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Agenda Item 4: Specific Issues

Report on Specific Issues

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Report on Specific Issues

Introduction

1. The adoption at COP 20 of 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” paved the way for the work of the MCSD during the biennium 2018-2019.
2. Activities deriving from this decision were agreed in the MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14) and reflected in the Updated Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the Biennium 2018-2019 (Working Document UNEP/MED IG.456/4). These activities are at the core of the MCSD’s mandate and include *inter alia*: (i) Populating and updating the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard; (ii) Preparing Assessment Studies, namely the 2019 State of the Environment and Development Report (SoED 2019) and the Phase I of the MED 2050 Foresight Study, including Case Studies on the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean; and, (iii) Strengthening and sustaining the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) through its second edition.
3. In addition of these specific activities, the present report introduces the Evaluation of MAP Regional Strategies to be carried out during the next biennium (2020-2021), i.e. Mid-Term Evaluations of the MSSD and Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP AP), for which advice from the MCSD Steering Committee is requested.
4. The present report provides additional substantive information on those activities to stimulate the discussion with and within the MCSD Steering Committee so that its Members may provide advice for a successful delivery.

A. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Indicators for the Implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan

5. At COP 20 the Contracting Parties took note of the list of indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard as a basis for further work. They invited the MCSD Steering Committee to coordinate the work on ensuring full consistency and synergy with the ongoing work on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicators at the global level. The Contracting Parties took also note of the list of indicators for monitoring the implementation of the SCP AP and requested its further elaboration in synergy with the work undertaken for the relevant SDG and MSSD Indicators.
6. At its 19th Meeting (teleconference, 20 June 2018), the MCSD Steering Committee requested to the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) a clear roadmap on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard until COP 21, including as key milestones the meetings of the MCSD and its Steering Committee, as well as the meetings of MAP and Thematic Focal Points. A draft timeline is submitted in Annex I for comments from and possible approval by the MCSD Steering Committee.
7. The MCSD Steering Committee also expressed full support to the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) with a view to presenting to the 20th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019) and the 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019) the dashboard populated on the extent possible, as well as a report reflecting challenges and lessons learned, including a proposal for updating the dashboard, as appropriate and based on recommendations to overcome difficulties.
8. Regarding the populating of the 26 indicators approved at COP 20 and the production of the related methodological and analytical factsheets, Plan Bleu was invited by the 19th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee to prepare a first draft for submission to the 20th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee. The draft populated dashboard and draft methodological factsheets are included in Information Documents UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.4 and UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.5.
9. Following the conclusions of the 19th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, Members of the Committee provided written technical comments in July-September 2018 on Annexes II and III of

the previous Report on Specific Issues (Working Document UNEP/MED WG.447/3), putting the emphasis on indicators suggested to substitute with similar SDG Indicators. These comments are included in Annex II of the present document, with proposals from the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) for updating the dashboard. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are invited to comment the updated list of indicators, as proposed by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) in Annex II.

10. The populated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and related methodological factsheets, as well as the proposal for updating the dashboard, should be submitted to the MCSD Members and Plan Bleu Focal Points for their consideration at their respective meeting to be held in 2019. The outcome of these work and consultations will be submitted to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points and then to COP 21.

11. In parallel of the work on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, the Secretariat is finalizing a comprehensive mapping of the MAP – Barcelona Convention policies and instruments against relevant SDG Targets and Indicators. The outputs of this mapping will feed the SDGs Synergies Portal¹, which is an interactive tool developed by the UN Environment Science Division. This online tool demonstrates the potential for creating synergies between the global and regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and SDGs. This activity will showcase the relevance of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system for implementing the 2030 Agenda at the regional level, offering a visualized demonstration of synergies between MAP vs. SDG Targets and Indicators.

12. Regarding the SCP Indicators, in line with Activity 6.2.1.1 “SCP Action Plan indicators aligned with MSSD relevant work, identified, selected and factsheets developed” (MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019, Decision IG.23/14), activities related to the SCP Indicators have been included in the second phase of the SwitchMed programme, whose launching is expected for the beginning of 2019. SwitchMed II includes *inter alia* the identification and establishment of baseline and trend analysis congruent with the SCP Indicators.

