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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

14th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission
on Sustainable Development
Budva, Montenegro, 30 May to 1 June 2011

REVISED ANNOTATED AGENDA

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Montenegro, 30 May to 1 June, 2011

Introduction

The main objectives of this 14th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) is to discuss how through promoting a Green economy strategy and improved efficiency in the institutional framework, this can contribute to the Mediterranean Action Plan's (MAP's) strategy and priorities, programme of work and organization. These perspectives can provide input to reflections on the Mediterranean contribution to the next United Nations World Conference on Sustainable Development (WCSD or Rio+20), scheduled for June 2012.

These concerns are central to the global discussions on sustainable development. The next WCSD aims to secure renewed political commitment to sustainable development; to assess progress towards internationally agreed goals on sustainable development and to address new and emerging challenges, twenty years after the Rio Declaration. The two main themes are:

- Green economy towards sustainable development and poverty eradication, and
- Institutional framework towards sustainable development

These themes were also the focus of the Ministerial discussions at the Twenty-sixth session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of UNEP (held in February 2011) which highlighted the need to strengthen the environmental pillar of sustainable development.

The last Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, (8-9 November 2010, Zagreb, Croatia) suggested these themes for the discussions at this MCSD meeting. The two themes have been also proposed by the Steering Committee of the MCSD (3 March 2011, Athens Greece).

The MCSD will focus on discussing the format of the contribution to Rio+20 discussions. It will also suggest priority interventions based on the common understanding emerging from the priorities identified by key Mediterranean stakeholders, the experiences from other regions and the emerging global environmental governance agenda. Although substantial progress has been achieved in environmental protection since the Rio Summit in 1992, resource depletion and environmental degradation remain unsustainably high. Considering that future global prospects in terms of socio-economic development further pressures are expected on natural resources and the environment. This is particularly so with regard to marine and coastal systems prompting a debate at the Rio+20 preparation process on the demands and urgency to move towards a *Blue Green Economy*.

In this context it is important to reflect on how to further strengthen the environmental pillar in a strategy towards sustainable development by taking advantage of the potential of a Green economy strategy which puts the management of the sea and coastal capital at the center of development policy but also by improving efficiency in the global efforts towards sustainable development through institutional arrangements leading to better governance.

DRAFT PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED AGENDA

Day I: 30th May 2011 **Opening and Green Economy**

08.00–09.00 **Registration**

09.00–10.00 **Opening Towards a Mediterranean Contribution to Rio+20**

The meeting will be opened by the current President of the MCSD Steering Committee elected at its 13th session held in Cairo in September 2009.

Welcome address will be delivered by the Minister of Sustainable Development and Tourism of Montenegro, H.E. Predrag Sekulic, followed by Ms. Maria Luisa Silva Mejias, Coordinator of the Barcelona Convention UNEP/MAP.

In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the MCSD, at the commencement of the first sitting of each meeting, the Commission shall elect the Steering Committee which shall be composed of a President, five Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. The Steering Committee shall include four members representing the Contracting Parties, including ex-officio the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, and one representative from local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs.

The Rules of Procedure of the MCSD provide that after the selection of the Steering Committee the meeting adopts the agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda.

A key note address on the preparations towards Rio+20 will be given by Mr. Brice Lalonde, Executive Coordinator for Rio+20, followed and representatives of civil society, Mr d'Alessio, Presidente della Associazione Agende 21 Locali Italiane, and And Mr. Najib Saab, Secretary General, Arab Forum For Environment And Development (AFED)

10.00-10.30 **Coffee break**

10.30–13.00 **International experiences towards a Green Economy**

Presentations will be given by UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics, Mr Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Acting Head, Green Economy Advisory Services Unit; the World Bank, Mr. Gilles Pipien, Senior Environmental Specialist; OECD, Ms Angela Bularga, Principal Administrator, followed by a panel discussion. The main objective of this discussion is to assess the benefits the Green Economy bring to the development process in the Mediterranean. It will also aim to identify priorities and actors on which to act at different levels of intervention (local, national, regional and global) in the context of a regional sea cooperation framework. By listening to the perspectives and lessons learnt of key global and regional experiences and stakeholders in Green economy, the MCSD will aim to move towards a common understanding of Green economy contribution to environmental conservation, job and income creation and social development. Participants will be expected to explore priority legal, policy and programmatic

interventions to be undertaken at global, regional, national and local levels as well as knowledge, networking and capacity building needs required to ensure effective implementation of the priority measures.

Expected outcome: the identification of priority actions at regional, national and local levels based on MCSD common understanding of the Green economy as well as priorities and lessons learnt from existing environmental, social and economic initiatives and programmes relevant to the conservation and restoration of the marine and coastal capital.

