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**Agenda Item 5: Specific Matters for Consideration and Action by the Meeting, including Draft Decisions**

**Draft Decision: Implementation, Monitoring and Mid-Term Evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean**

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## **Note by the Secretariat**

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 was adopted by the 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) (Decision IG.22/02) as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The Strategy provides an integrative policy framework for securing a sustainable future for the Mediterranean region consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP Regional Action Plan) was also adopted by the Contracting Parties at COP 19 (Decision IG.22/05), as a forward-looking framework, to complement and work in full synergy with existing national and regional policy frameworks, and to support the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. The strategic orientations of the SCP Regional Action Plan are integrated in the MSSD, as requested by Decision IG.21/11 adopted at the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 18) (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013). Accordingly, the SCP Regional Action Plan, which identifies the promotion of and support to green businesses as key in the transition towards a green economy, is reflected in the MSSD Objective 5 “*Transition towards a Green and Blue Economy*”.

During the biennium 2018-2019, the Secretariat, under the guidance of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and in cooperation with international and regional stakeholders and partners, continued implementing flagship initiatives, regional and national actions towards the delivery of these strategic policy- and action-oriented documents.

### ***Monitoring Process***

The Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and its list of indicators are necessary to ensure the monitoring of the implementation of the MSSD. Following the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee (June 2018 and January 2019), the Secretariat (Plan Bleu/RAC) finalized the update of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, as requested by Decision IG.23/04 adopted at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017), with a revised list of 28 indicators (Annex I) —most of which corresponding or being linked to SDG indicators or SEIS II/Horizon 2020 indicators—, prepared a revised version of the analytical factsheets (document UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.17), and drafted proposals and recommendations for improving the process, based on challenges and lessons learned, including a proposal for populating regularly the dashboard. In addition, a list of 25 Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) indicators, developed by SCP/RAC in cooperation with Plan Bleu/RAC, to monitor the progress of the implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan was welcomed by COP 20 in December 2017.

In line with the conclusions of the Meeting of the Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points (Marseille, France, 28-29 May 2019), the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) recognized, at its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019), the value of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard. The Commission reviewed and welcomed the updated and populated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, in particular the work done under the guidance of the MCSD Steering Committee to align the dashboard with SDG indicators, and confirmed that the dashboard is a living document. Following the opinions expressed by Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points and MCSD Members, the list of indicators of the updated Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard (annex I) is hereby submitted to the Meeting of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Focal Points 2019 (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019) for consideration and possible transmission to the 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

### ***Mid-Term Evaluations***

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*”. In addition, Decision IG.22/05 requested the MAP

Coordinating Unit in coordination with SCP/RAC to undertake in 2020 an indicator-based midterm evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan. Therefore, in accordance with the conclusions of the 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018), the MSSD mid-term evaluation and the indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan are expected to be undertaken in 2020-2021 for submission of the results to COP 22.

The 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD recommended to the Secretariat to define a crosscutting approach, taking advantage of common methodologies/tools and joint events/workshops, to address in parallel the evaluation of the MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 and the mid-term evaluations of the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plan. The MCSD welcomed the “*Draft Roadmap for the participatory MSSD Mid-Term Evaluation*”, as a good opportunity to enhance the Strategy implementation and make it more efficient by focusing on gaps and challenges during its second phase, and recommended the submission of the roadmap to COP 21. In addition, the Meeting of the SCP/RAC Focal Points (Barcelona, Spain, 14-15 May 2019) concluded expressing support to the mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan.

The draft roadmaps for the MSSD and SCP Regional Action Plan mid-term evaluations (annexes II and III) are hereby submitted to the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points 2019 (Athens, Greece, 10-13 September 2019) for consideration and possible submission to COP 21.