13. The work on MSSD and SCP indicators will also feed the SoED 2019 and MED 2050.

14. Issue for consideration: The MCSD Steering Committee is invited to discuss the progress achieved and perspectives to enhance synergies between the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, SCP Indicators, and relevant SDG Indicators, taking also into account the Mediterranean specificities, and provide advice to the Secretariat on the next steps of this process.

B. Mid-Term Evaluation of the MSSD and Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean

15. MSSD Regional Action 7.2.4 recommends to “*Undertake a participatory mid-term evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 based on the first 5 years of data regarding its implementation, using indicators associated with the actions, as well as the proposed dashboard of Sustainability Indicators*”. Such mid-term evaluation is expected to be undertaken during the next biennium (2020-2021) and informed by the populated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, SoED 2019, and MED 2050, in view of submitting results to COP 22.

16. As per Decision IG.22/5 “Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean” (SCP AP), the indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP AP is also expected to be undertaken in 2020 for submission to COP 22. Since SCP is one of the three cross-cutting themes of the current MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021, the indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP AP should also feed the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027. This strategic evaluation will highlight the main developments related to SCP in the four key economic sectors around which the SCP AP is elaborated: Food, Fisheries and Agriculture; Tourism; Goods Manufacturing; Housing and Building.

¹ <https://environmentlive.unep.org/portal>

17. The timing of the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations is in-line with the cycle of the MTS 2016-2021 That will enable these processes to mutually inform each other, as indicated in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Indicative timeline of MTS, MSSD and SCP AP processes

COP	MTS process	MSSD process	SCP AP process
COP 21 (end of biennium 2018-2019)	To launch the MTS 2016-2021 Evaluation and Review	To launch the MSSD mid-term evaluation (5 years of data - period 2016–2020)	To launch the indicator-based mid-term evaluation
COP 22 (end of biennium 2020-2021)	To adopt MTS 2022-2027	To approve the MSSD mid-term evaluation	To approve the indicator-based mid-term evaluation

18. At its 85th Meeting, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties requested “*the Secretariat to prepare, in due time, a draft thematic decision, including a dedicated roadmap, related to the processes of the MSSD mid-term evaluation and the indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan, and to submit it to the next meeting of the MAP Focal Points for consideration and further submission to COP 21*”.

19. The Secretariat will ensure consistency between the respective roadmaps for the MSSD mid-term evaluation and the SCP AP indicator-based mid-term evaluation. These mid-term evaluations will be undertaken by the Secretariat, notably Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC, in close cooperation with the MCSD and the thematic Focal Points of these Regional Activity Centres.

20. Issue for consideration: The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are invited to provide advice to the Secretariat on means to mobilize and ways to follow for undertaking the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations. The MCSD and its Steering Committee should have a leading role for the participatory mid-term evaluation of the MSSD, based on the first 5 years of data regarding the implementation at the regional and national level, as well as on indicators associated with the MSSD Actions and Mediterranean Sustainability Indicators. The advice from the MCSD Steering Committee should support the preparation by the Secretariat of a relevant roadmap for carrying out this mid-term evaluation, including possible exercises of stakeholder consultation and thematic working groups. The MSSD mid-term evaluation should be based in principle on both quantitative and qualitative criteria, taking advantage of the populated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, the implementation of MSSD Flagship Initiatives, and the test of the MSSD Reporting Tool. It should be the result of collective efforts, mobilizing both internal and external expertise, as well as a desktop analysis and participatory approach, involving Members of the MCSD to the extent possible. The discussion can also address the involvement of MAP Partners and MAP Components in the evaluation process.

C. Assessment Studies

21. The MAP assessment work related to sustainable development for the biennium 2018-2019, as introduced in the previous Report on Specific Issues (Working Document UNEP/MED IG. 447/3), is ambitious in terms of substance and deadlines.

22. The MTS Strategic Outcome 1.4 and Indicative Key Output 1.4.1 translates in the preparation of the SoED 2019 and MED 2050, as reflected in Decisions IG.23/4 and IG.23/14.

(a) 2019 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report (SoED 2019)

23. The SoED 2019 aims at delivering a comprehensive and updated assessment of the interactions between environment and development in the Mediterranean, in the context of the MAP – Barcelona Convention system.

