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**Mediterranean  
Action Plan**  
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Convention

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91<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Teleconference, 7-8 July 2021

**Report: Conclusions and Recommendations**

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UNEP/MAP  
Athens, 2021

## Table of contents

	<b>Pages</b>
<b>Report</b>	1-10
<b>ANNEXES</b>	
<b>Annex I</b> List of Participants	
<b>Annex II</b> Agenda	

## **Introduction**

1. In consultation with the President and members of the Bureau, the 91<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols was held on 7-8 July 2021. The meeting was held through teleconference, due to the measures to contain the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Participation**

2. The meeting was attended by the President of the Bureau, Mr. Carlo Zaghi, accompanied by Mr. Roberto Giangreco and Ms. Valentina Mauriello (Italy); the Vice-Presidents: M. Stéphane Pailler, accompanied by Mr. Clément Payeur (France); Ms. Ayelet Rosen (Israel); Ms. Ivana Stojanovic (Montenegro); Ms. Eda Bayar (Turkey); and the Rapporteur, Ms. Nassira Rheyati accompanied by Ms. Khaoula Lagrini (Morocco). Ms. Silvia Bartolini and Mr. Fabio Pirotta (European Union) attended the meeting as observers. The Secretariat was represented by the Coordinating Unit (Coordinator, Programme Management Officer, Associate Administrative Officer). The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

### **I. Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**

3. The Bureau meeting was opened at 10:00 (UTC+3) on 7 July 2021 by Mr. Carlo Zaghi, President of the Bureau. He welcomed the Bureau members and congratulated Ms. Tatjana Hema for her appointment as MAP Coordinator since the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. He also noted that Italy is ready to discuss a new Agreement with UNEP/MAP, following-up to the previous such Agreement.

4. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator, Ms. Tatjana Hema, welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked the President, stressing how honored she feels regarding her appointment and expressing her commitment to stand up to the high expectations of the Contracting Parties and the Executive Director of UNEP. She also expressed her appreciation for the willingness of Italy to proceed with the discussion and signature of a new bilateral cooperation Agreement.

### **II. Agenda Item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work**

5. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda as contained in document UNEP/MED BUR.91/1. No additional issues were added to agenda item 8 “Any Other Matters”. The Agenda is presented in Annex II of the present document.

### **III. Agenda Item 3: Progress Report for October 2020 – May 2021**

6. The Coordinator introduced the documents “*Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Activities Carried Out for the Period October 2020 – May 2021*” (UNEP/MED BUR.91/3) and “*Progress Report by the Secretariat on the Implementation of COP 21 Decisions*” (UNEP/MED BUR.91/4) and made reference to the “*Reports of the 43<sup>rd</sup>, 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> Meetings of the Executive Coordination Panel*” and the “*Compilation of Project Fiches*”, presented in documents UNEP/MED BUR.91/Inf.4 and Inf.5 respectively, for the information of the Bureau.

7. In her presentation, the Coordinator referred to the progress achieved during the reporting period, in relation to governance issues – including main meetings of the governance bodies, resource mobilization, implementation of the Ecosystem Approach Roadmap, partnerships, knowledge management, and awareness and outreach - as well as in relation to the core and cross-cutting themes of the Programme of Work (PoW). She noted that, despite the situation related to the COVID-19

pandemic and the related challenges, the Secretariat made every effort to implement the Programme of Work (PoW) and there were no substantial negative consequences on the PoW deliverables. She also paid tribute to the former Coordinator, Mr. Gaetano Leone, stressing that he was fully committed in supporting the efficient PoW delivery until his last day in office.

8. The Bureau members congratulated Ms. Hema on her appointment and expressed their gratitude to Mr. Leone. No comments were made on the Progress Report. The Coordinator highlighted that receiving no comments from the Bureau members showed that the Bureau members appreciate and acknowledge the work undertaken by the Secretariat.

9. **Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau expresses its appreciation for the work done in the period October 2020-May 2021 as presented by the Secretariat, and its satisfaction for the efforts and results achieved so far through the integrated work of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components despite the challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**IV. Agenda Item 4: Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues**

10. The Coordinator informed the meeting on the progress made as presented in document UNEP/MED BUR.91/5 "*Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues*", addressing the status of financial contributions, personnel, and administrative matters. She noted that the assessed part of the Mediterranean Trust Fund balance is USD 8.8 million, as at 31 December 2019, including the accumulated surplus of USD 7.7 million and the amount put aside for the Working Capital Reserve of USD 1.1 million. She added that sustainability and continuation are key priorities for the system.

11. In the ensuing discussion, the members of the Bureau welcomed the efforts of the Coordinating Unit. The representative of the Observer noted that further information needs to be provided on the positive balance of the Mediterranean Trust Fund, including on where the surplus comes from and why it has accumulated; providing a clear understanding of absorption of funds, and; information on how the assessed contributions were used. Therefore, she asked for such an analysis to be made.

12. The Coordinator noted that the Secretariat expects to receive soon from Headquarters the 2020 certified amount. She added that an analysis on how the savings were accumulated up to 2019 was submitted to the MAP Focal Points Meeting of 2019 and to COP 21 (Naples, Italy, December 2019) and that was why the COP decided to allocate a higher amount to Regional Activity Centres, using savings. She agreed that a detailed analysis is needed including the more recent information, as requested by the Bureau.

