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21st Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee

Teleconference, 13-14 May 2020

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2020

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. In accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and in consultation with the President of the MCSD, the 21st Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee is expected to be held on 13-14 May 2020 through teleconference. Modalities for connection through electronic means will be communicated to the participants in due time.
2. The purpose of this meeting is twofold: (1) to review progress on the work done since the 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019); and (2) to discuss specific issues related to decisions adopted at the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 21) (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).
3. Documentation is provided in English and French. As per practice, pre-session documentation is not distributed on paper. Participants are encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session. As agreed with the meeting participants, the working language of the meeting will be English.
4. The following annotations to the provisional agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. After welcoming remarks by the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Mr. Gaetano Leone, the meeting will be opened at 09:30 local time in Athens, Greece (GMT+3), on Wednesday 13 May 2020 by the President of the MCSD, Ms. Ivana Stojanovic.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.479/1 UNEP/MED WG.479/2
Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.2

6. As per Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the MCSD, the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols will apply *mutatis mutandis*.
7. The meeting is expected to review and adopt the Provisional Agenda contained in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.479/1 and annotated in the present document.
8. It is expected that the MCSD Steering Committee discusses all the items of the agenda during its two-day meeting. It is envisaged to close the meeting at 17:00 on Thursday 14 May 2020.
9. The report of the meeting will be finalized after the meeting and distributed to the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee for their comments and approval through electronic means.

Agenda item 3: Work of the MCSD and MSSD Implementation: Review of Progress for the Period July 2019 – April 2020

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.479/3
Information Document	UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.3
Reference Documents	UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11

Publication	UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.17 Simplified Peer Review Mechanism of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (SIMPEER). Editions 2016-2017 and 2018-2019
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10. The Secretariat will introduce Working Document UNEP/MED WG.479/3 that presents the progress in MCSD and MSSD related activities since the 18th Meeting of the MCSD, covering the period July 2019 – April 2020.

11. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are expected to comment on the progress presented by the Secretariat and to report on their own activities that contributed to the MSSD implementation and follow-up during this period.

Agenda item 4: Specific Issues

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED WG.479/5
Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.5 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.6
Reference Documents	UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11 UNEP/MED IG.24/Inf.14 UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.17
Publication	Simplified Peer Review Mechanism of National Strategies for Sustainable Development (SIMPEER). Editions 2016-2017 and 2018-2019

12. The Secretariat will introduce Working Document UNEP/MED WG.479/4 “Report on Specific Issues” that brings to the attention of the MCSD Steering Committee substantive elements on key MSSD and sustainable development related activities, as enumerated below, for review and discussion by the committee.

13. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are expected to provide comments and guidance on the following specific issues:

A. Mid-Term Evaluation of the MSSD

14. Through Decision IG.24/3, COP 21 requested the Secretariat to undertake the mid-term evaluations of the MSSD and of the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (SCP Action Plan). The MCSD, through its Steering Committee, is expected to have a leading role for the participatory mid-term evaluation of the MSSD.

15. As per approved roadmaps, the Secretariat will address in parallel the preparation of the UNEP/MAP Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027 and the mid-term evaluations of the MSSD and of the SCP Action Plan. The mid-term evaluations represent also a good opportunity to anticipate further alignment, in the future, of those policy instruments with the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

16. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are invited to provide comments on the MSSD mid-term evaluation process and activities that are introduced in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.479/4, and to fine-tune its leading role in the proposed participatory approach.

17. Comments and advice from the MCSD Steering Committee are also expected on the following aspects: making the best use of the available material and evidence; ensuring an integrative process and a crosscutting approach for conducting in parallel the MSSD and SCP Action Plan mid-term

evaluations and the preparation of the MTS 2022-2027; addressing the possible further alignment of the MSSD with 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

B. *MSSD Flagship Initiatives*

- Mediterranean Green Business Award, to be introduced by the Secretariat (SCP/RAC)
- Regional Assessments and Knowledge Exchanges of High- and Low-Tech Solutions Successfully Implemented to Achieve Waste Reduction, to be introduced by MIO-ECSDE
- Environmental Governance, to be introduced by MIO-ECSDE
- Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award, to be introduced by the Secretariat

18. The Secretariat, including SCP/RAC, and MIO-ECSDE, as invited speaker for the corresponding meeting session, will introduce four MSSD Flagship Initiatives and related developments and perspectives of interest for the work of the MSCD and its Steering Committee.

19. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are expected to consider specific issues introduced in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.479/4 for providing feedback and advice to the Secretariat on the way forward.

C. *Assessment Studies*

- Consultation on the First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) of Mediterranean Experts on Climate and Environmental Changes (MedECC), to be introduced by MedECC
- Publication and Dissemination of the 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED 2019), to be introduced by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu)
- MED 2050 Foresight Study, to be introduced by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu)

Consultation on MedECC First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) and its Summary for Policymakers (SPM)

20. At COP 21, through Decision IG.24/4, the Contracting Parties expressed appreciation to the progress being made by MedECC on MAR1 that aims at presenting the state of scientific, technical and socio-economic knowledge on climate and environmental changes in the Mediterranean region and their impacts and future risks. The Contracting Parties approved the elements of the Roadmap for the Consultation of Decision-Makers and Stakeholders on the MAR1. They also requested the Secretariat to undertake communication on MedECC.

21. The Secretariat is working with the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) to support this important regional initiative that is in line with the following MSSD Flagship Initiative: “*Establish a regional science-policy interface mechanism (...) with a view to preparing consolidated regional scientific assessments and guidance on climate change trends, impacts and adaptation and mitigation options*”.

22. Following the scientific review of MAR1, the draft report and its draft SPM, including key messages, are expected to undergo the consultation with decision-makers and stakeholders, involving *inter alia* MAP and MAP Components Focal Points, Members of the MCSD, and MAP Partners.

23. It is expected that, during the 21st Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, one of the two MedECC Coordinators, Mr. Joel Guiot, present the main findings of the draft report and the key messages of its SPM. Questions and answers, and a discussion will follow to collect general feedback and detailed comments from the members of the committee.

Publication and Dissemination of the 2019 State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean Report (SoED 2019)

24. Considering the importance of this report and its publication, the Secretariat has prepared a MAP system-wide communication plan on SoED 2019, based on proposals from Plan Bleu. Aiming to ensure a broad dissemination of the report's findings and to position the SoED 2019 as a flagship knowledge product of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system, the plan includes a set of communication products and sets out key events where the report will be showcased.

25. The publications of the SoED 2019 and of its Summary for Decision Makers and Key Messages are under finalization in cooperation with the UNEP Publishing Board to receive ISBN numbers.

26. The MCSD Steering Committee is invited to comment the planned activities related to the SoED 2019 publication and dissemination, as introduced in Working Document UNEP/MED WG.479/4, as well as the draft communication plan included in Annex III of that document.

MED 2050 Foresight Study

27. Through Decision IG.24/4 and Activity 1.4.1.4 of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 (Decision IG.24/14), COP 21 mandated the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to carry out Phase II of the MED 2050 preparation process, as a new foresight exercise on the environment and development in the Mediterranean.

28. Working Document UNEP/MED WG.479/4 introduces the structure and process of that exercise, in particular the roles of specific groups that are designed to undertake Phase II of MED 2050, as well as the expected participatory and communication approach.

29. The MCSD Steering Committee is invited to comment the planned activities related to MED 2050 Foresight Study and to position its role in this participatory prospective exercise.

D. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators

30. Through Decision IG.24/3 adopted at COP 21, the Contracting Parties welcomed the work done, took note of the updated list of indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, and requested the Secretariat (Plan Bleu) to populate the indicators, using existing sources of information and data and giving priority to those addressing coast-related and sea-related issues. They also recognized the living nature of the list of indicators and the need to keep it under review under the guidance of the MCSD Steering Committee, with the technical support of Plan Bleu, as international work on SDG indicators progresses. It is also expected that the populated dashboard feeds the MSSD mid-term evaluation.

31. In addition, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat, through Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC, to integrate the list of SCP indicators, welcomed and taken note of at COP 20, in the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard. During the 2020-2021 biennium, SCP/RAC will review the list of 25 indicators, in light of the latest development at the global level and populate them. Factsheets will be prepared for each indicator. Once completed these factsheets will be integrated in the Plan Bleu's Mediterranean Observatory on Environment and Sustainable Development.