24. Taking into account conclusions and recommendations from the 85th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018), the SoED 2019 Steering Committee has been set up; it is composed of five Contracting Party representatives, MAP Coordinating Unit and Components representatives, and four technical partners, i.e. the European Agency for the

Environment (EEA), the International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM), the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI), and the Network of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Changes (MedECC).

25. The SoED 2019 Steering Committee is expected to support in particular the preparation of the SoED 2019 Chapter 9 “Synthesis and Conclusions” and Summary for Decision-Makers. The Steering Committee met for the first time on 17 October 2018 via teleconference to agree on its role, activities and timeline in the SoED 2019 process. The 2nd Meeting of the SoED 2019 Steering Committee will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, on 11 January 2019.

26. The SoED 2019 Scientific Committee is in the process of being set up. A proposal was shared for consultation with the SoED 2019 Steering Committee on 21 November 2018. Composed of a maximum of ten members, the Scientific Committee is expected to ensure the overall scientific coherence of the report and review the draft report early 2019.

27. The work of chapter working groups is ongoing with more than 60 authors and contributors involved. Ongoing activities include the finalization of the list of authors, drafting of detailed outlines, narratives and first draft contributions. National experts nominated by Plan Bleu Focal Points have been contacted to participate in the drafting and review of relevant chapters, as well as MCSD Members who had expressed their willingness to voluntarily contribute.

28. The MCSD Members and Plan Bleu Focal Points will be further consulted at key stages of the assessment studies’ preparation. They will be invited in particular to review the SoED 2019 draft chapters and discuss the Summary for Decision-Makers. Including key substantive milestones, the timeline of such consultations is included in the Updated Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the biennium 2018-2019 (Working Document UNEP/MED WG.456/4).

(b) MED 2050 Foresight Study on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean

29. As agreed by COP 20, the MED 2050 Roadmap (Annex 2, Decision IG.23/4) is planned over two biennia. Phase I in 2018-2019 focuses on (i) mobilizing existing resources and building network of interested partners; and, (ii) assessing trends and scenarios in the Mediterranean.

30. Recent activities include preparatory meetings and exchanges with potential partners in view of building the MED 2050 Network. A specific study, conducted early 2019, will help further strengthen the network and map out innovative approaches to ensure a broad and diverse participation in the upcoming MED 2050 consultation phase, as recommended by the 17th Meeting of the MCSD in July 2017.

31. Plan Bleu is actively searching for funding to complement available resources, with proposals under development or already submitted together with partner institutions. Search for funding will be continued in 2019.

32. Plan Bleu is preparing a partnership with Aix-Marseille University, France, to benefit from the support of a post-doctoral researcher on the assessment of trends and scenarios in the Mediterranean. The position is expected to be filled by April 2019.

33. As requested by COP 20, an updated version of the MED 2050 Roadmap will be presented at COP 21, based on further consultations, including with the MCSD Members and Plan Bleu Focal Points, and achievements during biennium 2018-2019.

34. Further details regarding the involvement of, and possible contributions from the MCSD and its Steering Committee are provided in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.456/4.

(c) Case Studies on the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean

35. To support the implementation of the SDG 14 in the Mediterranean, the MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14) includes Activity 4.4.1.2 “*Case studies to foster the Blue Economy (in fisheries and aquaculture, maritime transport and port activities, wind energy, tourism and recreation, biological resources), covering economic benefits of environmental services,*

of innovation, of inclusion (e.g. of the young). Recommendations for a transition towards a Blue Economy in the Mediterranean”.

36. The overall objective of this activity is to assess the current weight and various opportunities provided by the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean in support of sustainable development and to showcase a range of concrete examples and good practices in the region².

37. A detailed methodology has been prepared, including a case study template, and a network of partner institutions has been consulted to identify potential case studies. By the end of April 2019, detailed case studies on the Blue Economy will be prepared under a common format, allowing for comparisons, aggregate conclusions and analyses on lessons learned, as well as potential for scaling up. The case studies will be discussed at a workshop or webinar during spring 2019.

38. Plan Bleu is also involved in the capitalization of dozens of multi-partner innovative projects on the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean, including sustainable tourism, cruise, yachting, energy, fisheries and surveillance sectors. These projects will feed the case studies on the Blue Economy, as well as SoED 2019 and MED 2050 assessment reports. They will help set up communities by reinforcing interfaces between science, policy-making and practitioners, including local governments, civil society organisations and the private sector.

