MAP Barcelona Convention system.

- 5.5. Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award

55. With reference to the operative paragraphs of Decision IG.22/19 on the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, the Coordinator presented an overview of the progress regarding the finalization of the nomination and selection criteria and template and the proposed plan and process for granting the first Award at COP 20.

56. The Bureau suggested some amendments to the proposed nomination and selection process presented in Annex V of document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6, in order to grant the first Award at COP 20.

Conclusions:

57. The Bureau welcomed the work done by the Secretariat and the Task Force on the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, approved the nomination and selection process and the Application Form, as amended especially in relation to including an electronic public voting before the final selection of the winning city.

58. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to proceed with launching the award in accordance to this process, so that the first, pilot, edition of the Award is granted at COP 20 and the following editions to be refined based on the experience of this edition of the award, as appropriate.

59. The Bureau expressed appreciation for the support of Turkey to this process.

- 5.6. Preparations for COP 20

60. The Coordinator presented options for a possible theme and outcome of COP 20, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6. He also updated the Bureau on the recent information regarding the dates of UNEA-3 and the possible need to change the dates of COP 20. Bureau members discussed and provided guidance on the main theme, focus and dates of COP 20.

61. The Coordinator also expressed the Secretariat's intention to focus on a limited number of forward-looking decisions. With this opportunity, he also informed the Bureau that certain flexibility in regard to the two months deadline for distributing the documents would be extremely appreciated by the Secretariat, especially due to the extremely short length of the biennium and the multitude of overlapping deadlines that occurred as a consequence. In this respect, the Bureau members reflected on the need to prioritize more complex decisions while they noted that certain flexibility can be sought for the others.

Conclusions:

62. The Bureau was informed about the dates for UNEA-3 and decided the dates of COP 20 to be from Sunday 17 December 2017 until Wednesday 20 December 2017.

63. The Bureau took note of the possible themes of COP 20 and suggested to focus on the implementation of the SDG 14 "Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development", addressing in particular land-sea interaction, including ICZM, marine biodiversity, marine litter/plastics, in relation to specific sectors such as tourism.

64. The Bureau agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat to focus on a limited number of forward-looking Decisions, guided by the UNEP/MAP Mid Term Strategy 2016-2021 and the Programme of Work 2016-2017.

- 5.7. Progress in implementation of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work

65. The Secretariat presented issues of process and substance related to the implementation of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work, such as the preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report, the implementation of IMAp, the preparation of the revised Resource Mobilization Strategy and the implementation of MSSD. The Bureau expressed its views and guidance on the issues contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/6.

Conclusions:

a) Preparation of the 2017 Quality Status Report

66. The Bureau agreed with the proposed process and timetable for the preparation of the 2017 QSR, and requested the Secretariat to share them along with the proposed annotated table of contents with the MAP Focal Points/EcAp Coordination Group members immediately after the 83rd Bureau Meeting for their consideration and approval, as follows.

Date	Action
November – December 2016	<p>Initial mapping of data and information sources (by the Secretariat)</p> <p>Establishment of the online CORMON and thematic expert groups through InfoMap Groupware (by the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat)</p> <p>Lead countries per chapter/Common indicators defined, as appropriate (by the Contracting Parties)</p> <p>Case studies proposed on a voluntary basis (by the Contracting Parties)</p>
January – February 2017	<p>First draft of the 2017 QSR delivered with inputs of and for review by the CORMON (online consultation and physical meetings) (CORMON Litter, Biodiversity, Coast, Pollution with separate and joint sessions, as appropriate)</p> <p>(the initial draft to be prepared by the Secretariat)</p>
March – May 2017	<p>Second draft of the 2017 QSR delivered with inputs by the CORMONS and EcAp Coordination Group (through on line consultation), the Component Focal Point Meetings and pending budget availability by the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting</p>

June – September 2017	Final draft for review by the EcAp Coordination Group and MAP Focal Points (by the Secretariat)
October – December 2017	Submission to COP 20
2018	QSR Online Publication Publication of the QSR Executive Summary

67. The Bureau encouraged Contracting Parties to actively contribute to the preparation of the 2017 QSR and provide data and information, as appropriate, to enhance full ownership over the process.

b) Implementation of IMAP

68. The Bureau urged the Contacting Parties to accelerate their efforts in developing and submitting to the Secretariat their updated, integrated national monitoring programmes in line with their specificities, and to implement where appropriate the existing monitoring programmes and urgently submit the relevant, already available quality assured data to the Secretariat.

c) Implementation of the MSSD

69. The Bureau welcomed the progress in relation to the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025.

70. The Bureau welcomed the effort by the Secretariat to mobilize external resources for the implementation of the MSSD and to support MCSD activities, in particular the proposal submitted to UN/DESA, “*Strengthening regional implementation of 2030 Agenda in the Mediterranean through support to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (2016-2025)*”.

d) Preparation of the revised Resource Mobilization Strategy

71. The Bureau took note of the progress of the preparation of the revised Resource Mobilization Strategy (RMS) for submission to the MAP Focal Points meeting and COP 20.

72. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to prepare the revised RMS in consultation with the Contracting Parties to allow them to provide inputs during the entire process and enhance their ownership.

