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Second Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact
Athens, Greece, 27-28 June 2019

Agenda item 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

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Conclusions and Recommendations

1. The Meeting of the Second Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) Sub-Group on Environmental Impact was held on 27-28 June 2019, at UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat premises, in Athens, Greece.
2. Following review and discussions of all agenda items, the Meeting agreed on the following deliberations, conclusions and recommendations:

Agenda item 3. Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards

Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings

3. The meeting agreed on the revised version of the Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards: Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings, taking into account the changes introduced during the meeting, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.476/L2. The meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate the revised version to MAP and Offshore Protocol Focal Points and meeting participants, and, in the absence of any major comments received by 8th July at the latest, it recommended its submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting for its consideration.

Common Standards and Guidelines for Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA) within the Framework of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan

4. The meeting agreed on the revised version of the Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards: Common Standards and Guidelines for Special Restrictions or Conditions for Specially Protected Areas (SPA) within the Framework of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan, taking into account the changes introduced during the meeting, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.476/L3. The meeting requested the Secretariat to circulate the revised version to MAP and Offshore Protocol Focal Points and meeting participants, and, in the absence of any major comments received by 8th July at the latest, it recommended its submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting for its consideration.

Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

5. The meeting took note of the revised version of the Mediterranean Offshore Guidelines and Standards: Guidelines for the Conduct of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), taking into account the changes introduced during the meeting, as presented in document UNEP/MED WG.476/L4. The meeting considered that the document required further review and invited Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to provide additional proposals and suggestions on the document for its finalization and submission to the next OFOG meeting during the biennium 2020-2021.

Agenda item 4. Status of Implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan and Recommendations for Potential Updates

6. The meeting acknowledged the progress in the implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan and requested from the Secretariat to continue and enhance its support. It recognized the need to strengthen the integration with work under other policy and regulatory instruments of MAP - Barcelona Convention. In this respect the meeting requested the Secretariat, with support from REMPEC and other relevant MAP Components, to provide concrete advice and support to the

Contracting Parties on strengthening its implementation. In the course of the implementation of the activities included in the Offshore Action Plan every effort will be made to take into account new developments under the MAP Barcelona Convention, especially Ecosystem Approach and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP).

7. The meeting stressed the importance of ensuring the development of a comprehensive plan of action including milestones, and sufficient resources for the effective implementation of the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan. The meeting called for more technical meetings to allow Contracting Parties to share best practices, exchange experiences and strengthen their capacities for the implementation of the Protocol and the Action Plan. The meeting recommended that MAP, IMO and the industry collaborate to provide additional support to the countries for the implementation of the Offshore protocol and Action Plan.

Agenda item 5. Possible Amendments to the Annexes of the Offshore Protocol

8. The meeting noted with appreciation the review undertaken by the Secretariat regarding possible revisions to the Annexes of the Offshore Protocol and agreed with the proposal to ask for a mandate at the next meeting of the Contracting Parties to launch a process of their update in line with the rules and regulations of the MAP system.

Agenda item 6. Conclusions and Recommendations

9. The meeting requested the Secretariat to include in the proposed MAP Programme of Work 2020-2021 the required activities and adequate financial and human resources to ensure follow up of the conclusions and recommendations of the present meeting.