39. In co-operation with other MAP Components and external partners, Plan Bleu also submitted a proposal for a BlueMed Start-Up action on recreational boating and cruise sectors, which was recently approved. This activity consisting in three meetings will be conducted in synergy with the case studies on the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean.

40. The Secretariat presented recent works and on-going analyses on the Blue Economy at regional and international conferences in Bizerte, Tunisia, in October 2018, and Nairobi, Kenya, in November 2018. A side event was organized by the Secretariat (Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) and the Mediterranean Marine Initiative of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF Mediterranean) on “The Regional Dimension of the Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: The Model of the Mediterranean Sea”, on 28 November 2018 in Nairobi.

Issues for consideration on Assessment Studies:

41. In spring 2019, the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) will invite the MCSD Members to participate in the consultation process on the draft SoED 2019.

42. MCSD Members will be also consulted on the MED 2050 updated roadmap.

43. MCSD Members interested to participate more actively in the MED 2050 process will be invited to register at: <http://planbleu.org/en/eform/submit/r-seau-de-prospective-prospective>.

44. The MCSD members will be invited to participate in the capitalization of case studies on the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean, bringing their experience and lessons learned from projects, as a contribution to the report preparation. They will also be invited to help for preparing recommendations towards the expansion of a sustainable and inclusive blue economy in the region.

D. SIMPEER Second Edition (2018-2019)

45. Following the successful SIMPEER pilot edition carried out in 2016-2017, Decision IG.23/4 adopted at COP 20 encourages the Contracting Parties to participate in future editions, with a view to enhancing the interlinkage with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) annually presented at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

46. At its 19th Meeting, the MCSD Steering Committee reiterated the importance of SIMPEER to assist Contracting Parties in their efforts to adapt and implement SDGs at the national level. The Committee noted with appreciation the fact that Albania and Tunisia confirmed their expression of interest to participate in the SIMPEER second edition (2018-2019) and looks forward for the

² See Working Document UNEP/MED WG.447/3 – 19th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee.

participation of a third Contracting Party – possibly Egypt following expression of interest during the 17th Meeting of the MCSD. The MCSD Steering Committee also invited the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to reflect the recommendations from the 17th Meeting of the MCSD into the updated methodology to be implemented during the SIMPEER second edition in 2018-2019, taking also into account ideas expressed during the 19th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, as appropriate.

47. Issue for consideration: Publication of the results of the SIMPEER pilot edition is on the way, with a dissemination expected in January 2019.

48. Revision of the SIMPEER methodology will be finalised in January 2019, while national reports and in-country missions are being scheduled from February-April 2019. A peer review meeting with all volunteer Contracting Parties will take place in June 2019; Contracting Parties involved in the SIMPEER pilot edition will be invited to participate.

49. The SIMPEER revised methodology and the synthesis of the findings of the 2018-2019 edition will be presented at the 18th Meeting of the MCSD in June 2019.

E. Second Edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award (2018-2019)

50. As per decided at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/19), the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award corresponds to the delivery of a MSSD Flagship Initiative under its Objective 3 “Planning and Managing Sustainable Mediterranean Cities”. The first edition of the Award was granted during the COP 20 Ministerial Session in December 2017 and the Second Edition (2018-2019) is included as an activity in the MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2018-2019 (Decision IG.23/14).

51. In accordance with the conclusions of the 83rd Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Tirana, Albania, 25-26 October 2016) and following comments from the three eminent independent experts who supported the nomination and selection process during the first edition of the Award, the Secretariat has undertaken the review and refinement of the methodology, based on lessons learnt from the first edition. Operational and measurable indicators are needed for a more reliable and objective evaluation of applications and to improve the nomination and selection process in general. The improvement of the application form, with more relevant quantitative indicators, and a robust evaluation grid based on both qualitative and quantitative criteria will render the comparison between applicant cities more objective.

52. The CESBA³ MED Project⁴ and International Initiative for Sustainable Built Environment – Italy⁵ (iiSBE – Italy) are providing support to the Secretariat, on a voluntary basis, to update the methodology of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award. CESBA and iiSBE experts are working on an improved assessment framework of indicators, as well as methods of calculation (guidebook), together with a specific template to be filled-in by applicant cities. MedCities (MCSD Member under the Local Authorities Group) is also co-operating on this activity.

