

## ANNEX IV

### RECOMMENDATIONS

(Part One)

The Contracting Parties agreed and the Ministers subsequently endorsed the following recommendations:

#### I. COORDINATION

##### I.A LEGAL FRAMEWORK

###### (a) Status of ratification of the Convention and the Protocols

1. To urgently accept the amendments to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution; the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft (Dumping Protocol); and the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources (LBS Protocol);

2. Also, as soon as possible, to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Protocol concerning Specially-Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (SPA Protocol), the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol), and the Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Hazardous Wastes Protocol).

3. To request the depository country (Spain) in cooperation with the Bureau to take an active role in encouraging Parties to speed up the ratification process.

###### (b) Emergency Protocol

To adopt the new Protocol instead of amending the existing one, under the title: "Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances in Cases of Emergency".

*To request the Secretariat:*

1. To finalize the text adopted by the 2nd Meeting of National/Legal Technical Experts, taking into account the inputs from Contracting Parties;

2. To make the necessary arrangements to convene a Conference of Plenipotentiaries, preceded by an experts' meeting, to adopt the new Protocol, to be held in January 2002 in Malta, at the kind invitation of the Maltese Government.

(c) Reporting system

To adopt the proposed reporting format and to start implementing it progressively during the next biennium.

*To request the Secretariat*

1. To provide technical and financial support for the progressive implementation, on a trial basis, of the reporting system;
2. To report to the Contracting Parties at their 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting on the lessons learned from the first phase of implementation and to propose appropriate revision based on MAP experience, as well as on ongoing coordination or reporting activities implement within the United Nations framework.

(d) Liability and compensation

*To request the Secretariat:*

To convene a working group of experts in 2002 to prepare a descriptive document to provide a comprehensive review of relevant instruments in this field to be discussed at a meeting of legal experts designated by countries at a later stage.

(e) Meetings and support to countries on legal matters

*To request the Secretariat:*

To strengthen support to countries on legal matters related to the protection of marine and coastal zones in the Mediterranean.

I.B INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

(a) Evaluation process

1. To acknowledge the evaluation of some components of MAP already performed.
2. To increase efforts to disseminate the products of BP/RAC and PAP/RAC in the countries, including by providing lists of recipients (ministries, public libraries, universities) for the dissemination of the products.
3. To facilitate working relations between the two RACs and the ministries responsible for sectoral policies (water, tourism, agriculture, physical planning, urban issues) concerned by their work.

*To request the Secretariat :*

1. In order to take into account the need to maintain activities related to cultural heritage among MAP's activities, as a component of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, to prepare, using the MCSD framework as appropriate , a draft of a new programme in this field, taking into account the suggestions of the evaluators of the programme of 100 Historic Sites.
2. To continue during the 2002-2003 biennium the process of evaluating the structure of MAP (RAC/SPA, REMPEC) using standardized methodology drawing lessons from previous experience with a view of global harmonization;
3. To take into account the suggestions of the evaluators for implementation of the activities and functioning of BP/RAC and PAP/RAC and to propose possible follow-up;
4. To propose and update of the functions of BP/RAC and PAP/RAC by taking into account the objectives of MAP Phase II, the recommendations of the Contracting Parties, the evolution of the regional Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean context, the technical expertise of the two Centres, the suggestions of the evaluators and the structure of MAP and its possible evolution;
5. To start preparing a strategic assessment of the general framework of the Barcelona Convention (the operational bodies and the Coordination Unit);
6. To that end to prepare by October 2002 a report in cooperation with the bureau and the inputs of the Contracting Parties with the view of preparing a document to be considered by the next meeting of MAP National Focal Points.

(b) Evolution of RACs' structure. New proposal for Turkey

1. To approve the new objectives and functions of REMPEC, as amended **(Appendix 1)**.
2. To consider the proposal by Turkey to develop an activity in the field of tourism in line with the discussions and proposals by the NFP Meeting;

## I.C MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (MCSD)

1. The Contracting Parties approved, after amendment, the recommendations, on the following issues, prepared by the MCSD, and appearing in Part two of the recommendations:
  - Industry and sustainable development;
  - Urban management and sustainable development;
  - Free-trade and environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context;
  - Implementation and follow-up of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action;
  - recommendations derived from the strategic review for sustainable development in the Mediterranean and proposals for action.

## I.D COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP

### (a) United Nations agencies, European Union, Convention Secretariats, intergovernmental organizations and funding institutions

To provide the Secretariat with support in promoting cooperation and coordination with the relevant intergovernmental organizations and their respective regional offices, through the exchange of information and joint activities and, where useful and necessary, the preparation of Memorandums of Understanding and joint programmes of work.

*To request the Secretariat:*

1. To strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies and their regional offices or commissions, as well as with the Secretariats of environmental conventions and other intergovernmental organizations and the EU in particular:

UN and UNEP and the Regional offices (ECE, ESCWA, ECA and ROE, ROWA, ROA respectively) for the preparation of the report of the WSSD and the Global Environment Outlook (GEO), as well as other relevant activities such as information, trade, etc.;

IMO, GEF, WHO, IAEA, WMO, UNESCO-IOC, UNIDO-ICS in the implementation of marine pollution programmes;

UNEP Regional Seas Programmes as well as relevant Regional Agreements such as HELCOM and OSPAR, CBD, Ramsar, Bern, Bonn and CITES for the implementation of biodiversity programmes;

CCD and UNFCCC in the establishment of operational linkages in promoting relevant activities at the Mediterranean regional level;

with the EC, to promote greater links and coherence with the European Commission and the European Environment Agency, especially in the fields of statistics, indicators, reporting, and environmental standards;

the Arab League, its Council of Environment Ministers, CEDARE and METAP on issues of common concern through joint activities and exchange of information;

2. To prepare joint projects to be submitted for external funding by relevant intergovernmental organizations, particularly their regional offices or commissions, including MEDA/SMAP;

3. To prepare and sign Memorandums of Understanding with major regional/international institutions (global conventions, UNEP Regional Offices, United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, European Union institutions, etc.), and to promote cooperation and synergy in relevant priority fields for the Mediterranean, including a common strategy and work programmes with time-bound objectives.

(b) Preparation of the Johannesburg Summit (World Summit on Sustainable Development)

1. To take into account MAP's achievements in the national and regional process of preparing the World Summit on Sustainable Development.
2. To adopt the Mediterranean Declaration for the Johannesburg Summit (**Annex III**).

*To request the Secretariat:*

To participate actively and contribute to the preparation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and to report to the Bureau on matters of relevance.

I.E. MAP INVOLVEMENT IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERSHIP AND OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

1. To commit themselves in their capacity as Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and, for those concerned, as members of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) to work towards strengthening the ties between EMP and MAP.
2. To invite those Contracting Parties concerned, to take full account of the decisions and recommendations of the Contracting Parties when elaborating and making requests for support from European Community programmes.
3. To introduce this item into the agenda of future MAP Bureau meetings as well as into the preparatory process for the Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers' Conference to be held in Greece in July 2002.

*To request the Secretariat:*

1. To make recommendations for strengthening ties between EMP and MAP during the Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers' Conference;
2. To hold regular exchanges of views with the European Commission with a view to improving complementarity and synergies between the two programmes and sharing experience on integration and on successes and obstacles in the implementation of MAP commitments;
3. To elaborate proposals for improving operational synergies between the MAP and the EMP and to include these in their presentation to the Euro-Mediterranean Environment Ministers' Conference;
4. To draw up a report on MAP experience of integrating environmental concerns into other sectors and policies in the region to promote sustainable development and on the implementation of MAP commitments for submission to the preparatory process of the Conference.

#### I.F NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

1. To adopt the proposed new criteria for inclusion and retention in the list of partners (**Appendix 2**).
2. To implement the various recommendations on cooperation with NGOs and their partners.

*To request the Secretariat:*

1. To implement the proposed new criteria for inclusion and retention in the list of partners;
2. To review the list of partners, including the new accepted ones, according to the new criteria and submit it to the next Bureau Meeting.
3. To strengthen cooperation and assistance to Mediterranean partners included in the MAP list;
4. To include the following organizations in the list of MAP partners:
  - Environmental Perception (Greece)
  - Association for Forest Development and Conservation (AFDC) (Lebanon)
  - Institut du Droit Economique de la Mer (INDEMER) (Monaco)
  - Sustainable Business Associates (SBA) (Switzerland).
  - Centre International de Droit Comparé de l'Environnement (CIDCE) (France)
  - Organisation des Communicatrices Méditerranéennes (OCOM) (Tunisia)

#### I.G MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES ORGANIZED WITHIN THE MAP FRAMEWORK

To request the Secretariat:

1. To present to the next Bureau meeting a report aiming at rationalizing MAP Calendar of meetings;
2. To provide Arabic interpretation and translation at the Bureau meetings.

#### I.H FINANCIAL ISSUES

1. To approve the proposed budget as presented in annex II of this report.
2. To approve programme of work for the 2002-2003 biennium.

*To request the Secretariat:*

1. To prepare on a regular basis for the MAP Focal Points and the Contracting Parties Meetings a report on the status of the financial implementation of the MAP programme and budget with an improved format specifying credit consumption ratio.
2. To adopt the principle of use of the Euro as the operating currency; to submit, jointly with UNON, a report to the Bureau on ways, means and implications for its consideration and thereafter to the United Nations Controller for approval, the request by the Contracting Parties to use the Euro as the currency for the Mediterranean Trust Fund.