73. The Bureau also requested the Secretariat to address within the RMS the ways and means for the Contracting Parties to be involved in the development of the project proposals.

VI. Agenda item 6: Date and Venue of the 84th Meeting of the Bureau

74. The Bureau was invited to decide on the date and the venue of its 84th Meeting. It was recalled that document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG 22/Inf.17 entitled “Indicative Calendar of Main UNEP/MAP Meetings in the Biennium 2016-2017” and reviewed by COP 19 indicates the date of such meeting as 28-29 June 2017.

75. The updated “Tentative calendar of UNEP/MAP meetings and major international events” was presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.83/Inf.3.

Conclusions:

76. The Bureau agreed to hold its 84th Meeting on 19-20 June 2017 in Athens, Greece.

VII. Agenda item 7: Any Other Matters

77. No other matters were raised by the Bureau members.

VIII. Agenda item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations

78. The Secretariat submitted for adoption a set of conclusions and recommendations prepared in accordance with Article VII of the Terms of Reference of the Bureau.

79. The Bureau adopted the set of conclusions and recommendations as set in this report.

IX. Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting

80. The meeting was closed by the President of the Bureau at 15:30 on Wednesday, 26 October 2016.

Annex I

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Annex II

Agenda

Agenda

- Agenda item 1** **Opening of the Meeting**
- Agenda item 2** **Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work**
- Agenda item 3** **Progress Report for the period March-August 2016**
- Agenda item 4** **Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues**
- Agenda item 5** **Specific Issues:**
- 5.1 Governance
 - 5.2 Assessment of MAP II
 - 5.3 Cooperation and Partners
 - 5.4 Outreach Information and Communication
 - 5.5 Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award
 - 5.6 Preparations for COP 20
 - 5.7 Progress in the implementation of the 2016-2017 Programme of Work
- Agenda item 6** **Date and Venue of the 84th Meeting of the Bureau**
- Agenda item 7** **Any Other Matters**
- Agenda item 8** **Conclusions and Recommendations**
- Agenda item 9** **Closure of the Meeting**

Annex III

TORs for the Assessment of MAP II

Terms of Reference of MAP II Assessment

1. Background

At COP 18 (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013) the Contracting Parties adopted Decision IG.21/16 on the *Assessment of the Mediterranean Action Plan* and decided to “Launch a process to assess MAP phase II with the intention of addressing effectively the challenge of sustainable development and the irreversible nature of impacts on the environment and resources, with a view to proposing a Decision on the appropriate way forward including the possible adoption at the 19th meeting of the Contracting Parties of MAP phase III;”.

At COP 19 (Athens, Greece, February 2016), the Parties decided in favour of the option ii contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/23 on the implementation of decision IG.21/16 on the *Assessment of the Mediterranean Action Plan*. Accordingly, the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II document would be adjusted to reflect the key developments made in the Mediterranean Action Plan system with regard to thematic issues. The Contracting Parties also agreed that an open-ended working group of the MAP focal points, under the guidance of the Bureau, should be assigned to update the document for submission to the Contracting Parties at their twentieth meeting. The Group would require at least one meeting during 2016-2017.

At the 82nd Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Coordinator presented to the Bureau the proposed course of action for the implementation of the COP 19 conclusions on this matter for endorsement. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to undertake the following course of action for the implementation of the COP 19 conclusions:

- (a) the Secretariat to prepare TORs for the assignment taking also into account the MSSD, to be shared with the Bureau at its 83rd Meeting;
- (b) the Secretariat to send invitations to the Focal Points to participate or appoint their representatives on the open-ended Working Group (WG);
- (c) the Bureau to nominate one of its members to lead the work of the Working Group with Secretariat's support;
- (d) the Working Group to hold its meeting in the first quarter of 2017 (if the external funds are available);
- (e) the Working Group to prepare its conclusions in time for submission to the 84th Meeting of the Bureau; and
- (f) the Bureau to provide its recommendations to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in 2017 to be presented at the COP 20 together with the conclusions of the Working Group.

2. Tasks of the Working Group

In order to implement option ii contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/23, on the implementation of decision IG.21/16 on the *Assessment of the Mediterranean Action Plan*, the Mediterranean Action Plan Phase II document needs to be adjusted to reflect the key developments since its adoption in COP 9 (Barcelona, Spain, 5-8 June 1995). As noted in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/23, there is a deep matching of the thematic areas of MAP II, with effectively addressing the challenge of sustainable development and the irreversible nature of impacts on the environment and resources. Option ii appreciates that there is a need, nevertheless, for certain updates in the text of MAP II to reflect the evolution of the reality of sustainable development and of the MAP system itself. On the same time, the context of MAP II, its objectives, thematic priorities and activities are still relevant, as its text is flexible enough to accommodate new global developments and

it is fully complemented by the new tools and instruments, comprehensive protocols and amendments that the MAP system has adopted and implemented.