53. Once the updated application form and evaluation grid are ready, they will be shared with the MCSD Steering Committee for review and comments prior to launch the call for applicant cities/municipalities in 2019.

³ Common European Sustainable Built Environment Assessment (CESBA) is a collective European bottom-up initiative that provides knowledge on harmonized built environment assessments. CESBA’s mission is to facilitate diffusion and adoption of sustainable built environment principles, using harmonized assessment systems in the whole life cycle of the built environment. <https://www.cesba.eu/>

⁴ <https://cesba-med.interreg-med.eu/>

⁵ <http://www.iisbe.org/>

Annex I
Draft Timeline of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard
(January 2019 – April 2020)

Annex I: Draft Timeline of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard (January 2019 – April 2020)

What	Who	When
Discussion on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and its update	MCSD Steering Committee, Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	January 2019 (20 th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee)
Data collection and analysis, and work on the updated dashboard to populate it, following comments from the MCSD Steering Committee, and taking into account updates of international databases	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	February-March 2019
Updated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard populated (draft) and related Methodological Factsheets issued	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	March 2019
Proposals and recommendations for improving the process related to the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, based on challenges and lessons learned to overcome difficulties	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	April 2019
Discussion and recommendations on the updated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and related Methodological Factsheets	MCSD Plan Bleu Focal Points Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	June 2019 (18 th Meeting of the MCSD and Meeting of the Plan Bleu Focal Points)
Fine-tuning of the updated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	June 2019
Finalization of the updated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and related Methodological Factsheets, in view of submission to COP 21 to be held in December 2019	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	September 2019
Data collection and analysis following COP 21 requests and taking into account updates of international databases	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	January-March 2020
Publication	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	April 2020

Annex II

Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard:

Comments from Members of the MCSD Steering Committee on the List of Indicators (July-September 2018) and Proposals from the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) for Updating the Dashboard

Annex II: Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard – Comments from Members of the MCSD Steering Committee on the List of Indicators (July-September 2018) and Proposals from the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) for Updating the Dashboard

Members of the MCSD Steering Committee provided written technical comments in July-September 2018 on Annexes II and III of the previous Report on Specific Issues (Working Document UNEP/MED WG.447/3), putting the emphasis on indicators suggested to substitute with similar SDG Indicators. These comments are included in tables below, with proposals from the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) for updating the dashboard. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are invited to comment the updated list of indicators, as proposed by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) in the last columns of the tables below.

No.	MSSD Objective	Indicator	Comments from the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee (SC) (July-September 2018)	Feedback from the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) (December 2018)	Indicator recommended by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) (20 th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, 23-24 January 2019)
1	Global	Ecological footprint (*)		Reference: SDG Indicator 8.4.1 and 12.2.1 <i>Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP</i> , which is a Tier III Indicator (methodological and date issues). SDG Indicator 8.4.2 <i>Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP</i> is also linked to Ecological footprint.	Ecological footprint (*)
2	Global	Human Development Index			Human Development Index
3	Global	Gross Domestic Product (*)	One Member of the MCSD SC suggested to replace this indicator with SDG Indicator 8.1.1 <i>Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita</i> .	Tier I Indicator. Feasible. Plan Bleu suggests keeping also the absolute values (i.e. GDP and GDP per capita) because SDG Target 8.1 “ <i>Sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances, and in particular at least 7% per annum GDP growth in the least-developed countries</i> ” is not fully adapted to the Mediterranean countries.	Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (*) (SDG Indicator 8.1.1) Gross Domestic Product (*) Gross Domestic Product per capita (*)
4	Global	Youth literacy rate (*)		Reference: SDG Indicator 4.6.1 <i>Proportion of population in a given age group</i>	Youth literacy rate (*)

