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Intergovernmental Review Meeting of
Mediterranean Coastal States and
First Meeting of the Contracting Parties
to the Convention for the Protection of
the Mediterranean Sea against pollution
and its related protocols

Geneva, 5 - 10 February 1979

INFORMATION ON THE MEETING OF THE

BLUE PLAN FOCAL POINTS

Geneva, 1-2 February 1979

CONTENTS

- Agenda
- List of documents
- List of participants
- Expected financial contributions
- = Report of the Chairman of the Meeting

Note: The report of the Chairman of the Meeting is based on a text prepared by a drafting group (France, Greece, Malta, Monaco and Yugoslavia) and the discussions that followed. This report does not necessarily reflect the views of either all the participants or the Secretariat.

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Organization of the meeting and adoption of the agenda.
3. The Blue Plan and its relationship with other components of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
4. Arrangements for the implementation of the first phase of the Blue Plan.
5. Closure of the meeting.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

UNEP/WG.25/1 Provisional agenda

UNEP/WG.25/2 Provisional annotated agenda

UNEP/WG.25/3 Operational document for the Blue Plan (UNEP/IG.11/INF.6)

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

UNEP/WG.25/INF.1 Provisional list of documents

UNEP/WG.25/INF.2 Provisional list of participants

UNEP/WG.25/INF.3 Report of the Intergovernmental Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Blue Plan, Split, 31 January - 4 February 1977. (UNEP/IG.5/7)

UNEP/WG.25/INF.4 Report of the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Mediterranean Action Plan, Monaco, 9-14 January 1978. (UNEP/IG.11/4)

UNEP/WG.25/INF.5
and
UNEP/WG.25/INF.5/Add.1 Draft outlines of surveys and project proposals

UNEP/WG.25/INF.6 The Blue Plan (first phase). Survey on "Water Resources of the Mediterranean Basin". Terms of Reference. (UNEP/WG.16/3/Rev.1)

UNEP/WG.25/INF.7 Elements of a regional co-operation programme for fresh water resources management in the Mediterranean region. (UNEP/WG.16/4/Rev.1)

UNEP/WG.25/INF.8 National focal points for the Blue Plan

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS ON THE BASIS OF THE SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS ADOPTED AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING ON THE BLUE PLAN SPLIT, 31 JANUARY - 4 FEBRUARY 1977^{1/}

	Blue Plan \$	United Nations Scale of assessments (1977)	Blue Plan Scale of assessments
Albania	1 200	0.02	0.16
Algeria	6 075	0.10	0.81
Cyprus	1 200	0.02	0.16
Egypt	4 275	0.08	0.65
France	343 725	5.66	45.83
Greece	23 700	0.39	3.15
Israel	14 550	0.24	1.94
Italy	200 400	3.30	26.72
Lebanon	1 800	0.03	0.24
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	10.350	0.17	1.38
Malta	1 200	0.02	0.16
Monaco (Principality of)	1 200	0.02	0.16
Morocco	3 075	0.05	0.41
Spain	92 925	1.53	12.39
Syrian Arab Republic	1 200	0.02	0.16
Tunisia	1 200	0.02	0.16
Turkey	18 225	0.30	2.43
Yugoslavia	23 100	0.38	3.08
	<hr/> 750 000	<hr/> 12.35	<hr/> 100.00
	=====	=====	=====

The total agreed cost for the first phase of the Blue Plan is \$1,490,000. This amount to be shared among Governments (50 per cent) and international organizations (50 per cent). So far, four Governments forwarded to UNEP their contributions (France, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malta, Morocco).

