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20th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee

Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019

Report of the 20th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee

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Introduction

1. The 20th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee was held on 23-24 January 2019 in MAP premises in Athens, Greece. The list of participants is provided in Annex I.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

2. The meeting was opened by the President of the MCSD Steering Committee, Ms. Maria Papaioannou, at 09:30 in current local time in Athens, Greece (GMT+3).

3. In her opening remarks, the President of the MCSD Steering Committee introduced the purpose of the meeting, namely to review the progress and perspectives in the work of the MCSD and the MSSD implementation, with a range of issues in relation with 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” adopted at COP 20 in December 2017. The meeting also aimed at reviewing the preparation of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD to be held in Budva, Montenegro, from 11-13 June 2019.

4. The MAP Coordinator expressed on behalf of the Secretariat warm welcome to the meeting participants and a message of gratitude for their involvement, with special thanks to the President of the MCSD. He underlined the importance of the advice from the MCSD Steering Committee to strengthen the unique mechanism that the MCSD represents in the panorama of Regional Seas worldwide. *“This mechanism allows to look at sustainable development in its entirety and gives a strong voice to all the actors that work towards sustainability in our region. The MCSD’s contribution to sustainable development is fundamental and deserves strengthening”* said Mr. Gaetano Leone.

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

5. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee introduced the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as contained in document UNEP/MED WG.456/1 and annotated in document UNEP/MED WG.456/2. The agenda was adopted by the participants, as provided in Annex II.

Agenda item 3: Work of the MCSD and MSSD Implementation: Review of Progress for the Period July 2017 – May 2018

6. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee invited the Secretariat to present the review of progress related to the work of the MCSD and MSSD implementation.

7. The MAP Coordinator provided an overview of the progress for the period July 2017 – May 2018, as summarized below:

- As introduced in the meeting’s documentation, many actions have been undertaken to meet the expectations from the 19th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (teleconference, 20 June 2018).
- A series of administrative and logistical tasks were secured for the organization of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD, in close cooperation with the host country, i.e. Montenegro.
- Interactions with the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) have been activated and will be regularly fed for promoting the work of the MCSD. Other UN bodies, such as UN Regional Commissions (Africa, Europe, Western Asia) that have a mandate regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level, have been contacted and a Mediterranean side event proposal has been submitted to the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in the framework of its 2019 Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Geneva, Switzerland, 21-22 March 2019).
- The Secretariat (Coordinating Unit and Plan Bleu) have joined force with Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS) and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) to organize a side event at the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 26-28 November 2018. Entitled “The Regional Dimension of a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: The Model of the Mediterranean”, this side event was an excellent opportunity to promote the work of the MCSD.

- The Secretariat campaigned to mobilize expressions of interest from partners to apply for MCSD membership from 2020.
 - The fact that MCSD Members drafted concept notes to launch MSSD Flagship Initiatives represents a positive signal, demonstrating that the MSSD implementation is a collective process.
 - The final evaluation of the policy component of the SwitchMed Programme¹ (2014-2018) was satisfactory. Switch Med II will be launched in 2019, with SCP/RAC as implementing partner.
 - The Secretariat pursued cooperation with partners, including (i) UfMS in the context of the BlueMed initiative towards a Mediterranean research agenda on marine and coastal issues, the Initiative for the sustainable development of the blue economy in the Western Mediterranean, etc.; (ii) MED CITIES and the International Institute for Sustainable Built Environment (iiSBE) for the second edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award; (iii) FAO-GFCM in the context of its 42nd Session (22-26 October 2018) and the Fish Forum (10-14 December 2018) in Rome, Italy.
 - The Mediterranean Coast Day and 40th Anniversary of PAP/RAC were held back-to-back with the Regional Seas Annual Coordination Meeting in Split, Croatia, from 23-25 September 2018.
 - The MAP Coordinator delivered a statement on “Environmental Sustainability and Regional Governance” at the 2nd Sustainability Summit for the South-East Europe and the Mediterranean, a high level event organized by *The Economist* and the Center for SDGs Governance and Public Law (Athens, Greece, 1-2 October 2018), as well as a video message to the 2018-Eco City Forum “Circular Economy in Smart Cities” (Thessaloniki, Greece, 3-5 October 2018).
 - The Secretariat participated in the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Regional Workshop for the Mediterranean, organized by the CBD Secretariat (Tangiers, Morocco, 15-19 October 2018), and the Annual Conference of the Arab Forum on the Environment and Development (AFED) (Beirut, Lebanon, 8-9 November 2018).
 - The Secretariat participated in the preparation of UN Environment’s contribution to the Report of the UN Secretary-General entitled “Towards a Global Pact for the Environment – Gaps in international environmental law and environment-related instruments”.
 - The Secretariat contributed to the UN Environment’s involvement in global processes: e.g. the “Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects” (the Regular Process), the process on an International Legally Binding Instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction, and the process on Ocean Governance for Africa.
 - The MAP Coordinator confirmed that the MAP financial stability is now much improved, with 96% of the Contracting Parties’ contributions secured in 2017 and 2018, in addition of external resources mobilized by MAP Components for delivering their respective mandate. The focus is now on the capacity for delivering the outcome of the MAP Mid-term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 and, widely, for raising the profile of the MAP system in relevant fora and at all levels from global to local.
 - The MAP Coordinator stated that the preparation of the MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027, to be undertaken in 2020-2021, represents a unique opportunity for the MCSD to raise the attention of the Contracting Parties to issues that are insufficiently addressed by the MAP system.
8. Members of the MCSD Steering Committee provided a series of observations, as captured below:
- RAED contributed to the 4th Arab Economic and Social Development Summit (Beirut, Lebanon, 20 January 2019). RAED recommended to better promote the MSSD by supporting similar mechanisms in Egypt, for instance the Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF) that supports multi-stakeholder dialogue for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at the national level.

