



UNITED
NATIONS

EP

UNEP/MED IG.24/19/Rev.1



UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

27 November 2019
Original: English

21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019

Agenda Item 5: Ministerial Session

Draft Naples Ministerial Declaration (in consultation with the Host Country)

Draft

Note by the Secretariat

The current draft of the Naples Ministerial Declaration is based on the first draft that was prepared in consultation with Italy, as Host Country of COP 21, and shows in a highlighted mode the comments and suggestions provided by the following Contracting Parties: Algeria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Montenegro, Spain, Syria, Turkey.

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2019

DRAFT NAPLES MINISTERIAL DECLARATION

We, Ministers and Heads of Delegation of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols, meeting in Naples, Italy, on 4 December 2019,

Being aware of the undisputed importance of the Mediterranean region, our common home to safeguard and protect, where our communities [have](#) lived and prospered for millennia, and whose perspectives of sustainable development, well-being and peace rely upon the health of the *Mare Nostrum*, connecting and unifying us since the beginning of the human civilization;

Being aware as well of the key role of our region, complex and yet unmatched for its richness of biodiversity, natural resources, and historic and cultural bonds, and of the importance of Regional Seas Conventions and Programmes to implement global strategies and agendas;

Recalling that the global context includes important elements such as the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the UN Environment Assembly resolutions, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework [to be adopted](#), the implementation of the Paris Agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Strategic Framework 2018-2030, and its land degradation neutrality approach to tackle climate crisis and enhance water supply [and other relevant developments](#);

Welcoming the action plans and decisions of the pollution-related MEAs, and the G7 and G20 to combat marine litter in synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions, as a global momentum towards the long-term elimination of discharges of litter and microplastics to the oceans;

Recognizing the year 2020 as a critical turning point for the conservation and sustainable management of the Mediterranean Sea and coast, on the basis of the [knowledge-based report](#) ~~science-based reports~~ delivered in 2019 by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), [without changing the legal position of countries as regards the international agreements, conventions, tools](#), the forthcoming international fora like the UN 2020 Ocean Conference and the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the 2020 ministerial meetings of the Union for the Mediterranean, the 2021-2030 UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, and 2021-2030 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration ;

Recognizing the need to build on our long-standing cooperation and commitments for a green New Deal with the participation of all stakeholders and especially the younger generations, to strengthen our environmental conscience and a mature sense of responsibility;

Welcoming the wide and inclusive participatory process leading to COP 21 of the Barcelona Convention promoted by the Host Country Italy and the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat, with Contracting Parties, Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (18th Meeting, Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019), Mediterranean Youth (Youth Event, Naples, Italy, 23 October 2019), and Stakeholders (Regional Stakeholder Consultation Meeting, Athens, Greece, 24-25 October 2019);

Reaffirming our commitment to the major role of the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and the Barcelona Convention system, and its unique institutional, regulatory and implementation framework for the protection of marine environment and sustainable development of its coastal regions, to scale up the enforcement of global and regional commitments in our region, to advance together through common legal instruments, strategies and policies, as well as scientific and technical programs, projects and initiatives;

Commented [UNEP/MAP1]: Additions suggested by Croatia (communication of [the EU](#) on 5 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP2]: Algeria suggests quoting the term "green economy" in the preambular part as it is recalled afterwards (communication by Algeria on 6 November).

In the same communication, [Algeria](#) also recommends mentioning, in one of the resolutions, the support to the Southern Mediterranean countries in order to accelerate the implementation of the various commitments mentioned in the declaration.

Commented [UNEP/MAP3]: Additions suggested by Croatia (suggestions [via EU communication](#) on 5 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP4]: Additions suggested by [Spain](#) to consider also IMO and the negotiations of a legally binding instrument on BBNJ (communication of [the EU](#) on 5 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP5]: Modification suggested by Turkey (communication of Turkey on 7 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP6]: Additions suggested by Turkey (communication of Turkey on 7 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP7]: [France](#) asks for information about the consultations of the Youth Event and the Regional Stakeholder consultation meeting (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP8]: [France](#) stresses the importance to maintain this paragraph as it is (communication by France on 4 November).