#### ***Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)***

In line with the Annex I of Decision IG.22/17 adopted at COP 19, the Secretariat (Plan Bleu/RAC) has undertaken in 2018-2019 the second edition of the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) on national structures and processes for sustainable development, with three volunteer Contracting Parties, namely Albania, Egypt, and Tunisia. Following recommendations of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD (Athens, Greece, 4-6 July 2017), the SIMPEER methodology was revised, with a view to *inter alia*: a) enhancing the interlinkages with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) presented by Contracting Parties at the UN High-level Policy Forum (HLPF); and b) involving Contracting Parties that have voluntarily participated in the SIMPEER pilot edition in 2016-2017, namely France, Montenegro and Morocco. The revised methodology was welcomed by the Meeting of the Plan Bleu/RAC Focal Points and the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD.

At its 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the MCSD welcomed the sharing of experience among Contracting Parties participating in the SIMPEER and/or VNR process. The Commission recognized the value of the SIMPEER process and noted that peer learning experiences should be capitalized and communicated as crucial in facilitating the transposition, implementation and monitoring of SDGs at the regional and national level. The Commission strongly encouraged Contracting Parties, in particular those which are Members of its Steering Committee and those that have already gone through the VNR process at the HLPF, to participate in the SIMPEER third edition in 2020-2021.

#### ***Mediterranean Green Business Award***

Under MSSD Strategic Direction 5.4 “*Encourage environmentally-friendly and social innovation*”, the MSSD Flagship Initiative 5.4.5 focuses on the “*Creation and Promotion of a Mediterranean Business Award for Environmental Innovation*”. The Meeting of the SCP/RAC Focal Points agreed on a proposal, as contained in annex IV, to organize in 2020-2021 the first edition of the Mediterranean Green Business Award.

The implementation of this Decision is linked to outputs 1.3.3, 1.4.2, 2.6.2, 6.1.1, and 6.2.1 of the proposed UNEP/MAP Programme of Work for 2020-2021, with budgetary implications on Mediterranean Trust Fund and external resources, the preparation and celebration of the Mediterranean Green Business Award and the update of the SCP indicators being secured through an external funding source (SwitchMed), as reflected in the proposed budget.

**Draft Decision IG.24/3**

**Implementation, Monitoring and Mid-Term Evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean**

*The Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols at their twenty-first meeting,*

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012,

*Recalling* also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”,

*Having regard to* the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean, in particular article 4 thereof on general obligations,

*Recalling* Decisions IG.22/2, IG.22/5, and IG.22/17, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), on the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean, and the Reform of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development respectively,

*Recalling also* decision IG.23/4, adopted by the Contracting Parties at their 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017) on the 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,

*Emphasizing* the instrumental nature of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to effectively translate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into concrete actions at the national, sub-regional and regional levels, and the leading role of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention in facilitating the coordinated and coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals and in ensuring the transition towards a green and blue economy in the Mediterranean region,

*Having considered* the conclusions of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, held in Budva, Montenegro, on 11-13 June 2019, following the outcome of the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre National Focal Points, held in Barcelona, Spain, on 14-15 May 2019, and of the Meeting of the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre National Focal Points held in Marseille, France, on 28-29 May 2019,

1. *Endorse* the updated List of Indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard for monitoring the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, set out in Annex I to the present Decision;

2. *Recognize* the living nature of the List of Indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and the need to keep it under review under the guidance of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development Steering Committee, and with the technical support of the Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre, as international work on Sustainable Development Goals indicators progresses;

3. *Request* the Secretariat, through the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre and Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre, to integrate the List of Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators, welcomed and taken note of by the Contracting Parties

through their Decision IG.23/4 adopted at their 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting (COP 20) (Tirana, Albania, 17-20 December 2017), in the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard;

4. *Approve* the “Roadmap of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)” and the “Roadmap of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)”, as set out in Annexes II and III to the present Decision;

5. *Request* the Secretariat, with the technical support of Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre to undertake the mid-term evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025;

6. *Also request* the Secretariat, through the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre, to undertake the mid-term evaluation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean;

7. *Urge* Contracting Parties to support both mid-term evaluation processes by providing data and access to information for the effective and accurate monitoring of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean;

8. *Encourage* the Contracting Parties, in particular those which are Members of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development Steering Committee and those that have gone through the Voluntary National Review Process at the United Nations High-level Political Forum, to participate in the third edition of Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER);

9. *Urge* the Contracting Parties and all stakeholders and partners to intensify their efforts towards the full implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025 and its flagship initiatives;

10. *Request* the Secretariat through Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre, to launch the first edition of the Mediterranean Green Business Award, as a flagship initiative of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016–2025, in line with the concept note set out in Annex IV to the present Decision.