¹ <https://www.switchmed.eu/en>

- RAED pledged for more regional/national and North/South interactions, integrated approach of sustainable development, and further work on sectors and topics, such as Education or Tourism, that are insufficiently addressed by the MAP system.
 - COMPSUD reported on recent meetings organized with MIO-ECSDE at the European Parliament and on forthcoming regional events focusing on the water-food-energy-ecosystems nexus, including the issue of youth and women empowerment. COMPSUD pledged for close collaboration between civil society organizations and Parliamentarians to raise the importance of education for sustainable development, in particular in the South and East of the basin where youth is growing fast. This approach will be at the core of the next regional meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD), which is an integral part of the MSSD, foreseen in June 2019.
 - Speaking as representative of her government, the President of the MCSD Steering Committee reminded that Greece successfully presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in UN Headquarters in New York last July. The follow-up is ongoing on several points: further strengthen stakeholders' engagement, elaborate a national Implementation Action Plan for the SDGs, and further involve the national Parliament in monitoring implementation. She suggested to take advantage of the open call from UN DESA to share good practices, success stories and lessons learned in SDG implementation in the Mediterranean, putting the emphasis on all the analogs of global mechanisms that are in place in our region.
 - The representative from Israel mentioned the inter-ministerial work and preparatory process for the VNR to be presented at the HLPF in 2019. She stated that international and regional initiatives such as the VNR preparation and SIMPEER could support national progress.
 - MED-SDSN promoted the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA), which is a European Union (EU)-funded, ten-year programme focusing on water scarcity, agriculture and food security in our region. He also mentioned the launching, in cooperation with the SDG Academy, of an innovative e-learning tool, namely the massive online open course (MOOC) on sustainable food systems in the Mediterranean. MED-SDSN finally reported on activities aiming to mobilize engagement of youth, notably through SDSN Youth Mediterranean, which is a network of youth from more than 60 universities around the Mediterranean.
9. After these comments, the MAP Coordinator encouraged the meeting participants to make more explicit links between their activities, which are very relevant contributions to sustainable development in our region, and the MSSD for rendering this reference framework more prominent.
10. Members of the MCSD Steering Committee stressed the need for a clear communication strategy to promote the work of the MCSD and its members, to raise the MSSD visibility and to support governments' engagement towards MSSD implementation and follow-up.

Conclusions:

- (i) The MCSD Steering Committee expressed appreciation for the work done and progress presented by the Secretariat, as well as for the results achieved so far.**
- (ii) The MCSD Steering Committee confirmed its commitment and encouraged the Secretariat to pursue these efforts for building and strengthening partnerships at the global, regional and national levels, for supporting the MSSD recognition, ownership, and implementation by partners and stakeholders, and for showcasing in relevant fora the work of the MCSD and the importance of the MSSD for the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation in the Mediterranean.**
- (iii) The MCSD Steering Committee also emphasized the need to support Contracting Parties for mainstreaming the integrated approach of sustainable development at the national and local levels, as well as for breaking silos created by sectoral approaches. The work of the MCSD, as well as the initiatives and tools promoted by the MCSD and MSSD (e.g. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, SIMPEER, Flagship Initiatives, etc.), should be mobilized as much as possible for this support to national and local sustainable development mechanisms.**

(iv) **Members of the MCSD Steering Committee reported that the activities they carry out and the events in which they participate help to raise the profile of the Mediterranean region and MAP – Barcelona Convention system, in particular regarding the unique nature of the MCSD that is a multi-stakeholder advisory body integrating the three components of sustainable development, and create or strengthen commitment from various actors.**

(v) **The MCSD Steering Committee emphasized the need for long term support to the communication of the work and synergies of the MCSD, with adequate resources within the Secretariat.**

Agenda item 4: Specific Issues

11. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee introduced this agenda item and document UNEP/MED WG.456/3 *Report on Specific Issues*.

A. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard

12. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee reminded that the Committee was mandated by COP 20 to coordinate the work on ensuring full consistency and synergy between the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and the ongoing work on SDG Indicators. For that purpose, a revised list of indicators and a specific timeline were proposed by the Secretariat for agreement. She also reminded the expectations expressed by the 19th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee and summarized the main actions that have been undertaken by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) in the meantime.

13. Plan Bleu introduced a Power Point presentation on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard.

14. The MCSD Steering Committee discussed in detail the dashboard's updated list of indicators, based on proposals by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) and agreed on all indicators contained in the draft updated list, as in Annex III, leaving only three indicators on which a final agreement is pending, due to the lack of adequate information regarding their methodology and data availability. The MCSD Steering Committee, thus, requested Plan Bleu to provide, by mid-February 2019, more information regarding methods of calculation and data availability in international or regional databases for these three indicators still pending in the updated list (in yellow in the table of Annex III).

15. The main issues of concern that have been discussed, in particular with regard to the three pending indicators, can be summarized as follows:

- Regarding SDG Indicator 14.4.1 *Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels*, Plan Bleu indicated that data should be available in FAO-GFCM databases at the basin and sub-basin level. The MCSD Steering Committee agreed to include this indicator in the dashboard if Plan Bleu can confirm that data are available and that those data have been validated by riparian countries. The MCSD Steering Committee asked for clarifications regarding sub-basin definitions and suggested that a possible option to be explored could be to work only at the Mediterranean basin level.
- Plan Bleu was requested to check the methodology and data availability for SDG Indicator 6.4.1 *Change in water-use efficiency over time*. The MCSD Steering Committee agreed that populating the dashboard should not create any new reporting burden for the Contracting Parties.
- Regarding genetic resources in relation to food security and protection of natural resources, the proposed indicator in the updated list, i.e. *SDG Indicator 2.5.1 Number of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture secured in either medium or long-term conservation facilities*, has been initially classified as a Tier III Indicator (no clearly defined methodology nor data available) by the Inter-agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) and reclassified as a Tier I, at the global level, in November 2017. However, Plan Bleu considered that data availability and reliability is not yet fully secured in the Mediterranean, rendering the populating of this indicator uncertain. Indicator *Number of gene banks/seed banks and knowledge repositories in place, per country* (FAO data) was not considered as more relevant by the meeting participants because it includes only *ex situ* conservation, and only a part of the later (e.g. landraces, cultivated species vs. botanic gardens or zoos that are not taken into account), and only agricultural (vs. wild) genetic resources. This indicator does not allow to monitor the number of potentially useful genes, seeds and species that are really conserved. Plan Bleu was invited to liaise with FAO and CBD

Secretariat to identify the most suitable indicator, with a methodology clearly defined and data available in international databases. Plan Bleu was also invited to consider the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (FAO-IPGRI) and Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI - <http://www.bgci.org>). It was stressed that if Plan Bleu, based on its expertise, could not propose an adequate and feasible indicator for this issue with approved methodology and data availability, and considering time limitations for producing a final updated list of the dashboard's indicators in due time for circulation to the Members of the MCSD, the indicator should not be included in the list, at this stage, but examined at a later stage, during the future update of the list.