## I.I INFORMATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION

*To request the Secretariat :*

1. To consolidate the implementation of activities related to:
  - the preparation and dissemination of publications, both general such as MEDWAVES and brochures, and technical such as the MAP Technical Reports Series (MTS), as well as to the upgrading of the MAP Web site;
  - the preparation of information tools addressed to specific target groups, such as youth;
  - the restructuring and regular updating of the MAP mailing list in order to increase and improve the dissemination of MAP information materials both at the regional and national levels;
  - the upgrading of the MAP library both through the automation process and the MAP web site.
2. To make further efforts to network with communication and media professionals in the Mediterranean in order to improve the dissemination of MAP information, with special focus on youth, mainly through seminars and workshops, as well as the drafting of special features;
3. To elaborate and propose guidelines for a Mediterranean Strategy on Information, Public Awareness and Participation, and for this purpose:
  - to ensure the involvement of all MAP partners;
  - to integrate the strategy for Arab countries as a component of the Mediterranean Strategy;
  - to elaborate a subregional component for the Eastern Adriatic countries and Turkey and to utilize the two subregional strategies as a major component of the proposed Mediterranean Strategy;
  - when proposing specific activities within the framework of the Mediterranean Strategy, to take into account the importance of involving

local authorities and, progressively, the private sector, mainly small and medium-sized enterprises.

4. To produce an information folder containing short summaries (two pages) of each of these publications, mainly for widespread distribution at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

## **II. COMPONENTS**

### **II.A POLLUTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

#### **(a) Land-based pollution assessment and control**

##### **General Policy And Coordination**

1. To confirm the orientation of the MED POL Programme and to lay emphasis on the implementation of action-oriented pollution control activities; to this end, to give priority to the full implementation of the activities of the SAP, including those under the Mediterranean GEF Project.

2. To continue to formulate, implement and follow up pollution assessment-related activities that are deemed to be essential tools for verifying the state of pollution of the region, the progress made by countries in the control of pollution, as well as a valid means of achieving appropriate coastal zone management.

3. Also to continue and strengthen cooperation with the competent United Nations cooperating agencies supporting MED POL, the Regional Activity Centres, intergovernmental, international, regional and subregional organizations, institutions, agreements, programmes, economic actors and NGOs for the implementation of the SAP and the other approved MED POL activities, laying special emphasis on cooperation with the UNEP/GPA Coordination Office for the implementation of the GPA at the regional level;

4. To give priority to the implementation of activities within the GEF-funded Strategic Action Programme (SAP), and in particular those directed towards achieving the long-term sustainability of the project through the implementation of appropriate economic instruments.

##### **Implementation of the SAP**

1. To adopt the "Operational Document for the implementation of the SAP", which describes the activities to be carried out at the national and regional levels in order to achieve the gradual reduction and, by the year 2025, the elimination of pollution.

2. To make the reduction of municipal pollution a priority objective and, accordingly, to implement policy action such as promoting and updating the related national regulations.



3. To establish, by the year 2003, the national baseline budget for emissions for each of the pollutants identified in the SAP, based on common or comparable methodologies for establishing the baseline budget and tracking the pollution reductions achieved.

4. To adopt national action plans to address pollution from land-based activities as part of the implementation of the SAP, if they have not already done so. The plans should be completed by the year 2003 and be operational by the year 2005.

*To request the Secretariat*

*(MED POL)*

1. To give priority to activities aimed at assisting countries to implement the SAP and to cooperate fully with the organizations involved in the implementation of the Mediterranean GEF Project.

2. To assist countries to establish, by the year 2003, the national baseline budget for emissions of each of the pollutants identified in the SAP and to prepare the necessary supporting technical documents and methodologies.

3. To assist countries to formulate and/or strengthen national action plans to address pollution from land-based activities.

*(PAP/RAC)*

4. To continue the implementation of the SAP project component "Sustainability of SAP", and to contribute to the creation of the financial platform in GEF-eligible countries for the reduction of land-based pollution of the sea by promoting the use of the most appropriate economic instruments.

### **Municipal Wastewater**

*To request the Secretariat.*

*(MED POL)*

1. To update regularly the list of wastewater treatment plants and to prepare a new updated list by 2003;

2. To provide assistance to countries for the updating of national regulations on sewage discharges;

3. To prepare an assessment of guidelines related to sewage treatment and municipal wastewater reuse practices in the Mediterranean region;

4. To promote research on alternative and innovative sewage treatment techniques adapted to specific Mediterranean conditions, taking into account ongoing programmes at the regional and international levels.

## **Solid Wastes**

*To request the Secretariat*

*(MED POL)*

To prepare guidelines on the management of coastal and marine litter, together with an action plan to assist countries to improve the institutional and technical aspects of coastal litter management.

## **Monitoring**

*To request the Secretariat*

*(MED POL)*

1. To continue to assist countries in the formulation, finalization and implementation of their national monitoring programmes with the aim of including trend, compliance and biological effects monitoring;
2. To continue to work on the finalization of the new MED POL Phase III database for the proper management of monitoring data and to assist countries to establish compatible national databases;
3. To give priority to the implementation of data quality assurance programmes for chemical and biological effects monitoring in order to ensure that the data are of high quality and are reliable;
4. To initiate work on the issue of river pollution and river basin management by preparing basic technical and information documents, utilizing funds from the multi-donor Mediterranean GEF Project and taking into account the work done by other relevant organizations;
5. To consider the inclusion of eutrophication parameters among the mandatory parameters of the MED POL Phase III trend monitoring programme;
6. To prepare a review of existing criteria and standards for the classification of polluted areas;
7. To finalize the Quality Criteria and Standards for Bathing Waters, in cooperation with the WHO and the European Union, and, if necessary, to convene a meeting during the biennium with a view to the adoption of the Criteria and Standards by the 13<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

*(ERS/RAC)*

8. To support MED POL programme and SAP through specific pilot projects, information dissemination, training, capacity building based on use of remote sensing for water quality and dynamics assessment.

## **Public Participation**

*To request the Secretariat*

*(MEDU and MED POL)*

To formulate by 2003, in cooperation with MAP Partners, an Action Plan to promote the participation of all concerned components of civil society in the implementation of the SAP, taking into account relevant international programmes and conventions such as the Aarhus Convention.

## **Reporting**

*To request the Secretariat*

*(MED POL)*

1. To continue working on the implementation of PRTRs by providing the necessary assistance to countries;
2. To review and develop a set of marine pollution indicators, in cooperation with Blue Plan, EEA, UNIDO-ICS and other competent bodies and organizations;
3. To elaborate a reporting system on the implementation of the SAP, taking into account the development of similar systems being tested by the GPA Secretariat.

## **Other Activities Related to the LBS Protocol**

1. To provide the Secretariat with all the necessary data and information for the regular review of the list of pollution hot spots every four years, with the first revised list to be prepared during the 2002-2003 biennium;
2. To establish and/or strengthen pollution inspection systems with the aim of making them fully operational by the year 2005.

*To request the Secretariat;*

*(MED POL)*

1. To elaborate further the guidelines for the management of brine;
2. To prepare by the year 2003 a revised list of pollution hot spots based on official data and information provided by countries;
3. To provide assistance to countries in establishing and/or upgrading pollution inspection systems.

## **Activities Related To The Implementation Of The Dumping Protocol**

1. To provide the Secretariat with all the necessary data and information so that it can prepare an assessment of dumping activities during the period 1995-2001;

2. To adopt the guidelines for the management of fish wastes or organic materials resulting from the processing of fish and other marine organisms, which were prepared by the Secretariat in close cooperation with national authorities. The guidelines will come into force with the entry into force of the Dumping Protocol as revised in 1995.

*To request the Secretariat:*

*(MED POL)*

1. To complete the assessment of dumping activities for the period 1995-2001, based on information provided by the Contracting Parties;
2. To prepare guidelines for the management of inert uncontaminated geological materials, in close cooperation with national authorities;
3. To develop the guidelines for the dumping of platforms and other man-made structures at sea, in close cooperation with national authorities

#### **Activities Related to the Implementation of the Hazardous Wastes Protocol**

*To request the Secretariat*

*(MED POL)*

To prepare an assessment of hazardous waste management in Mediterranean countries, including a review of effective approaches to combating illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes.

#### **Activities Related to the Identification and Follow-Up of Emerging Environmental and Pollution Issues**

*To request the Secretariat*

*(MED POL)*

1. To continue to follow up ongoing research and study developments on the issue of climate change and its environmental implications for the Mediterranean region and to inform the Contracting Parties accordingly;
2. To work on the identification of emerging environmental and pollution issues (including marine antifoulants, airborne pollution and the impact of fish farming activities), in consultation with MED POL National Coordinators, and to fund limited research projects and prepare assessments in cooperation with competent intergovernmental organizations and United Nations cooperating agencies.