				achieving at least a fixed level of proficiency in functional (a) literacy and (b) numeracy skills, by sex	
5	Global	Girl/Boy primary and secondary school registration ratio (*)		Reference SDG Indicator 4.1.1 <i>Proportion of children and young people: (a) in grades 2/3; (b) at the end of primary; and (c) at the end of lower secondary achieving at least a minimum proficiency level in (i) reading and (ii) mathematics, by sex</i>	Girl/Boy primary and secondary school registration ratio (*)
6	1	Number of ratifications and level of compliance as reported by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention			Number of ratifications and level of compliance as reported by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention
7	1	Percentage of protected coastal and marine areas [under national jurisdiction] (*)	One Member of the MCSDD SC suggested to replace this indicator with SDG Indicator 14.5.1 <i>Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas</i> – and perhaps instead of “marine areas” use “territorial waters” as the reference basis.	Tier I Indicator. Data available in the SDG database are related to the whole marine areas of the selected countries. There is an issue for Mediterranean countries with several coastlines (i.e. Egypt, France, Morocco, Spain, and Turkey).	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas (*) (SDG Indicator 14.5.1)
NI	1	NA		See additional table below.	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (*) (SDG Indicator 14.4.1)
8	2	Water efficiency index (*)	One Member of the MCSDD SC suggested to replace this indicator with SDG Indicator 6.4.1 <i>Change in water-use efficiency over time</i> .	Tier II Indicator (data availability issue). FAO (through AQUASTAT), on behalf of UN-Water, as data provider. The monitoring of the SDG Indicator 6.4.1 will be integrated into the GEMI initiative, which together with JMP and GLAAS, under the UN-Water umbrella, will provide a coherent framework for global monitoring of SDG 6. In the Mediterranean basin, Water issues are mainly related to Mediterranean watersheds (vs. country as a whole). Data should be provided by	Water efficiency index (*)

				national water organisations, e.g. ministries, specialized agencies.	
9	2	Number of protected areas participating in the Green list initiative (*)		Reference SDG Indicator 15.1.2 <i>Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type</i>	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 (*)		This is SDG Indicator 15.a.1.	Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (*) (SDG Indicator 15.a.1)
11	2	Global Food Security Index			Global Food Security Index
12	2	Water demand, total and by sector, compared to GDP (*)	One Member of the MCSD SC suggested to replace this indicator with SDG Indicator 6.4.2 <i>Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources.</i>	Tier I Indicator. Data for SDG Indicator 6.4.2 is available at the national level, while Water issues in the Mediterranean basin are mainly related Mediterranean watersheds (vs. country as a whole). Data should be provided by national water organisations, e.g. ministries, specialized agencies. In general, the indicator values for the Mediterranean watersheds are higher than the national values in the Northern Mediterranean countries and lesser in the Southern Mediterranean countries.	Water demand, total and by sector, compared to GDP (*)
13	2	Share of population with access to an improved water source (total, urban, rural) (*)	One Member of the MCSD SC suggested to replace this indicator with SDG Indicator 6.1.1 <i>Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water service.</i>	Tier II Indicator. SDG Indicator 6.1.1 is also used for SEIS/H2020. Data availability could be an issue.	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water service (*) (SDG Indicator 6.1.1)
14	2	Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system (total, urban, rural) (*)	One Member of the MCSD SC recommended to keep this indicator because it is closer to Mediterranean standards than SDG Indicator 6.2.1 <i>Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water.</i>	SDG Indicator 6.2.1 is a Tier II Indicator (data availability issue) used for SEIS/H2020.	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 (*)	According to one Member of the MCSD SC, this indicator could be removed. According to another Member of the MCSD SC, this indicator could be replaced with SDG Indicator 2.4.1 <i>Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture</i> .	Plan Bleu proposes to keep the initial indicator because SDG Indicator 2.4.1 is Tier II Indicator (data availability issue). SDG Indicator 2.4.1 is complex, i.e. based on 11 sub-indicators; FAO is in charge of its development.	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 (*)	One Member of the MCSD SC suggested to replace this indicator with SDG Indicator 15.5.1 <i>Red List Index (IUCN)</i> .	Tier I Indicator. Nota: the index is not only related to Mediterranean species.	Red List Index (IUCN) (*) (SDG Indicator 15.5.1)
N2	2	NA		See additional table below.	Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities (*) (SDG Indicator 2.5.1)
17	3	Proportion of urban population with access to a decent dwelling (*)	One Member of the MCSD SC recommended to keep this indicator if there is an official definition of “decent dwelling”.	Definition to be checked. SDG Target 11.1 is about Adequate housing (**): <i>By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</i> . SDG Indicator 11.1.1 (Tier I Indicator): <i>Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing</i> . Plan Bleu proposes to use SDG Indicator 11.1.1.	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing (*) (SDG Indicator 11.1.1)
18	3	Status of UNESCO world heritage sites or population trends in historic urban areas (*)	According to one Member of the MCSD SC, this indicator could be removed.	The indicator <i>Status of UNESCO world heritage sites</i> is one of the most relevant for the issue of heritage protection. The indicator <i>Population trends in historic urban areas</i> is difficult to populate for each urban area.	Status of UNESCO world heritage sites (*)
19	3	Waste generated and treated by type of waste and treatment type (*)	One Member of the MCSD SC suggested to merge this indicator with SDG Indicator 12.5.1 <i>National recycling rate, tons of material recycled</i> as it addresses a very important aspect of sustainable consumption and production.	SDG Indicator 12.5.1 is a Tier III Indicator (methodological and date issue). The indicator <i>Waste generated and treated by type of waste and treatment type</i> and the recycling rates were selected as	Waste generated and treated by type of waste and treatment type (*)