- Plan Bleu was requested to provide clarifications about data reliability, comparability and methodology for freshwater withdrawal because an important part of extraction of ground waters is not properly monitored and accounted for.
- Plan Bleu was invited to co-operate with MIO-ECSDE and UNESCO for populating the indicator *Number of countries that have National Strategies/Action Plans on Education for Sustainable Development in place*, which was recommended to be included in the updated dashboard.
- MED-SDSN suggested to Plan Bleu to liaise with the Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS - <https://www.sdsntrends.org>) that works for UN SDSN on SDG indicators. This network uses official data and produces analysis, reports and scientific papers.

16. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee agreed on the timeline of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, as amended in Annex IV of this report.

Conclusions:

- (i) The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed the work done by Secretariat (Plan Bleu) and endorsed the timeline of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard up to April 2020.**
- (ii) The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed with appreciation the updated list of indicators – which has been further aligned with the SDG Indicators – and requested the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to include the indicator on Education for Sustainable Development, provide more technical information (data availability, methodology) regarding a few pending indicators. and reflect the comments provided during the meeting.**
- (iii) The MCSD Steering Committee requested the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to prepare a revised version of the analytical factsheets, according to the agreed timeline, fully aligned with the updated list of indicators, in view of submission to the 18th Meeting of the MCSD and the Meeting of Plan Bleu Focal Points.**
- (iv) The MCSD Steering Committee requested the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to additionally prepare proposals and recommendations for improving the process, based on challenges and lessons learned, for submission to the 18th Meeting of the MCSD, the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points and then to COP 21, including a proposal for populating regularly the dashboard.**

B. Evaluation of MAP Regional Strategies

17. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee introduced the topic of the participatory mid-term evaluation of the MSSD that is expected to be undertaken during the next biennium (2020-2021) in view of submitting results to COP 22. This evaluation will be carried out in parallel of the mid-term evaluation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP AP). The timing of the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations is in-line with the cycle of the MTS that will come to its end in December 2021; preparation of the MTS 2022-2027 will be undertaken in 2020-2021 and benefit from the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations.

18. The MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations will be undertaken in 2020-2021 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. The MCSD Steering Committee is expected to have a leading role for the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation, while the SCP AP mid-term evaluation, as an indicators-based exercise, should be a straighter forward endeavor steered by the Secretariat (SCP/RAC).

19. The MCSD Steering Committee considered that the MSSD mid-term evaluation should inform on the progress and gaps regarding the strategy's implementation and the state of the sustainability in the Mediterranean in order to more effectively address shortcomings in the MSSD implementation during its second phase. The pertinence and effectiveness of the MSSD should be assessed during the MSSD Review Process in 2024-2025. It was recommended to use existing/well-known methodologies for this kind of assessments, combine desktop analysis by independent external evaluators and internal analysis based on MAP bodies' and partners' consultation; the "self-assessment" component should be carried out through interviews and workshops with Members of the MCSD.

Conclusions:

(i) The MCSD Steering Committee reiterated that the MSSD mid-term evaluation aims at enhancing the MSSD implementation and making it more efficient, focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities, at its second phase.

(ii) The MCSD Steering Committee took note of the indicative timeline of the MTS, MSSD and SCP AP processes and recommended that they should go in parallel and inform each other following a transversal approach. Common methods/tools for undertaking the three evaluations should be encouraged as much as possible to support this transversal approach.

(iii) The MCSD Steering Committee suggested to base the MSSD mid-term evaluation on partners' and stakeholders' consultations and to use relevant communication channels within the MAP system. It should be an open, participatory process and the result of collective efforts, combining both internal and external expertise, including both desktop analysis and stakeholder consultations.

(iv) The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee agreed that the MSSD mid-term evaluation should be based on clear quantitative and qualitative criteria, taking advantage *inter alia* of the populated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, capitalizing on the implementation of MSSD Flagship Initiatives, and collecting inputs from MCSD Members, MAP Partners, MAP Components, and other relevant stakeholders.

(v) The MCSD Steering Committee invited the Secretariat to submit a detailed roadmap, including elements for terms of reference, for the MSSD mid-term evaluation, taking into account the points expressed during the meeting, for discussion at the 18th Meeting of the MCSD.

(vi) The MCSD Steering Committee recommended to the Contracting Parties, MAP Focal Points, and the Secretariat to allocate the necessary resources in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 for the evaluation of MAP Regional Strategies.

C. Other Issues

Assessment Studies:

20. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) introduced a Power Point presentation on on-going assessment studies and stressed to the meeting participants the context of tight schedule and limited resources.

21. Members of the MCSD Steering Committee expressed their willingness to participate in the consultation process on assessment studies and to provide support for mobilizing regional and national scientists and experts, as authors or reviewers, in particular from the South of the basin. They also offered to contribute to the dissemination of the reports by using their own communication channels.

22. Members of the MCSD Steering Committee suggested to not limit partners and stakeholders' consultations by using electronic means and to take advantage of any relevant meeting for organizing interactive, participatory sessions aiming to collect comments and possible inputs from Members of the MCSD. One of the meeting's participants pointed out two limiting factors regarding exercises of stakeholders' consultation: time and resources (human and financial). He said that civil society organizations have not always the necessary in-house capacity to contribute as expected in such consultations, especially since request for such inputs multiplies.