^{1/} Documents UNEP/IG.5/7, para. 57-62 and UNEP/IG.5/6/Rev.1, Annexe

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

ALGERIA
ALGERIE

Mohamed El-Hadi BENNADJI
Responsable de la pollution de la mer
Ministère de l'hydraulique de la mise
en valeur des terres et de la
protection de l'Environnement
ALGER
Tél.: 77 17 20. - 21

CYPRUS
CHYPRE

Andreas DEMETROPOULOS
Head, Fisheries Department
Ministry of Agriculture and
Natural Resources
Tagmatarchou Poulicu 5-7
NICOSIA

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE EUROPEENNE

Ubaldo ZITO
Chef du service des Relations
Internationales
Service de l'Environnement et de la
Protection des Consommateurs
Commission des Communautés
Européennes
200, rue de la Loi
Bruxelles

Tanino DICORRADO
Service de l'Environnement et de la
Protection des Consommateurs
Commission des Communautés
Européennes
200, rue de la Loi
Bruxelles
Tel.: 735 00 40/735 80 40
Telex: 21877 COMEU 8

FRANCE
FRANCE

René BOURONE
Structure Focale du Plan Bleu
Direction des Nations Unies et des
Organisations Internationales
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères
Quai d'Orsay
75007 Paris

Anne-Françoise MATHIEU
Ministère de l'Environnement et du
Cadre de la Vie
14, Boulevard Général Leclerc
92521 NEUILLY-sur-Seine

EGYPT
EGYPTF

Taher DINANA
First Secretary,
Permanent Mission of the
Republic of Egypt in Geneva
72, rue de Lausanne
1202 GENEVA
Phone: 31 65 30

GREECE
GRECE

Panos LAGOS
Scientific Collaborator
National Council for Physical
Planning and the Environment
Ministry of Co-ordination
Platia Syntagmatos
Athens
Phone: 3619273

ISRAEL
ISRAEL

Uri MARINOV*
Director, Environmental Protection
Service
Ministry of the Interior
P.O. Box 6158
Jerusalem 91060
Phone: 02-69671

ITALY
ITALIE

Franco FIORELLI*
Professeur
Institut d'Etudes pour la
Programmation Economique (ISPE)
Via Delisario 15
Rome
Tél.: 48 35 31

LEBANON
LIBAN

Joseph NAGGEAR
Président du Conseil d'Administration
du Conseil National de la Recherche
Scientifique du Liban
BEYROUTH

MALTA
MALTE

Louis J. SALIBA*
Secretary
Malta Human Environment Council
Ministry of Health and Environment
Valetta

Tel: 24071
Télex: MOD MLT 800

MONACO

Alain VATRICAN*
Secrétaire Général
Centre Scientifique de la
Principauté de Monaco
Monaco

Tél.: (93) 33 38 79 - 30 33 71

MOROCCO
MAROC

Mohammed BLEMAHI
Directeur de l'Aménagement du
Territoire
Ministère de l'Habitat et de l'Aménagement
du Territoire
RABAT
Phone: 643.84

SPAIN
ESPAGNE

Alonso ALVAREZ DE TOLEDO
Deputy Permanent Representative in the
Permanent Mission of Spain in Geneva
72, rue de Lausanne
1202 GENEVE
Phone: 31 22 30 - 31 22 39

TUNISIA
UNISIE

Hedia BACCAR*
Attaché de Cabinet,
Direction de l'Environnement
Ministère de l'Agriculture
TUNIS
Tél.: 263 342

TURKEY
TURQUIE

Ozdogan AKTAR
Chef du Département des Relations
Internationales
Organisation de l'Environnement
Ataturk Bulvari No. 125
YENISEHIR/ANKARA
Phone: 18 18 61

YUGOSLAVIA
YUGOSLAVIE

Franjo GASPAROVIC*
Komisija Za Jadran
Republički Sekretarijat Za Urbanizam
Marulićev Trg 16
41000 Zagreb

Tel: 11/447 811

Mihó CERINEO
Conseiller Scientifique
Institut de Physique
Studentski Trg 12/F
P.O. box 57
11000 BEOGRAD
Phone: (011) 637-569

Mustafa BIJEDIC
Conseiller,
Mission permanente de la R.S.F. de
Yougoslavie
5 Chemin Thury
1206 GENEVE
Phone: 46 44 33

* * *

OBSERVERS
OBSERVATEURS

Norberto DELLA CROCE
Gruppo Ricerca Oceanologica, Genova
Palazzo dell'Universita
Via Balbi 5
GENOVA, Italie

