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I. INTRODUCTION

The present progress report about the activities of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD), which covers the period May 2006 to May 2007, was prepared by the Secretariat in conformity with the Terms of Reference of the MCSD. This report will be submitted for the consideration of the 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) which will be held in Istanbul, Turkey on the 30 – 31 May, 2007.

Since the last meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (24-26 May, 2006 – Nicosia, Cyprus), important developments related to the MCSD and the MSSD have taken place.

An Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points was held in Catania (11-14 November, 2006) and discussed the recommendations made in the report on the external evaluation of MAP including proposals for changes in the composition and the terms of reference of the MCSD. The meeting in Catania established a post session drafting committee to prepare a MAP Strategic Vision and Governance Plan as well as to elaborate on the various alternatives for MCSD mandate, composition and rules of procedures. The results of this exercise will be presented to the next meeting of MAP Focal Points and eventually to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007. The proposed changes, if adopted by the Contracting Parties, will have direct bearings not only on the MCSD but also on how the entire MAP system is better responsive to the sustainable development challenges in the region.

The implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) at the national level is spearheaded through the technical and financial support of MEDU to the formulation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD) in eight countries. During the period under review four new countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia) embarked on the process to develop their NSSD with the support of MAP and the financial assistance of the Spanish Azahar Programme.

A “First Regional Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities for NSSD formulation” was organized between 3 – 4 October, 2006 in Athens, Greece, involving the countries (Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lebanon, and Tunisia) that have embarked on the process of NSSD development and the four countries that went through the same process in 2006 (Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic).

The 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers Conference that was held in Cairo on 20 November 2006 adopted the Cairo Declaration on the Environment and the Timetable for the first phase of Horizon 2020 (2007-2013) that will guide implementation and concrete action on the ground. The MSSD features prominently in both documents that recognize the importance of the strategy and its implementation for the achievement of the Horizon 2020 objectives.

Progress continued to be registered by the Working Groups established by BP/RAC on the thematic issues of “Water Resources” and “Energy Efficiency and Renewables”. The results of these working groups were presented at two separate regional workshops, which were held in Zaragoza, Spain (19 – 21 March, 2007) and in Monaco (29 – 30 March, 2007) respectively.

The Draft Agenda for the 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.313/1) was discussed and prepared by the 11th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD (9th March, 2007 – MEDU, Athens, Greece). The report

of the 11th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee has been published on Information Document (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.313/Inf.2) In order to have a focused and intense discussion, the Steering Committee agreed that the 12th Meeting of the MCSD should last for two days only dedicated to the presentation and discussion on the Secretariat's progress report and the MCSD Programme of Work and other related issues, leaving the rest of the meeting to discuss the topic of "Climate Change in the Mediterranean" with specific reference to the issues of Energy and Climate Change and Tourism and Climate Change.

Provided that the meeting agrees, it is intended to hold breakout sessions on these two topics to enable the participants to engage in discussion and to draw conclusions and, if appropriate to propose recommendations to the meeting. Keynote speakers will address each breakout session. However, no simultaneous interpretation facilities will be available during the breakout sessions.

In addition to the items on the agenda mentioned earlier, the MCSD is expected to consider and approve the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD which has been developed by INFO/RAC on the IC Vision agreed upon during the 11th Meeting of the MCSD (24 – 26 May, 2006 – Nicosia, Cyprus).

The 12th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) will be convened on 30 and 31 May 2007, at the kind invitation of the Turkish authorities, at the Istanbul Princess Hotel (Maslak-34398, Istanbul, Turkey, Tel: 90212 3359999, Fax: 90212 2764005, www.istanbulprincess.com).

At the end of the meeting, a summary of conclusions or recommendations will be presented for review and adoption. A draft report of the meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat and sent via electronic means to the members of the MCSD for their review before publication.

II. PROGRESS REPORT ON MCSD ACTIVITIES

1. National Strategies for Sustainable Development

The MSSD is intended to serve as a "framework" for the formulation and implementation of National Strategies for Sustainable Development. A programme has been devised to assist countries in the development or updating of NSSD giving due consideration to the MSSD vision, orientations and objectives.

Since 2005, MAP supports the formulation of national strategies, technically and financially to enable the countries to prepare National Strategies for Sustainable Development as requested by the 12th Meeting of the Contracting Parties. With the financial assistance of Italy and Monaco, four countries have been supported in the formulation of NSSD: Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco, and the Syrian Arab Republic. The pace in strategy formulation varies significantly according to the countries and the countries themselves have reached different phases. However, there are features common to the different country processes: (a) NSSD formulation builds upon the MSSD that serves as a framework; (b) most countries have used the catalytic MAP support to mobilize additional financial resources.

The NSSD preparation itself is as important as the resulting NSSD document. It constitutes an opportunity to raise awareness, to build consensus, develop partnerships and strengthen the ownership of a variety of stakeholders. The preparatory process of these NSSDs includes (a) a stock taking exercise to prepare an assessment of the structures and programmes in place related to environment and development and relevant to sustainable development (b) securing high level political support and national ownership for the preparation of the NSSD (c) identifying major stakeholders and establishing consultation mechanisms promoting participatory approach involving public, private and civil society and representatives of regional and international organizations and (d) establishing a consultation mechanism made up of a multi-disciplinary team of experts to review progress in the process.

With the financial assistance by Spain's Azahar Programme, four additional countries, namely Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia are now also involved in the programme for the development of NSSD. With eight countries embarked on this exercise and following a similar approach, a critical mass of experience will build up and will stimulate synergies and cooperation. It is important to note that the funds from Spain's Azahar Programme will contribute also to a regional workshop to review progress, exchange experience and define regional or national activities and measures for improvement.

The four initially involved countries in the development of NSSD have gained hands-on experience and can demonstrate significant achievements in terms of policy and institution analysis; mobilization of human and financial resources; consultation processes; and awareness raising. These countries have also managed to address a number of issues, difficulties and challenges related to NSSD formulation.

The countries that are about to embark on a NSSD formulation process will follow similar activities, pattern and steps as in the other four countries and therefore could highly benefit from their experience. Those countries that are advanced in the preparation of their NSSD can contribute to build up capacities of the newcomers. Peer to peer interactions on the formulation of NSSD would also open the way to horizontal cooperation between countries at a regional or sub regional level and foster the establishment of partnership towards sustainable development in general and MSSD implementation in particular.

Upon the signing of the related MoUs visits will be organized in Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Lebanon. In the case of Tunisia, the MoU has been signed and the process launched. The purpose of these visits is to meet the concerned institutions and stakeholders including the donor community in the concerned countries in order to inform them on NSSD formulation process and obtain their support. On this occasion, a national information workshop could be organized and complementary funding identified from the donor community active in the domain. Developing collaboration with donors (as is the case in Montenegro with Italy and anticipated in Albania also with Italy) is essential to increase the coherence and coordination as well as MAP visibility.

These missions will be organized in conjunction with the relevant RACs in order to involve the MAP components in the process. In the concerned countries and among the stakeholders, including the donor community, joint missions would contribute to increase the visibility of MAP as a coordinated system as well as to underline the fact that sustainable development is not an isolated concern of MEDU but a shared endeavor of all MAP components.

With respect to the countries that have already prepared their NSSD (Egypt, Morocco, Syria, Montenegro) several directions could be pursued to ensure continued support including through: (i) the organization of peer reviews or technical support activities involving those countries and the newcomers; (ii) the organization of a second regional Working Session on NSSD formulation, challenges and opportunities; (iii) the formalization of a Med Network on NSSD and liaise it with the EU Sustainable Development Network and OECD work on NSSD. In this context, the possibility of OECD support to the second workshop indicated under (ii) will be explored.

Regional Review and Assessment Report

A Regional Review and Assessment Report about sustainable development initiatives in the Mediterranean was prepared in 2005 on the basis of information submitted by the countries. Compiled in the form of country profiles, the report was meant to assess the status of activities in relation to sustainable development in the region. An updated version of this report was presented to the 11th Meeting of the MCSD (24-26 May, 2006). It is the intention of the Secretariat to again update this regional report and present its findings to the Regional Workshop that will be organized with the financial assistance of the Spanish Azahar Programme.

2. The First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation

Between 3 – 4 October, 2006 the MAP Secretariat organized the First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation to respond to MAP supported countries' needs and interests to share their initial experience as they themselves expressed during the 11th MCSD meeting in Cyprus (24-26 May 2006).

In order to develop synergies and pave the way for future collaboration with other initiatives in support of NSSD, the workshop structure drew upon the joint OECD/UNCSD Workshop on Institutionalizing Sustainable Development held in Stockholm on 31 August-1 September 2006. This workshop aimed at taking stock of NSSD processes, sharing good practices in governance structures for national sustainable development, monitoring and reviewing NSSDs and developing and implementing NSSDs in developing countries.