#### **(b) Sea-Based Pollution Prevention and control**

1. To adopt the decision on the new mandate, objectives and functions of REMPEC;

2. To ratify a new Emergency Protocol to the Barcelona Convention as soon as possible, once approved, so as to enable its implementation;
3. To further examine the possibility of seconding professional officers to the Centre on a temporary basis;
4. To invite the host country of REMPEC to identify and provide the Centre with a building suitable to its requirements as soon as possible;
5. To maintain, revise and promote, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, and in collaboration with other stakeholders, Contracting Parties' contingency plans and means for combating pollution of the sea by oil and other harmful substances;
6. To comply with reporting obligations and to utilize and adhere to the "POLREP System" and to the "Post Incident Report", for the exchange of information on accidental pollution at sea;
7. To support and facilitate the work of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group established by the REMPEC Focal Point Meeting held in October 2000, pursuant to the recommendation addressed to the Contracting Parties at the 11<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting;
9. To take any appropriate action to promote aerial surveillance as a means of monitoring and prosecuting violations of existing regulations for the prevention of pollution from ships, on the basis of the relevant Recommendation addressed to the Contracting Parties at the 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting and the outcome of the Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, (Malta 25-28 October 2000; REMPEC/WG.18/14);
10. To propose and discuss, taking into account the competences of IMO, an agreed common regional policy for the prevention of pollution from ships, based on the adopted 1997 regional strategy and taking into consideration the provisions of the new Emergency Protocol;
11. To support REMPEC's efforts to implement the programme of activities under the EC MEDA project on port reception facilities;

*To request the Secretariat*

*(REMPEC)*

1. To support the Contracting Parties in their efforts to promote common actions and proposals in the field of prevention of pollution from ships, including common initiatives at IMO level;
2. To support the Contracting Parties in maintaining, revising and promoting national and subregional preparedness and response systems.

*(REMPEC and MEDU)*

3. To endeavour to obtain the necessary external funds to move ahead with the process of studying suitable actions to prevent pollution from pleasure craft.

*(ERS/RAC)*

4. To support REMPEC for oil spill detection and monitoring through the integrated use of remote sensing and GIS techniques and other advanced tools (e.g. space based localisation, high speed satellite telecommunication).

(c) Cleaner Production

1. To promote the incorporation of an environmental dimension in the public procurement processes.

2. To utilize RAC/CP commitment in the process of implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and of the GEF Mediterranean Project and to carry out activities according to its field of competence.

3. To focus on the creation of CP Centres and provide them with the needed technical assistance through the RAC/CP cooperation.

4. To request from RAC/CP to update the Study on the status of Cleaner Production in MAP countries.

5. To enhance RAC/CP participation in activities carried out by UNEP and UNIDO in the Mediterranean.

*To request the Secretariat*

1. To strengthen co-operation with other programmes and components of MAP, in particular with MEDPOL concerning the implementation of SAP and with the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) in the framework of the Thematic Group on Industry and Sustainable Development as well as to strengthen co-operation with other Mediterranean entities.

2. To encourage stronger links with European level initiatives such as IPPC, EMAS, IPP and Ecolabel and with institutions in order to strengthen an integrated approach to cleaner production and to improve information sharing with the non EU Mediterranean countries, as well as to increase its participation in international fora such as the IMPEL network.

3. To enlarge the scope of activities to cover, as well as processes, products and services, to focus its activities on SMEs and micro industries and to pay more attention to air pollution and soil pollution within its activities, in addition to water pollution and solid wastes generation.

4. To provide environmental information to industries to give them guidance and promote the environmental culture aiming at improving their performance.

5. To review the CP tools developed by it (MOED, GHP...), to identify improvement opportunities and to publish the studies carried out to facilitate its use in the Mediterranean countries.

6. To elaborate a written report about all activities carried out by RAC/CP in the last 3 years and forwards it to all NFP.
7. To organise site visits to facilities that have implemented CP techniques and to test CP case studies in Mediterranean industries and carry out demo projects.
8. To train trainers and to organise long-term training courses and workshops in co-operation with MAP countries.
9. To carry out studies on economic instruments to promote CP and on product-oriented issues related to CP and on the experience in environmental management in industrial parks and industrial cities.
10. To enhance the exchange of information among the RAC/CP NFP network and to enlarge the Mediterranean CP experts Database,.
11. To increase the use of Internet and the RAC/CP web page as a tool for RAC/CP NFP network, as well as to link the web page of RAC/CP to the MAP web page on enforcement and compliance.

(All CP/RAC activities are subject to approval of concrete actions by the Spanish Government).

## II.B BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY AND SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS

### II.B.1 Data collection and periodic assessment of the situation

1. To approve the proposals to include on the list of SPAMIs the following areas : Alboran Island (Spain), Seabed of the Levant of Almeria (Spain), Cape Gata-Nijar (Spain), Mar Menor and the East coast of Murcia (Spain), Cape Creus Natural Park (Spain), Medes Island (Spain), Columbretes Islands (Spain), Port-Cros (France), Kneiss (Tunisia), La Galite (Tunisia), Zembra (Tunisia) and the Sanctuary for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (Monaco, France and Italy).
2. To request Parties that have not yet ratified the SPA Protocol and States that are not Parties to the Barcelona Convention to recognize the particular importance of these areas and not to authorize or undertake activities that could prejudice the objectives for which the SPAMIs have been created.
3. To invite countries in the region and the international organizations concerned to promote, through all appropriate forms of cooperation, the protection and management of SPAMIs.
4. To encourage the creation of SPAMIs covering national sites and transboundary SPAMIs.
5. To advocate inclusion in the SPAMI List as a tool for reinforcing national policies for the conservation of biological diversity.

6. To strengthen relations and coherence between SPAMIs and other relevant networks (Natura 2000, Emeraude, Ramsar, World Heritage, etc.) in order to contribute to the implementation of a significant network of marine protected areas in the context of the Jakarta mandate of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
7. To take note of the progress made in coordination between MAP and ACCOBAMS and the draft memorandum of understanding on cooperation that will govern the participation of SPA/RAC in implementation of ACCOBAMS as the subregional coordination unit for the Mediterranean.
8. To adopt guidelines for the preparation of legislation and regulations concerning the conservation and management of populations of marine turtles and their habitats and take inspiration from them for the preparation, improvement and implementation of legislation in this field.
9. To adopt guidelines for impact studies on areas of marine spermatophytes and as a basis for the preparation, improvement and implementation of legislation in this field.
10. To grant, in accordance with paragraphs 25 and 26 of the action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea, the status of associate of the action plan to the following institutions: GIS Posidonie (France), ICRAM (Italy), INSTM (Tunisia), the secretariat of the RAMOGE agreement, the University of Corsica (France) and the World Seagrass Association 2000.
11. To adopt the annotated format for reports proposing areas for listing on the list of SPAMIs (UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.190/12), which could be improved if necessary.

*To request the Secretariat*

*(SPA/RAC)*

1. To strive to implement the recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Focal Points for SPAs regarding taxonomy with a view to elaborating a Mediterranean strategy that will take into account other initiatives and conform with the global taxonomy initiative undertaken within the framework of the Convention on Biological Diversity;
2. To computerize the Standard Data-Entry Form (SDF) elaborated for compiling inventories of sites of conservation interest, and to organize long-term training courses on the use of the SDF and assist the Contracting Parties in its application;
3. To make the SPA/RAC databases available on the Internet, circulate GIS data and, in collaboration with the CBD Secretariat, make efforts to establish a Mediterranean clearing-house mechanism on marine and coastal biological diversity, that will network with the national clearing-house mechanisms and others set up within the framework of the CBD.



## II.B.2 Planning and management

### (a) Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine Turtles

1. To promote coordination with the FAO and the GFCM regarding measures for the protection of turtles in the Mediterranean, interacting with the fisheries sector, and also to promote national networks of experts in order to strengthen the Mediterranean network;
2. To encourage tagging programmes that conform to the norms established within the framework of the Action Plan;
3. To support the design and implementation of a project to be submitted for possible European Commission financing on the identification of habitats that are important for marine turtles in the Mediterranean.

*To request the Secretariat:*

(SPA/RAC)

1. To standardize tagging methods and to centralize information resulting from different tagging programmes in a database for which SPA/RAC will be responsible;
2. To update the directory of marine turtle specialists to include organizations and/or laboratories and to create a website grouping all the available resources for the conservation of marine turtles in the Mediterranean;
3. To prepare, in close consultation with the Mediterranean experts: (i) a project to be submitted for possible European Commission financing on the identification of habitats that are important for marine turtles; (ii) a study on existing rescue centres and guidelines for setting up and managing such centres; and (iii) a project to assess Mediterranean marine turtle populations;

### (b) Implementing the Action Plan for Managing the Mediterranean Monk Seal

To further promote the implementation of the recommendations made by the 11<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties, taking into account the relevant recommendations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of National Focal Points for SPAs

*To request the Secretariat:*

(SPA/RAC)

To set up, in the immediate future, an emergency group of specialists to draw up an emergency plan containing proposals for practical action and a timetable.

### (c) Implementing an action plan for the conservation of cetaceans in the Mediterranean Sea

To welcome the offer by Spain with regard to the establishment in Valencia of a Mediterranean database on cetacean strandings (MEDACES). SPA/RAC will be

the depository for the database, whose management will be entrusted to the University of Valencia's Cavanilles Biodiversity Institute, which will receive financial support from the Spanish Government for this purpose. The data to be included in MEDACES must be provided annually via national coordination centres appointed by the National Focal Points for SPAs.

*To request the Secretariat:*

(SPARAC)

1. To assist the Contracting Parties in elaborating and implementing national action plans for the conservation of cetaceans, including the networks for monitoring strandings and training;
2. To collaborate with ACCOBAMS in: (i) developing national networks on monitoring strandings; (ii) action to reduce interactions with fishing; and (iii) organizing surveys in the Eastern Mediterranean.

(d) Implementing the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Vegetation in the Mediterranean Sea

*To request the Secretariat:*

(SPARAC)

1. To promote monitoring of the health of meadows and to disseminate the relevant techniques through technical manuals and trainings;
2. To organize the Second Mediterranean Symposium on Marine Vegetation in 2003;
3. To prepare a request for funding for a project (i) on mapping meadows (with Action Plan Associates); (ii) on Mediterranean marine flora; and (iii) on reference collections.

