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MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the
Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Tunis 20-21 January 2000

**REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF
THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT (MCSD)**

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Introduction

1. At its fifth meeting, which was held in Rome from 1-3 July 1999, the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) decided to convene the third meeting of its Steering Committee.
2. The third meeting of the Steering Committee, hosted by Tunisia, was held at the El Mechtel Abu Nawas hotel, Tunis, from 20-21 January 2000.
3. The following members of the Steering Committee, some of them accompanied by advisers, took part in the meeting: WWF, Group of Chambers of Commerce for the Development of the Greek Islands (EOAEN), Monaco, Tunisia, Turkey, and the City of Rome. The meeting was chaired by Mrs. Faiza Kefi, President of the MCSD's Steering Committee, with the WWF representative acting as rapporteur and the UNEP/MAP Secretariat as secretariat to the meeting.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The meeting was opened by H.E. Mrs. Faiza Kefi, Tunisian Minister for the Environment and Land Planning, who welcomed participants and wished them every success in their work. She congratulated all the riparian states on the efforts which they had made to implement the process of sustainable development within the framework of ever-increasing co-operation, and recalled the main initiatives which Tunisia for its part had undertaken on this front, as well as the bodies it had created to assist in their achievement. The forthcoming meeting had a heavy agenda before it, but work would be facilitated by the excellent preparatory work put in by the MAP Secretariat, particularly on the main matter to be dealt with: the Strategic Review for the Year 2000. Finally, Mrs. Kefi stressed that the coming into force of the SPA/Biodiversity Protocol on 12 December 1999 following ratification by six Contracting Parties was a major event which would be the subject of a press conference to be held on the fringes of the meeting, in order to bring its full significance home to Mediterranean public opinion. Mrs. Kefi's speech is reproduced *in extenso* in the Annex II.
5. Mr. Lucien Chabason, Coordinator of MAP, thanked Tunisia for its hospitality and the excellent way in which the meeting had been organised. He wished all participants a very Happy New Year 2000, a year which, for MAP, would be crowned by the crucial MCSD meeting in Tunis in November on the Strategic Review. Very recent events- particularly the floods and unprecedented storms which had hit one of the countries- had once again raised questions about the effects of climate change in the form of "extreme events" as scientists had been predicting for some years. At the same time, the shipwreck of an oil tanker off the Atlantic coastline of the same country, and the subsequent oil slick which had wiped out tens of thousands of birds, once again highlighted an essential aspect in the protection of the marine environment. Against this backdrop, the MCSD's vocation of shaping the region's future was brought even more sharply to the fore.

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Agenda

6. The meeting adopted its draft agenda with reference UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 166/1.

Agenda item 3: “Strategic Review for the Year 2000”: organisation of work, financing, products