Objectives of the Working Session

The overall objective of the Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation was to strengthen the capacity in sustainable development policy formulation in the Mediterranean countries. At the end of the session, participants would have developed a common understanding of the key components to prepare and implement a NSSD; have acquired a know-how based on good practices to establish these components and address the related challenges and constraints; and have clarified the organization and management aspects of the process they are responsible for. Additionally, the participants would help identify the components of the proposed regional NSSD workshop as well as the possible elements of an informal Mediterranean NSSD Network. Clearly these ambitious objectives cannot possibly be achieved in one go and will require subsequent working sessions and networking. However, during the evaluation session, all participants expressed their satisfaction about the positive outcome of this first initiative.

In addition to the eight countries involved in the programme, Malta and Italy were invited for their significant achievement in NSSD formulation and the latter also in its capacity as sponsor of the programme.

Activities and Results

Break out sessions followed the presentation of countries' achievements and challenges on selected topics (political commitment, participation, analysis and strategic assessment, information and communication, organization and management of the process). The working sessions, facilitated by the countries themselves, helped newcomer countries formulate elements of their roadmap to NSSD formulation and identify guiding principles and indicators to monitor the NSSD process. During the plenary sessions, the participants identified elements that could structure the NSSD regional workshop and help establish the base of a regional NSSD network.

The outstanding presentations made by Egypt, Malta, Montenegro and the Syrian Arab Republic during the working session have shown the variety of situations and the communalities of challenges. Countries have managed to intermingle the analytical and participation processes eventually leading to the formulation of their NSSD. The need for convergence between different national policy frameworks was clearly understood by all participants. Newcomer countries will take into account and build upon the existing frameworks while the countries more advanced in the formulation will pursue their harmonization efforts.

While experience shows that NSSD formulation is not necessarily costly when the stakeholders' good will and voluntary work are mobilized, financial aspects remain of concern to all those responsible for the formulation and implementation of NSSD. Building upon the catalytic nature of the MAP financial support to NSSD formulation, the countries that are advanced in the formulation have managed to attract additional support from the international or bilateral donor community. For instance Montenegro received additional resources from Italy and UNDP.

Concerning implementation, participants agreed on the need for a financial plan in the NSSD document. Different options were briefly mentioned, including the earmarking of financial resources for sustainable development in the budgets of the relevant sectors. Although financial aspects have been included in the past MCSD activities, financial strategies for the implementation of NSSD (and also MSSD) would deserve further reflection and work to propose options for concrete mechanism and instruments to finance sustainable development.

The Agenda of the First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation is attached as **Annex II** to this report.

3. Progress on MSSD thematic issues

Following the adoption by the Contracting Parties in Portoroz of the MSSD and the MCSD programme of work, working groups have been established to address the thematic and cross cutting issues therein. As was the case in the past, MEDU ascertained interests and requested the Contracting Parties to nominate representatives to different working groups. At the same time, other support centers were assigned the task to establish and facilitate the following working groups:

- BP/RAC on:
 - (i) Water Resources;
 - (ii) Energy & Climate Change;
 - (iii) Quality Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Development;
 - (iv) Sustainable Tourism;
- PAP/RAC on: Integrated Coastal Zone Management;
- REMPEC on: Marine Pollution from Ships; and

A. *Water Resources*

During the preparatory phase on this thematic issue, the Blue Plan was supported by 4 volunteer countries (Turkey, France, Tunisia, Morocco) and collaborated with the main qualified networks in the Mediterranean, i.e. the Secretariat of GWP-Med (functions carried out by MIO-ECSDE), the Mediterranean Water Institute which brings together businesses and local authorities, Medwet (the Mediterranean network of the RAMSAR Convention) and the Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM). The partners set up an expert committee to guide and monitor the Blue Plan activities in this area.

In March 2006, an exercise was launched in order to document concrete examples of good practices and measure progress effectively realized in the past few years in the broad areas of water use (agricultural water, drinking water, industrial water), in terms of ecosystems water needs and national policies and policies of cooperation.

In September 2006, a meeting of experts specified the organization methodology for the regional workshop, which was held on 19 - 21 March 2007 in Zaragoza (Spain). The experts reviewed also the progress in the formulation of national plans and regional studies and examined the summaries of proposed presentations. Forty papers were selected for inclusion in the proceedings of the regional workshop. The Blue Plan invited the Mediterranean countries to prepare national reports on the basis of specifications developed in April 2006. The reports aim at indicating progress achieved and achievable and also at identifying obstacles that should be overcome as well as the political tools that must be developed.

Over one hundred participants from 14 Mediterranean countries, representatives of the national institutions, of the academic world, of the private sector and of associations, met together in Saragosa on 19, 20 and 21 March 2007 to attend the 3rd regional workshop on water and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region. During the debates, the participants evoked ways of optimizing the various water uses: for agriculture, industry and domestic, while taking into account the water needs of the ecosystems.

Examples of good practices carried out locally in the various water use sectors, as well as studies carried out in the Mediterranean, were presented during the three-day workshop. The discussions highlighted the need to share successful experiences, to draw up reports on progress made in terms of water demand management in the Mediterranean countries, to analyse the policy instruments implemented, to identify the main obstacles and to formulate proposals for the integration of water demand in water and sectorial policies, as well as in international cooperation policies.

Various conclusions arising from this event should be mentioned, including the need to improve knowledge concerning available resources, as well as present and future water needs, to make the general public aware of the problems of water scarcity and the need to save water, to involve local players in the steps to be taken for water demand management and to integrate the factor of climate change in water management strategies.

The main messages arising from this work were presented to the public during the 7th public session of the Permanent Forum on Water and Sustainability of Expo Zaragoza 2008.

B. *Energy and Climate Change*

Towards the end of 2005, the main relevant energy networks in the Mediterranean were approached by Blue Plan and agreed to set up a steering committee to follow up the Blue Plan activities on the theme of "Energy and climate change". The following networks were involved: OME (Observatoire Méditerranéen de l'Energie), which brings together the main electricity undertakings, ADEME, ANME, MEDENER (Mediterranean network of energy efficiency agencies), MEDREP, a regional project funded by Italy, UMET (Mediterranean Summer University), which for the past 4 years has organized meetings on these questions, Mediterranean Institute/FEMISE (Euro-Mediterranean Forum of Institutes of Economic Sciences), which acts as counsel to the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, Helio International (NGO) and the CP/RAC of Barcelona.

A working programme was agreed upon during a February 2006 steering committee meeting. This Committee is consulted by e-mail on a regular basis. In partnership with UMET, a workshop was organized in May 2006 on the theme of Clean Development Mechanisms suited to the Southern Mediterranean countries. A summary document containing the main messages and conclusions was drawn up. The following working documents were finalized: (i) the reference parameters for the national studies; (ii) the methodological aspects for the supplementary follow-up indicators for the MSSD; and (iii) the national questionnaire.

Twelve countries gave a positive answer to carrying out a national study on the basis of the terms of reference proposed by the Blue Plan. The selection of national experts entrusted with carrying out the studies was made and validated with the volunteer countries. The countries not carrying out a national study received a national questionnaire.

A regional study on energy trends in the Region and the perspectives to the year 2020 was carried out in partnership with the Mediterranean Energy Observatory (OME). A second regional study taking into consideration renewable sources of energy and energy efficiency actions in national support to development is being carried out. A third regional study on the economic advantages of development linked to an alternative energy scenario is also being prepared by the Mediterranean Institute/FEMISE.

The concluding seminar on Energy Efficiency and Renewables was hosted by the Principality of Monaco on 29 and 30 March 2007.

This meeting was attended by approximately 40 experts from 12 Mediterranean countries, representatives of national authorities and institutions, European and international institutions, NGOs, private sector and members of associations. Discussions focused on rational use of energy and renewable energies.

The forum stressed the importance of improving energy demand management (rational use of energy) and of diversifying energy sources through renewable energies as recommended by the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

In the course of this two-day meeting, the participants presented national case studies on best practices in renewable energy and energy efficiency, as well as regional experiences. Discussions highlighted the need for further exchange of success stories, for the assessment of progress achieved by Mediterranean countries in energy efficiency, for the analysis of the political instruments implemented, for the identification of the main difficulties encountered and for proposals on the large-scale development of renewable energies and rational use of energy. In their conclusions, meeting participants underscored the need to implement a specific institutional and regulatory framework, to raise public awareness regarding the relationship between energy and climate change as well as to the need for limited (in the South) or reduced (in the North) energy consumption. The group of experts also recommended more in-depth reflection on economic mechanisms (pricing, subsidies, taxation, feed-in tariffs ...) for renewable energies and energy efficiency initiatives.