(e) Development of specially-protected areas

*To request the Secretariat:*

(SPARAC)

1. To prepare a "drafting aid" for the presentation of reports and to include therein an explanation of the procedure for inclusion in the SPAMI List, to work on establishing the List, and to provide assistance, as far as resources allow, to countries requesting assistance in this respect; and to National Focal Points for SPA in evaluating, through appropriate tools, the proposals made for inclusion of sites on the SPAMI list.
2. To draw up guidelines for the establishment and management of specially-protected areas, provided for by Article 16 of the Protocol (paragraph c);

3. To prepare a draft document defining modalities for awarding the Mediterranean Diploma, instituted by MAP Phase II (Section 2.3), which will be awarded, at Ordinary Meetings of the Parties, to SPAMIs that are distinguished by the implementation of specific concrete activities for the management and conservation of the Mediterranean natural heritage.

(f) Other strategic issues related to the conservation of biological diversity

To take note of the report of the Joint Consultation Meeting on the Harmonization of the Implementation of the SPA Protocol and the Convention on Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean region (Valencia, 20-21 April 2001).

*To request the Secretariat:*

(SPA/RAC)

1. To prepare the elements for a draft action plan on species introduction and invasive species;
2. To draw up a draft action plan for the conservation of bird species appearing in Annex II to the Protocol;
3. To prepare, in collaboration with the relevant organizations, a draft action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean species of cartilaginous fish;
4. To elaborate common criteria for the inclusion of additional species in the Annexes to the SPA Protocol;
5. To study the question of trade in *Lithophaga lithophaga*, to ask the advice of experts in environmental law and to report on the issue to the Focal Points;
6. To contact the Secretariats of the Bern and Bonn Conventions in order to strengthen the collaboration links that SPA/RAC has established with these organizations by signing a Memorandum of Cooperation with each of them.

### **II.B.3 Public information**

To implement, at the national level, action to disseminate information on the SPA Protocol and the Action Plans adopted within the MAP context for the conservation of species.

*To request the Secretariat:*

(SPA/RAC)

To assist National Focal Points for SPAs which request that action to disseminate information on the SPA Protocol at the national level be carried out, as far as resources permit.

#### **II.B.4 Exchange of experience and strengthening of national capabilities**

To promote, through SPA/RAC or bilateral action, training and exchange of experience, particularly in use of the Standard Data-Entry Form (SDF) and for the implementation of the Action Plans for the conservation of species.

*To request the Secretariat:*

*(SPA/RAC)*

To continue assisting countries to improve their national capabilities in the field of the conservation and management of the natural heritage and to strive to obtain external financial resources for these activities.

#### **II.C SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ZONES**

1. To urge the relevant authorities to reinforce the implementation of the MCSD recommendations on sustainable management of coastal regions, taking into consideration the results of the questionnaire sent by MEDU to major stakeholders.

2. To support and assist Contracting Parties' national and local institutions in using the methodologies, tools and instruments for the implementation of ICAM, developed by PAP/RAC.

3. To support subregional initiatives on sustainable management of coastal areas, such as the Adriatic Ionian Initiative, Ramoge and others. Also to call on countries to prepare and/or update their national strategies for coastal management, taking into account the guidelines for ICAM prepared by PAP/RAC;

4. To adopt and/or improve national legislation for sustainable coastal management, taking into account the work done by PAP/RAC and other international organizations. Also to call on Contracting Parties to prepare a feasibility study for the regional protocol on sustainable coastal management;

5. To invite the authorities in Algeria, Lebanon, and Malta to support the implementation of CAMP projects in their countries. Also to invite Morocco and Slovenia to commence preliminary activities with a view to signing the agreement for the projects in their countries. CAMP projects should continue to focus on a smaller number of activities that can be fully implemented, with strong integration of sectoral policies. National teams for the implementation of CAMP projects should consist of highly-qualified experts with experience in ICAM and international experts should continue to be of the highest calibre;

6. To call on the authorities in countries where CAMP projects have been completed to commit themselves to the follow-up activities by securing the necessary financial and human resources involving all stakeholders;

7. To invite countries where there have not yet been any CAMP projects to propose new projects and to prepare the respective feasibility studies;

8. To call on Contracting Parties to develop the systemic and prospective approaches (implementation of the sustainability analyses) on coastal regions through a set of priority indicators in collaboration with MAP (BP/RAC).

9. To support a regional network initiative based on advance tools and technologies (e.g. Space, GIS, Telecommunication, Internet) addressed to sustainable development in the Mediterranean (ERS/RAC). Accordingly, countries are called to strengthen national centres/organizations dealing with such tools and techniques by providing adequate human, technical and financial means.

*To request the Secretariat :*

*(PAP/RAC)*

1. To support the Contracting Parties in developing their national strategies, plans and programmes relating to ICAM and to provide technical assistance when specifically required by the Contracting Parties, *inter alia* through policy advice, national technical workshops, expert missions to countries, training courses;

2. To assist Algeria, Lebanon, and Malta to prepare their national reports on integrated coastal management;

3. To continue institutional strengthening and capacity-building of Contracting Parties' national and local institutions by means of the traditional and Internet-based (MedOpen) training courses on ICAM, exchange of information on ICAM by establishing the regional "clearing house" on coastal management initiatives, maintaining an informative web site, publishing and disseminating guidelines, thematic papers, programme results and other achievements;

4. To update regional guidelines for ICAM and to prepare guidelines for developing national legislation for coastal management;

5. To assist the Contracting Parties in adopting and/or improving their national legislation for ICAM. Also to assist the Contracting Parties in preparing the feasibility study for a regional protocol on sustainable coastal management;

6. To analyse problems of coastal erosion and to organize a regional workshop to discuss and adopt a regional action plan to fight this phenomenon, taking into account the respective international conventions and technical expertise in the field;

7. To pursue the development and implementation of ICAM tools and instruments, specifically coastal information systems, rapid coastal environmental assessment, land and sea-use planning instruments, and integrated coastal area and river basin management, taking into account the approach developed by the EU in the above fields;

8. To continue to develop and implement EIA at the project level and SEA at the level of plans and programmes so as to ensure that environmental concerns are taken into account at an early stage in the planning process, paying special attention to potential transboundary issues;

9. To coordinate MAP activities in relation to CAMP projects, under the overall coordinating responsibility of the Coordinating Unit;
10. To prepare CAMP feasibility studies, CAMP programmes and agreements, to implement the ongoing MAP CAMP projects and the projects whose implementation has been decided;
11. To propose to countries where MAP CAMP projects have been completed the introduction of new and/or the adaptation of existing instruments for environmental management, which would enable the follow-up of CAMPs, and to assist those countries in preparing viable projects that are a continuation of MAP CAMP projects.
12. To develop new types of CAMP projects, including transboundary projects, placing greater emphasis on public participation, strategic coastal area management and policy-making in the countries concerned, based on the initial proposals already developed by PAP/RAC;
13. To appraise the feasibility of including the health issue in CAMPs, in cooperation with WHO;
14. To develop operational sensitivity maps for coastal areas, in cooperation with REMPEC;
15. To assist the implementation of the biodiversity component in CAMPs, in cooperation with SPA/RAC;

*(ERS/RAC)*

1. To assist Mediterranean countries and MAP components in the field of space technologies application for the sustainable development, in order to help improving environmental knowledge and understanding in support to decision-making processes, taking into account the ongoing initiatives and their achievements at European and international level.
2. To assist Mediterranean countries in setting-up pilot projects for monitoring status and changes of priority environmental issues (e.g. disasters, desertification, coastal changes, urban expansion), seeking also external sources for funding.
3. To contribute, in close cooperation with the concerned MAP components, to the implementation of on-going and future CAMPs (e.g. remotely-sensed information for environmental analysis, contribution to data and information management, GIS implementation, etc).
4. To develop the use of EO data in the framework of ICAM, in particular on coastal erosion and watershed management.
5. To strengthen its central role for exchange with Mediterranean countries of data and metadata relevant to on-going and past projects, experiences, best practices, methodologies based on remote sensing through the implementation of a web-based network of Mediterranean specialised centres/organizations, dealing with remote sensing and its environmental applications.

6. To ensure the transfer to other Mediterranean countries of the results achieved through projects carried out at national/local scale, in order to address a regional dimension.

7. To continue strengthening its central role in developing, jointly with national authorities and MAP RACs, awareness raising, *at hoc* capacity building and training activities, by making appropriate use of high speed telecommunication means and based on pilot projects relying on advanced space techniques for sustainable development.

*BP/RAC*

To assist national and local authorities and other actors to anticipate changes by developing systemic and prospective sustainability analyses, especially in the context of CAMPs and by strengthening national capacities and disseminating these methods.

## II.D INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

### II.D.1 **Observation and prospective analysis: progress towards sustainable development**

1. To continue and intensify efforts to implement the recommendations of the Contracting Parties concerning indicators of sustainable development (ISD) by:

Improving the gathering of data and their analysis, especially at the level of coastal regions;

Reinforcing capacities for observation and prediction of the environment and development;

Carrying out studies and reports concerning the environment and sustainable development at the coastal, national and regional levels.

2. To mobilize institutions and persons qualified to contribute to the "regional report on the environment and development" and to the equivalent national reports.

3. To reinforce capacities in the field of environmental economics by evaluating the social, territorial and environmental impact of the free-trade area and by preparing planning and monitoring policies, so that social and environmental challenges can be met better through application of appropriate economic and environmental tools.