Bruno GRASSETI
Expert - University of Rome
Via Emilia 47
ROME, Italie

* * *

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS
REPRESENTANTS DES NATIONS UNIES, INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES ET AUTRES ORGANISATIONS

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Peter KING
ECE, Environment Division - Secretariat
Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVA

UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL
DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION

Jack B. CARMICHAEL
International Centre for Industrial
Studies
UNIDO
Lerchenfelderstrasse 1
A1070 VIENNA, Austria

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME

Stjepan KECKES
Director
Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre
UNEP, Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

Richard HELMER
Deputy Director
Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre
UNEP, Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

Mohamed TANGI ^{1/}
Programme Officer
Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre
UNEP, Palais des Nations
1211 Geneva 10

S. ABDALLAH
6 ibn Malek Street
Gizah
Cairo
Egypt

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAMME

Anders PERSSON
Senior Liaison Officer
UNDP, Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVA

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE FOR
TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Laila EL-HAMAMSY
Project Director
Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVA

^{1/} Secretary of the Meeting
Secrétaire de la Réunion

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES / AGENCES SPECIALISEES

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Harry EVAN
Working Conditions and
Environment Department
ILO
1211 Geneva 22

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL
ORGANIZATION

Michel BATTISSE
Scus Director Général Adjoint pour
la Science (Environnement et
Ressources Naturelle)
UNESCO
7, Place de Fontenoy
75007 PARIS

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION

Ivan ZRAJEVSKIJ
Scientific Officer Meteorological
Application and Environment Department
WMO
1211 GENEVA

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

Rajesh RAWAT
Secrétaire Général Adjoint
WTO
Avenida del Generalísimo 59
Madrid 16

* * *

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY

Merle S. OPELZ
Head, IAEA Office in Geneva
Le Bocage, Palais des Nations
1211 GENEVA 10

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS -
ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES ET NON-GOUVERNEMENTALES

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE AND
NATURAL RESOURCES

Pierre HUNKELER
Programme Officer
IUCN
CH-1110 Morges

MEDEAS (CENTRE D'ACTIVITES DEVELOPPEMENT-ENVIRONNEMENT EN MEDITERRANEE)
acting as Regional Activity Centre for the Blue Plan

René SOURONE
Directeur
MEDEAS
Chateau Font de Veyre
70, Avenue du Dr. Picaud
06150 CANNES, France

Jean-Paul PFISTER
Chargé de Mission
MEDEAS
Chateau Font de Veyre
70, Avenue du Dr. Picaud
06150 - CANNES, France

TOWN PLANNING INSTITUTE OF DALMATIA, SPLIT
acting as Regional Activity Centre for the Priority Actions Programme

B. KALOGJERA
Urbanisticki Zavod Dalmacije
Iza Vestibula 1
P.O. box 74
58000 SPLIT, Yugoslavia
Phone: 41 966
Cables: URBS, SPLIT

* Nominated as National Focal Point for the Blue Plan.
Nommé Point Focal National pour le Plan Bleu.

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN ON THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE
MEETING OF THE BLUE PLAN FOCAL POINTS

The participants reached a consensus on the following part of the document:

The Governments participating in the Split and Monaco Meetings approved the Blue Plan and the definition of the objectives and implementation arrangements for the first phase of the Plan.

The concern of Governments to ensure that specific measures were speedily adopted led the participants in the Focal Points Meeting to note that the implementation of the first phase of the Blue Plan was hampered by the following difficulties:

Lack of adequate data for appraisal, particularly as regards links between the Blue Plan and other elements of the Mediterranean Action Plan;

Difficulties in raising the contributions in cash, in kind or in services that had been hoped for;

The fact that not all Governments have designated their Focal Point. 1/

Leaving aside the delay caused by the lack of financial resources, it is evident that only the designation of focal points will enable this co-operation project to get under way.