7. Mr. Arab Hoballah, Deputy Coordinator of MAP, introduced the general outline of the Secretariat’s report (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 166/2), which was to be the meeting’s working document. On the Strategic Review, a set of five documents- a focus paper, methodological approach, draft model report, questionnaire and terms of reference for carrying out the Review- were annexed to the working document. Drawing up the Review, as established by the Commission’s remit, was a highly ambitious task to be completed within a very short time- about 5 months- before the next meeting of the MCSD in November. As it was impossible to deal exhaustively with all aspects, certain main tacks for reflection would have to be established. Although some of the activities could already be financed from available resources using certain lines related to sustainable development in the MAP budget adopted at the Malta meeting, and thanks also to a generous contribution from Monaco (200,000 FFr), additional funding still had to be found. The so-called “Strategic Review Steering Committee” (the new name given to the working party set up in Rome, to avoid any possible confusion with the thematic groups) made up of five MCSD members, was asked to draw up a model for the report to be provided by the members and observers of the Commission, before collecting and going through all the contributions. A co-ordinating and drafting committee made up of three experts (one for the Southern rim, Mr. Ennabli, one for the Northern rim still to be appointed, and a “Mediterranean” expert from the Secretariat) would be responsible for summarising and drafting the initial text of the Review two months prior to the Tunis meeting. The members of the Steering Committee were invited to give their views on these documents, and improve upon them to produce a new version, so that work on the Review could begin without fail in early March.
8. Mr. Ennabli, MAP consultant, gave a point by point introduction to the various guidance documents for the Strategic Review annexed to the working document, picking out the most salient points such as the questions, the general approach to be adopted bearing in mind the major ideas stemming from sustainable development, a reminder of the working objectives and development stakes in the Mediterranean, details of the questionnaire to be sent out to the Contracting Parties and other members of the MCSD in order to obtain the information for the report, and instructions for carrying out the review, with a proposed timetable.
9. The chairperson of the Steering Committee opened a general discussion on the Strategic Review and the various focus documents submitted to the meeting, noting that as far as she was concerned they appeared to sum up perfectly all the problems related to drawing up the report if the Tunis meeting were to be fruitful and productive, and stand as the first concerted attempt to draw up an assessment of sustainable development in the region. As successive speakers took the floor, they all echoed Mrs. Faiza Kefi’s view about the quality of the preparatory work carried out jointly by Mr. Ennabli and the Secretariat.
10. H.E. Mr. Bernard Fautrier, Minister Plenipotentiary responsible for environmental issues in Monaco, confirmed the willingness of his country to join the S.R. Steering Committee, and to host its first meeting. The general approach followed in the guidance documents was correct. Care would have to be taken not to “get bogged down in an environmental ghetto” and, in the spirit of sustainable development confirmed in Rio, an effort should be made to place problems in their economic and social context, which would give the Review greater credibility. It would be a good idea to add services (financial ones amongst others), new communication technologies, education, and reducing the North-South divide to the list of headings to be dealt with. As for the stakes involved, emphasis should be placed on the link which the sea represented for all Mediterraneans, the risk of seeing a quantitative reduction in its natural resources, and the climate changes likely to

affect it. Moreover, the area was exposed to the risk of shipping accidents similar to the one which had just occurred in the Atlantic off Brittany. Finally, the document should not focus too much on the activities of MAP- which was playing a pivotal role- but should rather be extended to all the other players involved in sustainable development.

11. On the questionnaire to be addressed to the Contracting Parties and other members of the Commission in order to collect the information needed for the Review, Mr. Fautrier felt that sometimes this type of procedure simply ended up being pushed into a drawer. Whilst it should not be ruled out completely, the large volume of documentation already available (reports to the UN-CSD, the UN-ECE etc.) should also be drawn on, which would in any case be essential given the limited time available.
12. Mr. George Giourgas, representing EOAEN, felt that the problem possibly lay in the wealth and exhaustive nature of the documents submitted to the Steering Committee: was it really necessary to have a guidance manual of 25 pages for a report which *in fine* would amount to 50 pages itself? And how would so many different elements be summed up? It would be better to summarise and to attach the documents as annexes to make them clearer and more operational for the recipient. Echoing the comments made by the previous speaker, Mr. Giourgas also asked for cross-border co-operation to be added to the list of headings dealt with in all of the areas listed, particularly in the transfer of know-how.
13. Mrs. Kumru Adanali from the foreign relations department of the Turkish Ministry of the Environment pointed out that a review such as this should basically target socio-economic development. Eight years had gone by since most of the countries had rallied behind the concept of sustainable development, and some of them had already made headway in the implementation of Agenda 21, but they were running into obstacles on the strategic level. The planned review would provide an opportunity for the Contracting Parties to further rationalise their efforts.
14. Mr. Beshir Ben Mansour, President and Director General of the Tunisian National Agency for the Protection of the Environment made some comments which referred more to form than to content: mentioning apparatus apart from the ballast removal plants, the possibility of having an inventory of offshore oil installations, using with care notions of eco-labels and eco-taxes which were not really applicable to the countries on the Southern rim, and adding cultural aspects. The major work going on in MAP with the assistance of the GEF could be counted on to get rid of pollution "hot spots". As for the indicators, a meeting held in Tunis at the initiative of the Blue Plan had shown that countries had made little or no headway in this field and that only two or three of them already had a substantial set of quantified indicators. Finally, on the reservations expressed about the questionnaire, it should be borne in mind that it would actively involve the countries in the process and would mean that official data could be used to stop the gaps in already existing documentation.
15. Mr. Franco la Torre, for the City of Rome, suggested that greater emphasis should be placed on the institutional aspects and, given the increase in urbanisation, also on the work of the local authorities, on habitats and employment. In general terms, the reworked document should give more column space to the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, since the EU was after all the main player in the region. The extent to which conventions concerning the Mediterranean had been implemented and how they were financed should also be assessed. Finally, the content of the questionnaire should be carefully defined and drawn up, since this would be an important information instrument, particularly for assessing institutional capacity.
16. Mr. Khalil Attia, Director General for the Environment in the Tunisian Ministry of the Environment felt that the Review should be future-oriented, bearing in mind globalisation