**Annex I:**  
**Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard – Updated List of Indicators,**  
**as agreed by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development**  
**(Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019)**

**Annex I: Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard – Updated List of Indicators, as agreed by the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019)**

No.	MSSD Objective	Indicator
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	Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels (*) (SDG Indicator 14.4.1)
9	2	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 (*) (SDG Indicator 15.a.1)
11	2	Global Food Security Index
12	2	Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (*) (SDG Indicator 6.4.2)
13	2	Water demand, total and by sector, compared to GDP (*)
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	3	Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements, or inadequate housing (*) (SDG Indicator 11.1.1)
19	3	Status of UNESCO world heritage sites (*)
20	3	Waste generated and treated by type of waste and treatment type (*) (**)
21	4	Green House Gas emissions (related to GDP)
22	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)
23	5	Domestic material consumption, domestic material consumption per capita, and domestic material consumption per GDP (*) (SDG Indicator 12.2.2)
24	6	Number of National Strategies for Sustainable Development adopted or updated [and number of updates since first edition] (*)
25	6	Proportion of bank credit allocated to the private sector – Existence of alternative financing systems using bank credit
26	6	Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP (*) (SDG Indicator 9.5.1)
27	6	Number of countries that have clear mechanisms in place for ensuring public participation and guarantying public access to environmental information (*)
28	6	Number of countries that have National Strategies/Action Plans on Education for Sustainable Development in place

(\*) Corresponding/linked to SDG Indicators, (\*\*) linked to SEIS II / Horizon 2020 Indicators

**Annex II**

**Roadmap of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025  
Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)**



## Annex II: Roadmap of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)

### I. Background and Context

1. 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”. Results of the MSSD mid-term evaluation will be submitted to COP 22 in 2021, providing an opportunity to make the MSSD implementation, at its second phase, more efficient and focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities.

2. 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 2020-2021. Since SCP is one of the three cross-cutting themes of the MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021, the indicator-based mid-term evaluation of the SCP AP should feed the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027. This evaluation will highlight the main developments related to SCP in the four key economic sectors covered by the action plan: Food, Fisheries and Agriculture; Tourism; Goods Manufacturing; Housing and Building.

3. The timing of the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations is in-line with the cycle of the MTS 2016-2021. These processes shall mutually inform each other, as indicated in Table 1 below; preparation of the MTS 2022-2027 should benefit from the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations. MTS, MSSD and SCP AP processes shall go in parallel following a transversal approach. The use of common methods/tools should be encouraged as much as possible to support this transversal approach.

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

4. At its 85<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Athens, Greece, 18-19 April 2018), 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”.

5. The Secretariat will ensure consistency between the respective roadmaps of the MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations that shall be undertaken by Plan Bleu/RAC and SCP/RAC, in close cooperation with the MCSD and the Focal Points of these two Regional Activity Centres. The MCSD, through its 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).

6. At its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Athens, Greece, 23-24 January 2019), the MCSD Steering Committee recommended that the MSSD mid-term evaluation informs on the progress and gaps regarding the strategy’s implementation and the state of the sustainability in the Mediterranean. The effectiveness of the MSSD should be assessed at a later stage during the MSSD Review Process in 2024-2025.

7. The MSSD mid-term evaluation 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. At its 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the MCSD Steering Committee recommended to use

existing/well-known methodologies for this kind of assessments and to base the “self-assessment” component of the MSSD mid-term evaluation on MAP bodies’ and partners’ consultations, through interviews and workshops, and to use relevant communication channels within the MAP system.

8. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee agreed that the MSSD mid-term evaluation should be also based on quantitative and qualitative criteria, taking advantage *inter alia* of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Assessment Studies (SoED 2019, MED 2050), capitalizing on the implementation of MSSD Flagship Initiatives, and collecting inputs from MCSD Members, MAP Partners, MAP Components, and other relevant stakeholders.

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

## II. Elements of Terms of Reference and Draft Roadmap

10. The MSSD mid-term evaluation will be based on the following principles and requirements:

- The mid-term evaluation is an opportunity to make the MSSD implementation, at its second phase, more efficient and focusing on gaps, shortcomings and opportunities.
- The MSSD and SCP AP mid-term evaluations will inform the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027, the three processes being expected to go in parallel following a transversal approach based on common methods/tools.
- The MCSD, through its Steering Committee, will have a leading role for the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation.
- The MSSD mid-term evaluation 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.
- The “self-assessment” component of the MSSD mid-term evaluation will be based on MAP bodies’ and partners’ consultations.
- The MSSD mid-term evaluation will be based on quantitative and qualitative criteria, taking advantage *inter alia* of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Assessment Studies, capitalizing on the implementation of MSSD Flagship Initiatives, and collecting inputs from MCSD Members, MAP Partners, MAP Components, and other relevant stakeholders.
- The results of the MSSD mid-term evaluation will be submitted to COP 22 in 2021.

11. The draft Roadmap of the MSSD mid-term evaluation includes the following phases:

- ***Phase 1 (Q1 – Q3 2020): Prepare and launch the process***
  - a. Define the organizational structure for the management of the evaluation;
  - b. Collect internal knowledge, raw materials, and evidence on the MSSD implementation within the MAP – Barcelona Convention system, including best available practices and experiences, as well as obstacles encountered;
  - c. Mobilize independent experts for carrying out the external evaluation;
  - d. Set-up an online platform to support consultations of MAP bodies and partners;
  - e. Draft a consultation document based on a desktop analysis identifying successes, good practices and challenges, as well as on the results of the external evaluation.
- ***Phase 2 (Q4 2020 – Q1 2021): Conduct the participatory MSSD mid-term evaluation***
  - a. Define consultative expert groups and draft their terms of reference, considering the six MSSD Objectives and the two levels of implementation, i.e. regional and national;
  - b. Identify chairs/leaders of the expert groups;

- c. Mobilizing participants in the expert groups, in particular from relevant MAP bodies;
- d. Launch the stakeholder consultation, online (teleconferences, questionnaires) and face-to-face (workshops), based on the consultation document;
- e. Consolidate the results of the consultations and draft the final report.

12. ***Phase 3 (Q2 – Q4 2021): Finalization and submission for approval***

- a. Consultation of the MCSD and its Steering Committee on the draft final report of the MSSD participatory mid-term evaluation;
- b. Launch an internal review within the MCSD Steering Committee and the Secretariat, involving all MAP Components;
- c. Submission for various stages of approval: MAP Focal Points and MCSD Meetings, COP 22.

**Annex III**

**Roadmap of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean  
Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)**

### **Annex III: Roadmap of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean Mid-Term Evaluation (2020-2021)**

- The mid-term evaluation of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP Regional Action Plan), together with the mid-term evaluation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable development (MSSD) will inform the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027, the three processes being expected to go in parallel following a transversal approach based on common methods and tools.
- The mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan is an opportunity to evaluate the implementation of SCP in the region and identify current challenges, needs and opportunities, and set up priority for actions during its second phase of implementation.
- The evaluation will include both desktop analysis and stakeholder consultations and will be supported by external experts to be selected through an open selection process.
- The Focal Points of the Regional Activity Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC) will be consulted during the preparation process of the mid-term evaluation.
- Reporting provided by the countries on the implementation of the SCP Regional Action Plan (under LBS protocol) will be considered.
- The mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan will be based on quantitative and qualitative criteria and will consider information available in the updated database of SCP indicators.
- The results of the mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan will be submitted to COP 22 in 2021.
- The Roadmap of the mid-term evaluation of the SCP Regional Action Plan includes the following steps:

<b>When (period)</b>	<b>What (task, step)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of a detailed concept note for the evaluation</li> <li>• Preparation of terms of reference for external experts and selection process</li> <li>• Launch of the consultation with the Contracting Parties</li> <li>• Identification of key stakeholders to be consulted</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the evaluation with the selected experts, interviews with Contracting Parties and stakeholders</li> <li>• First draft of the mid-term evaluation shared with SCP/RAC Focal Points</li> </ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidated draft of the mid-term evaluation prepared for the Meeting of the SCP/RAC Focal Points</li> </ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission of the final draft to the MAP Focal Points</li> <li>• Presentation of the evaluation at COP 22</li> </ul>

**Annex IV**

**Concept Note on the Mediterranean Green Business Award  
Flagship Initiative of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025**

#### **Annex IV: Concept Note on the Mediterranean Green Business Award – Flagship Initiative of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025**

At their 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting (Athens, Greece, 5-7 July 2017), the MCSD Members expressed their support to the activities to foster green entrepreneurship ecosystems in the region and to the continuation of those activities. Likewise, in relation to the MSSD Flagship Initiative on a Mediterranean business award for environmental innovation, the MCSD welcomed the experience of the Catalan Waste Agency (ARC), SCP/RAC hosting agency, in the organization of an Award for Sustainable Businesses, which could provide a strong basis for that MSSD Flagship Initiative.

The ARC's Award for Sustainable Businesses was created in 2001 with the goal of encouraging the incorporation of eco-design in the production process, to foster a cross-cutting approach and knowledge transfer, and to boost the consumption and production of sustainable products and services. The award recognizes innovative products and services that promote eco-design and circular economy solutions. In 2015, a pilot edition of the Award was opened to entrepreneurs and businesses from all Mediterranean countries and received 45 applications from 11 countries. The award ceremony was held in Barcelona bringing +150 representatives from Mediterranean countries. This successful pilot edition has not been reproduced so far.

The present concept note proposes to create a proper Mediterranean Green Business Award, based on the solid experience of the Catalan Waste Agency and on the lessons learned from the creation of the afore mentioned pilot edition. This award will be operationally linked to the implementation of the relevant MSSD Flagship Initiative.

The MAP – Barcelona Convention system has the institutional mandate, via this MSSD Flagship Initiative, to create and promote a Mediterranean Green Business Award. SCP/RAC has organized the first pilot initiative of a Mediterranean award and owns the necessary skills and experience to support the technical process of that initiative. External resources will be available to fund the organization of a first edition of the Mediterranean Green Business Award and the preparation of a long-term strategy for its replication over the years. It is expected that the first edition will target southern Mediterranean countries, including Jordan and Palestine, as eligible countries of the SwitchMed programme. It will be possible to develop several categories of the Mediterranean Green Business Award.

#### **Objectives of the Mediterranean Green Business Award**

The Mediterranean Green Business Award will be inspired by the proceedings of the first pilot developed by SCP/RAC in 2015 with the support of the Catalan Waste Agency. This award will aim to recognize, reward, and encourage the efforts of entrepreneurs to incorporate environmental innovation and eco-design in the production process, to foster knowledge transfer and a cross-cutting approach between the three pillars of sustainable development, and to boost circular economy solutions and the consumption of sustainable products and services in the Mediterranean.

The objectives of such an award will be to:

- Recognize and reward the efforts of entrepreneurs to incorporate environmental innovation and eco-design in their production process;
- Encourage entrepreneurs to move towards more environment friendly patterns of production, boost circular economy solutions and their practical application, as well as the consumption of sustainable products and services;
- Enable entrepreneurs to act as a role model to inspire other entrepreneurs, to foster knowledge transfer between green entrepreneurs, and to further promote corporate social and environmental responsibility;
- Raise the awareness of the general public regarding environmental-friendly business innovations;
- Provide a practical response to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 12, in the Mediterranean region.