				SEIS/H2020 Indicators; they should be updated in 2019.	
20	4	Green House Gas emissions (related to GDP)	According to one Member of the MCSD SC, this indicator could be removed because GHG emissions are measured elsewhere and are subject of monitoring and verification.	Plan Bleu considers that the indicator <i>Green House Gas emissions (related to GDP)</i> is one of the most relevant for Climate Change.	Green House Gas emissions (related to GDP)
21	4	Energy consumption (related to GDP)	One Member of the MCSD SC suggested to replace this indicator with SDG Indicator 7.3.1 <i>Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP</i> , and also include SDG Indicator 7.2.1 <i>Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption</i> because it addresses a very important aspect of sustainable energy. Another Member of the MCSD SC suggested to include an indicator on energy use efficiency, if data is available.	7.2.1: Tier I Indicator. 7.3.1: Tier I Indicator. Selection to be done between 7.2.1 and 7.3.1.	Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP (*) (SDG Indicator 7.3.1) Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (*) (SDG Indicator 7.2.1)
22	5	Material intensity of the economy (*)	One Member of the MCSD SC suggested to replace this indicator with either SDG Indicator 12.2.1 <i>Material footprint, material footprint per capita, and material footprint per GDP</i> or 12.2.2 <i>Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP</i> .	12.2.2: Tier I Indicator. 12.2.1: Tier II Indicator (data availability issue).	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP (*) (SDG Indicator 12.2.2)
23	6	Number of National Strategies for Sustainable Development adopted or updated [and number of updates since first edition] (*)	From one Member of the MCSD SC: although this indicator might be more relevant to the Mediterranean context, SDG Indicator 17.14.1 <i>Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development</i> provides a broader context (mechanisms for Policy Coherence of Sustainable	17.14.1: Tier III Indicator (methodological and data issues). The indicator <i>Number of National Strategies for Sustainable Development adopted or updated [and number of updates since first edition]</i> should be kept. Information could come from MCSD Members representing Contracting Parties.	Number of National Strategies for Sustainable Development adopted or updated [and number of updates since first edition] (*)

			Development/PCSD as oppose to NSSDs) and might be more meaningful.		
24	6	Proportion of bank credit allocated to the private sector – Existence of alternative financing systems using bank credit	From one member of the MCSD SC, this indicator could be removed.	Well noted. To be agreed.	
25	6	Public and private expenses for research and development in percentage of GDP	From two members of the MCSD SC, this indicator could be removed.	Well noted. To be agreed.	
26	6	Existing mechanisms to ensure public participation and access to environmental publication (*)	From one member of the MCSD SC, this indicator could be removed. Another Member of the MCSD SC suggested to replace this indicator with SDG Indicator 16.10.2 <i>Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information.</i>	SDG Indicator 16.10.2 is a Tier II Indicator: data availability issue could be an issue.	Existing mechanisms to ensure public participation and access to environmental publication (*)

(*) Corresponding/linked to SDG indicators

(**) The United Nations Human Rights Office defines the human right to adequate housing as *the right of every woman, man, youth and child to gain and sustain a safe and secure home and community in which to live in peace and dignity.*

Elements of the right to adequate housing are available online: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Housing/toolkit/Pages/RighttoAdequateHousingToolkit.aspx>.

A list of illustrative indicators on the right to adequate housing is available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/RightadequateHousing.pdf>.