*To request the Secretariat:*

*(BP/RAC)*

1. In cooperation with all components of MAP, to draft a regional report on the environment and development in the Mediterranean with an analysis of the main past and future changes in the region based on ISD;

2. To assist the Contracting Parties to apply the recommendations on indicators, especially within the framework of the regional and coastal reports, and to encourage the regional network of national observatories or similar systems;
3. To continue efforts to reinforce capacities of countries in the field of environmental statistics, to continue implementation of the MEDSTAT-Environment Programme and to extend, as much as possible, some activities to Mediterranean countries that are non-beneficiaries of MEDA;
4. To continue work on analysing the issue of free trade and the environment, as well as economic tools for the environment;
5. To strengthen its communication, publishing and training efforts, and its role as a think tank on Mediterranean prospects and sustainable development.

*(ERS/RAC)*

1. To continue the activities by ERS/RAC to create a repository of information gathered by using remote sensing in order to calculate selected indicators of sustainable development at regional and national levels.
2. In co-operation with other MAP Components, to carry out activities on EO use for Land degradation monitoring.

#### **II.D.2 Tourism and sustainable development**

1. To apply the recommendations adopted by the Contracting Parties following the work of the MCSD:

To invite concerned authorities in their countries to continue to implement the MCSD recommendations on tourism and sustainable development;  
To support the concerted EU MEDA/SMAP, MAP and the implementation by countries of the project for sustainable tourism development in the Mediterranean;

To encourage their national and local authorities, and profit and non-profit organizations to apply, where appropriate, carrying-capacity assessment for tourism activities as a common tool for sustainable development of tourism.

*To request the Secretariat:*

*(BP/RAC)*

To contribute to the application of the recommendations on tourism and sustainable development adopted by the Contracting Parties following a proposal by the MCSD (Malta, 1999), particularly those on data collection concerning tourism and sustainable development.

*(PAP/RAC)*

To promote the use of carrying-capacity assessment as a tool for sustainable development of tourism, through the enhancement of the capacity of Mediterranean



national and local institutions in specific tourism areas, and to continue offering technical assistance.

### **II.D.3 Urban management and sustainable development**

To adopt and implement the recommendations proposed by the MCSD on urban management and sustainable development, and to provide support to urban authorities in their countries in the same endeavour.

*To request the Secretariat*

*(BP/RAC)*

To enhance and follow up the work carried out on urbanization and towns, to continue the work of analysis in the field of waste and to contribute to the implementation and follow-up of the MCSD proposals.

*(PAP/RAC)*

1. To assist the Contracting Parties in their endeavours to implement the MCSD recommendations on urban management and sustainable development through development of the appropriate urban management tools and instruments and by establishing mechanisms for the exchange of experience on good urban management practices;
2. To study further and analyse the issue of integration of coastal management and urban management, and to identify strategies and actions that should be encouraged in this field.

### **II.D.4 Rural development, natural areas and resources**

1. To follow up more effectively on the recommendations adopted on water, to carry out an initial assessment of the efforts undertaken and the difficulties to be overcome, and to contribute to the regional analysis on sustainable agricultural and rural development;
2. To support efforts to introduce better practices for urban water resources management;
3. To continue activities related to erosion/desertification control management as an essential element of sustainable development in the region, and to support the hitherto successful cooperation between FAO and PAP/RAC in the field;
4. To continue activities for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in collaboration with GWP-MED and other competent bodies.

*To request the Secretariat*

*(BP/RAC)*

1. To support the implementation of the recommendations on water demand management adopted by the Contracting Parties following a proposal by the MCSD and their follow-up by organizing a forum on the consequences of the recommendations and to continue the work on sustainable rural development, integrating the objectives for preservation and management of soils, woodland and terrestrial biodiversity, especially in partnership with GWP-MED and CIHEAM.

*(PAP/RAC)*

1. To develop guidelines for urban water resources management and to train regional experts in their application;

2. To implement the sub-regional project on soil erosion and desertification control and management in Maghreb countries, and to develop training on the methodologies, tools, procedures and technologies in Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and Turkey;

3. To invite the Secretariat (PAP/RAC) to provide support to the MCSD Working Groups on Waste Management and Agriculture and Rural Development (if approved), particularly in the field of urban wastes and soil erosion and desertification control and management respectively.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

(Part two )

The following recommendations were adopted by the Contracting Parties upon proposal of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development:

### A INDUSTRY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Considering the terms of reference as set for it by the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) meeting held in Tunis in November 2000,

Having convened in Barcelona (Spain) from 27 to 29 June 2001 under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan, and with the support of the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (RAC/CP) and MEDPOL,

Considering the background paper entitled "Status and trends of industry and sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region" and the various regional and national case studies presented at the Regional Workshop held in Barcelona,

Considering the ensuing discussions, the views and recommendations put forward by the various members of the Working Group,

Considering the main actors, legal frameworks, tools and instruments that may play a part in the integration of industry and environment so as to reach ecologically sustainable industrial development (ESID),and

Considering the Contracting Parties' international commitments, particularly the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols,

Considering that the pressure from industrial activities, particularly around pollution hotspots and sensitive zones, calls for an integrated approach so as to reduce the adverse impacts arising from pollution,

Considering the need to give due consideration to climate change, biodiversity and transboundary issues,

Considering the need to assist enterprises, particularly Small and Medium Enterprises, and Small and Medium Industries (SMEs/SMIs), to comply with their legal obligations, and to adopt the concept of sustainable development by developing and mobilising the means and the appropriate instruments, and by fostering a participatory approach, such as voluntary agreements,

Considering the precautionary and polluter pays principles as a means for reducing industrial pollution,

Aware of the lacunae that exist in initiatives currently undertaken to reduce industrial pollution,

Aware that the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) is a vital instrument for implementing the LBS Protocol to combat pollution from land-based sources and activities, particularly industrial pollution, and that its application contributes to improving the quality of the marine environment and the environmental performance of enterprises and their competitiveness, and desiring to meet fully the SAP objectives and targets,

Desiring to integrate the concept of sustainable development into the industrial development process,

Desiring to anticipate foreseeable impacts on the environment arising from the evolution of socio-economic development of the Mediterranean basin region, particularly the establishment of the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Zone,

Desiring to promote the transparency of any monitoring and evaluation processes applied towards reaching ecologically sustainable industrial development (ESID),

Desiring to strengthen the competitiveness of the industrial pollution prevention and control sector in the Mediterranean countries, and

In order to promote the integration of industry and the environment so as to reach ecologically sustainable industrial development (ESID), notably through cleaner production, at regional, national and local levels, and by particularly targeting SMEs/SMLs,

*The Contracting Parties agree on the following:*

(a) Reinforcement of the Use of Existing Mechanisms, Tools and Stakeholders

1. To strengthen and make coordinated use of relevant existing international, regional and national resources, such as cleaner production (CP) centres, UNIDO, research and development institutions, industry and professional associations;
2. To promote and support the establishment of such resource centres and other relevant sources of expertise at national and local levels, where needed.

*To request the Secretariat:*

To identify interested parties and make them aware of the implications of on sustainable development for production, distribution and consumption of industrial products and to facilitate cooperation among these stakeholders, namely:

- government ministries (ministries of the environment, industry, planning, economic affairs, commerce, tourism, transport, agriculture, health, etc.);
- financial institutions;
- industries, chambers of commerce and industrial associations;
- regional and international institutions, such as European Union, League of the Arab States, Mediterranean Action Plan, United Nations Environmental Programme, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, World Business Council for Sustainable Development;
- local authorities;

- non-governmental organizations;
- university institutions and training and research institutions.

(b) Introduction of Sustainable Standards within Companies

1. To promote consensus building through consultation mechanisms at the national and local levels for integration of industry and sustainable development, notably through sound environmental management and cleaner production practices;

To provide an appropriate framework for the promotion of successful voluntary agreements and autocontrol in industries for the periodic monitoring of their performance and compliance.

2. To establish incentives aimed at encouraging existing industries to adapt to current environmental requirements;

To require environmental management plans for any proposed industrial activity prior to their start-up and to provide assistance for the preparation and implementation of environmental management plans, when needed, notably in relation with the future Euro-Mediterranean free trade zone;

To promote the establishment of environment friendly activity zones avoiding concentration in coastal areas which could suffer from the impact of various activities linked to the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade zone;

To set specific after-care obligations, especially relating to the decommissioning of industrial establishments, including site remediation, as a pre-condition for the granting of an industrial operating permit;

To set up effective inspection systems that ensure that industrial establishments comply with permit conditions.

3. To promote an integrated approach to sustainable development through the use of existing and new environment management tools, such as:

- strategic impact and environmental impact assessments;
- environmental management systems (ISO 14000, EMAS, etc.);
- integrated pollution prevention and control, integrated product policy and life-cycle analysis;
- waste-reduction audits, good housekeeping methods, the simple material balance approach and sector-specific cleaner production opportunity assessment checklists.

To apply environmental criteria and standards, taking into account the specific conditions of each country:

- to marketed products, including imported products;
- to market-liberalisation processes;
- in codes of practice relating to national and foreign investment;
- in public procurement procedures.

4. To internalise environmental externalities (hidden or implicit environmental costs) and apply the "polluter pays" principle;

To reduce progressively the subsidization of production inputs, especially subsidized water and energy costs so as to better reflect the environmental costs of production.

5. To use appropriate economic and financial instruments as tools to ease the introduction of sustainability into the general management of enterprises.
6. To integrate principles of cleaner production and sustainable development into processes, products and services;

To integrate principles of cleaner production and sustainable development into all aspects of training and education.

*To request the Secretariat:*

To prepare and disseminate through regional and national institutions the tools, experiences, lessons learned and methodologies that would facilitate consensus-building and consultation mechanisms.