and the North-South partnership. Regarding the questionnaire, countries which had objective, quantified indicators were few and far between, and qualitative elements of assessment would have to be used. Finally, apart from the sustainability of the national programmes, the notion of social equity was also of the essence.

17. Mr. Paolo Guglielmi, WWF representative and rapporteur for the meeting, agreed with most of what had been said thus far. Rather than producing a "report on the environment" what should come across was how recommendations and policies had been applied in practice, and what legislation had actually been implemented. The questionnaire was directed first and foremost at administrations, but the opinions, needs and problems of civil society and companies in the private sector should also be reflected, as well as their reactions to sustainable development. In order to complete the work within the allotted time it might be a good idea to draw up synoptic tables using the various contributions.
18. For Mr. Patrick Van Klaveren, technical adviser (Monaco), the important thing was to "Mediterraneanise" the questions and to glean information from other international organisations. The Strategic Review should also be an instrument for co-operation. Some questions- such as tourism- went beyond the purely Mediterranean context in any case, involving other countries which indirectly exerted pressure on the region, so the Mediterranean should be seen in a global perspective, not forgetting the importance of bilateral co-operation with non-Mediterranean countries (Japan and Germany amongst others).
19. Following the first "tour de table" Mr. A. Hoballah summed up the main points on which a consensus appeared to have been reached, and which would be included in the conclusions from the meeting. It should be borne in mind that the Review would be read and, if possible, used by decision-takers and political leaders. Two points should be stressed in order to cover certain concerns: experts involved in drawing up the various reports would be "authorised" i.e. appointed by the governments or in concertation with them, and their reports would be "validated" i.e. approved by the same governments.
20. For his part, Mr. L. Chabason picked up on and stressed the idea of putting the Mediterranean into a global perspective. The Review should stress the region's input to the management of our planet, considering the extent to which the major world conventions and agreements had been applied (Habitat II, Kyoto, etc.). The rural dimension should also be mentioned, which had not been the case thus far, as should the essential contribution made by the local authorities and NGOs, and the everyday policies which in some cases were the result of choices made well before Agenda 21 was adopted. This would be very difficult to achieve, and was therefore a challenge to the entire Commission. Moreover, in each country, the authorities would be called upon to validate the part which applied to them.
21. The discussion then moved on to more practical details: to whom should the questionnaire be sent? How many experts, which ones, and for which reports? All members of the Commission should immediately be informed of the tasks they were expected to perform towards drawing up the Review, the timetable of work, different stages in the process and their validation, additional resources to be mobilised, the degree of flexibility required in drawing up the questionnaire. It was decided that the questionnaire should also be sent out to the 15 members of the 3 categories in the Commission who would answer those questions related to their field of competence. It was suggested that Mr. Batisse should be approached for the Northern rim in order to bring the co-ordinating and drafting committee for the report to be submitted to the 6th MCSD in November up to its full complement (Mr. Ennabli being there for the Southern rim and Mr. A. Hoballah acting as the third "Mediterranean" expert), and also that favourable consideration be given to France's offer to provide an expert for a short