Recalling and welcoming the main achievements and the ongoing work of the UNEP/MAP–Barcelona Convention system during the past five decades, especially the last two biennia for the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy 2016-2021, [and of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025](#), and the need for further reinforcing and supporting its governance and capacity;

Commented [UNEP/MAP9]: Addition proposed by [Montenegro](#) (communication by Montenegro on 8 November).

Deeply concerned for the increasing pressures that human activities are exerting on the natural resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas, their impact as also identified in the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and 2019 State of the Environment and Development Report, and aware of the need for a systemic change supported by forward-looking and innovative strategies, policies, and behaviors;

Commented [UNEP/MAP10]: [France](#) stresses the importance to maintain this paragraph as it is (communication by France on 4 November).

[I. We endorse the key messages inspired by the 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean, as well as its Summary for Decision-Makers](#)

Commented [UNEP/MAP11]: Addition proposed by [France](#) (communication by France on 4 November).

1. We commit to take concrete action to enhance the level of safeguard of the Mediterranean Sea and its good environmental status, [including its coastal region](#), as a place of peace, dialogue and solidarity, as a bridge between civilizations and as a model for environmental protection in the context of sustainable development and multilateral cooperation, for the benefit of present and future generations;
2. We are determined to further address our efforts in particular on four priority areas for action and commitments – by effectively ~~contrasting~~ [addressing](#) marine litter, strengthening and expanding the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) network, responding to the challenges arising from climate change, and sustaining the [blue economy](#) and an ecological transition for our region – and to identify the strategic directions to embrace together for the years ahead;

Commented [UNEP/MAP12]: Modification suggested by [Croatia](#) (communication by [the EU](#) on 5 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP13]: Does the concept of “blue economy” include “sustainable”? If not, we should mention a “sustainable blue economy” and then replace “sustaining” by “supporting” (for example).
Question proposed by [France](#) (communication by France on 4 November).

Concerned that the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal regions ~~faces~~ [face](#) significant pollution challenges and is one of the most marine litter-affected areas in the world, with plastics accounting for up to 95% of total floating marine litter and more than 50% of seabed marine litter, mostly originating from single-use plastic products representing more than 60% of the marine litter composition;

Commented [UNEP/MAP14]: Modification suggested by [Croatia](#) (communication by [the EU](#) on 5 November)

Commented [UNEP/MAP15]: Modification proposed by [Algeria](#) (communication by Algeria on 6 November)

Reaffirming our commitment to the ~~full~~ [implementation](#) of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, adopted at COP 18 in 2013, complemented by the Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP);

Commented [UNEP/MAP16]: While agreeing with the content of the marine litter paragraphs [Spain](#) proposes, in order to avoid a too detailed declaration (communication by [the EU](#) on 5 November) to merge points 3 and 4 as it follows.

3. We recognize the urgency to eliminate plastic leakage in the Mediterranean Sea by 2030 with clear commitments to reduce plastic consumption, support eco-design and innovation, resource efficiency and effectively improved waste management, as well as enhanced control and prevention measures such as bans, incentives, taxes and extended producer responsibility schemes;
4. We decide to scale-up our efforts to [address](#) the issue of marine litter by empowering the regulatory framework for reducing single-use plastic products, setting ambitious quantitative targets, and incorporating reduction measures including on microplastics in our national marine litter agenda, and to undertake the following actions:
 - a) Promoting prevention measures and circular approaches also to open green economy opportunities; supporting long-term viable recycling targets; adopting national plans to progressively achieve 100% plastic waste collection and recycling; and addressing the private sector to minimize plastic packaging;
 - b) Making the Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme-based marine litter monitoring in the Mediterranean fully operational, providing an assessment of the impacts of marine litter in the Mediterranean Sea and [coastal areas](#) and;

3. We recognize (...) (TEXT NOT MODIFIED); and agree to scale up (...) (TEXT NOT MODIFIED) undertaking the following actions,
a) Promoting (...) (TEXT NOT MODIFIED);
b) Making the (...) (TEXT NOT MODIFIED);
c) Further enhancing (...) (TEXT NOT MODIFIED);

c) Further enhancing the coordinated actions of stakeholders, through the Regional Cooperation Platform on Marine Litter;

d) Launching awareness raising campaigns on the impacts of litter, and in particular plastic litter and microplastics, on the marine environment.