(c) Promotion of the Transfer of Knowledge

1. To promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and their adaptation to national and local conditions, notably through partnerships and twinning;

To promote the dissemination of information about all relevant technological know-how, practices, diagnostic tools, guides, demonstration projects, etc;

To exchange information, particularly at the regional level, through networking and other electronic means, including the interconnection of existing networks and the creation of a common Web site that would specifically target SMEs, SMLs and handcraft activities.

2. To create mechanisms (through training, twinning, technical information, business incubators, public participation, etc.) to enhance capacity-building:
  - for the training of experts;
  - for the technical divisions of public administrations, including inspection institutions;
  - for SMEs and SMLs;
  - for vulnerable areas and islands.

(d) Control and Follow-up Mechanisms

To establish, implement and improve monitoring and evaluation systems that are consistent with generally accepted systems, namely:

- at the company level: performance indicators to monitor continuous improvement;
- at the sectoral and national levels: benchmarking mechanisms, including indicators and sectoral reports.

*To request the Secretariat:*

1. To promote and follow implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems that are consistent with generally accepted systems, such as:
    - sustainable industry indicators that complement those already adopted in the region;
    - a regional review of progress in the integration of industry and sustainable development.
  2. To promote the monitoring and follow-up of sustainability-related projects by entities that are independent of the financing and executing agencies of those projects.
- (e) Follow-up

*To request the Secretariat:*

1. To require the MAP Secretariat in cooperation with relevant national, regional and international institutions:
  - to facilitate the follow up of the implementation of these proposals for action;
  - to integrate f the recommendations of the working group into the targets and timetable of MAP programmes and tools, such as the strategic action plan (SAP) and Global Environment Fund (GEF) activities, as well as those of CP/RAC;
  - to facilitate the integration of industrial environmental criteria into the activities of the MCSD, in particular the free trade and environment issue;
3. To present to the eighth meeting of MCSD specific guidelines for implementation of the recommendations that includes deadlines, actors involved, financial, technical and human requirements, expected outputs and indicators.

## **B. URBAN MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

### BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS

- (a) Mobilising actors and means of action towards achieving the sustainable urban development

Today, throughout the Mediterranean basin, in spite of several pioneering initiatives (Tripoli, Malaga, Essaouira, Ismailia, Rome, ...), the relevant stakeholders have not been in the position to offer their full support to the policy of sustainable development. It should be possible for the local authorities to express a strong political will regarding more transparent choices for the town and its inhabitants. They should be able to "tailor" it according to the size of the agglomeration and the specific situation. A particular attention should be paid to the small and medium-size towns (50% of the urban population of the region lives in agglomerations with less than 300,000 inhabitants).

The stakeholders are often municipalities which are either isolated or under the “sectorialised” tutorship of ministries and other administrative bodies which operate too separately from each other, while the sustainable development requires a more “transversal” action and a synergy between the local communities grouped at a suitable level and the State, provinces or regions, which should be true partners in land-use management and, accordingly, urban planning.

The civil society as a whole – population, associations, professions, enterprises – is not yet fully involved in practice as required by the Rio Declaration (chapter 28 of the activities). Very often, throughout the Mediterranean, the local Agendas 21 are good checklists, but are not followed by a decisive action. Citizen groups, organised as early as possible, enables to better formulate requirements and expectations over a long-time period and with respect to the mobilisation of available funds (participatory budgeting).

Training of stakeholders not yet aware of the ideas of sustainable development, and strengthening of the local capacity building are prerequisites of a good participation.

The international financial means, and especially the European support, identify very seldom urban programmes as such, although the local communities are the best places for implementing transversal projects that, for example, link transports, habitat and greenhouse effect, or water demand pricing and social equity. Euro-Mediterranean meetings like, for example, the Ministerial Conference to be held in Athens in 2002, could be good occasions for a new opportunity for the towns which, by the year 2025 in the Mediterranean will account for 70% of the population and where a large part of the problems relevant to the sustainable development will be concentrated.

As regards the resources, the national and local financing in the region is still controlled by, often outdated, fiscal frameworks. Changes are expected in order to enable the local communities, depending on the situation, to redirect the revenues and useless expenditures to environmentally friendly services or social objectives like the poverty reduction.

*The Contracting Parties agree on the following*

1. To promote and facilitate the elaboration the approach that the sustainable urban development calls for the elaboration and implementation, by the urban municipalities and groups of municipalities, of medium and long – term development strategies, plans and programmes. These actions, of the Agenda 21 type, should be initiatives shared and contracted by all of the concerned stakeholders (services of the State, local communities, various actors of the civil society, socio-economic partnerships). They should have the integrated character, not only at the national interministerial level or at inter-services local level, but also between national, regional and local levels.

2. To recognize the role of various actors of the civil society in the urban governance and that they should take form of their involvement in the process as early as possible. It is advised that this participation be in the form of a continuous consultative and management process. The local Agendas 21, and other similar initiatives such as Urban Strategic Plans, could become dynamic exercises for the realisation of this participative democracy.



3. To create the necessary conditions for the strengthening of the administrative, technical and financial capacities of the municipalities. Strengthening of the local capacities should be implemented at all levels and involve directly the new stakeholders which have emerged from the process of decentralisation (local communities, community organisations, local or neighbourhood associations, ...). The capacity building mechanisms require transparency and actions aimed at popularisation of and sensibilisation to the issues and challenges of sustainable urban development, as well as specific training adapted to the role and prerogatives of the various local stakeholders (leaders, technical municipal services, associations, ...).

4. To review and, where needed, to increase the financial resources allocated to local authorities, as present urban municipalities' financial resources are largely insufficient to cover increasing needs for sustainable urban development, and in particular for fighting the urban poverty. This could be done, inter alia, by increasing transfers from the state budgets to the local authorities and/or by using innovative local economic instruments. The international donors are invited to increase their funding targeted at specific urban development programs.

*To request the Secretariat:*

To prepare an overview of the recent evolution and distribution of international (multilateral, bilateral and decentralised) and national financing intended for the urban development in the Mediterranean. Criteria could also be defined in order to better guide the future financing towards sustainable development.

(b) Acting towards a better management of urban dynamics

Urban planning, from Hippodamos of Millet to la Cerda in Barcelona, has marked the organisation of the Mediterranean towns, and still today the physical planning is an indispensable affirmation of the public interest in the towns where speculations and individual initiatives could not become lasting components of the systems which are becoming more and more complex. Over the past 30 years, urban and regional planning in the Mediterranean has provided good examples of what physical and land-use plans could be. The coast, which is generally exposed to most of the urban pressure in the Mediterranean, calls for an ever stricter control (coastal laws, coastal programmes, "contrats de baie" /a tool for protecting and managing the coastal areas, created in France some 10 years ago; the contract is made by the local authorities concerned - municipalities, urban communities, .../).

However, placed within a time frame, as requested by the sustainable development, "the plans" should be reconsidered and formulated as strategies and programmes paying greater attention to the dynamics, organised or spontaneous, of urbanisation and to the ever faster changes of the civil society. The participative planning is a present day request expressed ever more frequently and strongly.

The Mediterranean towns and regions will draw long-term benefits from exchange of new experience (Catalonia 2010, Egypt 2020, etc.) and from regional strategic programmes with time horizons of 2010 or 2025 (in France, Egypt, Morocco, etc.).

Some issues, characteristic of the entire Mediterranean basin, were examined more thoroughly:

- Sprawl prevention. In the compact Mediterranean town the territory spreads through pavilion housing, cars, tourism, and especially the very strong demographic growth (an increase of 100 million urban inhabitants in the South until 2025), prices of land. Urban spreading is often to the detriment of the neighbouring agricultural land in the coastal planes, already scarce in the region. Other negative consequences are the risk of marginalisation (uncontrolled, often illegal housing), the high vulnerability of urban areas to natural and technological risks, and an increased greenhouse effect due to longer trips in motor vehicles. The “reconstruction of the town on the town”, the importance of town cores require renewed urban strategies. A long-term maintenance of the peripheral agriculture is often the most economical way of securing aeration of the town, upkeep of “landscape areas”, and reconnecting, in a positive sense, of the town and the countryside.

- Urban transports are one of key issues of sustainable development. Increased numbers of private cars, already considerable in the region or expected to become so (until the year 2025 an increase of more than 400% in the number of cars in Morocco, and an increase of more than 40% in the cargo transport and 30% in the human transport in the Southern Europe), will bring along a considerable risk of air pollution in the part of the world where, in summertime, meteorological inversions are important.

- Demographic explosion, uneven distribution of revenue, unemployment, have led in the towns, sometimes in the degraded ancient centres, and sometimes in marginalised suburbs, to the appearance and development of uncontrolled housing. In view of a progressive reintegration of often unhealthy housing, the local communities have to develop appropriate social and environmental policies that would benefit from being adopted with the involvement of the concerned population.

- The desired revival of the urban centres, but sometimes also the degradation of the housing fund or implosion due to traffic congestion, are very strong facts. The “reconstruction of town on the town” is necessary; yet it could pose risks if a careful and subtle strategy is not applied with regard to the historic heritage, both ancient and more recent. The local authorities, as well as the State agencies (historic monuments, archaeology) should join forces, and the State itself should play its role in order to secure that the clear laws on historic heritage is respected. It is evident that if the approach is global, in the Mediterranean the stakes are higher since this region is the most important tourist destination in the world. Furthermore, the directly interested population should be more involved in the protection and rehabilitation measures.