32. The MCSD Steering Committee is invited to discuss the progress achieved and perspectives to enhance synergies between the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, SCP indicators, and SDG indicators, taking also into account the Mediterranean specificities and data availability issue. The members of the committee are also invited to provide advice to the Secretariat on the next steps of this process.

E. Other issues

- Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)
- MCSD Membership

Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)

33. The 18th Meeting of the MCSD strongly encouraged Contracting Parties, in particular those which are Members of its Steering Committee and those that have already gone through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process at the global High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), to participate in the SIMPEER third edition in 2020-2021. However, no budget has been secured for this activity in the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021.

34. SIMPEER being an important, innovative activity of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system, appreciated by the Contracting Parties – as reflected in the reports of the MCSD and Plan Bleu Focal Points meetings –, and an integral part of COP 19 Decision IG.22/17: Reform of the MCSD, the MCSD Steering Committee is invited to formulate conclusions and recommendations for maintaining or prolonging this activity in its work and in Plan Bleu work.

MCSD Membership

35. As per paragraph 9. II. of the Composition of the MCSD (Decision IG.22/17, Annex I), nine MCSD Members have to be considered for replacement because they will have completed three consecutive mandates by COP 22 to be held in Turkey in December 2021.

36. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are invited to express their opinion on issues related to MCSD Membership that are described in Working Document WG.479/4, providing guidance to the Secretariat to reach in due time relevant written expressions of interest. Any suggestion of possible candidates would be also welcomed.

Agenda item 5: The Coronavirus Pandemic: Initial Consideration on its Impact on the Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean Region and Possible Responses

Working Document	UNEP/MED WG.479/4
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37. Based on initial consideration introduced in Working Document WG.479/4, the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are invited to reflect on the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the sustainable development of the Mediterranean Region, and possible responses.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Matters

38. The MCSD Steering Committee is invited to consider other issues that may be raised by its members.

Closure of the Meeting

39. The report of the meeting will be circulated to the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee at a later stage for approval.

40. The meeting is expected to be closed by the President of the MCSD, Ms. Ivana Stojanovic (Montenegro), at approximately 17:00 on Thursday 14 May 2020.

Timetable

(The timetable should be read in current local time in Athens, Greece: GMT+3)

Wednesday, 13 May 2020			
Time	Agenda item		Document
09:30 – 10:00	1. Opening of the Meeting 2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work	President of the MCSD Steering Committee Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/1 UNEP/MED WG.479/2 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.2
10:00 – 11:00	3. Work of the MCSD and MSSD Implementation: Review of Progress for the Period July 2019 – April 2020	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/3 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.3 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED IG.24/Inf.14 UNEP/MED WG.469/11 UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.17
11:00 – 12:30	4. Specific Issues A. Mid-Term Evaluation of the MSSD	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11 UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.17
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:00 – 16:00	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) B. MSSD Flagship Initiatives - Mediterranean Green Business Award - Regional Assessments and Knowledge Exchanges of High- and Low-Tech Solutions Successfully Implemented to Achieve Waste Reduction - Environmental Governance - Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award	Secretariat (SCP/RAC) MIO-ECSDE (invited speaker) MIO-ECSDE Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.5 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11
16:00 – 17:00	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) D. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Integration of Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators	Secretariat (Plan Bleu, SCP/RAC)	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11 UNEP/MED WG.468/Inf.17
Thursday, 14 May 2020			
Time	Agenda item		Document
09:30 – 11:00	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) C. Assessment Studies: Consultation on MedECC First Mediterranean Assessment Report (MAR1) and its Summary for Policymakers (SPM)	Secretariat MedECC Coordinator, Mr. Joel Guiot (invited speaker)	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED WG.479/5 UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22
11:00 – 12:30	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) C. Assessment Studies:	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 UNEP/MED WG.469/11

	- Publication and Dissemination of the 2019 Report on the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED 2019) - MED 2050 Foresight Study		
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>		
14:00 – 15:00	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) E. Other issues - Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) - MCSD Membership	Secretariat (Plan Bleu) Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/4 UNEP/MED IG.24/22 Plan Bleu Publication (SIMPEER)
15:00 – 16:15	5. The Coronavirus Pandemic: Initial Consideration on its Impact on the Sustainable Development of the Mediterranean Region and Possible Responses	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.479/4
16:15 – 17:00	6. Any Other Matters Closure of the Meeting	Secretariat President of the MCSD	UNEP/MED WG.479/Inf.6