period. All participants felt that the preparatory stage from early February to the end of April would be crucial in order to collect the information and prepare an initial summary of the various reports for the next meeting of the S.R. steering committee. Apart from the reports of the national experts and other members, three further reports would be drawn up: on civil society and the MCSD's partners, on international co-operation, and on the assessment of the MAP system. It was therefore of the essence that the process be launched within the coming two to three weeks if the deadlines were to be respected.

22. At financial level, the resources currently available thanks to the appropriations included in the 2000 budget, and the generous gesture made by Monaco, amounted to a package of around \$ 50 000 US. This would allow the regional reports to be financed and possibly, on request, would make it possible to support the national experts or consultants. The Secretariat was invited to seek the additional funding from other countries or institutions, as recommended by the Rome and Malta meetings.

Agenda item 4: Integration of the new members of the MCSD

23. At the Chairperson's request, the Secretariat pointed out that the Steering Committee- which would stay in place- was invited to integrate the new members of the MCSD approved by the meeting of the Contracting Parties in Malta within the current working groups, and to give its views on the continued participation of outgoing members during the inter-session period, the task managers remaining unchanged. The new members had already been contacted to ask them which groups they would like to take part in. Some of them were already involved as could be seen from the table annexed to the working document. The Steering Committee had approved the solution put forward by the Secretariat which would ensure essential continuity in the work of the thematic groups.
24. In response to a question from the EOAEN representative, it was agreed that the members of those working groups which had completed their work and whose recommendations had been adopted could continue to provide active assistance as members of the Commission, and could use their own experience to help in the follow-up of recommendations. The working groups should not be "institutionalised", however.

Agenda item 5: New themes for the MCSD's future programme: feasibility and partners

25. The Deputy Coordinator recalled that the list of new themes to be tackled once the eight themes adopted at the first meeting of the MCSD in Rabat had been completed had given rise to lengthy discussions at the 5th MCSD in Rome and at the meeting of the Parties in Malta. However, the experience gained from two of the Rabat themes which had not been sufficiently prepared showed that there had to be a "maturing" process to avoid any hold-ups or foot-dragging once the new themes had actually got off the ground.
26. Following a brief discussion, the Steering Committee decided that this "maturing" process would run along the following lines: the 6th meeting of the MCSD would be asked to rank the themes to be tackled in order of priority, based on pre-feasibility studies to be drawn up by the Secretariat using the criteria in its report ("importance", "assessment", "feasibility", "methodology"). These studies should demonstrate the Commission's "added value". According to the themes in question they would be left up to the RACs, members of the Commission or qualified international organisations (WHO, FAO, ILO). Once the 6th MCSD had selected the priority themes the Secretariat would undertake feasibility studies with the final choice of the new themes to be made by the 7th MCSD to be held in Turkey. This maturing process would bubble just below the surface, with the lion's share of the Commission's efforts obviously being concentrated on drawing up the Strategic Review.

27. For the completed themes the Steering Committee, in support of comments made by the Secretariat, felt that major efforts should be made towards distribution, with off-prints being made of the reports from seminars or workshops (as was the case for tourism), the publication of relevant documents of the "White Paper" style, and particularly through the organisation of pilot or demonstration projects, bringing countries and other members of the MCSD together in networks where possible.
28. In this respect, the Chairperson pointed out that in the light of her own personal experience as Minister of the Environment, some of her government colleagues might be directly interested in receiving MCSD documents on themes related to their own field (such as tourism, industry, free trade, etc.), and it could awaken them to the relevance of the work done within the Commission and could therefore create other positive knock-on effects.