13.00-14.30 **Lunch break**

14.30-16.30 **Activities towards a Green Economy in the Mediterranean: Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP)**

SCP is considered an effective tool to advance on the Green Economy. Presentations will be given on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns in NSSDs in Tunisia by Mr Lotfi Ben Said, Directeur du Suivi des Processus et d'Elaboration des Outils, Ministère de l'Agriculture et de l'Environnement, and in France by M. Bernard Brillet, Inspecteur Général au Ministère de l'écologie, de l'énergie, du développement durable et de la Mer (MEEDDM). This will be followed by a presentation on an Action Plan towards SCP in the Croatian NSSD by Ms Marijana Mance Kowalsky, Director, Directorate for International Relations and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction. The regional level activities towards SCP will be presented by Mr. Enrique de Villamore Martin, Director of UNEP/MAP's regional activity center for Cleaner Production (CP/RAC) on developing further SCP action in support of the transition towards a Green economy.

Expected outcome: Identify and explore SCP actions necessary to maximize the benefits of the Green Economy and how MAP could contribute to it.

16.30–17.00 **Coffee break**

17.00–18.30 **Activities towards a Green Economy in the Mediterranean: Climate Change Adaptation**

The need to address climate change adaptation through regional coordination was previously agreed at the 16th meeting of the Contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention in 2009, and the 13th meeting of the MCSD in 2009. Ms Silva Mejias, MAP Coordinator will introduce the item followed by a presentation on the progress towards a Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation within the Mediterranean by Mr Mohammed Sadeck Boulahya, in specific relation to sustainable development, followed by a discussion.

Expected outcome: Actions identified towards a Regional Framework for Climate Change Adaptation

**Day II, 31st May 2011 Context and Institutional
Framework for Sustainable Development**

9.00-10.30 The context for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

Ms. Silva Mejias will introduce the item, followed by a presentation on the first interim five-year assessment of progress in implementing the Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development (MSSD) by Mr Nicola Cantore, from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) identifying the necessity for a more effective monitoring process with appropriate indicators and the creation of functional synergies among stakeholders towards an effective framework for the implementation of MSSD. Comments by Mr Henri Luc Thibault, Director of Blue Plan will follow and the major findings and recommendations of the assessment will be discussed with participants.

10.30-11.00 Coffee break

11.00-12.00 Strengthening National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs)

The recent Assessment of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs), to be introduced by Mr Nicos Georgiades, Environmental and Planning Adviser demonstrate that, in spite of the fact that all countries in the Region have a multiplicity of integrated sustainable development frameworks; the influence of the MSSD is limited. It also shows that Progress in the implementation of NSSDs beyond Ministries of Environment could be accelerated. Members of the MCSD will briefly present and exchange on the progress of their NSSDs. A discussion will follow in the context of new challenges and opportunities which emerge in the Region which have to be considered in order to identify priority issues and necessary follow-up activities to accelerate progress towards sustainable development.

12.00-13.00 Institutional framework towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean

The role and modalities of MCSD for the future will be presented by Mr Harry Cocossis, consultant for UNEP/MAP. A number of global and regional stakeholders and initiatives exist in the Mediterranean which in one way or another deal with environmental management and development issues. Since the creation of MCSD in 1995, the need to reinforce the environmental pillar of sustainable development as well as the integration of environmental considerations in the other pillars has become more apparent. The emerging context provides an opportunity to re-think the role of MCSD (and MSSD) in:

- Facilitating environmental mainstreaming and integration; and
- Strengthening and engaging cross-sectoral and intersectoral environment/development policy coordination at national and regional levels

A discussion among the MCSD participants will follow.

Expected outcome: MCSD suggestions to the Contracting Parties on the MSSD agenda, and ways to strengthen the role of the MCSD and sharpen the NSSD in light of evolving priorities.

13.00-14.30 **Lunch break**

14.30-15.30 **Institutional framework towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean**

MCSO members will reflect on the previous presentations and a discussion on the MCSO for the future will be continued, organised into thematic working groups (to be confirmed).

15.30-16.30 **Programme of Work (PoW) of MCSO**

The MCSO Agenda for 2011-2015, based on MSSD, its assessment and debates on CSD at global level, will be presented by the UNEP/MAP Secretariat and discussed.

Expected outcome: Options for building the PoW will be explored, including issues such as re-examining the cycle, and approach for the selection of priority themes.

16.30-17.00 **Coffee break**

17.00-18.30 **Mediterranean Contribution towards Rio+20**

An open discussion is expected on the format and content which is based on the MSSD/MCSO experience as the Mediterranean Contribution to Rio+20, which will be introduced by Mr Harry Cocossis.

Day III, 1st June

Conclusions and Closure of the meeting

11.00-11.15 **Next MCSO meeting and other matters**

The Secretariat will inform the members of the Commission about the preparations for the next meeting of the MCSO. The meeting will also consider other matters which the members of the Commission may wish to raise.

11.15-13.00 **Adoption of Conclusions/Recommendations**

Conclusions and recommendations prepared by the Secretariat on the basis of the discussions on the different items on the agenda of the MCSO will be presented to the members of the Commission for approval.

13.00-13.15 **Closure of the meeting**

Following the usual courtesies the meeting will be closed at 13.15hrs by the President of the MCSO.