The participants did not have time to agree on the wording of a definitive text for the next paragraphs. Their proposals may be summarized as follows:

In so far as activities under the Blue Plan will have an appreciable effect on activities undertaken within the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan, the first phase should be designed as an exploratory phase to cover the entire range of problems posed by the evolution of the Mediterranean ecosystem with a view to identifying and suggesting actions and measures to be undertaken as a matter of priority under the Mediterranean Action Plan. 2/

The Focal Points Meeting proposed that the Intergovernmental Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Mediterranean Action Plan and First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and the related Protocols should examine, with a view to its approval, the "operational document for the Blue Plan"

1/ Some participants considered that the words "Focal Points" should be replaced by "national points" or "national co-ordinators".

2/ This text is a condensed version of closely related proposals made by the representatives of Lebanon, Malta, Turkey and Yugoslavia.

(UNEP/IG/11/INF.6 or UNEP/WG.25/3), 3/ as well as the following proposals for the implementation of the first phase of the Blue Plan: 4/

On the proposal of the Focal Points, the Executive Director of UNEP will ensure that members of the Group on Co-ordination and Synthesis are recruited in accordance with the rules regarding North-South balance adopted for the execution of the Blue Plan.

In consultation with the Focal Points, the Group on Co-ordination and Synthesis will be entrusted with the task of preparing and discussing the instructions for the surveys.

(The Co-ordination Group should take into account the recommendations of Governments concerning the six priority fields selected at the Split meeting. The members of the Group will have to take into consideration the results already achieved in the following areas:

1. Aquaculture development in the Mediterranean;
2. Practical applications of renewable sources of energy;
3. Management of water resources.) 5/

3/ This proposal was widely supported by the participants in the Focal Points Meeting.

4/ In the interest of conciseness, the representative of Lebanon proposed the following text:

"The meeting submits document UNEP/IG.11/INF.6 to the Meeting of Mediterranean States for discussion and approval and draws particular attention to the following points:

The project's financial and administrative implementation is entrusted to UNEP;

UNEP is authorized to sub-contract to an ad hoc BP/RAC agency the execution aspects of the project;

The Focal Points Meeting shall orient and supervise the work of executing the project; it shall perform these functions on a continuing basis through a committee of five members appointed by consensus of the Meeting from a list of persons nominated by its members. The membership of the committee, whose task will be to supervise the efficient execution of the work, should ensure balanced representation of all regions of the Mediterranean basin."

5/ The representatives of Italy, Lebanon and Malta requested the deletion of this paragraph.

The survey instructions will be harmonized by the Group in order to avoid overlapping of activities and to take account of the results achieved by the Mediterranean Action Plan.

On the basis of the proposals in table 1 of document UNEP/WG.25/3 or UNEP/IG.11/INF.6, it will clarify, refine or adjust the definition of the topics to be surveyed under the Blue Plan.

The "North-South pairs of experts" 6/ who will lead the work in the various fields will be appointed in the light of the requirements expressed in the instructions and on the recommendation of the Focal Points.

In carrying out the work under the Blue Plan, continuous relations must be maintained with international and regional organizations, so that the best use may be made of the skills, experience and data they can make available. 7/

The work will be co-ordinated and consolidated at the Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre (BP/RAC-MEDEAS at Cannes). The supervisory personnel of this Centre will be recruited on the basis of recommendations by the Focal Points. 8/

The over-all cost of the work to be done by the Group on Co-ordination and Synthesis, by the experts and by the Regional Activities Centre is set out in the budget proposals submitted to the Intergovernmental Meeting held at Split in January 1977. Attention was drawn to the fact that a scale of assessments and a budget for the first phase of the Blue Plan had been drawn up at that Meeting. 9/ The budget will have to be brought up to date. 10/

The establishment of an Advisory Scientific Council was considered desirable only for the second, or even the third, phase. 11/

6/ The representative of Italy requested the addition of the words "or research institutes".

7/ This paragraph was included at the request of the representatives of the organizations of the United Nations system, with reference to paragraph 28-4 of document UNEP/IG.5/7.

8/ The representative of Morocco urged that descriptions of the posts to be filled should be given and that a time-limit should be set in order to facilitate the submission of nominations by the Focal Points.