Agenda item 6: MCSD- UN-CSD co-operation

28. The Secretariat pointed out that, in accordance with its mandate, co-operation with the UN-CSD was on the right track and that for the year 2000 it could take the form of two meetings which were to be assessed by the Steering Committee: a parallel meeting on the MCSD during the forthcoming UN-CSD session in April 2000 in New York; the holding of a regional consultation meeting on sustainable development to be held alongside the next meeting of the MCSD in Tunis in November 2000.
29. Some participants expressed doubts about the utility at this stage of holding a meeting about the MCSD in New York, which would be one of the MCSD's "side events", before the major matter of the Strategic Review had even got off the ground. Finally, the Steering Committee felt that it would be better to plan this meeting for the 2001 session when the "Strategic Review effect" would ensure that the Commission's visibility could be heightened.
30. The idea of rolling into one the regional consultation meeting with the UN-CSD and the 6th meeting of the MCSD in Tunis next November was supported by all participants- starting with the future host country, Tunisia- who saw it as a new dimension to the meeting, likely to increase the presence of ministers, and an excellent echo chamber for circulating the Strategic Review. To this end it was decided that, once there had been concertation on the organisation of the meeting with the UN-CSD Secretariat and the go-ahead had been given, a letter of invitation would be sent out to the relevant ministers in the riparian states as well as to the representatives of the CSD and of UNEP.

Agenda item 7: Agenda of inter-session activities

31. The Steering Committee confirmed that work on the last three themes, "Industry and sustainable development", "Free trade and the environment", and "Management of urban development" would be continued and completed so that their respective recommendations and proposals for action could be submitted to the Twelfth Ordinary Meeting in Monaco in 2001 after the interim regional meetings and workshops had been held, for which the calendar was set.

Agenda item 8: Next meeting of the Steering Committee

32. The Deputy Co-ordinator recalled that initially this meeting had been scheduled for 1999, and that there was therefore a budget line for the current year. Given the MCSD's very heavy programme- drafting of the Review, pre-feasibility studies, preparation for the highly important joint meeting in Tunis, and continuation of work on the remaining three themes- the Steering Committee booked the 22 and 23 June 2000 for its next meeting,

when the Review would already have taken shape, and it accepted the offer made by the EOAEN representative to host it in Corfu (Greece).

Agenda item 9: Sixth meeting of the MCSD and agenda

33. The Deputy Coordinator presented the highly provisional agenda to be found in Annex IV of the working document for the sixth meeting of the MCSD to be held in Tunis from 21-25 November 2000, including the regional consultation meeting of the UN-CSD. He pointed out that the ad hoc working groups planned for between the plenaries would look at certain aspects or issues from the Strategic Review so that the discussions in plenary would have some substance without having to get bogged down in too much technical detail. Also, as a further innovation, the discussions from the meeting would no longer give rise to an *in extenso* report, but rather to a straightforward summary of the conclusions and decisions arrived at.
34. The Steering Committee approved the draft agenda on the understanding that it would obviously have to be reviewed with the UN-CSD and then finalised at its next meeting in Corfu in June. It also agreed to the two innovations concerning the organisation of *ad hoc* groups and the summary of conclusions and decisions.

Agenda item 11: Summary of decisions and closure of the meeting

35. As agreed, a "Summary of conclusions of the third meeting of the Steering Committee" was put to participants. Once the necessary amendments had been made the Steering Committee adopted the summary and the Secretariat confirmed that a report of the meeting would shortly be sent to all members of the Committee for comment.
36. After the customary exchange of courtesies, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 12.00 hours on Friday, 21 January 2000.

ANNEX I**LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS
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ANNEX II

Speech by Mrs. Faiza Kefi, Minister for the Environment and Land Planning

Opening of the meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development

Members of the Steering Committee,
Coordinator of MAP,
Deputy Coordinator of MAP and Secretary of the MCSD,
Honourable guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to welcome you all to Tunis, and to congratulate you on your efforts which have enabled us to implement in such a short time the process of sustainable development within the framework of co-operation based on solidarity around the Mediterranean, in order to protect the right of our citizens to a healthy environment.