C. *Quality Agriculture and Sustainable Rural Development*

This activity is developed by BP/RAC jointly with the Centre International des Hautes Etudes Agronomiques Méditerranéennes (CIHEAM). It was launched through the organization of an expert workshop in December 2006. It focused on supplementary indicators, on defining better the national reports and on validating the terms of reference of a study to be carried out at regional level on the territorialization of approaches to rural development.

D. *Sustainable Tourism*

In March 2006, a meeting of experts organized by BP/RAC (five of which belonged to the MCSD working group, i.e. Algeria, Ambiente Italia, Croatia, Morocco and Turkey) agreed on the setting up of a Mediterranean network on the theme of the contribution of tourism to sustainable development. They also agreed on defining the main areas on which a questionnaire will be developed to analyze and assess sustainable tourism policies in the volunteer countries; as well as, for analyzing the feasibility of annual meetings in the future for public and private actors to deal with these questions.

In 2007, the group of experts, in consultation with the Working Group, will prepare the questionnaire, a steering committee will be set up, and partners will be sought to organize a regional conference.

E. Sustainable Development Indicators

In order to develop the 34 priority indicators for the follow-up of the Mediterranean Strategy of Sustainable Development, methodology forms were prepared by BP/RAC and disseminated in May 2006.

All countries were requested to appoint, on a voluntary basis, a correspondent to facilitate the collection of the necessary data to develop the indicators at the national level. Seven countries (Cyprus, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta and Morocco) gave an affirmative answer. Questionnaires were prepared and sent to the correspondents to help them collect the basic information and calculate the non-available indicators on the basis of international sources. At the same time, the Blue Plan started collecting and processing the international data.

All of these data will be analyzed in order to present, during 2007, a first draft of a report presenting the great trends of sustainable development in the Mediterranean on the basis of the priority indicators.

The Blue Plan is also working on improving monitoring methods for sustainable development in the Mediterranean; it proposes to use the multi-criteria analysis based on rating and benchmarking.

F. Coastal Indicators of Sustainable Development

In order to select the additional indicators for monitoring sustainable development in the coastal Mediterranean areas (coast and sea), the Blue Plan brought together, in December 2006, twenty international and Mediterranean experts. At this meeting, which was the first step of the selection process, the various international experiences in terms of coastal indicators were discussed with representative from the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, The European Environmental Agency (EEA), DEDUCE project and MAP components. A preliminary list of indicators was prepared which will be tested and validated in 2007.

G. Marine Pollution from Ships

REMPEC was entrusted with the task to coordinate the work of the MCSD Working Group on Marine pollution from Ships. This working group had to address the proposed actions identified in the MCSD Programme of Work, namely the implementation of the relevant specific objectives of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, according to the related timetable with possible additional funding from the European Commission.

The MSSD as it relates to marine pollution from ships endorses the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships, which constitutes the roadmap of activity of the Contracting Parties and REMPEC for the coming years. This strategy has designated objectives and timetable agreed by the Contracting Parties to achieve precisely the objectives of the working group.

At the same time the Contracting Parties adopted both the MSSD and the Regional Strategy as well as the work programme of the Centre for the biennium 2006-2007, which included several activities related to the objectives of the regional strategy.

With regards to the way of implementing the objective of eliminating illicit discharges from ships, there is already an activity planned in 2007 entitled "organization and delivery of a regional workshop on regional partnership for enforcement of maritime regulations on operational pollution".

Apart from the funds allocated in the budget approved by the Contracting Parties, REMPEC is currently seeking additional funding in order to be in a position to organize this seminar, which it intends to hold towards the last quarter of the year 2007.

Efforts will be made to attract a wider audience by enlarging the participation to other stakeholders namely the representatives of the Ministries of Justice (national prosecutors), and NGO's.

H. *Integrated Coastal Zone Management*

The major activity towards the implementation of MSSD with regards to sustainable development of the Mediterranean coastal zones was the establishment of the negotiation process for the ICZM Protocol in conformity with the recommendation of the Contracting Parties in Portoroz in November 2005. The adoption of the ICZM Protocol is also the most important task of the MSSD related to coastal zone management.

A Government Designated Group of Experts, as approved by the meeting of the last Contracting Parties' meeting in Portoroz, was established. Several regional NGOs as well as international organizations are actively participating in the negotiation process. Three meetings of the Group of Experts took place in 2006 and 2007. Although the Group faced a number of difficult issues, the commendable progress has been achieved towards the harmonisation of views among countries on those issues. At the moment, there is a distinct possibility that the Group of Experts will finalize its work during the fourth meeting in June in Split. Before that meeting, a series of consultations will be held in a number of countries in order to reduce the reservations towards specific Protocol's articles, as well as pave the way for the Protocol to be signed by the end of 2007.

It is expected that the ICZM Protocol, once signed and ratified, will present a valuable regional legal framework for sustainable coastal zone management. This would be one of the most efficient instruments for an effective implementation of the MSSD.

The awareness raising on regional coastal issues is a permanent activity in which PAP/RAC is actively involved through several regional initiatives. This activity is considered as critical in the process of the ICZM Protocol's adoption and implementation. The SMAP III programme, which is financed by EU, as well as the preparation of the forthcoming GEF Strategic Partnership project are two most notable cases where the ICZM component is very pronounced. Both initiatives are progressing very well, and it is expected that they will also significantly contribute to the implementation of the ICZM component of the MSSD.

Having the above in mind it is questionable whether the establishment of an ICZM thematic working group would, in this moment, substantively help increase the focus on ICZM in the region. It is proposed that this working group could be established at a later stage when the

ICZM priority issues could be more clearly identified, particularly after the ICZM Protocol negotiation process will be completed.

4. Progress on MSSD related activities by MAP components

1. Preventing and Reducing Land-Based Pollution

After the substantial progress made in the implementation of the SAP marked by the preparation and endorsement by the Contracting Parties of National Action Plans (NAPs), MED POL has considered that ensuring sustainability to their implementation, in particular financial sustainability, and promoting the continuation of the participatory process that had witnessed the involvement of national and local authorities, the private sector and NGOs in the formulation of the NAPs, were the main priorities on which special efforts had to be made.

A number of promising steps were taken. First, a critical review of the content of the NAPs was made and in particular of the type of interventions the countries intended to achieve to fulfil the SAP targets and their cost. The review allowed for the preparation of a new strategy based on two main issues: the identification of regional and national priorities for the period until 2010 and the launch of a process that, as a follow up to the Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, will eventually lead to an agreement on the application of a differentiation mechanism for the implementation of an adequate and fair pollution reduction process. On both issues, a number of Meetings were held with national experts, NGOs and National Coordinators and the negotiations are ongoing.

The very innovative participatory process that had led in the countries to the preparation of NAPs with objectives and actions fully shared by all the sectors of civil society was considered a key element that could facilitate and ensure sustainability to the concrete implementation of the actions included in the NAPs. As a first step, MED POL is preparing an internet-based Information System that could facilitate the diffusion to a wider public of information and data on the status of the marine environment and on the status of implementation of the individual pollution reduction interventions included in the NAPs to facilitate their involvement and their actual participation. The MED POL Information System is a follow up to the decision of the NGO Forum that was held last year aiming at identifying mechanisms to facilitate the civil society's participation in the long-term implementation of the NAPs.

On the issue of ensuring financial sustainability, in addition to the negotiations for an appropriate differentiation mechanism, very positive contacts were made with GEF, FFEM, the World Bank and the EIB. In fact, within the new proposed GEF Strategic Partnership, expected to be launched in 2008, in parallel to a large capacity building programme covering technical, legal and institutional aspects linked to the implementation of the NAPs also supported by FFEM, a proposal was made to create a mechanism/platform within MED POL that could on the long-term bridge countries/projects and financial donors and opportunities.

In addition, the Investment Fund created by the World Bank within the Partnership would represent an important opportunity for countries who need funds to implement their investments. In parallel, in the framework of the EC Horizon 2020 Initiative, in which MAP and MED POL are partners, the EIB has considered the NAPs as official documents realistically representing countries' needs and commitments in the field on pollution reduction. As a result, after reviewing priorities and expected costs together with MED POL, EIB has initiated contacting and visiting a

number of countries to negotiate possible loans for the implementation of specific pollution interventions listed in their NAPs.

J. Consumption and Production Patterns

The change in unsustainable production and consumption patterns is one of the four major objectives of the MSSD. For that reason, CP/RAC has taken on board an integrated approach to consumption and production in order to address sustainability in a more holistic way, as established by the many international environmental fora and by the Centre's long experience in the production field. Production can no longer be tackled without addressing also the consumption side. Therefore, it is in CP/RAC's current mission to promote mechanisms leading to sustainable patterns of production and consumption in the Mediterranean.