Second Edition of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER):

23. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee summarized the roadmap and process for the SIMPEER second edition, reminding that Albania and Tunisia have confirmed their participation as volunteer Contracting Parties while official confirmation from Egypt is still looked-for and pending.
24. Plan Bleu informed the meeting about the update of the SIMPEER methodology, based on lessons learned from the pilot edition (2016-2017), reflecting conclusions from meetings of the MCSD and its Steering Committee, in synergy with the VNR/HLPF process.
25. The representative from Tunisia expressed clear expectations from SIMPEER for supporting the review of the National Strategy on Sustainable Development and the transposition of the SDGs at the national level. Expressing need for capacity building, he requested support to raise awareness of local stakeholders, by mobilizing them in participatory consultations during the country missions.
26. The MCSD Steering Committee encouraged the Secretariat to interact with regional and international fora towards dissemination and capitalization of SIMPEER's potential and outcome.

Second Edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award:

27. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee invited the Secretariat to present the progress of the Second Edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award.
28. The Secretariat introduced the work carried out, with the support of MED CITIES, iiSBE – Italy and the CESBA MED Project, to review and refine the nomination and selection process, in particular by introducing operational and measurable indicators in the application form towards a more reliable evaluation of applications. The updated methodology will be shared with the MCSD Steering Committee in due course for review and comments prior to launch the call for applicant cities.
29. The MCSD Steering Committee discussed ways to increase the effectiveness of the award, as an incentive for Mediterranean coastal cities to pursue sustainable development at the municipal level. The Secretariat reminded the objectives of this initiative, as introduced in the nomination and selection process approved after adoption of Decision IG.22/19 at COP 19 in 2016, namely “*to recognize and reward the efforts of local authorities to improve the environment and the quality of life and promote sustainable development in Mediterranean coastal towns and cities. Such an award will encourage local authorities to move towards a more environment friendly future and enable them to act as a role-model to inspire other towns and cities*”. The impact assessment of the award should be carried out in the coming biennia, during the MSSD Review Process in 2024-2025, after a first series of granted awards.
30. Members of the MCSD Steering Committee encouraged the Secretariat to expand communication items because the award contributes to raise the profile of the MAP system and to reach local authorities – which are not the usual, priority target of this system.
31. Members of the MCSD Steering Committee also discussed the name of the award, considering that the reference to Istanbul can be confusing for stakeholders outside the MAP system. They suggested, *inter alia*, to rename the Award as Mediterranean (or MAP) Environment Friendly City Award, as well as to consider giving adequate visibility to all short-listed cities (as opposed to only the winning one) as an acknowledgement to their efforts.

Conclusions:

Assessment Studies:

- (i) **The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed with appreciation the work carried out by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) in preparing the assessment studies on the interactions between environment and development in the Mediterranean.**
- (ii) **The MCSD Steering Committee requested the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to involve the MCSD and its Steering Committee in the consultation process on the draft SoED 2019 and its Summary for Decision-Makers, as well as on MED2050, the case studies on the Blue Economy, and the roadmap for the appropriate endorsement of the MedECC first assessment report's summary**

for policymakers. The meeting recommended in particular that the MCSD Steering Committee will be represented in the SoED 2019 Steering Committee.

(iii) The MCSD Steering Committee invited Contracting Parties and MAP Partners to mobilize available resources to effectively support the preparation and dissemination of these assessment studies.

Second Edition of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER):

(iv) Reiterating the importance of SIMPEER to assist Contracting Parties in their efforts to adapt and implement SDGs at the national level, the MCSD Steering Committee recommended a timely implementation of the proposed revised schedule on this innovative and promising activity.

(v) The MCSD Steering Committee requested the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to mobilize the necessary efforts to guaranty a successful SIMPEER Second Edition in 2019, in close cooperation with volunteer Contracting Parties.

Second Edition of the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award:

(vi) The MCSD Steering Committee took note of the work done by the Secretariat in cooperation with MED CITIES, iisBE and the CESBA MED Project, especially with regards to review and improve the nomination and selection process.

(vii) Acknowledging the importance of such an Award for Mediterranean coastal cities to pursue sustainable development at the local/municipal level and in order to make a clear link between this MSSD Flagship Initiative and the work of the MAP system as a whole, the MCSD Steering Committee suggested to revisit its scope and modalities to further encourage the participation of coastal Mediterranean cities.

Agenda item 5: Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the Biennium 2018-2019, including the Preparation of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD

32. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee invited the meeting participants to review, discuss, and endorse the updated work plan, as annexed in document UNEP/MED WG.456/4.

33. The meeting reviewed, discussed, amended and agreed on the table summarizing the updated work plan, as included in Annex V.

34. The MCSD Steering Committee expressed appreciation to MCSD Members (COMPSUD, MIO-ECSDE, MEPIELAN) and the Secretariat (SCP/RAC) for having drafted concept notes aiming to put in motion four MSSD Flagship Initiatives, as included in Annex I of document UNEP/MED WG.456/4, and reviewed these concept notes, following a short presentation of each one.

35. Practical aspects for launching concrete activities on the ground for those four MSSD Flagship Initiatives were explored. Regarding the concept note prepared by MEPIELAN on the MSSD Flagship Initiative “Develop capacity building programmes on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements, including environmental impact assessments (EIA) and strategic environmental assessments (SEA)” – that was not presented by its authors/leaders not being present –, the MCSD Steering Committee considered that it introduces innovative concepts (e.g. the *public trust approach* and the *Talanoa dialogue*), stresses the need for participatory approaches and for enhanced policy coherence for sustainable development mechanisms. Taking into account that this concept note is quite academic, it could be further streamlined to become more concrete regarding proposed deliverables and capacity building activities. RAED has expressed interest to liaise with MEPIELAN in order to further review this concept note and proposed activities.

36. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee invited the meeting participants to suggest experts and leaders for the two “orphan” MSSD Flagship Initiatives on (i) sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels, and (ii) publicly-accessible regional integrated information system to collate and transparently display information on the state of the environment.

37. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee invited the Secretariat to introduce the draft Provisional Agenda of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD (proposal), as reported in Annex VI, giving emphasis on and achieving a balance between opportunities for a meaningful exchange of ideas and interactive discussions between Members of the MCSD, as well as on items where agreement has to be reached by consensus within the Commission.

38. Meeting participants provided the following advice and recommendations for reviewing the draft Provisional Agenda of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD:

- To expand the scope of Agenda item 4 from global to regional, national and local scales. If relevant, the testimonies from municipal leaders could be included under this agenda item so that they inform the meeting with their experiences and case studies at local level;
- To go deeper on Agenda item 4 b) to better reflect the mandate of the MCSD towards recommendations for integrating sustainability considerations beyond the draft UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021, including on the future MTS 2022-2027, e.g. reflections on emerging issues or sectors to be more considered in the work of MAP. The meeting should address the following questions: What are the priorities for the future of the MAP system from the MCSD perspective? What is the message that the MCSD wants to bring to COP 21?
- To invite the current President of the MCSD to report on the review of progress since the 17th Meeting of the MCSD, complementing the Analytical Report by the MAP Coordinator;
- To organize a round table with MAP Components so that they can inform the meeting on specific aspects of their work: How are they contributing to the implementation of the MSSD and SDGs?
- To consider the national level beyond SIMPEER and VNR experiences under Agenda item 5 c);
- To combine Agenda items 4 and 7 because the draft Provisional Agenda is already well packed: more space should be devoted to the discussion towards a good balance with key presentations;
- To introduce major regional programmes and projects under Agenda item 5 d).

39. The MCSD Steering Committee recommended to consider organizing a regional Mediterranean Forum for Sustainable Development, back-to-back with the 19th Meeting of the MCSD. That will allow to have bigger biannual meetings and to invite former and historical Members of the MCSD to attend such a forum (at their cost).

Conclusions:

(i) The participants welcomed the updated work plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the biennium 2018-2019 and requested the Secretariat to reflect the comments from the Steering Committee in its final version.

Reporting Tool to Ensure the Follow-up of the MSSD Implementation:

(ii) The MCSD Steering Committee proposed to test the reporting tool prior to the 18th Meeting of the MCSD and encouraged the MCSD Members to report on their respective activities contributing to the MSSD implementation, in order to identify gaps and areas where additional efforts are needed.

(iii) Based on the results of this test, the reporting tool should be reviewed by the Secretariat and possibly further used in the framework of the MSSD mid-term evaluation in 2020-2021.

MSSD Flagship Initiatives:

(iv) The MCSD Steering Committee acknowledged with appreciation the concept notes drafted by MCSD Members (COMPSUD, MIO-ECSDE, MEPIELAN) and the Secretariat (SCP/RAC) to put in motion four MSSD Flagship Initiatives that have not yet been launched.

(v) The MCSD Steering Committee reiterated the need to further mobilize efforts to put in motion the two Flagship Initiatives that are still not yet launched, i.e. (i) Integrate sustainability principles into public procurement at national and local levels; and (ii) Establish a publicly-accessible Mediterranean integrated information system through a triumvirate of national

governments, international institutions and the private sector to collate and transparently display information on the state of the environment.

(vi) The MCSD Steering Committee suggested that a specific session of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD is devoted to the presentation of the concept notes by their authors, in view of refining their content with MCSD Members' feedback and advice, identifying possible partners that could get a role of leader for the remaining two not yet launched or contributor towards the implementation of these initiatives.

Preparation Process of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD:

(vii) The MCSD Steering Committee invited the Secretariat to prepare a more detailed and analytical draft Provisional Agenda of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD, reflecting the discussions held at the meeting and advice from the participants, as well as the theme of the COP 21 once decided.

(viii) This draft provisional agenda should capture key issues on which agreement has to be reached by consensus at the 18th Meeting of the MCSD. Moreover, it should aim at increasing interest and interactivity between participants, peer learning opportunities, visibility of MCSD work at all levels and MSSD linkages with the 2030 Agenda/SDGs, interest of partners to collectively support the MSSD implementation and, possibly, mobilizing MSSD Flagship Initiatives not yet launched.

(ix) The MCSD Steering Committee invited the Secretariat to continue efforts for identifying appropriate keynote speakers and facilitators in order to fulfill these objectives.

(x) The MCSD Steering Committee recommended to take advantage of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD for providing inputs on the definition of key priorities that would be reflected in the future MTS (2022-2027) and other MAP regional processes.

(xi) The MCSD Steering Committee recommended that the MCSD proposes to the Contracting Parties to hold a Mediterranean Forum on Sustainable Development starting from the 19th Meeting of the MCSD to be held in 2021.

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

40. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee invited the Secretariat to introduce the topic of MCSD Membership. The Secretariat reminded that COP 20 confirmed the composition of the MCSD for the biennium 2018-2019, as set out in Decision IG.22/17, and called upon the MCSD Members, MAP Partners and the Secretariat to mobilize expressions of interest in membership of the MCSD for the next biennium.

41. According to the constitutive documents of the MCSD (Decision IG.22/17), nine Members are considered for replacement because they will have completed three consecutive mandates by COP 21. Working Document UNEP/MED WG.456/5 contained a list of the written expressions of interest received so far by the Secretariat, as well as an initial proposal for the MCSD membership from 2020.

42. The MCSD Steering Committee expressed appreciation on the applications received and agreed in principle with the initial proposal for the MCSD membership from 2020. They took note of the support requested from their side to reach more written expressions of interest, in particular for the Local Authorities and Socio-economic Stakeholders Groups.

43. Members of the MCSD Steering Committee reiterated the need to identify ways and means to maintain links with the very active MCSD Members that will leave the Commission in December 2019. Most of those members have an official status of MAP Partner and have recommended potential candidates from their own networks and areas of work. Meeting participants also suggested to offer to former MCSD Members the possibility to be invited as observers to the meetings of the MCSD, as well as to ensure that they remain involved indirectly as MAP Partners.