See also UN Habitat Fact Sheet No. 21/Rev.1 *The Right to Adequate Housing*: <https://unhabitat.org/the-right-to-adequate-housing-fact-sheet-no-21rev-1/>

Additional comments to be taken into account for the update of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard

Comments from the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee (SC) (July-September 2018)	Feedback from the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) (December 2018)
<p>According to one Member of the MCSD Steering Committee, there is a need for a relevant indicator to assess the following MSSD Objective 1 Target – which is the same than SDG Target 14.4: <i>By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics.</i></p> <p>Another Member of the MCSD Steering Committee suggested to include the corresponding SDG Indicator (<i>14.4.1 Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels</i>) in the Dashboard.</p>	<p>Several existing IMAP⁶ Indicators are relevant for fishing issues: Total landings (IMAP Common Indicator 8); Fishing Mortality (IMAP Common Indicator 9); Fishing effort (IMAP Common Indicator 10); Catch per unit of effort (CPUE) or Landing per unit of effort (LPUE) as a proxy (IMAP Common Indicator 11); Bycatch of vulnerable and non-target species (IMAP Common Indicator 12).</p> <p>SDG Indicator 14.4.1 is a Tier I Indicator. Could be included in the dashboard. However, data availability should be checked at country level.</p>
<p>One Member of the MCSD Steering Committee considered that SDG Indicator 2.5.1 <i>Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities</i> is an important indicator, particularly as a potential means for adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>SDG Indicator 2.5.1 is a Tier I Indicator. Could be included in the dashboard.</p>
<p>One Member of the MCSD Steering Committee suggested to simplify the SDG Indicator 11.7.1 <i>Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</i> as follows for possible inclusion in the dashboard: <i>Average share of the built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all.</i></p>	<p>SDG Indicator 11.7.1 is a Tier II Indicator: data availability issue. Data could be collected for Mediterranean cities, with a specific effort from national and local authorities.</p>
<p>One Member of the MCSD Steering Committee suggested to add SDG Indicator 11.2.1 <i>Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities</i> because this to be a very relevant indicator for MSSD Objective 3. This SDG Indicator could be simplified as follows: <i>Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport</i>, if data are available.</p>	<p>SDG Indicator 11.2.1 is a Tier II Indicator: data availability issue. Data could be collected for Mediterranean cities, with a specific effort from national and local authorities.</p>
<p>One Member of the MCSD SC suggested the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to assess the following SDG Indicators for possible inclusion in the updated dashboard as they address important issues, both globally and regionally:</p>	<p>SDG Indicator 12.7.1 is Tier III Indicator: methodological and data issues.</p>

⁶ Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast and related assessment criteria (IMAP)

Comments from the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee (SC) (July-September 2018)	Feedback from the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) (December 2018)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SDG Indicator 12.7.1 <i>Number of countries implementing sustainable public procurement policies and action plans;</i> Number of countries with application of EIA and SEA in development policies. 	Indicator <i>Number of countries with application of EIA and SEA in development policies</i> could be added. Contracting Parties to provide necessary information to populate it.

Conclusions

SDG Indicators are re classified into three tiers based on their level of methodological development and the availability of data at the global level, as follows:

- Tier 1: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, and data are regularly produced by countries for at least 50 per cent of countries and of the population in every region where the indicator is relevant.
- Tier 2: Indicator is conceptually clear, has an internationally established methodology and standards are available, but data are not regularly produced by countries.
- Tier 3: No internationally established methodology or standards are yet available for the indicator, but methodology/standards are being (or will be) developed or tested.

In addition of information available in SDG databases, a specific data collection/sharing process in/between Mediterranean countries could be useful within the MAP – Barcelona Convention system. Mediterranean socio-economic and sustainability indicators could be developed by the Secretariat in cooperation with the Contracting Parties. National institutions and local authorities should provide available data, as necessary, for the calculation (computation) of the indicators related to coastal regions, cities, coastal and marine activities, watersheds areas, etc.

In order to develop a sound and useful set of socio-economic and sustainability indicators, it is necessary to implement a substantial programme of activities similar to (and in synergy with) the H2020/SEIS II programme, involving all relevant institutions around the Mediterranean.

References for SDG indicators: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>; <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/iaeg-sdgs/tier-classification/>; <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/tierIII-indicators/>; and, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>