In the performance of this mission, CP/RAC has established a Work Plan to support the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development to review the trends of production and consumption patterns in Mediterranean countries, to define priorities, as well as needs for introducing sustainable ways of production and consumption and to promote measures for attaining that aim.

In accordance with the Centre's Work Plan, the following activities were developed since the last meeting of the MCSD:

Publication on State of the Art of sustainable production in the Mediterranean

CP/RAC publishes this report biennially to provide a periodic review and a follow-up of the trends of industrial development and the progress made by Mediterranean countries to implement sustainable production patterns in industries. The last edition of the report was issued at the beginning of 2007 year as MAP Technical Report.

Background Reports on sustainable consumption

On February 2007, CP/RAC finalized an internal report through which the Centre addressed key questions, such as definition of sustainable consumption, the main international initiatives at the institutional level, the key actors involved, the gap in the Mediterranean region and what can be done to address it within the framework of MAP. Currently, CP/RAC is preparing a new report assessing the main initiatives that are being developed by local agencies, consumer associations, NGOs and other actors of the civil society to promote the change to sustainable consumption and environmentally-sound lifestyles by the population.

Working Group on Sustainable Consumption and Production

CP/RAC is setting the basis for the setting up of a Working Group on *Sustainable Consumption and Production*, where experts, representatives of government agencies, consumer organizations, the business and industry sector and the civil society discuss and define priorities as well as needs for implementing sustainable production and consumption in the Mediterranean countries. Taking into account the crosscutting nature of *Sustainable Consumption and Production* in relation to the seven thematic issues of the MSSD, the Working Group will work in

a coordinated manner with the MSSD's working groups addressing those issues. On the other hand, the Working Group must take into account the work already done in other *Sustainable Consumption and Production* processes launched at the global level and should aim to create links with those initiatives in order to take advantage of synergies and avoid duplication of efforts. In this regard, CP/RAC has started contacts with the Secretariat of the Marrakech Process as well as the Division of UNEP working in Sustainable Production and Consumption at the global level (UNEP Division of Technology Industry and Economics – UNEP/DTIE), which serves as the inspiration umbrella for the Mediterranean policies on the issue.

Creating partnerships with business associations

In 2006, CP/RAC undertook a process for creating new partnerships with Mediterranean business associations for the introduction of mechanisms leading to sustainable ways of production. The Centre has recently signed an Agreement with the Association of Mediterranean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (ASCAME), for the joint collaboration in the promotion of eco-efficiency and sustainability of companies in the Mediterranean countries. A first initiative launched within the framework of this agreement was the co-organization of the III Euro-Mediterranean Sustainable Development Forum (ECO MEDA FORUM 2007), an entrepreneurial platform of the Mediterranean zone and a meeting point for experts, international organizations, business partnerships that represents the private sector in the Euro-Mediterranean area and the entrepreneurial sector. CP/RAC held its 6th biennial Meeting of National Focal Points (NFP) within the forum and thus offered its NFP the possibility to benefit from the experience.

Involving universities

CP/RAC has launched a project for facilitating Mediterranean universities to introduce Cleaner Production in their curricula. The first and second phases of the project were developed in 2006 and consisted of the preparation of an e-manual on Pollution Prevention in Enterprises addressed to university students (available at www.cprac.org) and the organization of a Regional Workshop for the Introduction of Eco-management in University Curricula. During the Workshop, professors from Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Italy, Libya, Malta, Slovenia, Spain, Syria and Turkey exchanged their teaching experiences on subjects related to Cleaner Production and other environmentally sound mechanisms for industrial management at their respective universities. On the basis of the outputs of the workshop, a pilot project for introducing the e-course in universities and establishing a network of university professors teaching CP will be developed in 2007.

Together with the above mentioned initiatives, CP/RAC has also developed a range of activities based on the involvement of the Centre in introducing Sustainable Consumption and Production issues in 4 priority fields for action of the MSSD namely, Water, Energy & Climate Change, Agriculture and Tourism.

Likewise, CP/RAC continued working on training activities, technical studies and publications promoting the application of sustainable production patterns in the Mediterranean industrial sector.

K. Information and Communication

INFO/RAC has placed the implementation of the *Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development* as overall policy framework under which its various focus-areas and related activities are formulated and carried out. In particular, the Centre has launched and is leading the development of the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD, which needs to be integrated within the MSSD to empower its visibility and long-term implementation.

The 11th Meeting of the MCSD (Nicosia, 2006) had agreed to the two-track approach, proposed by INFO/RAC, namely:

- further elaboration of the *Information and Communication Vision* of the MSSD into a *Strategy*.
- design and implement a series of IC "pilot" activities aimed at validating the proposed IC strategy for the MSSD and at the same time increasing MSSD visibility, including options for improvement based on lessons learned.

The idea has been, and continues to be, to progressively test and share the strategy with the various parties and partners and therefore ensure, through a participatory approach, its final formulation; a wide consultation process was developed through a series of pilot activities for the design and finalization of the IC strategy.

Based on the above premise, the 30th Anniversary of the *Barcelona Convention* has provided a unique opportunity and 'showcase' for the overall communication and information strategy for the MSSD and for UNEP/MAP activities, as well as for the objectives of the *Barcelona Convention*. The event has been used as catalyzer for reaching out and communicating with the Mediterranean community and marking a new era of enhanced public awareness and participation.

In 2006, INFO/RAC main activities in the three focal areas as they relate to the MSSD were:

Information and Communication Technology

1. User and Technology Assessment, and finalization of the most viable and appropriate Design Options for *InfoMAP* - the common information sharing infrastructure/network;
2. Inputs, Design, Implementation and Updating of the MSSD website/intranet/CMS (www.medstrategy.org);

Information, Education and Public Participation

1. Development of the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD;
2. Agreement with the renowned advertising agency "Bates" to come up with the creative layout of a format for an awareness raising campaign for the MSSD at no production cost;
3. Production of *EcoMedia Magazine* a "one stop on-line shop" to exchange views and comments on the MSSD and its integration in the website/intranet/CMS www.medstrategy.org (in English, French, Italian and Arabic);
4. Production, translation in different languages and dissemination in various countries of a special issue of *EcoMedia Magazine* -"FOTOCult"- focusing on MSSD issues;
5. Organization of the Mediterranean Environment Award in September 2006, in Turkey;

6. Organization of the first edition of BLUEweek–MEDday (17th -21st September, 2006) in Antalya-Turkey;
7. MEDITERRANEA, a video commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Barcelona Convention;
8. Media Conferences: Whales conservation in the Mediterranean Sea (Tunisia); Park Life (Italy); Red Coral protection (Tunisia); Clean Up and Scoop the Med (Cyprus); International Round Table at “Stelle di Mare lungo il fiume” (Italy); Dossier on the State of Health of Mediterranean Coasts (Greece); Lebanon environmental crisis (Italy), Monk Seal Conservation (Turkey) and Press Briefing on Industrial Pollution (Egypt);
9. Education and capacity building: 1) A first pilot project in the domain of IC professional training was started with the Euro-Mediterranean Course of Environmental Journalism, held in Ascea Marina (Salerno, Italy). The course, carried out by specialized journalists and university professors, was addressed to journalists interested at deepening their knowledge, but also to university/high school graduated people, interested in the basic knowledge and techniques of the environmental and sustainable development information. 30 students coming from all the Mediterranean countries attended the 9 weeks course. 2) A Masters in Global Environment Conservation and International Policy was organized at the University of Viterbo and held by INFO/RAC in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Environment.

The development of *InfoMAP* and the creation of the MSSD IC Strategy are unique opportunities to raise the profile of MSSD and NSSD and the leading role and achievements of MEDU in this respect. During the 11th Steering Committee meeting INFO/RAC updated the members about the status reached in the development of the strategy based on the “MSSD IC Vision” which will be presented to the 12th Meeting of the MCSDD for review before it is submitted to the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties for approval.

L. SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY

The major activities carried out by RAC/SPA during the period covered by the present report with regard to the MSSD implementation were achieved through a close partnership with the pertinent regional and international institutions.

As far as the activation of SAP BIO implementation is concerned, this was mainly achieved through RAC/SPA's contribution to the GEF PDF-B Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem. This project will enable the implementation of SAP BIO activities aimed at: (i) creating and improving the management of marine and coastal protected areas and (ii) reducing by-catch and applying the ecosystem approach to fisheries in the region. The former activity was designed in close consultation with WWF and the Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean (MedPAN), whereas the latter was set up in close collaboration with the FAO GFCM. In addition, an Operational Plan is been developed to accelerate the SAP BIO implementation during the next biennium (2008-2009).