- Finally, some more aspects typically Mediterranean like the harbours and harbour zones which, often in decline, had to or still have to be “rehabilitated” or converted to open the Mediterranean towns to the sea. But also to give all their space to inter-Mediterranean maritime navigation that could, in the years to come, have a renaissance in a new form, especially if we want to avoid air traffic congestion already indicated by an annual increase of more than 8%, or negative environmental effects of the cargo traffic along the coastal roads.

*The Contracting Parties agree on the following*

1. To prepare guidelines , aimed at upgrading the existing planning tools in their towns in order to move towards global, integrated and prospective strategic planning taking into account the social, economic and environmental aspects.
2. To encourage, within their regional development policies, balanced development of towns and regions, so as to prevent the excessive concentration on the coastal areas and/or the explosion of too large urban agglomerations.
3. To encourage together with the Mediterranean towns, and with the support of international programmes and the participation of the population concerned, increase of efforts to prevent natural and technological risks. They are invited to prepare and implement rehabilitation programmes for degraded or unhealthy neighbourhoods in central and peripheral neighbourhoods of significant poverty, and contingency plans in risk-exposed urban areas. The preservation of the urban historic heritage should take into consideration not only the heritage or tourism objectives, but also aim at improving the living conditions of the local population.
4. To establish by the towns concerned, a rehabilitation programmes for harbour fallow land, bearing in mind at the same time their interest in the use of the space, urban opening to the sea, and the possible future renaissance of the inter-Mediterranean maritime navigation.
5. To encourage the Mediterranean towns to prepare and implement, in cooperation with the civil society stakeholders, municipal “greenhouse effects” combating plans. These plans should integrate all aspects of resource management (waste minimisation, recycling, energy saving, limiting urban sprawl...). They should also adopt specific plans for improving the urban mobility and transport, favouring the modes of transport that require less space and energy,. Those plans would be harmonised with the principle of mixing of urban functions and uses.

*To request the Secretariat:*

1. To assist countries in preparing the guidelines for upgrading the planning tools and in publishing and disseminating them. It is also encouraged to prepare cost-effectiveness analysis of urban sprawl.
2. To promote the exchange of experience in the field of policies for controlling urban sprawl, upgrading of poor neighbourhoods, the preservation and rehabilitation of historic settlements, and harbour rehabilitation and their integration in urban structure.

(c) Improving public urban services management

The Mediterranean towns evidently share most of the urban management dysfunctions with the rest of the world, but especially those in the southern and eastern shores are characterised by the great problems relevant to following the rhythm of urban growth and to the lack of their own means. The priority problems regard the water supply, sewerage and solid waste management, and urban transports.

Faced by this situation, and within their efforts to mobilise means needed to finance infrastructure and urban services or to initiate social policies in their competence, the Mediterranean urban municipalities, even those that have managerial competence, search for external resources, and sometimes partner enterprises for the management. The States play a decisive role for a good management of the services, in the planning, regulation, financing, and distribution of competencies among various levels of administration.

The public urban services of municipalities or groups of municipalities could be managed either directly by the municipality personnel or by transferring those duties to public or private enterprises. In fact, it has been realised that neither the rules of the public market, concession charts, monitoring of sub-contractors, public accountability of the heritage, nor technical control are sufficiently taken into consideration in this respect. As for the methods of assessing the public opinion and impact assessment, these are still insufficient.

The need was also realised to implement legislative measures in order to improve financial and control capacities of the administrative bodies in charge of services management. The ways should be explored of how to secure the necessary control by the communities where some partners tend to impose inadequate conditions in terms of costs or sustainable development.

The pricing (adapted to economic and social criteria) and the administrative or techno-economic tools of control are the instruments on which the good implementation of sustainable development will depend.

*The Contracting Parties agree on the following*

1. To strengthen capacities of the authorities (national, regional, local) in charge of urban services and clarify, whenever needed, the institutional framework in order to improve the service quality and management efficiency.
2. To see that, in the case of management transferred to a private companies or public-private partnerships (PPP), the municipalities or groups of municipalities secure that the contractors integrate sustainable development concerns in their mandates, and that they are capable of implementing efficient monitoring methods (progress and performance indicators, tariff control, etc.). When evaluating bidding applications the selection criteria should not be solely based on the "least cost" principle, but also on taking into consideration social and environmental goals and costs of sustainable development. The cost recovery principle in pricing public urban services should ensure access to services for the poorest citizens.

*To request The Secretariat:*

To compile regional databases on management of public services and its costs in the Mediterranean towns which would facilitate the comparative analysis of the efficiency of these services, as well as of the pricing policies applied.

- (d) Strengthening the Mediterranean and Euro-Mediterranean co-operation for a sustainable urban development

For several decades now, the co-operation among nations has become an instrument for improving the social, economic and environmental development. The United Nations Charter, the declarations and action plans from Stockholm (1972) and

Rio (1992), Vancouver (1975) and Istanbul (1996) are some of the important milestones of the sustainable development of countries and towns.

The towns level is essential, and its interest was shown in Curitiba and Rio in 1992, in Istanbul (1995), and confirmed in New York in 2000 (Habitat+5). The local authorities and urban NGOs should be present in Johannesburg as they were in Rio and Istanbul. The Rio+10 Conference in Johannesburg will be an occasion to reaffirm that interest, and the Mediterranean States would benefit from a joint approach, and from showing also their own efforts at the regional. The Conference could provide a new impetus to the sustainable urban development.

At their level, the Mediterranean countries have already undertaken initiatives of co-operation, launched in Barcelona in 1975 and confirmed, from the point of view of sustainable development, in Tunis in 1994, and again in Barcelona in 1995. This also refers to the Euro-Mediterranean process.

However, a significant benefit would be drawn from bringing this co-operation down to the level of towns. Twinning of towns (more than 200 towns), existence of a network created in 1991 (Medcities), opened a path that could now be enlarged by a joint effort made by the towns, provinces or regions, and States.

This approach does not require the creation of an ad hoc institution or a RAC, but the use of guidelines prepared by the States, identification of urban programmes by the European and international donors, and a boost, on a voluntary basis, for thematic networks comprising regional and national towns and experts. Little by little, the associations and other representatives of the civil society, as well as the socio-economic partners would draw benefit from their active participation in this co-operation.

*The Contracting Parties agree on the following:*

1. To strengthen the existing co-operation networks, both general (Medcities, MEDForum, MIO-ECSDE) and thematic (Medener, Healthy Cities, Medsafe, etc.). They would be supported, as necessary, by European or international financing.
2. To encourage the local authorities and associations to be better connected with and benefit from the programmes of international co-operation in the Mediterranean: identification of urban programmes by donors would facilitate this task, as well as the work of various instances concerned, such as Euromed Partnership, UNEP, UNDP, UNESCO, The World Bank, EIB, METAP, CEDARE.
3. That the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development, supported by the Mediterranean towns, could address the Euromed Partnership, better use the existing funding possibilities for promoting and supporting urban sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

*To request the Secretariat*

To encourage, as sustainable development is not a uniform model, but it should be tailored to local conditions, exchange of experience by organising, inter alia, thematic workshops and web conferences for the towns sharing common problems and similar objectives, and maintain the information exchange, whenever possible together with the existing networks.

### **C. FREE TRADE AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CONTEXT**

#### *The Contracting Parties:*

Having considered the report and proposals of the working group and grateful for the quality of the work on this sensitive subject of major importance,

1. Take note of the working group's conclusions, especially concerning the potential impact of free trade on sustainable development in the countries in the South and East of the Mediterranean region and in the Euro-Mediterranean region in general, and the first proposed orientations for action,
2. Consider the difference between rapid progress towards increased trade, on the one hand, and the late and slow nature of evaluation processes of their potential impact on sustainable development and implementation of appropriate responses at the national and regional levels, on the other hand,
3. Note with satisfaction the progress announced by the European Commission regarding the launching of an impact assessment of the creation of an Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area on sustainable development;
4. Agree to consider at the national level and at the level of the European Community concrete follow-up that could be given to the report of the working group, specifically concerning
  - observation and monitoring of impact on the most vulnerable sectors and geographical areas;
  - involvement of institutions dealing with questions of the environment and sustainable development in the agreements of association and other trade agreements, specifically taking into account interaction between structural and sectorial policies,
  - involvement of socio-economic actors;  
upgrading of response capabilities regarding the expected effects of the liberalization of trade.
5. Recommend continuation of work for a further two years with a focus on:
  - strengthening the methodology for foreseeing and monitoring impacts;
  - the effects of liberalization of trade on several sectors, such as agriculture, transportation and industry;
  - identification of response tools for upgrading SMEs/SMLs, the handicraft sector and public urban services through integration of an environmental dimension.

#### **D. IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION**

##### First Assessment

Since the first set of recommendations and proposals for action were adopted, the issue of their implementation and follow up was regularly raised. In conformity with the mandate of the MCSD and following requests from the MCSD and Contracting Parties meetings, a first objective assessment was prepared through a large consultation process and specific case studies.

Implementation is generally very poor and main shortcomings identified concern dissemination of recommendations, lack of guidelines and appropriateness of the recommendations in relation to structures and resources. However, the preparatory process itself through the intersessional activities, its increased flow of information and its improved participatory approach, is perceived as a positive and constructive step.

Considering the importance of this issue, the next MCSD meeting (March 2002, Antalya) will further review and as far as possible finalise the assessment and proposed guidelines.