6. We are conscious that a Strategy on Sustainable Tourism could usefully complement our Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management and our Regional Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production;

Concerned by air quality degradation in the Mediterranean basin, especially in coastal zones, and taking into account recent studies demonstrating the significant health, environmental and economic benefits of establishing an emission control area of sulfur oxide (SO_x), or SECA, in the Mediterranean, that would prevent about 1,700 premature deaths per year and represent a health gain monetarized to the amount of 8.1 to 14 billion euros for the entire Mediterranean;

7. We commit to submit to IMO in 2020 a joint proposal for a SECA in all the Mediterranean.

Acknowledging with concern that only 8.9% of the surface of the Mediterranean sea is under a legal designation or protection status; that only 1.6% and 0.04 % is covered by nationally designated sites and MPAs no-go, no-take or no-fishing zones; that only highly protected marine areas have proven to be really efficient, and that our region has to play a primary role also for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ);

Concerned that our region did not yet achieve the SDG Target 14.5 to conserve at least 10% of marine and coastal areas by 2020; that efforts are still required for a more homogeneous spatial distribution of MPAs in the Mediterranean basin; and that only 10% of our MPAs are duly implementing management plans;

5. We re-commit to the sustainable use of natural resources and to implement science-based management for the benefits of the local communities, to mainstream biodiversity conservation into sectoral strategies and programs, to achieve at least the 10% of coverage of the Mediterranean region with MPAs by 2021 the end of 2020 and to support their sustainable financing, in particular through the Med Fund initiative;

6. *We are engaged to* clearly share responsibilities and targets among actors and stakeholders at global, regional, national and local level, to reach long-term structural solutions, with a view at adopting additional protection measures and, therefore, to:

a) Support a new ambitious plan for biodiversity and ecosystems through the development of the revised Strategic Action Programme (SAP BIO) for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable management of natural resources, fostering capacity building and synergies with biodiversity-related Conventions;

b) Encourage the designation of MPAs in the Med, based on relevant scientific and technical information including the information available from the EBSA process Encourage and support the designation of MPAs, based on scientific and technical information also from the EBSA (Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas) process, accelerate the effective management of the current MPAs network, and enhance the science-policy interface to increase efforts for key species, habitats and ecosystem conservation;

c) Develop mechanisms for exchanging information and promoting cooperation on thematic themes and interdisciplinary approaches in MPAs, as twinning agreements, and for their participatory planning and management to actively involve local socio-economic stakeholders, including fishermen and tourism actors;

Concerned that the Mediterranean is recognized as a climate change hot spot, with average annual temperatures above the current global warming trends (+1.1°C), marine acidification and sea level

Commented [UNEP/MAP17]: Additions proposed by France (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP18]: Addition proposed by France (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP19]: Algeria suggests to put the acronym "BBNJ" in brackets (communication by Algeria on 6 November)

Commented [UNEP/MAP20]: Comment by France: "the mention of BBNJ is not really clear and could appear in a self-standing paragraph" (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP21]: While agreeing with the content of the biodiversity paragraphs Spain proposes, in order to avoid a too detailed declaration (communication by the EU on 5 November) to merge points 5 and 6 as it follows.

5. *We re-commit (...)* (TEXT NOT MODIFIED); and agree to engage to clearly (...) (TEXT NOT MODIFIED) and, therefore, to:

- a) *Support (...)* (TEXT NOT MODIFIED);
- b) *Encourage (...)* (TEXT NOT MODIFIED);
- c) *Develop (...)* (TEXT NOT MODIFIED).

Commented [UNEP/MAP22]: Comment by France: "Why should we postpone our engagement to 2021?" (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP23]: Addition proposed by France (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP24]: Addition suggested by Greece and in line with EU Council Conclusions of 9th October 2018 (communication by the EU on 5 November) commenting that this is an issue of great importance for Greece.