The objective of protecting high sea zones is pursued through the collaboration with ACCOBAMS on the establishment of some protected areas on the high seas, in the central and western parts of the Mediterranean. Also collaboration with FAO and GFCM is ongoing, to promote protected areas in three key zones shallower than 800 m. Furthermore, contacts were initiated with the DG ENV D2 of the EC dealing with Water and Marine Environment, to get support for the creation of High Seas Protected Areas, including identifying priority locations. On the other hand, RAC/SPA is pursuing its assistance to a number of Mediterranean countries, to identify and establish marine protected areas along their coasts, but also on the high seas.

These activities, aiming at complying with the CBD global programme of work on protected areas, are implemented in consultation with the relevant national bodies dealing with marine and coastal biodiversity and with other international organizations like IUCN.

Efforts were also made towards the strengthening of institutional and human capacity for the management of marine and coastal protected areas, endangered species conservation and rehabilitation techniques and the study of marine meadows and algal flora using non-destructive observation techniques.

In addition, RAC/SPA is establishing in collaboration with MEDU a Working Group on the thematic issue of "sustainable management of biological diversity and adjustment of Addis Ababa principles and guidelines to the Mediterranean region".

M. Cultural Heritage

The 100 Historic Mediterranean Sites Programme, hosted and supported financially by the Heritage Workshop of the city of Marseille, is concerned with the cultural environment of the Mediterranean countries. It deals with several issues and provides technical assistance with the support of the Directorate of International Relations of the city of Marseille and the World Bank Regional Office in the same city.

During the period under review the 100 Historic Mediterranean Sites programme participated in training seminars in Marrakech, Algiers, Damascus, Amman and Alexandria on development strategies for cities, major physical hazards and on the management of waste and public space; now the new focus is on climate change and its implications for the Mediterranean territories.

Joint Declaration signed, on the occasion of the Cities Summit held in Marseille in 1998, by the mayors of Alexandria, Barcelona, Genoa, Ismit, Lyon, Meknes, Tunis, Algiers, Casablanca, Haifa, Piraeus, Rabat and Marseille continues to be the framework for future work.

The Programme's specific support to the MSSD concerns progress in the priority action field 2.7 "to promote sustainable management of the sea and coast and urgently stop the degradation of coastal zones".

The activities carried out in Marseille establish a permanent link between the technical aspects of environmental questions and their cultural dimension.

Activities

Since the last progress report of the MCSD, a workshop on the theme "Cultural identities, shared values" was organized jointly with the Directorate General IV of the Council of Europe in order to establish an instrument for multi-cultural interpretation of cultural heritage.

Likewise, the Programme participated in a training course leading to a certificate in cultural tourism and sustainable development organized by the Senghor University of Alexandria (1-9 April 2006, Alexandria).

Within the framework of the International Forum of Local Authorities a Workshop on "Housing Heritage" was held in Casablanca, Morocco on 24-26 January 2007 on the theme "Decentralized cooperation for the economic development of territories".

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement between Marseille and Tunis, activities were carried out in conjunction with the International Relations Directorate of the City of Marseille on urban development, in order to establish a Geographic Information System with a cultural heritage dimension for Tunis. An agreement for cooperation also exists between Marseille and Algiers for the issues of urban development and housing.

The newly developed activity with the Council of Europe concerns the cultural identities and their role in the sustainable development of sites and territories.

III. MSSD IMPLEMENTATION

Although the MSSD has the unique advantage to be nested in a well established international legislative set-up and benefits from intense communication efforts, implementation still constitutes a major challenge and has yet to acquire momentum. Beyond the traditional working groups approach that is conducted by the responsible RACs, pilot actions have still to be identified and launched. Countries that are also pressed to respond to other demanding regional and international processes, call for coherence, harmonization and guidance on how to implement the MSSD nationally.

The effective implementation of the MSSD calls for concrete actions at the national and regional levels. In this implementation process, the countries are the main actors supported by MAP components. The role of MAP components is to make the MSSD work by encouraging, supporting and facilitating the development and/or implementation of national and regional strategies and pilot actions. In this respect, MAP components' interventions/activities should always be seen as supporting national policy processes.

Based on the MSSD adopted by the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat has developed an implementation plan for the period 2008-2011 and the work programme 2008-2009. The implementation plan will capitalize on the comparative advantages of the different RACs and take advantage of the different working groups being established.

The implementation plan takes into consideration:

- ❖ the MCSD programme of work and developments at the international level in particular the UNCSD Multi-year Programme of Work;
- ❖ the role of MAP and its components in the implementation of the MSSD;
- ❖ the role that other sustainable development actors in the region can play to steer implementation with the support of others, when appropriate;
- ❖ the possible synergies and partnerships that could be leveraged between different MAP components and between MAP and other sustainable development related initiatives;
- ❖ the mechanism needed to ensure coordination and monitor overall implementation.

The implementation plan for the period 2008-2011 and the work programme 2008-2009 will be submitted for the consideration and approval of the MCSD (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 313/5).

Working Groups

The establishment and functioning of the working groups supported by the relevant RACs have played an important role in the development of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). However, with the adoption of the MSSD by the Contracting Parties the scope and purpose of the working groups has changed and their objective should henceforth be to facilitate the implementation of the MSSD.

While some MAP components have a clear vision of the purpose of the working groups, others may feel that there is no longer scope for them and approach the process of MSSD implementation in the same way that they go about implementing their programme of activities.

With the shift from formulation to implementation, the role, functions and *modus operandi* of the working groups have to be re-visited. Working groups should become more action oriented with the objective to insert their results into the different country and regional processes.

Given the importance of the cross cutting issues in the MSSD, the working groups should not operate in isolation one from the other and not exclusively focus on the technical aspects.

In order to provide for coordination between working groups, increase effectiveness and achieve impact, working groups should have a similar structure and *modus operandi*. The working groups should be characterized as follows:-

- Purpose, objectives, terms of reference and expected outputs;
- Time span, work plan with milestones, meetings, venue, tentative dates, tasks and deliverables;
- Working procedures, monitoring, information and reporting;
- Synergy and partnership with other RACs and sustainable development initiatives in the Region outside MAP.

Based on this formatted information, working group profiles would be made available to the different partners and stakeholders, through the various websites of the MAP components. Moreover, the use of a common format would help to monitor and evaluate the MCSD work programme as a whole thus fostering self-reflection and improvement.

The Secretariat will strive to support this very important process by attending working group meetings as appropriate and in accordance with the financial means available, thoroughly contributing to the information flow and also bringing financial support, if necessary and according to the approved budget.

The role of the thematic working groups in the work of the MCSD was discussed during the 11th MCSD Steering Committee meeting that also drew some conclusions (**Annex III**)

During the 12th Meeting in Istanbul, MCSD members will be invited to express their views about the above approach, sharing also their experience about their participation in any of the working groups that have been established for the implementation of the MSSD.

IV. 12TH MCSD MEETING

1. Preparation of the 12th MCSD Meeting

When preparing the Agenda for the 12th Meeting of the MCSD and in agreement with the MCSD Steering Committee (9th March, 2007 – Athens, Greece) the Secretariat took into consideration the suggestions made during the last MCSD meeting in Nicosia. In fact the Steering Committee agreed to the proposal that the MCSD meeting should last for two days and should address a limited number of issues or themes related to MSSD implementation, allowing for more time for discussions possibly also during breakout sessions.

As proposed also at the 11th MCSD meeting in Nicosia, Cyprus (24 – 26 May, 2006) and agreed by the 11th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, the progress registered by MAP components in the implementation of their MSSD related activities will be outlined to the meeting in one consolidated presentation by the Secretariat.

The 11th MCSD Steering Committee (9th March, 2007 – Athens, Greece) agreed that the 12th Meeting of the MCSD (30-31 May, 2007 – Istanbul, Turkey) will discuss the issue of climate change in the Mediterranean, with particular reference to energy and tourism. In addition it will discuss the progress report, the implementation of the programme of work by MAP components, and review and approve the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD.

By the time of the MCSD meeting in Istanbul, the draft documents elaborated by the post session drafting committee set up in Catania as part of the process of the external evaluation of MAP, would be in an advanced stage of preparation. The various alternatives for MCSD mandate, composition and rules of procedures would already be known to those MCSD members who are also MAP Focal Points but not to the others. Therefore, the MCSD meeting will be informed about the proposed recommendations concerning the proposed future mandate and composition of the MCSD.