9/ The representative of Morocco requested that an accurate statement of the contributions to be paid by Governments should be submitted to the Intergovernmental Meeting.

10/ The representative of Lebanon proposed that the following should be added at the end of this paragraph: "... in the light of the results achieved by the Mediterranean Action Plan and the major contribution in documentation and expertise which may be made by the specialized agencies of the United Nations".

The representative of Italy considered that the Blue Plan should not have to suffer from any changes introduced in the over-all budget for the Mediterranean Action Plan.

11/ The representative of Turkey proposed that the reference to this Council should be deleted.

The Executive-Director of UNEP is requested to ensure satisfactory linkage between the Blue Plan and the other elements of the Mediterranean Action Plan and, in particular, effective co-ordination with the work which will be needed for implementation of the priority action programme. 12/

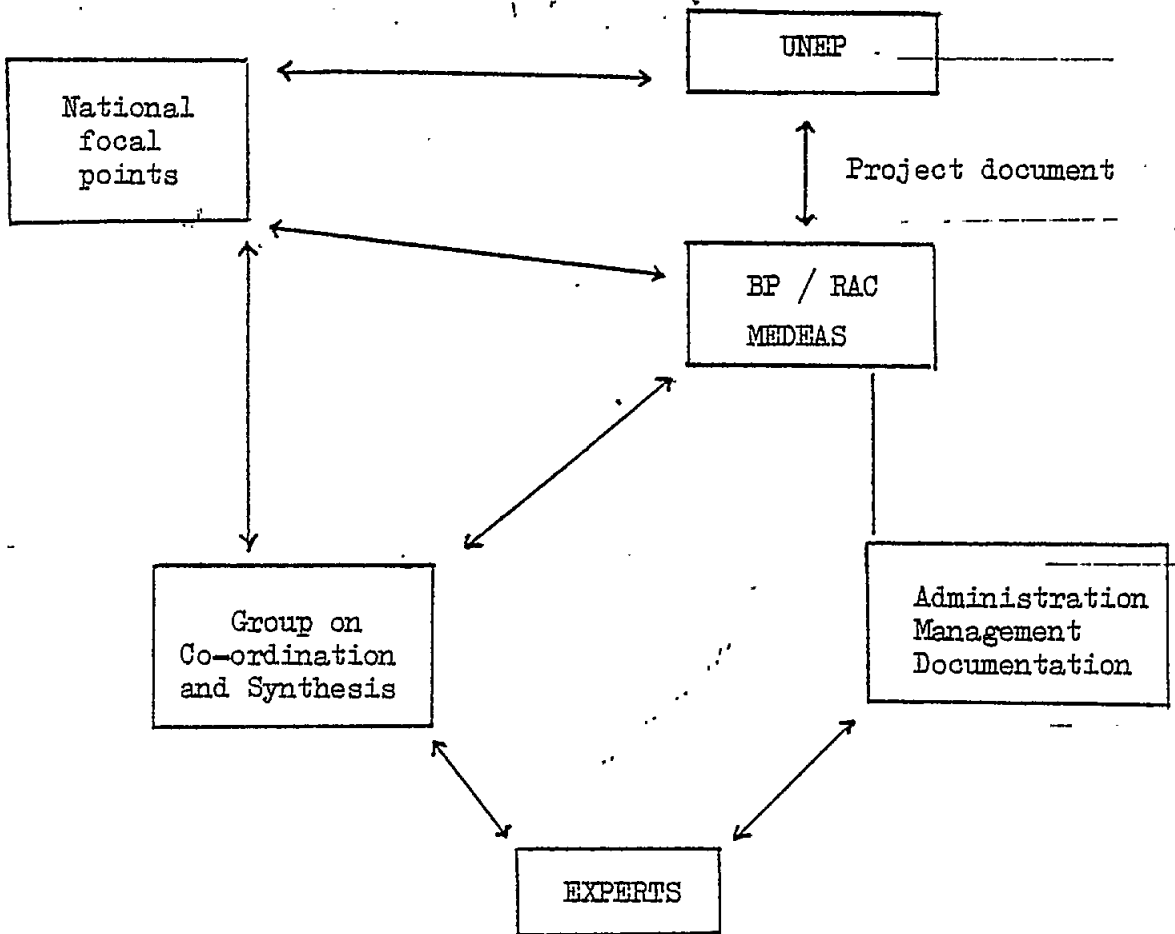
The representative of Italy requested that the document entitled "Criteria for connecting the first and the second phase of the Blue Plan and for verifying priority action" should be attached to the present document as annex II.