Commented [UNEP/MAP25]: Explanation requested by Croatia about the meaning (communication by the EU on 5 November)

rising at an accelerating rate, frequent and extreme events like droughts and rainfall, exacerbating the existing environmental and social problems;

Recognizing that, as evidenced by the 2019 IPCC Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere, [and by other relevant report as the Preliminary assessment of risks associated to climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region by the MedECC network](#), climate change triggers important risks for our coastal and marine ecosystems – and, therefore, for the human well-being and security – affecting biodiversity and fresh water, food security, coastal infrastructures and cities, historic and cultural heritage, *and* that to address these challenges we must enforce the governance of our sea and coastal region;

7. *We are conscious* that these processes require an ambitious strategy of adaptation to climate change, as per the specificities of our sea and coasts, with a focus on water management, to be built upon the mechanisms developed in Barcelona Convention decisions, projects and initiatives, such as the 2017 Regional Climate Change Adaptation Framework for the Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Areas and the Coastal Area Management Programme (CAMP);

8. *We reaffirm*, [according to the capacities of the countries](#), our commitment toward governance and policy responses based on scientific evidence, to strengthen the application of Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and its role, and *we commit*, therefore, our support to:

- a) Collect scientific findings in an easily accessible form on behalf of decision-makers at any level and develop transdisciplinary research and inter-sectoral policies to [address](#) climate change through a cross-cutting approach, particularly in the water-food-energy nexus;
- b) Evaluate the environmental, economic and social impacts of sea level rise and coastal hazards, associated with climate change in coastal areas, with a view to ensure that land use planning and infrastructure take full account of relevant climate change scenarios and uncertainties;
- c) Boost capacity building and involvement of a range of actors – particularly the scientific community, private sector and civil society – in designing and implementing adaptation strategies, and mobilizing funding resources, *inter alia*, through subsidies' reforms and efficient green tax collection;

Recognizing the increasing competition for the use of marine and coastal space and resources in the Mediterranean, the need for increased effort to control and minimize the impacts, [also in terms of pollution with oil chemicals, industrial and tourist facilities](#) – associated with the expansion of the maritime sectors, and that, for example, in 2015, the Mediterranean and Black Sea region had the lowest percentage of sustainable fish stocks worldwide (37.8%), with 78% of their fish stocks fished at biologically unsustainable levels;

Considering that the resources of the Mediterranean should trigger economic prosperity and contribute to the stability of the region with green jobs and innovation opportunities for the maritime economy sectors (aquaculture, fisheries, tourism, shipping, ports) and in emerging ones (blue biotechnologies, marine renewable sources, services digitalization), in full respect of the environmental protection, in a circular approach and good governance pattern, [in full compliance with the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 – in particular its Objective 5 “Transition towards a green and blue economy”](#);

9. *We reaffirm* that effective Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) and Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in the Mediterranean, in conjunction with sustainable consumption and production approaches, are crucial to promote sustainable and synergic uses of marine and coastal areas and resources, together with research and innovation;

10. *We decide* to act to swiftly implement the ICZM Protocol increasing its ratification level, to foster the green transition, and the linked initiatives promoted by the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona

Commented [UNEP/MAP26]: Addition proposed by [France](#) (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP27]: [Spain](#) proposes to follow the same approach as for the other chapters on marine litter and biodiversity, i.e. by merging the points (communication by [the EU](#) on 5 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP28]: Addition proposed by [Algeria](#) (communication by Algeria on 6 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP29]: Additions by [Syria](#) (suggestions via a communication of Syria on 4 November).

Commented [30R29]: [Syria](#) submitted the following comment on 20 November:
“The issue of pollution of oil, chemicals and industrial and tourist facility waste is not addressed, with regard to the fact that pollution from these substances from various sources, including infringements, is one of the most common and serious causes of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea, we suggest to be mentioned in the Ministerial declaration and to undertake effective measures to prevent, respond, reduce and eliminate them as much as possible and to take effective measures to reduce land based pollution, and promote the development and implementation of laws and legislations related to marine pollution of oil, chemicals and residues of various kinds to protect our Mediterranean and sustain its resources for future generations.”

Commented [UNEP/MAP31]: Addition proposed by [Montenegro](#) (communication by Montenegro on 8 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP32]: [Spain](#) proposes to follow the same approach as for the other chapters on marine litter and biodiversity, i.e. by merging the points 8, 9, 10 (communication by [the EU](#) on 5 November). [Spain](#) requires also explanation about priorities (marine litter, biodiversity ICZM and ICZM?).