Conclusions:

- (i) The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed the expressions of interest from relevant stakeholders to become MCSD Member from 2020 and agreed with the initial proposal for the MCSD membership.**
- (ii) The MCSD Steering Committee invited the Secretariat to submit an updated proposal of the MCSD membership for discussion at the 18th Meeting of the MCSD and approval at COP 21.**

Agenda item 7: Any Other Matters

44. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee invited participants to consider other issues that may be raised. There was no other issue raised by the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee.

Agenda item 8: Closure of the Meeting

45. The President of the MCSD Steering Committee thanked the participants for their commitment, active participation, comments and valuable inputs. She congratulated the Secretariat for the preparation and documentation of the meeting. She explained that the report of meeting will be circulated to the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee for their comments and approval through electronic means by 22 February 2019.

46. The meeting was closed by the President of the MCSD Steering Committee at approximately 17:00 on Thursday 24 January 2019.

Annex I: List of Participants

Annex I: List of Participants

ALBANIA / ALBANIE	<p>Ms. Borana Antoni Expert in the SEA/EIA Environmental Standards Unit Ministry of Tourism and Environment</p> <p>Email: Borana.Antoni@turizmi.gov.al</p>
<p>ARAB NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT / RESEAU ARABE POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT ET LE DEVELOPPEMENT (RAED) Rapporteur</p>	<p>Mr. Emad Adly General Coordinator</p> <p>Tel: +202 2516 1519 Email: eadly@hotmail.com</p>
<p>CIRCLE OF MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT / CERCLE DES PARLEMENTAIRES MEDITERRANEENS SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (COMPSUD)</p>	<p>Mr. Moh Rejdali President</p> <p>Tel: +212 661 39 58 84 Fax: +212 537 74 75 03 Email: m_rejdali@hotmail.com</p> <p>Mr. Michael J. Scoullis Executive Secretary</p> <p>Tel: +30 210 324 7267 Email: info@mio-ecsde.org; roniotes@mio-ecsde.org</p>
<p>GREECE / GRÈCE President / Présidente</p>	<p>Ms. Maria Papaioannou Department of European and International Environmental Affairs Directorate of International and European Activities Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy</p> <p>Tel: + 30 2106969313 Fax: + 30 2106969569 Email: m.papaioannou@prv.ypeka.gr</p>
<p>ISRAEL / ISRAËL</p>	<p>Ms. Rotem Shamay Head of Strategic Planning Unit Ministry of Environmental Protection</p> <p>Tel: +972 26553851; Mobile: +972 506233373 Fax: +972 26553853 Email: Rotemsh@sviva.gov.il</p>
<p>MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK / RESEAU MEDITERRANEEN DES SOLUTIONS POUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE (MED-SDSN)</p>	<p>Mr. Simone Cresti Siena University, Italy</p> <p>Tel: +39 0577 235416; Mobile: +39 3334532199 Email: simone.cresti@unisi.it</p>
<p>TUNISIA / TUNISIE</p>	<p>Mr. Lotfi Ben Said Director General Department of Sustainable Development Ministry of Local Affairs and the Environment</p> <p>Tel: +216 7024 3911 / Mobile: +216 9744 3288 Fax: +216 7072 8655 Email: b.said.lotfi@gmail.com</p>

UNEP/MAP / PNUE/PAM	<p>Mr. Gaetano Leone Coordinator</p> <p>Tel: +3021 0727 3101 Email: gaetano.leone@un.org</p> <p>Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis Programme Management Officer Governance</p> <p>Tel: +3021 0727 3132 Email: ilias.mavroeidis@un.org</p> <p>Mr. Julien Le Tellier Programme Management Officer Socio-Economic Affairs</p> <p>Tel: +3021 0727 3133 Email: julien.letellier@un.org</p>
PLAN BLEU REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / CENTRE D'ACTIVITES REGIONALES PLAN BLEU	<p>Ms. Elen Lemaitre-Curri Directrice / Director</p> <p>Tel : +33 6 47 69 24 07 Email: elemaitre-curri@planbleu.org</p>

Annex II: Agenda of the 20th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee

Annex II: Agenda of the 20th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee**Timetable**

(in current local time in Athens, Greece: GMT+2)

Wednesday, 23 January 2019			
Time	Agenda item		Document
09:30 – 10:00	1. Opening of the Meeting 2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work	President of the MCSD Steering Committee	UNEP/MED WG.456/1 UNEP/MED WG.456/2 UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.2
10:00 – 11:00	3. Work of the MCSD and MSSD Implementation: Review of Progress for the Period June-December 2018	Secretariat	
11:00 – 12:30	4. Specific Issues (a) Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	UNEP/MED WG.456/3 UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.5
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:00 – 15:00	4. Specific Issues (a) Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard (cont'd)	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	UNEP/MED WG.456/3 UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.5
15:00 – 16:00	4. Specific Issues (b) Evaluation of MAP Regional Strategies	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.456/3
16:00 – 17:00	4. Specific Issues (b) Other issues	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	UNEP/MED WG.456/3
Thursday, 24 January 2019			
Time	Agenda item		Document
09:30 – 10:30	4. Specific Issues (b) Other issues (cont'd)	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	UNEP/MED WG.456/3
10:30 – 12:30	5. Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the Biennium 2018-2019, including the preparation of the 18 th Meeting of the MCSD	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	UNEP/MED WG.456/4 UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.3
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:00 – 15:00	5. Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the Biennium 2018-2019, including the preparation of the 18 th Meeting of the MCSD (cont'd)	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	UNEP/MED WG.456/4 UNEP/MED WG.456/Inf.3
15:00 – 16:00	6. Membership of the MCSD: Implementation of Decisions IG.22/17 and IG.23/3	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.456/5
16:00 – 17:00	7. Any Other Matters 8. Closure of the Meeting	Secretariat President of the MCSD Steering Committee	

**Annex III: Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard – Updated List of Indicators
(as of 23 January 2019)**

Annex III: Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard – Updated List of Indicators**(as of 23 January 2019)**