2. Proposed Agenda

In line with the UN Secretary General's call as reiterated by the Executive Director of UNEP to mobilize the whole UN family to move forward the climate change debate, and in view of the importance of the subject matter to the Mediterranean, the Secretariat together with BP/RAC proposed and the Steering Committee agreed that the main topic of the Agenda at the next meeting of the MCSD should be "Climate Change in the Mediterranean Basin" with particular reference to energy and tourism, two thematic issues which have been dealt with at length by BP.

Climate Change in the Mediterranean Basin

It is acknowledged world wide that the most critical global challenge of our time is climate change. In a recently published report the European Union predicts that the continent will be devastated by climate change.

With respect to the Mediterranean the same report says that tourism is expected to suffer because the temperatures will be too hot for holidays, countries may be losing their agriculture because of drought conditions and may face major threats as a result of sea-level rise.

According to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is the multilateral framework for addressing all aspects of climate change, the Earth's climate system has changed on both global and regional scales with most of these changes attributable to human activities. The atmospheric concentrations of key anthropogenic greenhouse gases reached their highest record levels in the 1990s primarily due to the combustion of fossil fuels, agriculture and land use changes. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes in its Third Assessment Report, that there is new strong evidence that most of the warming observed over the last 50 years is attributable to human activities.

Climate change impacts can sabotage the efforts to achieve the goals of sustainable development, including in particular by augmenting poverty in developing countries. Furthermore, development paths and production and consumption patterns have various impacts on the climate system. Increasingly climate change is being considered in the broader context of sustainable development, for instance through the integration of climate policies into national development planning and national sustainable development strategies.

In the MCSD programme of work the theme of climate change is put along such issue as energy to be dealt with during the cycle 2006/2007. Moreover, priority field of action 2.1 of the MSSD deals with ensuring sustainable management of energy and mitigating of and adapting to the effects of climate change. The objectives under this field of action related to climate change include the control, stabilization and reduction, as appropriate, of greenhouse gases and mainstreaming of measures for adaptation to climate change in national development plans.

More specifically, the MSSD invites Mediterranean countries to cooperate in the implementation of the UNFCCC and flexibility mechanism of its Kyoto Protocol, to prepare for the post 2012 phase and direct towards the region investment designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It also calls for the development of synergies with the Mediterranean Renewable Energy Programme (MED REP), the Rome Mediterranean Energy Platform (REMEDI) and the Euro Mediterranean Energy Policy.

With regard to adaptation to climate change, the objectives of the MSSD are the mainstreaming of the concept in national policies and the development of plans to anticipate risks and adapt the most exposed Mediterranean areas, especially islands, deltas and arid agricultural zones to climate change.

Sustainable Tourism is also included in the cycle 2006/2007 of the MCSD programme of work. The promotion of sustainable tourism is in fact one of the priority fields of action of the MSSD with the objectives of reducing the adverse territorial and environmental effects of tourism, the promotion of sustainable tourist facilities and an increase in the added value of tourism for local communities together with improvement in governance for sustainable tourism.

Blue Plan has already covered substantial ground on the thematic issue of climate change. A sub-regional workshop on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in the southern Mediterranean countries – strengths and weaknesses – challenges and prospects” was organized in May 2006 under the aegis of the MCSD with the support of ADEME, CEA, OME and IMUT. The purpose of the workshop was to assess the CDM situation in the region, to share experiences and, with the stakeholders and specialists concerned, to assess the questions of the operational implementation of the CDM projects in order to enable the region to benefit as much as possible from this mechanism.

The purpose of focusing on the subject of “Climate Change in the Mediterranean” at the 12th Meeting of the MCSD is for the Commission members to be appraised of the possible effects of climate change in this region, with particular reference to energy and tourism, and to consider proposing to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties policy options and/or possible actions on how to respond to the challenge of climate change at the regional level.

V. MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE

In conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the MCSD, at the commencement of the first sitting of each meeting, the Commission shall elect the Steering Committee which shall be composed of a President, five Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. The Steering Committee shall include four members representing the Contracting Parties, including ex-officio the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, and one representative from local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs.

At the beginning of the 12th MCSD meeting in Istanbul, the Secretariat will propose a list of countries and representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations who have expressed an interest in sitting on the Steering Committee, for the consideration and approval of the MCSD. The Secretariat has written to MCSD members requesting them to let it know whether they wished to be considered for membership. The selection of the members of the Steering Committee has to be made on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution.

IGOs on the Steering Committee

During the 11th Meeting of the MCSD in Cyprus, two inter-governmental organizations members of the MCSD had requested to sit on the Steering Committee but were informed that they could not be considered for membership because they did not fall under anyone of the three specific categories listed under the criteria for the Composition of the Commission namely local authorities, socio-economic actors or NGOs.

The Secretariat raised this issue during the 11th Meeting of the Steering Committee for their guidance. The Steering Committee, while agreeing with the stand taken by the Secretariat stated that discussions on the future role and function of the MCSD should cover the issue of its membership, with specific reference to membership of intergovernmental organizations on the MCSD Steering Committee taking into account the contribution that they could make to the achievement of the MCSD’s objectives.

The Conclusions of the 11th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee as well as the list of present and previous members of the MCSD Steering Committee are attached at **Annex III** and **Annex IV** respectively, to this report.

VI. MCSD AND THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF MAP FOCAL POINTS

In the report on the external evaluation of MAP, which was discussed at the Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points in Catania (11-14 November, 2006), a number of recommendations were made regarding the future role of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development. Draft amendments to the Terms of Reference of the MCSD were also proposed.

As was to be expected, these recommendations elicited an interesting and lively debate with most of the participants taking part in the discussion.

Support was expressed for the recommendation that the MCSD should remain an advisory body to the Contracting Parties on policy and technical issues and a mechanism for assessment, monitoring and evaluation. The MCSD's unique character as a regional forum bringing together representatives of governments, NGOs, civil society and the business sector should be fully exploited through, for instance the forging of partnerships.

Some speakers felt that the main problem besetting the MCSD was the tendency of MAP components not to consider it as part and parcel of the MAP system. The plenary meetings of the MCSD had also fallen short of expectations and that improved agenda setting was needed. An effort should also be made to attract a variety of stakeholders and high profile personalities. It was the common view that synergy should be promoted with the UNCSD.

Some speakers suggested changing the composition of the MCSD to a small group of eminent people nominated by the Contracting Parties but not necessarily their own nationals. Others suggested that eminent people be invited from time to time on particular issues with no permanent status. Another view was that the Commission should continue as it was and nominate or establish a consultation committee of eminent people. Several participants stated that the membership should reflect the geographical distribution of the Contracting Parties.

It was stressed that there should be increased representation of stakeholders such as local authorities, economic actors, the scientific community, NGOs and intergovernmental organizations. It was suggested that a profile and selection criteria for membership should be developed and circulated to MAP Focal Points, who would handle administrative matters, the selection of experts and the channeling of information on behalf of the Commission.

It was argued that the MCSD should be a forum for decision-making at the highest possible political level based on clear advice from MCSD working and expert groups which should not be composed purely of technical members but of competent national representatives not only from governments but also from independent consultants, representatives of NGOs, civil society and the business sector. Care should also be taken to avoid proliferation of expert groups and other existing bodies.

Most speakers agreed that the Commission should hold regular meetings every two years with the option of additional meetings being called on an *ad hoc* basis.

The meeting agreed that the Drafting Committee set up in Catania should develop a number of limited options regarding the retention or amendment of existing set-up, composition and membership, nomination procedure, selection criteria for eminent personalities, rules of

procedure, mandate of the MCSD and its relationship with MEDU and other MAP components. The options should be presented in a concise form, setting out the pros and cons of each option.

By the time that this report was finalized, the draft documents prepared by the Drafting Committee on the future role and composition of the MCSD were not yet available. Should these documents become available in time for the meeting, they will be circulated to the members of the MCSD for their information.

VII. MSSD AND EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE “HORIZON 2020”

A very important development with respect to the status of the MSSD was the strong endorsement of the strategy by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers of Environment and other heads of delegations participating in the 3rd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment held in Cairo on 20 November 2006.

In the Cairo Declaration adopted at the end of the Ministerial meeting, participants recognized the preparation by UNEP/MAP of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development that was endorsed by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in Portoroz, Slovenia in 2005, and supported by the 10th Anniversary Summit of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (Barcelona Summit) and commit to implement the MSSD in conjunction with national strategies for sustainable development.

Ministers and other heads of delegations agreed also to work to achieve the implementation of the timetable for de-pollution of the Mediterranean by 2020 through, inter-alia, the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its related Protocols and the MSSD in close coordination with the UNEP/MAP as well as through strengthening synergies with other strategic regional initiatives and programmes such as the Mediterranean Component of the EU Water Initiative (MED EUWI) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Strategic Partnership.

