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20th Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) / Réunion de la Commission Méditerranéenne de Développement Durable (CMDD)

Marseille, France, 14-16 June 2023 / Marseille, France, 14-16 June 2022

Agenda Item 4: Mediterranean Sustainability and SCP Dashboards

Note by the Secretariat

This document provide an overview of the progress made on the Mediterranean Sustainability and SCP Dashboards including the update of the Sustainable Consumption and Production indicators by MedWaves SCP/RAC, the production of indicator factsheets linked to the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the periodic monitoring to follow the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025 by Plan Bleu, as well as the publication of a [dedicated frontpage to the Mediterranean Sea and Barcelona Convention](#) made available on the World Environment Situation Room (WESR).

I. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Integration of SCP Indicators

1. Following the 24th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee held 14-15 December 2022 in Athens, Greece, where the representative of Plan Bleu/RAC, Mr Antoine Lafitte, presented the Mediterranean sustainability dashboard, including the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) indicators. He referred to the ambition and perspective for the regional observatory in 2022-2023, the long-term objectives, the achievements and the concrete actions under implementation both on the global UNEP- administered platform World Environment Situation Room (WESR) and the MapX cartographic application.
2. The members of the Steering Committee acknowledged the progress done by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and MedWaves-SCP/RAC) on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, including the revised list of indicators and an updated version of the indicator analytical factsheets.
3. They reiterated the importance of building national capacities for data sharing and peer learning about the Dashboard Indicators. They discussed how to further promote the legal indicators and the Aarhus Convention at the national level.
4. The Steering Committee members discussed the need for further integrating the legally binding obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols into national judicial systems. Within this framework, it was noted that synergies should be encouraged with the ongoing activities to promote the Aarhus Convention, carried out under the relevant Flagship Initiative. The possibility of using the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the courts for legal reasons, directly and indirectly for EU Member States through the EU Acquis, was also noted.
5. During the Meeting, members of the Steering Committee invited the Secretariat and Plan Bleu/RAC to participate at the next PAM Assembly on 1-2 March in Rabat, Morocco, to present the work on indicators, including legal indicators, and highlighted the importance of indicators and data sharing, noting the challenges related to the measurement of indicators and acquisition of data, and stressed the importance of peer learning in this respect.
6. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu/RAC) has been represented by one of the MedECC coordinator and delivered a presentation to brief PAM Delegates on the long-term objectives of the Mediterranean sustainability dashboard, including the Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) indicators, as agreed at the 24th meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee.
7. The 24th MCSD Steering Committee reached the following Conclusions and Recommendations regarding the Sustainability Dashboard:
 - a) The MCSD Steering Committee welcomed the work done by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and MedWaves - SCP/RAC) during the period under reporting (June - December 2022), including regular updates of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and other specific activities implemented in this framework.
 - b) The MCSD Steering Committee reiterated the importance of the development and population of legal indicators while also noting the challenges relating to the availability and sharing of data and the importance of enhancing dialogue and strengthening national capacities in this field.
 - c) The MCSD Steering Committee noted the need to enhance discussion and exchange of best practices between Contracting Parties on further integrating the legally binding obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols in the national judicial systems.
8. In the ensuing discussion of the Dashboard in the 19th Meeting of the MCSD, MCSD Members representing Contracting Parties highlighted the need for technical assistance to countries, e.g.

methodology for data sharing and verification. MedPAN invited the Secretariat to consider local data providers through collaboration between governmental and non-governmental actors.

9. EEA insisted on the new design and “politisation” of indicators, which aim to measure progress towards policy targets and on the necessary convergence between various monitoring and reporting frameworks: i.e. UN system, MSSD, EU, etc. Indicators should have concrete, qualitative or quantitative targets and be measurable with available data. MEPIELAN invited Plan Bleu to integrate legal indicators in the dashboard, measuring progress towards inclusive, fair, and peaceful societies.

10. The 19th MCSD Meeting reached the following Conclusions:

- a) The 19th Meeting of the MCSD took note of and welcomed the work done by the Secretariat (Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC) for updating and populating the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, including the integration of SCP Indicators, which complement the dashboard under the MSSD Objective 5 “Transition towards a green and blue economy”.
- b) The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) and the MCSD Steering Committee were encouraged to continue working towards the optimal alignment and consistency of the dashboard with ongoing global processes on SDGs indicators and to ensure that all indicators are regularly measured and adequately communicated within the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system and beyond.
- c) Reminding the living nature of the list of indicators of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and the need to keep it under review under the guidance of the MCSD Steering Committee and with the technical support of Plan Bleu/RAC as international work on SDG indicators progresses, the MCSD took note of the migration of the Regional observatory on the environment and development, which is managed by Plan Bleu, to the global UNEP-administered platform World Environment Situation Room (WESR),
- d) The MCSD Steering Committee members appreciate this opportunity to efficiently monitor progress towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean, including more extensive access to quality-ensured relevant data for the Contracting Parties and partners. They encourage the Secretariat to inform and consult the MCSD and its Steering Committee on those relevant perspectives.

11. MedWaves SCP/RAC continue to update the SCP indicators to reflect the above conclusions, recommendations, and interlinkages between human activities and environmental status within the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and strengthen the Dashboard on green, blue and circular economies-related indicators. All the information was gathered on the Regional Observatory of the Environment and Sustainable Development [website](#)¹ to facilitate access to information, including factsheets, publications, and thematic maps.

12. Plan Bleu/RAC produced the indicator factsheets linked to the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the periodic monitoring to follow the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025. A [dedicated frontpage to the Mediterranean Sea and Barcelona Convention](#) is available on the World Environment Situation Room (WESR). For the first time ever, a section is dedicated to the [MSSD Dashboard on WESR:Mediterranean](#). It compiles all information produced by Plan Bleu for the MSSD monitoring in an interactive way.

13. In addition, progress on the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean (2016–2027) was measured using a set of SCP indicators that were developed during *SwitchMed* and adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean at their COP20 in December 2017.

14. In this regard, it is worth noting that the European Commission has recently voted for legislation to restrict microplastics intentionally added to products, e.g. in cosmetics, paints, detergents, fertilisers, and artificial infill for synthetic turfs. The proposed EU-wide restriction covers intentionally added

¹ <https://www.obs.planbleu.org/en/>

microplastics in multiple applications, including agriculture, horticulture, coatings, maintenance products, and medical and pharmaceutical applications. The measure will now be sent to the Council and the European Parliament for a scrutiny period of 3 months and is expected to be adopted and published in Q4 2023.