I would like once again to reiterate my thanks for the trust which you have placed in my country in renewing my mandate at the head of the MCSD's Steering Committee which, as you will recall, took off in Tunisia.

In so doing you have indirectly paid homage to this country which has adopted sustainable development as an essential part of its project for society, and one of the fundamental strategic choices which made it one of the elements in President Ben Ali's electoral programme last October.

Since the elections, certain major events have mobilised the Tunisian partners around environmental policy in my country: the meeting of the MCSD in early December, the creation of a committee responsible for fleshing out the programme announced by the President of the Republic, budget debates with the new members of the Chamber of Deputies which have meant that our budget has been able to expand by more than 11%, and the meeting of a Council of Ministers on environmental management, particularly of solid waste.

On each occasion we have never failed to back ourselves up with Mediterranean references, and to draw on the ideas and work of the MCSD, whose dynamic nature and pertinence is now widely recognised.

Today's meeting has before it a very important and heavy agenda. I feel duty-bound to use the opportunity provided by this opening speech to warmly congratulate the MAP Coordinator and the Secretariat of the MCSD for the efforts which they have so conscientiously and ably undertaken.

I refer here to Mr. Chabason and Mr. Hoballah respectively, and to their immediate assistants.

Thanks to them, our meetings are well prepared and can thus home straight in on the essentials.

One of the subjects on which we will be focusing in particular is the Strategic Review for the year 2000, for which we have to discuss the terms of reference, and to which a conference will be dedicated in November of this year. I am convinced that this work will represent a major step in this process of ours, and a unique opportunity to breathe new life into our commitment at regional, national and local level for the Mediterranean, as well as to do some in-depth thinking about the priorities and ways of really bringing about sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As you are aware, the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the Mediterranean came into force on 12.12.1999, as consequently did the amended Barcelona Convention.

We will use the meeting of our Steering Committee to mark this major event, which opens up to us a new channel for co-operation and concerted action for the preservation of our natural heritage and the protection of threatened species, and will allow us to further build upon the efforts we have made together to manage natural resources as examples of good governance.

I have total confidence in our ability to achieve success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This shows what great store we set by our work, which should continue to aim ever higher and, using a clear albeit tight calendar should bring about reconciliation between the environment and sustainable development in its political, economic, social and cultural dimensions.

Such is Tunisia's wish, faced with the many challenges which await us on both sides of the Mediterranean, and in all fields.

The unfortunate events which have seriously affected one of the regions of France have held the attention of international public opinion, alerted to the serious ecological consequences.

I hope that we will manage to increasingly focus more attention on these matters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again, welcome to you all, and I wish you a most enjoyable stay in Tunisia.

ANNEX III

Summary of conclusions of the third meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD, 20-21 January 2000, Tunis

The Steering Committee noted with interest the content of the meeting's working document on which it took the following decisions:

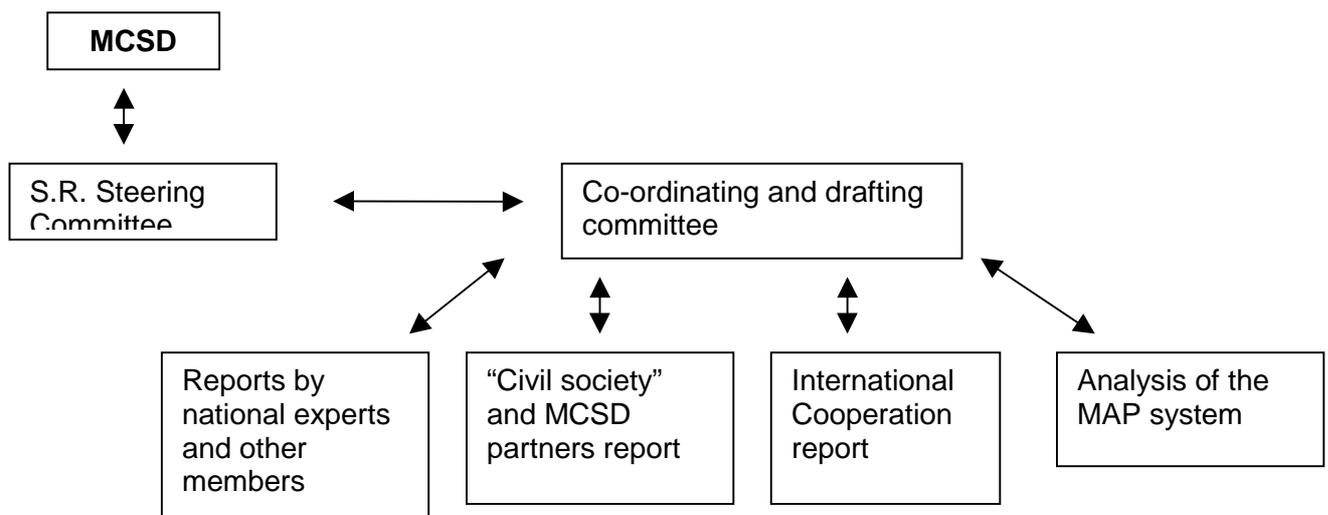
I. STRATEGIC REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2000

1. Content of the report and questionnaire

- ◆ The Steering Committee approved the overall plan for the report and the questionnaire and agreed on the following:
 - a) to take account of the following points for completing the documents on the launch of preparatory activities:
 - to remain within a context of sustainable development without favouring the environment to the detriment of the development components;
 - to extend the list of themes to be dealt with by adding services (particularly financial ones), new communication technologies, awareness raising and education, cross-border co-operation (particularly regarding the transfer of know-how), and underscoring the role of the NGOs, local authorities and socio-economic organisations ;
 - b) to recall in the "stakes":
 - that it is the sea which links Mediterraneans and constitutes their common concern;
 - that there is still a disparity between the two banks of the Mediterranean which should be borne in mind right throughout the analysis;
 - that climate change could seriously affect the region;
 - that the Mediterranean is exposed to the risks of shipping and a quantitative reduction of its natural resources.
 - c) not to over-focus on MAP and to extend the Review to the other players in sustainable development;
 - d) to use the indicators advisedly, striving to quantify them in the future without ending up with a "Report on the state of the environment";
 - e) to focus on the institutional aspect of the implementation of decisions rather than on the technical details;
 - f) to put the Mediterranean in the global perspective, bearing in mind in particular the major international conventions to which should be added the Convention on Biodiversity;
 - g) to rightly assess the importance and impact of regional co-operation, particularly the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and bilateral, intra- and extra-Mediterranean co-operation.

2. Organisation of work

- ◆ At practical level, the Steering Committee agreed:
 - a) to inform the members of the MCSD without delay that they should immediately get ready to tackle the tasks required by the preparation of the Strategic Review, asking them to indicate within a fortnight which expert or consultant will carry out the work;
 - b) to send the questionnaire to the national delegates in the MCSD as well as the members from the three categories, asking the latter for their specific contribution, since the countries will retain responsibility for producing and validating information which relates to them;
 - c) to ensure the participation and active contribution of all players in civil society, particularly the members of the three categories of the MCSD;
 - d) as far as possible to give immediate priority to the preparation of synoptic reports of the various contributions;
 - e) to ensure that information already available within MAP as well as in the countries and international institutions is put to the best possible use;
 - f) to entrust the working party on the Strategic Review with appointing the S.R. steering committee, to add Monaco to its ranks and to take up Monaco's offer to host the forthcoming meeting of this committee;
 - g) to suggest to Mr. Batisse that he join the drafting committee which will otherwise consist of Mr. Ennabli and Mr. Hoballah, and to give positive consideration to France's offer of assistance;
 - h) to adopt a working structure which can be represented in diagram form as follows:



3. Financing

Finally, at financing level, to use as a priority the resources already available, i.e. 50 000 dollars (MAP/EU and Monaco) to support the drawing up of documents. The resources should help to finance the regional reports ("civil society", "international co-operation", "analysis of the MAP system"), and if necessary to support the national experts. The Secretariat will continue to seek additional funding.