MAP components, in particular MED POL which has a leading role in the Horizon 2020 timetable through its Strategic Action Programme (SAP) to address pollution from land-based activities (SAP MED) will coordinate its initiatives with other institutions in the implementation of the different components of Horizon 2020 Initiative, within the framework of the Joint Work Programme between UNEP/MAP and the European Commission.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS

Programme Officer (MCSD)

Due to the delay in the process for the recruitment of the Sustainable Development Officer for the MCSD and the proximity of the Nicosia meeting of the MCSD in May, 2006 it was felt necessary to extend the engagement of M. Philippe Alirol as Senior Sustainable Development Officer. M. Alirol's temporary assignment had expired at the end of December 2005 and was extended till the end of November 2006.

At their last meeting in Porotoz, Slovenia, the Contracting Parties had agreed that the position of temporary Sustainable Development Officer, which was due to expire at the end of February, 2006, would be extended until the next meeting of the Contracting Parties in 2007 to be filled following an open call for applications. The call for applications was issued in line with the UN

rules and regulations, publicized on the "Galaxy" the UN Vacancy Announcement website, and brought to the attention of MAP Focal Points. Many applications were received. Four candidates were short listed and called for an interview last January. Mr. Spyros Kouvelis, a Greek national, was the successful candidate. He joined UNEP/MAP as Sustainable Development Officer with effect from 2 May 2007.

ANNEX I

Brief history of the MCSD

Benchmarks and decisions

The post-Rio era was an important period in the history of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) during which the Governments of the Mediterranean region and the European Community, in cooperation with concerned partners, started the process of translating and adapting UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context through the preparation of Agenda MED 21, reorientation of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD). This commitment towards sustainable development in the region was further strengthened during the preparatory process for the WSSD and then the application at the regional level of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation that resulted in the preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, as well as National Strategies for Sustainable Development.

The MCSD was established in 1995 within the framework of MAP, as an advisory body with the following mandate:

- to identify, evaluate and examine major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals thereon to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and facilitate the exchange of information among institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
- to enhance regional cooperation and rationalize the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues.

At their Extraordinary Meeting (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Terms of Reference and the Composition of the Commission. According to the Terms of Reference, the Commission is composed of 36 members, sitting on equal footing, consisting of high-level representatives from each of the Contracting Parties (21), representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations (15), working in the fields of environment and sustainable development.

During its first meeting (Rabat, December 1996), the Commission elected its first Steering Committee; it agreed on a programme built on activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region: sustainable management of coastal regions and management of water demand, sustainable development indicators, tourism, information, awareness and participation, free trade and environment, industry and sustainable development, management of urban and rural development.

The method of work consisted in organizing thematic Working Groups with Task Managers and Support Centres to deal with each selected theme. The MAP funds allocated to the MCSD will be considered as seed money since the Task Managers and

Support Centres were expected to look for the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise for the activities of the thematic Working Groups.

The second meeting of the Commission (Palma de Majorca, May 1997) has mainly reviewed progress achieved and problems encountered since its first meeting.

At their third meeting (Sophia Antipolis, October 1997) the members of the MCSD agreed upon sets of recommendations and proposals for action related to management of water demand and sustainable management of coastal zones, together with MCSD's draft rules of procedure, before presenting them to the Contracting Parties that adopted them at their tenth meeting (Tunis, November 1997).

At its fourth meeting (Monaco, October 1998) the Commission examined the progress made by the six "medium-term" thematic Working Groups, as well as issues related to follow-up of recommendations, new themes, method of work and cooperation with UN agencies and other partners. Moreover and in conformity with the MCSD's specific rules of procedure, a new Steering Committee was elected.

The fifth meeting of the MCSD (Rome, July 1999) discussed the preparatory process of the Strategic Review and agreed on sets of recommendations and proposals for action related to "Sustainable Development Indicators" and "Information, Awareness, Environmental Education and Participation"; the ones related to "Tourism and Sustainable Development" were reviewed and finalized some weeks later; they were then all presented to the 11th meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999) who adopted the three sets of recommendations.

At the sixth meeting of the MCSD (Tunis, November 2000), the fifteen new members representing the three Major Groups took over; the meeting examined the Strategic Review and its recommendations and proposals for action, as well as a draft "Tunis Declaration"; this meeting comprised an important High Level Segment with the participation of several Ministers of the Environment; it was also the occasion for a very animated debate on the follow up of MCSD proposals, possible new issues and method of work, preparing the ground for relevant discussions in the next MCSD and Contracting Parties meetings.

At its first Extraordinary Meeting (Monaco, 12 November 2001), the organization of which was decided because of the international situation and the holding of the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties (Monaco, 14-17 November 2001), the MCSD members discussed and prepared four sets of findings and proposals related to: "Industry and Sustainable Development", "Urban management and Sustainable Development", "Free Trade and Environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context", and "Implementation and Follow up of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action"; proposed recommendations were then reviewed and approved by the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The seventh meeting of the MCSD (Antalya, March 2002) was postponed from October 2001 to March 2002 because of the international situation and its impacts at the regional level; as the thematic issues from the Working Groups were dealt with by the Extraordinary MCSD meeting, the 7th MCSD has mostly focused on MCSD Assessment and Prospects, and the process for the preparation of the "Framework Orientations" for a

Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. The meeting agreed on a methodology for the “Orientations”, decided to establish a Task Force to consider further MCSD Prospects, and opted four new themes (financing, agriculture, consumption patterns and waste).

The eighth meeting of the MCSD (Cavtat, May 2003) has mainly focused on discussing and reviewing the draft reports on the “Vision” and “Orientations” for the MSSD together with the MCSD assessment and prospects. Between this meeting and the one of the Contracting Parties, an intensive work was undertaken so as to review and finalize documents on the Vision and Orientations. A set of recommendations related to the MCSD were adopted by the 13th meeting of the CP in November 2003, in which the Parties took note of the contents of these two documents, and requested additional consultation before their finalization. These consultations took place during the first semester of 2004 with meetings of the MCSD and the Bureau of the CP.

The ninth meeting of the MCSD (Genoa, June 2004) has approved the final text of the Vision and Framework Orientations for the MSSD, including few amendments made upon request for comments in conformity with the decision of the 13th meeting of the CP; it also discussed the preparatory process for the MSSD, under the supervision of the new Coordinator of UNEP/MAP. A medium term programme of work was considered, keeping in mind that it would be revised once the MSSD would be finalized and approved. A new Contracting Party, the Union State of Serbia and Montenegro, represented by Montenegro joined the MCSD.

The 10th Meeting of the MCSD which met in Athens, Greece (June 2005) was dedicated entirely to discuss and approve the text of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and the Athens Charter. Both texts were eventually approved. The MSSD was then submitted first to the MAP Focal Points in September and then to the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties, which adopted the Strategy on the basis of the Portoroz Declaration, which in turn was based on the main political messages and the commitments that emerge from the MSSD.

The 11th Meeting of the MCSD met in Nicosia, Cyprus (May 2006) underlined the importance of governance and synergies with a broad spectrum of stakeholders (NGOs, the business sector and local authorities) when implementing the MSSD. It recognized the main challenge of the Commission was the implementation of the MSSD, especially at country level. It stressed the need to enhance cross-sectoral issues, in particular: improve information management and communication, capacity building, promote education for sustainable development, encourage the exchange of experiences and conduct awareness- raising campaigns. The Commission recognized that the MSSD represents a turning point for the MAP and its components and called on them to build strategic alliances with main players in the region.

