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Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019

**Agenda Item 6: Membership of the MCSD – Implementation of Decisions IG.22/17 and IG.23/3**

**Membership of the MCSD for the Biennium 2020-2021**

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### Membership of the MCSD for the Biennium 2020-2021

1. The importance of the MCSD, as the advisory body to assist the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention to integrate environmental issues in their socioeconomic programmes and to promote sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean region, was once again recognized by the Contracting Parties at their 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting (Athens, Greece, February 2016), when the Reform of the MCSD and Updated MCSD Constitutive Documents were adopted (Decision IG.22/17).
2. As a forum for debate and exchange of experiences between all interested parties in the Mediterranean region, it is crucial to involve the greatest possible variety of actors in the Commission, so as to enrich its work to the maximum extent.
3. At their 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting (Tirana, Albania, December 2017), the Contracting Parties confirmed through Decision IG.23/3 “Governance” the composition of the MCSD for the biennium 2018-2019, as set out in Decision IG.22/17. The Contracting Parties also called upon the MCSD Members, MAP Partners and the Secretariat to mobilize expressions of interest in membership of the MCSD for the next biennium.
4. As per paragraph 9. II. of the Composition of the MCSD (Decision IG.22/17, Annex I), nine MCSD Members have to be considered for replacement because they will have completed three consecutive mandates by COP 21 to be held in Italy in December 2019. The nine MCSD Members listed in the table below have therefore to be considered for replacement from 2020:

<b>MCSD Member</b>	<b>Group</b>
Association of Italian Local Agenda 21	Local Authorities
MEDCITIES	Local Authorities
Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)	Socio-economic Stakeholders
Union of Mediterranean Confederations of Enterprises (UMCE)	Socio-economic Stakeholders
World Wide Fund for Nature – Mediterranean Programme Office (WWF Mediterranean)	Non-Governmental Organizations
Environnement et Développement au Maghreb (ENDA-Maghreb)	Non-Governmental Organizations
Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)	Non-Governmental Organizations
International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Intergovernmental Organizations
Centre for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE)	Intergovernmental Organizations

5. In September 2018, the Secretariat kindly invited the MCSD Members, MAP Partners, and MAP Components to provide suggestions and support in engaging partners and stakeholders that could join the MCSD as new members for the next two biennia, with the possibility of extension for one biennium. The Secretariat also invited MAP Partners which are not currently a MCSD Member and possibly interested to become one under the NGO Group<sup>1</sup>, to send a written expression of interest, based on criteria and modalities provided for in Decision IG.19/6 on “MAP/Civil society cooperation and partnership”, demonstrating that their organization is concerned with environmental and sustainable development issues in the Mediterranean.
6. The table below is listing the written expressions of interest received so far by the Secretariat:

<sup>1</sup> As per Decision IG.22/17, the MCSD Members representing NGOs should be selected from the list of MAP/NGO Partners.

Organization	Group	Comments
Agence des Villes et Territoires méditerranéens durables (AVITEM), Marseille, France	Local Authorities	Created in 2012, AVITEM is a Public Interest Grouping (GIP) in which the French government is involved, as well as local/regional authorities (Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur and Métropole Nice-Côte d'Azur regions) and the public agency Euroméditerranée. AVITEM's purpose is to contribute to a sustainable urban and territorial development in the Mediterranean region. Four components: cooperation projects, capacity building, networking, expertise on urban sustainability. Regional dimension, North/South cooperation. Joint activities with several MAP Components.
Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF), Cairo, Egypt	Non-Governmental Organizations	NGO (MAP Partner) initiated in July 2012 by Egyptian scientists and experts during the Rio+20 preparation. Think-tank aiming to facilitate the dialogue to achieve the SDGs and National Strategy on Sustainable Development "Egypt's Vision 2030". ESDF established a "Youth Forum" with more than 500 members. Partnership with the League of Arab States (LAS), notably in the context of the 2017-Arab Week on Sustainable Development. Activities in co-operation with MIO-ECSDE in the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD).
The Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), Marseille, France	Non-Governmental Organizations	NGO (MAP Partner). MedPAN gathers over 100 institutions and NGOs that either have direct responsibility for managing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) or are involved in the development of MPAs in the Mediterranean. MedPAN's mission is to promote, through a partnership approach, the sustainability and operation of a network of MPAs in the Mediterranean which are ecologically representative, connected and effectively managed to help reduce marine biodiversity loss. MedPAN develops activities in cooperation with MAP Components, in particular SPA/RAC.
ECO UNION, Barcelona, Spain	Non-Governmental Organizations	NGO (MAP Partner application to be submitted to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 21 for consideration and endorsement, as requested by the 87 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties held in Athens, Greece, on 6-7 November 2018). As a NGO with a regional scope, ECO UNION is committed to accelerate the transition towards circular economy and sustainability in the Mediterranean. ECO UNION works as an independent citizens-driven think tank on issues related to energy, green & blue economy, sustainable finance, and responsible tourism. ECO UNION organizes educational and awareness activities, publishes policy papers, influences and capacitates decision-makers. ECO UNION is a member of MIO-ECSDE network and co-operates with various MAP Components.
Arab Forum for the Environment and Development (AFED), Beirut, Lebanon	Inter-Governmental Organization	AFED is an international organization and a major dynamic stakeholder in the environmental arena in the Arab world. As a forum for influential eco-advocacy, AFED's mission is to advance prudent environmental policies and action in the Arab countries based on science and awareness. The flagship contribution of AFED is an annual report written and edited by experts on the state of Arab environment, tracking developments and proposing policy measures. AFED enjoys Consultative Status with UN Environment, UN Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC), the League of Arab States (LAS), Green Growth Knowledge Platform, and other regional and international organizations. AFED has played a

		major role in international negotiations on environment and development, including advising governments and regional organizations, on climate change, green economy water and energy management, and sustainable development.
Global Water Partnership (GWP), Stockholm, Sweden	Inter-Governmental Organization	Work on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) since 1996. Develop multi-stakeholder platforms for water management solutions. Awareness raising, advocacy and action towards sustainable water governance. Represented in the region by Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med), based in Athens, Greece, which is a MAP committed operational partner, for instance in the context of MedPartnership and MedProgramme. Co-operation with several MAP Components.

7. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are invited to express their opinion on the applications received by the Secretariat towards submission to the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD and then to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points and COP 21 for decision by the Contracting Parties.

8. The initial proposal by the Secretariat regarding the MCSD membership from 2020 is presented below:

- The Local Authorities Group: the Mediterranean Commission of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Agence des Villes et Territoires méditerranéens durables (AVITEM), **and another potential member to be proposed**;
- The Socio-economic Stakeholders Group: ANIMA Investment Network, **and two other potential members to be proposed**;
- The Non-Governmental Organizations Group: the Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF), the Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), and ECO UNION;
- The Scientific Community Group: Forum Euroméditerranée des Instituts de Sciences Economiques (FEMISE), the Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (MEPIELAN), and the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Solutions Network (Med-SDSN);
- The Intergovernmental Organizations Group: Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) Secretariat, the Arab Forum for the Environment and Development (AFED), and the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med); and,
- Parliamentarians: Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).

9. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are invited to provide guidance to the Secretariat to reach more written expressions of interest.