- ◆ The model Review and the questionnaire will be reviewed in the light of comments made by the Steering Committee and sent as soon as possible to all members of the MCSD and experts.

II. INTEGRATION OF THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE MCSD

- ◆ Confirm the recommendations of the Malta meeting aimed at involving new members so requesting in the inter-session activities of the working groups, the task managers remaining unchanged;
- ◆ Invite the former active members of the working groups interested in so doing to continue to assist in the follow-up to recommendations in co-operation with the Secretariat and the relative MAP Centres;
- ◆ Encourage the MCSD members to network in order to implement the MCSD's recommendations.

III. NEW THEMES AND ISSUES

- ◆ The selection of new themes should be the fruit of a gradual maturing process; the sixth meeting of the MCSD will be asked to classify the work themes by priority, the aim being for the seventh meeting to make the final selection;
- ◆ To facilitate the work of the sixth meeting ("theme prioritisation"), the Secretariat will carry out pre-feasibility studies using the criteria established in its report;
- ◆ According to the priorities set by the sixth meeting, the Secretariat will carry out detailed feasibility studies, with an eye to the selection and launch of the new themes;
- ◆ For all of this preparatory work the Secretary will, wherever appropriate, call on the expertise of the Commission members, the RACs, or will request the assistance of the competent international organisations;
- ◆ As far as completed themes are concerned, the Steering Committee recalled that the follow-up of recommendations should be ensured by encouraging the distribution of information, by publishing relevant studies and by inviting members to launch networked pilot or demonstration projects on the implementation of some of the recommendations, with the assistance of MAP, if necessary;

IV. CO-OPERATION WITH THE UN-CSD

- ◆ Continue and strengthen co-operation with the UN-CSD, particularly in the perspective of the Rio+10 process;
- ◆ Whilst retaining the principle of holding a parallel meeting on the MCSD during a session of the UN-CSD, it was agreed that this should be delayed until after the completion of the Strategic Review, in order to heighten the impact. Consequently, the parallel meeting could be held during the 2001 session;
- ◆ Combine the regional consultation meeting planned with the UN-CSD with the 6th meeting of the MCSD, thereby adding a new dimension to the latter and giving the Strategic Review a broader impact;
- ◆ Following discussions with the UN-CSD the Secretariat will produce a letter of invitation for the ministers and representatives of the CSD and UNEP for signature by the chairperson of the MCSD's Steering Committee;

V. AGENDA OF INTER-SESSION ACTIVITIES

- ◆ Apart from the follow-up activities for the completed themes already mentioned, continue and complete the three remaining themes from the Rabat programme for the 7th meeting of the MCSD in Turkey.

VI. NEXT MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

- ◆ Given the very heavy workload for 2000- preparation of the Strategic Review, pre-feasibility studies, work on the remaining three themes and preparation of the sixth meeting of the MCSD- convene the 4th meeting of the Steering Committee in Corfu for 22 and 23 June 2000.

VII. SIXTH MEETING OF THE MCSD AND AGENDA

- ◆ invite the MCSD Secretariat to discuss with the UN-CSD the practical aspects of organising this 6th joint meeting, to be held from 21-25 November 2000 in Tunis;
- ◆ Focus the meeting on two major elements: the Strategic Review and the new themes;
- ◆ Establish the structure of the draft agenda, given that its content will be examined with the UN-CSD Secretariat before it is finalised at the next meeting of the Steering Committee in June 2000;
- ◆ Propose ways of improving MCSD meetings, particularly:

a) adopting a summary of conclusions and decisions at the end of the meeting as opposed to an *in extenso* report;

b) holding ad hoc working groups during meetings to provide substance for work in the plenaries.