*The Contracting Parties agree on the following:*

1. To take the necessary steps and measures so as to improve communication and dissemination of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action, notably to concerned actors in national and local public and private sectors as well as major groups from society;
2. To prepare national plans for the implementation and follow up of the recommendations or integrate them in national Sustainable Development Strategies, identifying the necessary human, technical and financial means, notably through a participatory approach involving concerned actors;
3. To promote the development of twinning projects between Mediterranean countries and actors for implementation of recommendations and exchange of experience;
4. To use all available instruments and means, including national indicative programmes of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, to finance the implementation of the recommendations adopted;

*To request the Secretariat:*

1. To prepare specific guidelines for implementation and follow up of MCSD recommendations for each of the MCSD thematic sets, including where possible and appropriate, human, technical and financial requirements;
2. To assist the Contracting Parties and partners in disseminating the information to concerned actors at all levels and implementing the MCSD recommendations;
3. To assess the implementation and follow up of MCSD recommendations every 4 years and report to the MCSD and CP meetings;

## **E. RECOMMENDATIONS DERIVED FROM THE STRATEGIC REVIEW FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AND PROPOSALS FOR ACTION**

The regional review clearly shows the progress which has been made towards sustainable development and environmental protection as well as the flaws which continue to exist, since the Mediterranean Action Plan and Barcelona Convention and its Protocols were revised in 1995.

New types of growth and development which take greater account of the social well-being of the entire population and of environmental concerns need to be sought.

The environmental, economic and social cost to be borne in the short term by certain countries within a context of integration and liberalization which favors market mechanisms can only be acceptable if serious accompanying measures are adopted in order to cushion the impact on the least privileged sectors of society, and which will guarantee more long-term sustainability.

At national level, the difficulty of giving concrete expression to measures towards sustainable development decided upon by the Mediterranean community shows, on the one hand, that the new concept has not as yet managed to mobilize all spheres of Society and, on the other, that States have been slow in implementing some of the decisions taken.

Although it is highly active, co-operation in the Mediterranean is, on the one hand, affected by a lack of common vision and inadequate co-ordination between the main partners currently or potentially involved and, on the other, by a mismatch between resources available for development and investments, given the scale of the tasks to be accomplished. This is exacerbated by the fact that the short-term effects of the Uruguay Round's decisions have not produced the expected results for the developing Mediterranean countries, judging by the worsening foreign trade deficit faced by most countries.

Apart from a clear political impetus, any shift towards sustainable development also requires reference models which identify and put across a shared vision, which takes account of the Mediterranean peculiarities, as well as a coherent strategy capable of guiding the various stages of its implementation.

*The Contracting Parties agree on the following::*

### A common vision and a regional strategy

1. Define a common vision of the region's future along with all of the partners concerned. For this purpose, they will prepare, within the framework of MAP and with all the partners concerned, a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, if possible for adoption at their Thirteenth Ordinary Meeting (2003). This Strategy should reflect a responsible acceptance of the medium and long-term stakes and clear commitment and solidarity at all levels (regional, national, local) and in all sectors (economic, social, environmental); this strategy should:



- Take account of the diversity of existing political, social, economic, cultural and environmental systems;
- Allow States and Local Authorities to play their full role;
- Respect the multiple values of Mediterranean societies;
- Draw on all elements of Society;
- Promote social equity;
- Ensure respect for the integrity of eco-systems;
- Apply a participatory approach;
- Identify and promote adequate methodologies and tools;
- Promote the transfer and mastery of cleaner technologies;
- Promote bilateral and regional cooperation;
- Take due account of the principle of common but differentiated responsibility;
- Encourage complementarity and synergies with other relevant programmes;
- Express at the Mediterranean level the aims and proposals for action laid down by major global conventions, particularly on climate change, biodiversity, desertification etc., as well as the UN-CSD's recommendations;
- Facilitate implementation of the Barcelona Convention, its protocols and MAP recommendations;
- Build the required capacities to meet the above-mentioned objectives effectively.

2. To pay, through the Regional Strategy, particular attention to the implementation of recommendations and proposals for action adopted or to be adopted within the MCSD framework, establishing clear objectives and adequate means, inter alia in the following areas: water demand management, tourism, industry, agriculture, energy, transport, waste, free trade and the environment, information and awareness raising, indicators for sustainable development, land use planning, coastal management and urban development.

#### National Strategies towards impetus and implementation

3. To draw up or revise as soon as possible, depending on their circumstances, national sustainable development strategies, which :

should be drawn up or revised in accordance with national specificities and priorities depending on the circumstances, in order to take account of evolutions towards globalization in the Mediterranean region. The preparation/revision of national strategies and their implementation should be conducted according to a participatory approach, involving all actors and at all levels of responsibility concerned and should be coherent with other similar exercises;

should be elaborated within the framework of their respective national Agenda 21 and should define ambitious objectives regarding the uncoupling of production on the one hand from energy consumption and the use of resources and natural areas on the other. International commitments on cleaner production as well as the internationally accepted aims for limiting polluting emissions should find their expression in national strategies. National objectives should be established for sustainable consumption aimed at controlling the impact of structural changes on consumption patterns (private transport, renewable energy, solid waste and packaging, etc.);

should endeavour to translate the recommendations and proposals for action adopted or to be adopted within the MCSD context into concrete objectives and means. In this respect, the MCSD could prepare guidelines for drawing up national strategies.

4. To set up as soon as possible National Commissions on Sustainable Development or other types of participation structures which should be representative of the forces active within the country, in order to strengthen coherence and convergence in action.

5. To carry out any necessary legislative, fiscal, financial, trade or economic reforms likely to assist in implementing national sustainable development strategies including the following elements:

- Rationalization of economic activity by integrating the environmental dimension;
- Ensuring social equity;
- Preserving and managing natural resources on a sustainable basis.

6. As regards the legal framework for sustainable development, the Contracting Parties agree to:

- Update and implement their national legal framework in line with environment-related international agreements they have ratified;
- Complete the organization of the national and local institutional structures concerned;
- Ensure and render the rules on governance as flexible as possible by promoting the principle of subsidiarity, transparency and the participatory approach;
- Facilitate access to justice at a national level in order to ensure that environmental law is respected.

7. To entrust to the extent possible the Local Authorities with greater responsibility for decentralized environmental management as well as for urban and rural development, particularly within the framework of local Agendas 21, guaranteeing good governance and the involvement of the main groups in Society, since the rapid urbanization of the coastal areas in particular, as well as regional imbalances, are both crucial sustainable development issues,.

8. To further study and promote within MAP regional policy guidance and methodological tools for the integration and continuous observation of coastal areas, in order to facilitate implementation, including guidance for the development of national legislation, given the strategic importance of the coasts, and the necessary implementation of the principles of integrated coastal management.

#### Effective Regional Coordination

9. To take full account, in appointing/selecting their representatives to MCSD, of the necessity to maintain the open, autonomous, advisory, and representative nature of this body. The same applies for the local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic actors. Through appropriate networking, they should draw on the experience of past members and ensure input from the wider groups they represent. Members from local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic actors should represent as wide a spectrum as possible of major groups of the society and should participate more actively in the work of the MCSD.

10. To improve and strengthen, together with the other members of the MCSD the exemplary nature of State mobilization, supporting the unique character of the Mediterranean eco-region, their communications with the aim to guarantee an effective circulation of information between the MAP structures and national focal structures in particular, making MAP activities and output more visible to Mediterranean public opinion and to the interested international community.

#### Monitoring and Assessment Tools

11. To develop and network the national environment and development observing systems or other similar appropriate functions, since the preparation of prospective analyses at the Mediterranean level as well as the production of useful information for public decision-taking and sectoral policies require updated data on all areas of human activity,

12. To utilize appropriate measurement tools, as well as performance and response indicators which can assess progress, and to adopt measures to enable the regular follow-up and assessment of the state of the Mediterranean environment (inter alia, land, marine and coastal), since sustainable development and environmental protection are medium to long-term processes.

#### Follow-up of Proposals for Action

13. To make concrete provisions to ensure that proposals are disseminated to concerned institutional structures, authorities and other actors; and to report on them in the national reports for submission to MAP, since the revised Barcelona Convention lays down the requirement to take full account of MCSD/MAP recommendations and to take the necessary measures to adopt them during their ordinary meetings

14. To prepare projects for submission to financing institutions, in order to give concrete expression to the MCSD's and MAP's proposals for action through effective implementing activities, within the MAP context and in interaction with the countries. In this respect, the MAP components should strengthen their capacity for preparing and managing projects related to MAP priorities.

15. To promote the emergence of regional strategic action programmes or projects within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership on priority issues dealt with by MAP/MCSD in application of their decisions, and will assist fully in their implementation at the national level with the participation of all the actors concerned.

#### Broader Regional Cooperation.

16. Given that the Mediterranean eco-region is the appropriate framework for dialogue and interdependence, the Euro-Mediterranean partners and other cooperation programmes in the region should set the aim of Sustainable Development at the very heart of the implementation of their activities at regional and national level based on equity, shared responsibility and solidarity.

17. To promote greater cooperation between MAP, the United Nations agencies, the World Bank and other concerned institutions in the region and encourage them to

take account of the priorities defined by the Contracting Parties with the aim of rationalizing means and increasing synergy:

To encourage official collaboration between MAP and their respective regional programmes;

To take account of, exchange information on and promote cohesion and complementarity of the objectives of their respective programmes of activities;

To better involve or even entrust competent, ad hoc, intergovernmental actors with the management of certain thematic activities; and

To strengthen, or even institutionalize cooperation with the UN-CSD,

18. To promote a closer North-South partnership by strengthening the voluntary contributions made by countries at the regional and bilateral level in order to better support MAP activities to promote sustainable development, particularly pilot projects and capacity building at the country and regional levels.

19. To actively contribute together with regional networks of NGOs, local authorities and socio-economic actors as well as the MAP Secretariat to the preparations for the Earth Summit II.