ANNEX II	
Agenda of the First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation Athens, Greece, 3-4 October 2006	
Tuesday 3 October	
09.00-09.45	Welcome. Opening remarks. Introduction of participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic implication of Portoroz meeting Paul Mifsud • Presentation of the participants • Agenda and organization of the session Philippe Alirol • NSSD components and situation in the Region
09.45-11.00	<p>Session 1: Ensuring political commitment and engaging the key government actors</p> <p><i>This session will explore how to achieve political support through e.g. placement of overall responsibility, involvement of politicians (e.g. Parliament and local authorities) and legislative underpinning. This session will also discuss how and when to involve relevant sector ministries as well as Planning and Finance Ministries (including interagency co-ordination, assignment of responsibility through Steering Committee)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ introduction Philippe Alirol ○ countries' experience Egypt, Malta, Montenegro, Syria ○ group work ○ plenary discussion
11.00-11.30	Coffee Break
11.30-13.00	<p>Session 2: Involving the Stakeholders</p> <p><i>This session will explore how and when to involve different stakeholders, including the business sector, at the different levels. It will discuss in particular: 1) the identification of relevant stakeholders; 2) the possible consultation mechanisms (e.g. national forum of council) and 3) when in the process involvement is mostly required.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ introduction Philippe Alirol ○ countries' experience Egypt, Malta, Montenegro, Syria ○ group work ○ plenary discussion
13.00-14.30	Lunch Break
14.30-15.00	Session 2: Involving the Stakeholders (continued)
15.00-16.30	<p>Session 3: Assessing SD issues, priorities and options</p> <p><i>This session will explore how to review the sustainable development situation on the basis of existing knowledge and resources as well as the current policy frameworks. The following topics will be addressed: 1) policy review and analysis (including the role of expert work); 2) addressing cross-sector issues; 3) taking into account local level concerns; 4) integration into the national policy making including sector policies and programmes, NSSD synergies with other overall frameworks (international, regional and national: e.g. Horizon 2020, MDGs and PRS, MSSD and EU SSD. The session will also briefly discuss issues ranking (e.g. through score cards) as well as options and consistency analysis concerning proposed measures, pilot action and programmes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ introduction Philippe Alirol ○ countries' experience Egypt, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Syria ○ group work ○ plenary discussion
16.30-17.00	Coffee Break
17.00-17.30	Session 3: Assessing SD issues and priorities (continued)
17.30-18.00	Individual work

Wednesday 4 October	
09.00-10.00	<p>Session 4: Developing a common SD understanding and vision</p> <p><i>Taking the specific example of press relation the session will explore what awareness raising, information and communication activities have worked and why.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ introduction Luisa Colasimone UNEP/MAP ○ countries' experience Egypt, Malta, Montenegro, Spain, Syria ○ plenary discussion facilitation: Mr Ray Bugeja, Times of Malta
10.00-11.00	<p>Session 5: Organising and managing the formulation and implementation process</p> <p><i>The session will explore the following topics:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key Tasks of NSSD formulation 2. Roadmap 3. NSSD Secretariat/unit: function and coordination role, financial and human resources 4. Preparation of NSSD documents: Vision and Framework Orientations, specific studies, drafting Strategy document (merging expert work and consultation process, priority setting and making trade-offs) 5. Monitoring arrangements 6. Mobilisation of financial sources for the preparation and the implementation of NSSD (costing, linking NSSD to budget processes, new role of donors and IFIs support as emerging from the Paris Declaration) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ introduction (steps in NSSD formulation, MoU elements) Philippe Alirol ○ countries' experience (topics 3 to 6) Egypt, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Syria ○ group work ○ plenary discussion
11.00-11.30	Coffee Break
11.30-13.00	<p>Session 5: Organising and managing the formulation and implementation process (continued)</p>
13.00-14.30	Lunch Break
14.30-16.30	<p>Session 6: The way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Individual work (countries supported by the facilitators will outline the formulation process and prepare a draft roadmap. All participants identify the support they would require from resources in the region, including from the MAP system) ○ Plenary discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations by Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia • Establishment of a NSSD community of practices (what, how, linkages to existing networks and institutions, particularly MCSD) • Elements for the preparation of the Regional Workshop 2007
16.30-17.00	Coffee Break
17.00-17.30	<p>Session 7: Final</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluation of the 1 st SD Working Session ○ Concluding remarks Paul Mifsud

ANNEX III

CONCLUSIONS OF THE 11TH MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

1. *MCSD Activities*

In formulating its programme of work, the MCSD should develop a process to follow up the implementation of the MSSD by the MAP components.

In the implementation of the MSSD, including the process of formulating and implementing National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs), on which progress is now being made with the assistance of the Secretariat, continued emphasis needs to be placed on the involvement of stakeholders at all stages and levels.

2. *Role of "thematic working groups" in the work of the MCSD*

The role of the thematic working groups has evolved since they were first set up in the context of the MCSD. It is therefore necessary to review the need for such working groups, their function and composition with a view to optimizing their contribution to the implementation of the objectives established in the MSSD. Reflection on the methods of implementation of the MSSD will need to take into account all relevant findings concerning the political role of the MCSD reached in the MAP Evaluation process.

The thematic working groups were originally set up to cover areas in which little or no work had been carried out and to act as catalysts to focus attention on those areas, such as sustainable development and energy, water and tourism. In many cases, more attention is now focused on those areas and it is therefore necessary to draw together the available knowledge and involve the stakeholders.

The structure within which thematic working groups or similar bodies operate should allow for both work by experts and the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders, civil society and interested governmental and non-governmental bodies. One possible format for combining these two functions is the holding of preliminary expert groups followed by forums bringing together a broad range of stakeholders. In all such processes, it is important that all those involved can have a real say in the recommendations and findings produced at all stages.

The format of the working groups or similar structures should be adapted to the processes involved and the needs of each MSSD objective.

3. *Information and communication*

Information and communication is a tool for ensuring that the work undertaken in the context of MAP and the MCSD has the widest possible impact. To be effective, close coordination and collaboration is required between all MAP components in this respect.

The MAP Secretariat has an important role to play in ensuring that the message conveyed in information materials is coherent and consistent.

Maximum feedback from all concerned is required with a view to reviewing and adapting the Information and Communication (IC) Strategy prepared by INFO/RAC, so that a finalized Strategy can be submitted to the meeting of the MCSD in Istanbul for adoption.

4. Agenda of the 12th Meeting of the MCSD

With regard to the organization of the 12th Meeting of the MCSD, it was agreed that the meeting should be of two days duration, that a single presentation should be made on the activities of the MAP components relating to the implementation of the MSSD and that future meetings of the MCSD should serve as occasions to discuss important topical subjects.

The 12th Meeting of the MCSD will discuss the issue of climate change in the Mediterranean, with particular reference to energy and tourism. In addition, it will discuss the role of the MCSD, the implementation of its programme of work and the Information and Communication (IC) Strategy.

5. Members of the MCSD Steering Committee

Discussions on the future role and function of the MCSD should cover the issue of its membership, with specific reference to membership of intergovernmental organizations on the Steering Committee, taking into account the contribution that they could make to the achievement of the MCSD's objectives. Under the present criteria, intergovernmental organizations even if they are members of the MCSD may not be considered for membership of the MCSD Steering Committee because they do not fall under anyone of the three specific categories listed under the criteria for the composition of the Commission.

6. MCSD and the Extraordinary Meeting of MAP Focal Points

When reviewing the issue of MCSD membership, in the context of the MAP Evaluation, with a view to upgrading the role and influence of the MCSD, emphasis should be placed on raising the political level of representation of the Contracting Parties. An incentive in this respect would be the inclusion in MCSD meetings of institutions that can provide technical and financial assistance for the achievement of MCSD objectives.

ANNEX IV
MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE MCSD

<u>1ST MCSD (1996/1998)</u>	<u>4TH MCSD (1998/1999)</u>	<u>5TH MCSD (1999/2000)</u>
President: MOROCCO Vice President: ASCAME Vice President : CREE Vice President : CROATIA Vice President : EGYPT Vice President : EC Vice President : TUNISIA Rapporteur : ECOMEDITERRANEA	President : TUNISIA Vice President : EOAEN Vice President : CYPRUS Vice President : MIO-ECSDE Vice President : SILIFKE Vice President : SPAIN Rapporteur : MONACO	President : TUNISIA Vice President : EOAEN Vice President : ROME Vice President : MALTA Vice President : MONACO Vice President : TURKEY Rapporteur : WWF
<u>6th MCSD (2000/2002)</u>	<u>7th MCSD (2002/2003)</u>	<u>8th MCSD (2003/2004)</u>
President : MONACO Vice President : TUNISIA Vice President : MALTA Vice President : GREECE Vice President : EOAEN Vice President : ENDA Rapporteur: NAPLES	President: TURKEY Vice President: MONACO Vice President: ALGERIA Vice President: SPAIN Vice President: CALVIA Vice President: MEDENER Rapporteur: ENDA	President: CROATIA Vice President: LIBYA Vice President: FRANCE Vice President: MONACO/ITALY Vice President: OMISALJ Vice President: ICC/MED Rapporteur: RAED
<u>9th MCSD (2004/2005)</u>	<u>10th MCSD (2005/2006)</u>	<u>11th MCSD (2006/2007)</u>
President: ITALY Vice President: GREECE Vice President: MOROCCO Vice President: FoE/MEDNET Vice President: MEDCITIES Vice President: ICC/MED Rapporteur: CYPRUS	President: GREECE Vice President: SLOVENIA Vice President: TUNISIA Vice President: BiH Vice President: MEDCITIES Vice President: MIO-ECSDE Rapporteur: FoE/MED	President: CYPRUS Vice President: LIBYA Vice President: SLOVENIA Vice President: TURKEY Vice President: COORD. AG.21 LOCALI Vice President: UMCE Rapporteur: ENDA/MAGHREB