The task of the WG is therefore to factually update MAP II in order to reflect the evolution of sustainable development and of the MAP system itself. In order to do so, three main steps are identified:

- i) Identify the main evolutions since the adoption of MAP II and the relevant COP decisions and other documents that reflect them,
- ii) Identify the main parts/sections of MAP II that are outdated and require factual updates, and
- iii) Recommend an updated text of MAP II based on the evolutions since its adoption for submission to the MAP Focal Points and COP 20.

In the following section of this document a brief summary of the main evolutions since the adoption of MAP II is presented, in order to facilitate the work of the open-ended WG.

3. Main evolutions since the adoption of MAP II

As described in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.22/23, MAP Phase II was adopted twenty years ago and the MAP agenda has since evolved in response to the global agenda. The main evolutions include:

Developments in the MAP system since the adoption of MAP Phase II

- Entry into force of the amended Barcelona Convention in 2004;
- Entry into force of the Offshore Protocol in 2011;
- Adoption of a new Protocol on Hazardous Wastes in 1996, entry into force in 2008;
- Adoption of amended SPA and Biodiversity Protocol in 1995, entry into force in 1999;
- Adoption of new Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) in 2008, entry into force in 2011;
- Adoption of the amended LBS Protocol in 1996 (entered into force in 2008) and of ten Regional Plans with Programmes of Measures and Timetables for their implementation, as provided for in Article 15 of the LBS Protocol;
- Adoption of the Strategic Action Programme to Address Pollution from Land-based Activities (SAP-MED) in 1997, as well as adoption of the NAPs in 2005 and revision in 2015;
- Adoption of the Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SAP-BIO) in 2003;
- Adoption of the amended Prevention and Emergency Protocol 2002, entry into force in 2004;
- Adoption of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships in 2005;
- Establishment of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in 1996;
- Adoption of the roadmap and timetable to implement the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean including the vision, goals and the Mediterranean Ecological Objectives and GES targets (Decisions IG.17/6, IG.20/4 and IG.21/3);
- Adoption of the Almeria Governance Paper (Decision IG.17/5);
- Adoption of the UNEP-MAP Five Year Programme of Work 2010-2014 (Decision IG.19/17, Appendix I);
- Adoption of the Governance decision at COP 18 (Decision IG.21/9);
- Adoption of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (introducing a six-year cycle) at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/1);
- Formulation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development in 2005, and renewed commitment with the Adoption of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/2);

- Adoption of the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and Related Assessment Criteria (IMAP) at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/7);
- Adoption of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/5);
- Endorsement of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/6).

Developments outside the MAP system since the adoption of MAP II

- The Rio+10 and Rio+20 Conferences, especially in the fields of:
 - Green Economy;
 - Climate Change;
 - Sustainable Consumption and Production.
- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including its Sustainable Development Goals (adopted at the United Nations Summit in September 2015);
- Wide recognition and application of the Ecosystem Approach;
- Increased attention to Climate Change:
 - IPCC Fourth and Fifth Assessment Reports;
 - Adoption of the Paris Agreement.
- Widened legislation on marine and coastal environment of the EU, with particular focus on the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and Marine Spatial Planning Directive;
- Increased emphasis on Environmental Governance:
 - Establishment of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA);
 - Strengthening of the International Framework of Sustainable Development, and especially the establishment of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF);
 - Emergence of other actors in the Mediterranean (e.g. establishment of the Union for the Mediterranean as evolution of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership/Barcelona Process, World Bank, GEF);
 - Developments in the ocean governance at the global and UN level (e.g. ABNJ, MPAs, Deep Sea Mining).

4. Process and Timeline

The work of the open-ended WG will be guided by the decisions and recommendations described in the section on Background. More specifically, it is proposed that:

- During its 83rd Meeting, the Bureau will nominate one of its members to lead the work of the Working Group with Secretariat's support;
- After the 83rd Bureau meeting, by mid-November 2016, the Secretariat will send invitations to the Focal Points to participate or appoint their representatives on the open-ended WG;
- Once the WG is set, the Secretariat will facilitate its work and provide necessary background information;
- The WG will work mainly through electronic means.
- The WG will hold a two-day meeting in the first quarter of 2017 (February/March 2017), provided that external funds are available. The meeting will be held in Athens, Greece (UNEP/MAP Headquarters) and interpretation will be provided in English and French. The Secretariat will continue efforts to secure the external resources of EUR 70,000, in order, inter alia, to enable the realization of this meeting;
- Following this meeting, the WG will finalize its conclusions in April 2017, for submission to the 84th Meeting of the Bureau (planned for June 2017);
- The Bureau at its 84th Meeting will discuss the issue and provide its recommendations to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points in 2017 (planned for September 2017);
- If necessary and provided that external funds are available, a one-day meeting of the WG may be organized back-to-back with the MAP Focal Points Meeting, in order for the WG to revise its input taking into account the recommendations of the Bureau;

- Following the discussion in the MAP Focal Points Meeting, the final document will be presented (in the form of a Decision) at COP 20 together with the conclusions of the Working Group.

5. Indicative budget

Meeting of WG (2 days in February/March 2017)	50,000 EUR
Meeting of WG (September 2017-before NFP Meeting)	10,000 EUR
Consultant (to facilitate the WG)	10,000 EUR
TOTAL	70,000 EUR