Convention system, including the ICZM Common Regional Framework and Action Plan and the MSP Conceptual Framework, and *we commit to:*

- a) Ensuring sustainable and synergic uses of marine and coastal areas and resources, as well as circular economy and innovative tourism products and services, sharing experiences and information at all levels between institutions and projects including marine renewable energies;
- b) Ensuring the efficient implementation of the ICZM provisions, also by mainstreaming the coastal management practices and projects, though research and trainings on multi-level governance and stakeholder management and dialogue;
- c) Developing a framework of specific indicators for assessing the impact of marine and coastal tourism on destinations and for promoting ecotourism;

Deeply convinced of the importance of protecting the environment as well as the health of people living in the Mediterranean coastal region, and fully aware that the designation of the whole Mediterranean Sea as ECA (Emission Control Area) will lead to substantial benefits for both the environment and human health, resulting in a considerable reduction in cases of mortality and respiratory diseases related to the air quality;

11. We commit ourselves to submit a joint proposal to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) for the designation of the whole Mediterranean Sea as an ECA, including provision to ensure prevention and mitigation of possible negative socio-economic impacts deriving from its application.

14. We encourage our shipowners to implement the Charter for Good Practices in Maritime Transport for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment (SAILS Charter).

Recalling the need to use and share environmental knowledge, (as the 2019 State of the Environment and Development Report) through development, dissemination and communication targeted to the different contexts, and the urgency to engage all relevant stakeholders, and in particular the younger generations to directly participate in decisions affecting our common future;

~~11.12.~~ We recognize that “thinking green”, in terms of the environmental impact of our everyday life, requires to act accordingly as responsible citizens and institutions, and implies a call for action for all actors, locally and globally, on which the quality of life of our children depends.

~~12.~~ We commit to urgently execute the strategic decisions adopted in Naples at COP 21;

~~12.13.~~ We urge the implementation of cross-cutting flagship and pilot initiatives promoted by Contracting Parties and partners as strategical generational and transformational trends for the protection of the environment of the Mediterranean, contributing to its sustainable development, e.g.:

- a) the creation of new international MPAs also on a bilateral/multilateral basis in line with UNCLOS;
- b) the strengthening of the cooperation of UNEP/MAP in common areas with other UN programs or initiatives, such as the UNESCO/MAB Programme, the (FAO/GFCM), the Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS), the UN Regional Commissions for Africa, Europe and Western Asia (UN-ECA, UN-ECE, UN-ESCWA) and Global Environment Facility (GEF)/GEF;
- c) the implementation of a strategy for environmental communication and dissemination for the promotion of sustainable development, and of high quality and innovative education and training plans targeted according to the different contexts for reaching a diversified audience and the young;

Commented [UNEP/MAP33]: Addition by Italy to recall, in the Declaration, the process on ECA/SECA (communication by the EU on 5 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP34]: Consequent addition by Italy (both suggestion via a communication by the EU on 5 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP35]: Addition proposed by France (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP36]: Addition proposed by France (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP37]: Comment by France “Where is this “call for action”?” (communication by France on 4 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP38]: Paragraph 12 (as per the draft delivered on October 24th) suggested for deletion by Italy “firstly we do not understand which are these strategic decisions; Secondly, the adopted decisions (all decisions) need to be executed, and there is no need to stress such a commitment in the Declaration”. Greece suggests to delete the word “urgently” (communication by the EU on 5 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP39]: Deletion as requested by Italy and Greece; “in line with UNCLOS” added as per suggestions of Greece (both via a communication by the EU on 5 November).

Commented [UNEP/MAP40]: Addition proposed by France (communication by France on 4 November).

d) The enhancement of a regional science-policy interface to base policies on scientific expertise, to have a strategic decision-making process with a sound scientific basis;

~~13.14.~~ *We agree* on the four priority areas for actions and commitments identified at COP 21 to be part of the 2022-2027 Medium Term Strategy of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, and to foster its governance and enforcement mechanisms;

~~14.15.~~ *We ultimately engage* ourselves and our countries to renew the decades-long obligation toward a responsible path for the protection and the sustainable development of the *Mare Nostrum*, a common heritage we are today only trustees of and therefore we are called to preserve, enhance, clean up and pass on to future Mediterranean generations.

Commented [UNEP/MAP41]: Additions suggested by Croatia (communication by the EU on 5 November)