No.	MSSD Objective	Indicator (as agreed by the 20 th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee)
1	Global	Ecological footprint (*)
2	Global	Human Development Index
3	Global	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 (*)
5	Global	Girl/Boy primary, secondary and tertiary school registration ratio (*)
6	1	Number of ratifications and level of compliance as reported by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention
7	1	Coverage of protected areas in relation to marine territorial waters (*)
8	1	<i>Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (*) (SDG Indicator 14.4.1) Comment: Data to be provided by FAO-GFCM at basin and sub-basin levels</i>
9	2	Change in water-use efficiency over time (*) (SDG Indicator 6.4.1)
10	2	Number of protected areas participating in the Green List initiative (*)
11	2	Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems (*) (SDG Indicator 15.a.1)
12	2	Global Food Security Index
13	2	<i>Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (*) (SDG Indicator 6.4.2) or any relevant indicator to be proposed by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) for agreement by the MCSD Steering Committee</i>
14	2	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water service (*) (SDG Indicator 6.1.1)
15	2	Share of population with access to an improved sanitation system (total, urban, rural) (*)
16	2	Proportion of agriculture quality products (*) and/or Share of the agricultural land area used by organic farming (*)
17	2	Red List Index (IUCN) (*) (SDG Indicator 15.5.1)
18	2	<i>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), Number of gene banks/seed banks and knowledge repositories in place, per country (FAO data), or any relevant indicator to be proposed by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) for agreement by the MCSD Steering Committee</i>
19	3	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing (*) (SDG Indicator 11.1.1)
20	3	Status of UNESCO world heritage sites (*)
21	3	Waste generated and treated by type of waste and treatment type (*)
22	4	Green House Gas emissions (related to GDP)
23	4	Energy intensity measured in terms of primary energy and GDP (*) (SDG Indicator 7.3.1) and/or Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (*) (SDG Indicator 7.2.1)
24	5	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP (*) (SDG Indicator 12.2.2)
25	6	Number of National Strategies for Sustainable Development adopted or updated [and number of updates since first edition] (*)
26	6	Proportion of bank credit allocated to the private sector – Existence of alternative financing systems using bank credit
27	6	Public and private expenses for research and development in percentage of GDP

28	6	Number of countries that have clear mechanisms in place for ensuring public participation and guarantying public access to environmental information (*)
29	6	Number of countries that have National Strategies/Action Plans on Education for Sustainable Development in place

(*) Corresponding/linked to SDG indicators

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

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

What	Who	When
Discussion on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and its update	MCSO Steering Committee, Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	January 2019 (20 th Meeting of the MCSO Steering Committee)
Information by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) regarding the three pending indicators (methodological aspects and data availability), and feedback from the Members of the MCSO Steering Committee	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	February 2019
Data collection and analysis, and work on the updated dashboard for populating it, following comments from the MCSO Steering Committee and taking into account updates of international databases	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	February-March 2019
Updated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard populated (draft) and related Analytical 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	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	April 2019
Discussion and recommendations on the updated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and related Analytical Factsheets	MCSO Plan Bleu Focal Points Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	June 2019 (18 th Meeting of the MCSO 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 Analytical Factsheets, in view of submission to COP 21 to be held on 2-5 December 2019 in Naples, Italy	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 V

Updated Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the Biennium 2018-2019

Annex V: Updated Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee for the Biennium 2018-2019

Month	Task	Lead	Key contributors or reviewers
September-October 2018	Members of the MCSD Steering Committee to provide comments on and guidance for the update of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard	Secretariat (Plan Bleu) in cooperation with the MCSD Steering Committee	MCSD Steering Committee
November-December 2018	Preparation of the 20 th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee	Secretariat, in close cooperation with the President of the MCSD	MCSD Steering Committee
January 2019	20 th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee Members of the MCSD Steering Committee to discuss at their 20 th Meeting (i) the draft populated dashboard and related factsheets; and (ii) the update of the dashboard Revision of the SIMPEER methodology, taking into account recommendations from the 17 th Meeting of the MCSD and ideas expressed during the meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee	President of the MCSD, with support from the Steering Committee and the Secretariat MCSD Steering Committee Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	MCSD Steering Committee Secretariat (Plan Bleu) MCSD Steering Committee
February 2019	Follow-up of the 20 th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee	Secretariat, Plan Bleu	MCSD Steering Committee
February-April 2019	Publication on the experience and outcome of SIMPEER pilot edition SIMPEER draft national reports and in-country missions	Secretariat (Plan Bleu) Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	MCSD Steering Committee Volunteer Contracting Parties
March 2019	The MCSD Steering Committee to be represented at the 3 rd Meeting of the SoED 2019 Steering Committee	Secretariat, Plan Bleu	MCSD Steering Committee
April 2019	Proposal for the update of the Dashboard, as well as populated dashboard and related factsheets, plus recommendations for improving the process based on challenges and lessons learned transmitted to the MCSD Members for review and comments during discussions at their 18 th Meeting Report on the progress of the SIMPEER second edition submitted to MCSD Members for discussion at their 18 th Meeting	Secretariat (Plan Bleu) Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	MCSD MCSD
April-June 2019	MCSD Members to provide comments on the first draft of the SoED 2019 and draft Roadmap for MED 2050 Phase II	Secretariat (Plan Bleu), MCSD Steering Committee	MCSD

June 2019	Peer Review Meeting with volunteer Contracting Parties 18 th Meeting of the MCSD. MCSD Members to discuss the populated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, First Draft of SoED 2019, Roadmap for MED 2050 Phase II, draft Final Report of the SIMPEER second edition, and first scientific assessment report on environmental and climate changes in the Mediterranean (MedECC)	Secretariat (Plan Bleu) Secretariat (Plan Bleu), MCSD Steering Committee, Montenegro (host country)	Volunteer Contracting Parties MCSD
June-July 2019	The President of the MCSD to contribute to the draft decision related to the work of the MCSD and MSSD implementation and follow-up, including the MSSD mid-term evaluation, for submission to MAP Focal Points and then COP 21 Final Report of the SIMPEER second edition submitted to MAP Focal Points as Information Document	President of the MCSD Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	MCSD Steering Committee, Secretariat MCSD Steering Committee and volunteer Contracting Parties
July-August 2019	Preparation of the MCSD's contribution to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points	President of the MCSD	MCSD Steering Committee, Secretariat
September 2019	The President of the MCSD to present the outcome of the 18 th Meeting of the MCSD to MAP Focal Points	President of the MCSD	MCSD Steering Committee, Secretariat
October-November 2019	Publication of the Final Report of the SIMPEER second edition	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	Volunteer Contracting Parties, MCSD Steering Committee
December 2019	The President of the MCSD to present MCSD recommendations to the Contracting Parties at COP 21	President of the MCSD	MCSD Steering Committee, Secretariat