Mediterranean green entrepreneurs and circular businesses will be invited to submit an application, following an open call. The possible categories could include products already available in the market, products under development or product promotion strategies that are developed in Mediterranean countries and that take into account environmental considerations with the goal of reducing the environmental impact of the product over the course of its life cycle.

For the first edition, applications should be submitted by entrepreneurs and circular businesses from Southern Mediterranean countries, including Jordan and Palestine. Any person or corporate entity domiciled or with corporate headquarters in those countries, who designs or manufactures a product or service, promotes or designs a product or service under development, or promotes any eco-innovation strategy, should be invited to submit an application.

In the further elaboration of the objectives and criteria of the award, the recently launched “European Sustainability Award” by the European Commission with the support of the EU Multi-stakeholder Platform on SDGs aiming to recognize the initiatives (by the private sector, large companies and SMEs, public agencies, civil society and youth) working towards turning the SDGs into concrete solutions and opportunities, could be used as a possible source of inspiration and information.

### **Application, Evaluation and Nomination Process**

An application form should be developed in two main parts: 1. open questions to introduce the entrepreneur/business and its products/services/strategies; 2. specific questions based on criteria enumerated above.

After a first screening to check eligibility of applicants, the accepted applications should be evaluated by a team of independent experts selected by the Secretariat (UNEP/MAP Coordinating Unit and SCP/RAC), taking into account their different backgrounds and experiences in relation to the scope of the award and the evaluation criteria.

The composition of the Jury will be decided at a later stage and should include the President of the MCSD.

Questions from possible applicants should be allowed before submission. To this end a helpdesk should be established when the call of submissions is launched, so possible applicants are able to further inquire about the award through the helpdesk.

The selection will probably be carried out via the following three main steps:

- **First Step – Initial Screening:** With the end of the submission deadline, an initial screening will be conducted by the SCP/RAC to ensure that the applicants fulfill the eligibility criteria and that the submission forms are correctly filled.
- **Second Step – Short-Listing:** SCP/RAC supported by independent experts will select the appropriated number of applicants for the award. An evaluation report will be sent electronically to the Jury for approval. A letter will be sent to the short-listed entrepreneurs regarding their nomination.
- **Third Step – Selection:** The Jury will select the winning entrepreneur(s)/business(es) through electronic means. Every effort should be made to take a decision by consensus. In the case of more than one winner, geographical balance should be ensured.

### **Award Giving and Ceremony**

The award should consist of at least an honorary board (commemorative object) and the permission to use the logo of the award by the winning entrepreneur(s)/business(es). Access to finance to the awardees will be also considered for the ones that will have an eco-designed product at the ideation stage or early stage of development. This will be done as part of the Switchers Fund currently being developed by SCP/RAC, as established in Activity 6.4.1.1 of UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021.

Media coverage and visibility will also bring added value. The award should be conferred on a biannual basis during the Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, or other relevant events (like SwitchMed Connect).



General Timeline:

<b>When (period)</b>	<b>What (task, step)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Benchmarking of other relevant awards</li><li>• Definition of the concept note, categories and criteria for the Award</li><li>• Definition of the visual identity, including logo</li></ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Development of a database of contacts for the dissemination of the Award</li><li>• Preparation of a Communication Strategy</li><li>• Definition/mobilization of the Jury</li></ul>
1 <sup>st</sup> semester 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Launch of the Award</li><li>• Extensive communication campaign</li><li>• Evaluation of the candidates</li></ul>
2 <sup>nd</sup> semester 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Selection and nomination of the candidates</li><li>• Celebration of the Award</li><li>• Design of the strategy for the replication of the Award to be considered at COP 22 (for instance in the context of the implementation of the MAP Resource Mobilization Strategy)</li></ul>