12/ The representative of Turkey proposed the following wording:
"... and, in particular, the priority topics".

ANNEX I

BLUE PLAN ORGANIGRAM

(First phase)



A N N E X · II

Criteria for connecting the first and the
second phase of the "Blue Plan", and for
verifying "Priority Actions"

Presented by FIORELLI, Blue Plan National Focal Point
for Italy

* * *

We agree with the adoption of the 'systems analysis' approach, which was suggested by us from the beginning.

It is our feeling that the 'systems analysis' approach must inspire the Blue Plan in itself as well as its relationship with the Priority Actions Programme. (P.A.P.)*.

With regard to the Blue Plan, two main 'scenarios' should be prepared:

- a trend scenario;
- an intention scenario.

The first scenario could also consider the most important trend interruptions.

The second scenario could be based on two different hypotheses:

- (a) improvement of international co-operation; and
- (b) protectionism adopted by the countries of the basin.

* See indications given, in general, at the end of the paragraph 29 of the Operational document for the Blue Plan (UNEP/IG.11/INF.6)

These scenarios should indicate the probable effects on the environmental conditions, considering both the marine and the ground pollution, distinguishing the different sources (agricultural, industrial, tourist and urban activities, energy and transportation).

As far as the second point of view (PAP) is concerned, the 'systems analysis' approach should give the possibility of verifying the degrees of compatibility, the relative importance (not only in space, but also in time) of the various PRIORITY ACTIONS, and, if it is necessary, the opportunities for new actions.

To this end, it would be useful, in order to give, first of all, an advanced definition of coastal lines and areas concepts by a sea-land integrated vision and technical progress application; to adopt the following 'objective-hypothesis':

- decrease the human urban settlements gravitating towards the coastline; reduce the industrial coastal locations; and move the touristic flux from the coast to the internal areas;
- decrease the energy wastes and substitute the energy sources, with reference to social benefits;
- increase in the perspective the relative importance (from an ecological as well as an economic point of view) of the marine resources, in comparison with land resources, adopting a new definition of coastal lines and areas;
- rationalize and specialize the transportation system, with principal reference to maritime transportation in the entire basin.

Since now, it is possible to assume that the above-mentioned 'objective-hypothesis' (O.H.) should have different degrees of importance and different implications on the basis of the various PRIORITY ACTIONS considered.

For example:

- The O.H. Nr. 1 would have provisional effects on protection of soil, urban and tourist settlements and water resources management;
- The O.H. No. 2 would have more direct effects on the P.A. concerning alternative sources of energy;
- The O.H. No. 3 would have more direct effects on the P.A. concerning marine parks and aquaculture;
- The O.H. No. 4 seems to call for a new P.A. regarding till now not considered.

The implications of the various actions, in this context, could be explored in terms of "casual", "conflicting" or "synergetic" relations.

Anyway, it is clear that the actions regarding both land and water resources management have a general importance (and could have some pattern of unification into the exposed context).

Finally; in relation to the training programme for environmental management (at Urbino), we believe that this programme too would be qualified in order to achieve the above-mentioned guidelines, by a special course in systems analysis, a centre of selective documentation, and some interesting case studies.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

UNEP/WG.25/1 Provisional agenda

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UNEP/WG.25/3 Operational document for the Blue Plan (UNEP/IG.11/INF.6)

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UNEP/WG.25/INF.8 National focal points for the Blue Plan

A G E N D A

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ANNEX II

Criteria for connecting the first and the
second phase of the "Blue Plan", and for
verifying "Priority Actions"

Presented by FIORELLI, Blue Plan National Focal Point
for Italy

* * *

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