Annex VI

Draft Provisional Agenda of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Proposal)

Annex VI: Draft Provisional Agenda of the 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Proposal)

Regular agenda items deriving from the MCSD's mandate, ToR, and RoP
Agenda items/sub-items deriving from COP Decisions and MAP PoW – Agreement by consensus
Interactive exchanges/sessions, open discussions

Suggestions from Working Document UNEP/MED WG.456/4	Draft Provisional Agenda (Proposal)
<i>As per practice</i>	Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting
<i>As per practice</i>	Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters a) Election of the Steering Committee b) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda c) Organization of Work
Discussing the Analytical Report of the MAP Coordinator (as per Rule 8 of the MCSD Rules of Procedure)	Agenda item 3: Analytical Report of the MAP Coordinator on Work carried out [and Progress in the Implementation of Recommendations of the 17th Meeting of the MCSD]
Implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and producing opinions and recommendations for integration and coordination of the work of the MCSD with the other existing international and regional sustainable development and environmental programmes, policy frameworks and initiatives. Organizations to be possibly contacted for identification and invitation of potential key note speaker(s): UNDESA, UNECA, UNECE, UNESCWA	Agenda item 4: From Global to Regional: Implementing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) a) Reflecting most Recent Global Developments
Producing opinions on the overall UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021, with the aim of integrating sustainability considerations into the MAP – Barcelona Convention system as a whole, including the topic of the MSSD mid-term evaluation	Agenda item 4: From Global to Regional: Implementing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) b) Integrating Sustainability Considerations in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021
Presentation and discussion of the populated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and its update Introducing the topic of the MSSD mid-term evaluation	Agenda item 5: MSSD Implementation and Follow-up – Good Practices, Exchange of Experiences and Challenges a) Monitoring the MSSD: Updated and Populated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard b) MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation to be carried out in 2020-2021
Focusing a specific agenda item on peer learning exercises on national structures and processes for sustainable development (i.e. SIMPEER second edition 2018-2019 and Voluntary National Reviews/VNRs from Mediterranean countries at the 2018 and 2019 High-level Political Forum/HLPF), keeping in mind the mission of the MCSD that consist of assisting Mediterranean countries and other stakeholders in implementing sustainable development policies. Concerned Contracting Parties are the following: o Albania, Egypt (expression of interest to be confirmed), and Tunisia for SIMPEER;	Agenda item 5: MSSD Implementation and Follow-up – Good Practices, Exchange of Experiences and Challenges c) Implementing the MSSD and SDGs at the National Level: Second Edition of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) put in perspective with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Albania, Egypt, Greece, Lebanon, Malta, and Spain for the VNRs presented at the 2018-HLPF; and; ○ Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Israel, Tunisia, and Turkey for the VNRs to be presented at the 2019-HLPF; 	
<p>Ensuring the follow-up of the MSSD implementation, including inputs (presentations) from MCSD Members, MAP Components and other stakeholders. The follow-up of the MSSD implementation can be informed by the introduction of concept notes on launching MSSD Flagship Initiatives (Annex I) and/or national and regional actions to promote the exchange of experiences and good practices regarding the integration of environmental and socio-economic policies</p>	<p>Agenda item 5: MSSD Implementation and Follow-up – Good Practices, Exchange of Experiences and Challenges</p> <p>d) Ensuring the Follow-up of the MSSD Implementation: MSSD Flagship Initiatives, Good Practices, National and Regional Actions</p>
<p>Organizing a session on Assessment Studies carried out by Plan Bleu, i.e. SoED 2019 and MED 2050 Phase I. MCSD Members should be invited to discuss the first draft of SoED 2019, the results of MED 2050 Phase I, and draft Roadmap for MED 2050 Phase II</p>	<p>Agenda item 6: Assessment Studies on the Interactions between the Environment and Development</p> <p>a) Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean 2019 (SoED 2019)</p> <p>b) Foresight Study on the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (MED2050)</p>
<p>Organizing a session on the Regional Dimension of the Transition Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy: The Case of the Mediterranean, building on the outcome of the MAP side event held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 28 November 2018, during the international Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, and the case studies carried out by Plan Bleu.</p> <p>Organizing a session, in cooperation with MCSD Members representing the Local Authorities Group, on implementing sustainable development at the local/municipal level, putting the emphasis on circular economies in Mediterranean cities, with specific interventions from invited local authorities and municipalities’ representatives. If relevant, this session could benefit from the outcome of the Sustainable Built Environment Conference 2019 “Policies for a Sustainable Built Environment” (Scilla, Italy, 16-17 May 2019), in which MED CITIES and the Secretariat are invited to organize an interactive session on “Planning and Managing Sustainable Mediterranean Cities”.</p>	<p>Agenda item 7: Green, Blue and Circular Economy, including Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), in the context of Sustainable Development</p> <p>a) Round Table: Transition Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Blue Economy in the Mediterranean from Global to Local</p> <p>b) Case Studies on the Blue Economy in the Mediterranean</p> <p>c) SwitchMed II Programme for Social and Eco-Innovations in the Mediterranean</p>
<p><i>As per practice</i></p>	<p>Agenda item 8: MCSD Membership from 2020</p> <p>Agenda item 9: Next Meeting of the MCSD and Any Other Matters</p> <p>Agenda item 10: Conclusions and Recommendations, including Contribution of the MCSD to COP 21</p> <p>Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting</p>