



**UNITED
NATIONS**

EP

UNEP/MED WG.469/9



**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

10 May 2019
Original: English

18th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019

Agenda Item 8: Membership of the MCSD

MCSD Membership from 2020 (Proposal)

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

MCS D Membership from 2020 (Proposal)

1. The importance of the MCS D, as the advisory body to assist the Contracting Parties to 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 19th Ordinary Meeting (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, February 2016), when the Reform of the MCS D and Updated MCS D 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 20th Ordinary Meeting (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, December 2017), the Contracting Parties confirmed through Decision IG.23/3 “Governance” the composition of the MCS D for the biennium 2018-2019, as set out in Decision IG.22/17. The Contracting Parties also called upon the MCS D Members, MAP Partners and the Secretariat to mobilize expressions of interest in membership of the MCS D for the next biennium.
4. As per paragraph 9. II. of the Composition of the MCS D (Annex I of Decision IG.22/17), nine MCS D Members have to be considered for replacement because they will have completed three consecutive mandates by COP 21 to be held in Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019. The nine MCS D Members listed in the table below have therefore to be considered for replacement from 2020.

MCS D Member	Group
Association of Italian Local Agenda 21	Local Authorities
MED CITIES	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
<i>Environnement et Développement au Maghreb</i> (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 invited the MCS D Members, MAP Partners and Components to provide suggestions and support in engaging partners and stakeholders that could join the MCS D 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 MCS D Member and are possibly interested to become one under the NGO Group¹, 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”.

¹ As per Decision IG.22/17, the MCS D Members representing NGOs should be selected from the list of MAP/NGO Partners.

6. At its 20th Meeting (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019), the MCSD Steering Committee expressed appreciation on the applications received until November 2018 and agreed with the initial proposal for the MCSD membership from 2020, as included in document UNEP/MED WG.456/4.

7. 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. It was 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.

8. The table below is listing the written expressions of interest received by the Secretariat in 2018-2019:

Organization	Group	Comments
<i>Agence des Villes et Territoires méditerranéens durables</i> (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 of the French Mediterranean façade (<i>Region Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur</i> and <i>Métropole Nice-Côte d'Azur</i>) and the public agency <i>Euroméditerranée</i> . AVITEM's purpose is to contribute to a sustainable urban and territorial development in the Mediterranean region via four components: cooperation projects, capacity building, networking, expertise on urban sustainability. AVITEM works on the regional, Mediterranean dimension, strengthening North/South cooperation. AVITEM develops joint activities with several MAP Components.
The Forum of Adriatic and Ionian cities (FAIC), Ancona, Italy	Local Authorities	Governed by the Italian Law, the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC) is a non-profit international association open to municipalities of the Adriatic-Ionian sub-basin. It gathers local authorities of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Slovenia, and it is open to those from Serbia. FAIC was founded in Ancona, Italy, in 1999, in parallel of the launch of the "Charter of Ancona", establishing a set of principles aiming at creating a place for intercultural dialogue and political mediation and fostering a peaceful Adriatic and Ionian community. FAIC represents a tool for economic, political, cultural and human cooperation, broadly in line with the European Union Strategy for the Adriatic Ionian Region (EUSAIR). FAIC has the following objectives: (i) evaluate cultural heritage and historical identity, and share geographic and economic peculiarities amongst people that live in Adriatic-Ionian sub-region; (ii) give a concrete contribution to the European integration, to protection of human rights, development of highest standards of security and lawfulness, as well as promotion of gender equality; (iii) support territorial cohesion between cities that belong to the Adriatic-Ionian sub-region; (iv) activate initiatives of cross border cooperation in protecting and evaluating the environment, as well as initiatives in various socio-economic and cultural sectors; (v) foster exchange between various components of civil society, with particular attention to youth and schools, sports and voluntary associations, and social entrepreneurship.
Economic and Social Council of Greece (ESCG), Athens	Socio-economic Stakeholders	The Economic and Social Council of Greece (ESCG) was established following the model of the European Economic and Social Committee. ESCG gathers employers-entrepreneurs, employees, and other economic actors. As per Article 82, paragraph 2 of the Hellenic Constitution, "the mission of the Economic and Social Council is to conduct the social

		<p>dialogue on the country's general policy and in particular on economic and social policy guidelines, as well as to issue opinions on government bills or MPs' law proposals referred to it". At the national level, the opinions of the ESCG is mandatory on a set of topics related to growth and sustainable development, labor relations, social security, taxation, environment and the country's overall social and economic policies. ESCG participates in a network of similar organizations at the European and international level. ESCG contributed to the Voluntary National Review presented by Greece at the High-level Political Forum in 2018.</p>
Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF), Cairo, Egypt	Non-Governmental Organizations	<p>NGO (MAP Partner) initiated in July 2012 by Egyptian scientists and experts during the Rio+20 preparation. ESDF is a think-tank that aims at facilitating the dialogue to achieve the National Strategy on Sustainable Development "Egypt's Vision 2030". ESDF established a "Youth Forum" with more than 500 members. ESDF develops a partnership with the League of Arab States (LAS), notably in the context of the 2017-Arab Week on Sustainable Development, as well as activities in co-operation with MIO-ECSDE in the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development (MSESD).</p>
Network of Marine Protected Areas managers in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), Marseille, France	Non-Governmental Organizations	<p>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 works in partnership with MAP Components, in particular SPA/RAC.</p>
ECO UNION, Barcelona, Spain	Non-Governmental Organizations	<p>NGO (MAP Partner application to be submitted to the MAP Focal Points and COP 21 for consideration and endorsement, as requested by the 87th Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties held in Athens, Greece, 6-7 November 2018). Having 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 and 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 works with MAP Components.</p>
Arab Forum for the Environment and Development (AFED), Beirut, Lebanon	Inter-Governmental Organization	<p>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 on the state of the 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.</p>

Global Water Partnership (GWP), Stockholm, Sweden	Inter-Governmental Organization	GWP works on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) since 1996, developing multi-stakeholder platforms for water management solutions, as well as awareness raising, advocacy and action towards sustainable water governance. Based in Athens, Greece, Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med) is a MAP committed operational partner (MedPartnership and MedProgramme).
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9. The Secretariat's proposal regarding the MCSD membership from 2020 is presented below:
- The Local Authorities Group: the Mediterranean Commission of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the *Agence des Villes et Territoires méditerranéens durables* (AVITEM), and the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian cities (FAIC);
 - The Socio-economic Stakeholders Group: ANIMA Investment Network, the Economic and Social Council of Greece (ESCG), and another potential member 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: the *Forum Euroméditerranéen 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: the Union for the Mediterranean Secretariat (UfMS), the Arab Forum for the Environment and Development (AFED), and the Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean (GWP-Med); and,
 - Parliamentarians: the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM), the Circle of Mediterranean Parliamentarians on Sustainable Development (COMPSUD), and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM).
10. The 18th Meeting of the MCSD will be invited to review and discuss the proposal of the Secretariat for agreement by consensus towards submission to the Meeting of MAP Focal Points and COP 21 for decision by the Contracting Parties.
11. The Members of the MCSD will also be invited to provide guidance to the Secretariat to reach more written expressions of interest in the future.