13. A member of the Bureau asked that an invoice for contributions is received every year in January/February to enable timely payment of contributions. The Coordinator confirmed that invoices are issued and distributed in the beginning of each year (after the COP, as appropriate) and she added that the Secretariat will ensure that this practice will continue, in coordination with Headquarters (since invoices are issued directly by UNEP Headquarters).

14. In relation to personnel issues, a member of the Bureau stressed the importance of ensuring that all posts are open for competition, published in Inspira and broadly communicated, since this was not very clear from document UNEP/MED BUR.91/5.

15. **Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau takes note of the Fund Balances as at 31 December 2019 which shows a sound financial status of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system.**

**(b) The Bureau notes with appreciation the contributions received for the years 2020 and 2021. It requests 14 and 7 Contracting Parties whose payment of 2021 and 2020 contributions are still pending to pay their dues as soon as possible.**

**(c) The Bureau strongly urges the Contracting Parties to adhere to Procedure 4.2.b of the Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures of the Barcelona Convention, which states that contributions for each calendar year are expected within the first quarter of that year and should be paid promptly and in full.**

**(d) The Bureau requests the Secretariat to provide an overall analysis of the unforeseen positive fund balance (surplus in the accounts and the COVID-19 savings), as well as their composition, in order to enable a good understanding of where the surplus originates from and how it was created.**

**(e) The Bureau strongly urges the Contracting Parties in arrears, in particular those in arrears for over two years, to pay them as soon as possible, while noting the specific circumstances of each Contracting Party in arrears.**

**(f) The Bureau takes note of the actions taken by the Secretariat regarding the Contracting Parties in arrears and requests the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect the arrears in line with the respective Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures and invites the Contracting Parties in arrears to report on the progress of payment of arrears at the MAP Focal Points Meeting in September 2021.**

**(g) The Bureau appreciates the progress made in the financial implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget 2020-2021 and requests to continue taking measures aiming at full implementation of the 2020-2021 Programme of Work.**

**(h) The Bureau appreciates the information on the potential additional savings which may be achieved during the 2020-2021 biennium well in a timely manner and requests the Secretariat to update the Bureau and the Contracting Parties on the potential savings at their next meetings.**

**(i) The Bureau takes note of the information provided with regards to the new scale of assessment and requests the Secretariat to update the Bureau, MAP Focal Points and the COP of the outcome of the relevant discussion of the 76<sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly Session and suggests modalities for the application of the new scale of assessment.**

**(j) The Bureau takes note of the measures proposed by the Secretariat which aim at enhancing effective financial implementation of Programme of Works in line with Paragraph 6. of Procedure 2 of the Financial Regulations and Rules and Procedures and recommends the Secretariat to further address this matter with UNEP and consider it for submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting in September 2021.**

**(k) The Bureau takes note of the status of recruitments at the Coordinating Unit and welcomes the efforts made by the Secretariat in ensuring adequate human resources for the smooth implementation of the Programme of Work and externally funded projects.**

## **V. Agenda Item 5: Specific Issues**

16. The Coordinator presented the “*Report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues*” (UNEP/MED BUR.91/6).

17. The meeting discussed the matters summarized in the following paragraphs.

### **- A. Status of Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols**

18. The Coordinator presented the status of ratifications and appealed to the Bureau members, and to all Contracting Parties through the Bureau, to ratify the remaining Protocols of the Convention and especially the Dumping Protocol which misses one ratification to enter into force.

19. One member of the Bureau highlighted the need to prepare an analysis on why certain Protocols are not being ratified, and especially the Hazardous Wastes Protocol. She noted that, for

example, this may be due to a very active/important global legal instrument, or some other reason that needs to be explored. Then, following this analysis, further action can be taken.

20. The representative of Italy informed the meeting that the country is in the process of finalizing the ratification of the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Protocol.

21. **Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau takes note of the current status of ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and urges the Contracting Parties which have not yet done so to make efforts for their ratifications. To this aim the Bureau also invites these Contracting Parties to liaise with the Secretariat as appropriate to facilitate coordination towards ratification of the relevant legal instruments, with particular focus on the Dumping Protocol to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible;**

**(b) The Bureau encourages the President and the Secretariat to continue their efforts with the respective Contracting Parties to achieve the full ratification of the Protocols to the Barcelona Convention.**

- **B. Compliance and Reporting**

22. The Coordinator provided an update on the status of implementation of Decision IG.24/1 on "*Compliance Committee*", including on the submission of national implementation reports. She noted that the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components are working together in preparing the overall assessment of national implementation reports, stressing the importance of receiving high quality reports to enable an effective assessment of the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. Furthermore, she noted that the Compliance Committee had a successful 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting in June, where Spain also presented in a very constructive and efficient way their response to the questions of the Committee in relation to the communication from the NGO Ecologistas en Acción de la Región Murciana as to the implementation by Spain of the SPA/BD Protocol in the SPAMI Mar Menor. Ms. Hema said that the Secretariat was very impressed by the constructive response of the Spanish delegation during the proceedings of the Compliance Committee, especially considering that this was the first case of this kind and would serve as a reference for future cases, as appropriate. The Coordinator thanked the members of the Committee and especially the rapporteur, Ms. Karassin, for their work, and added that the meeting also discussed the effective functioning of the Committee. She added that the Legal Officer will be leaving the Secretariat for another post.

23. The Bureau took note of the progress made in the submission of national implementation reports and the preparation of the overall assessment by the Secretariat. They also welcomed the work of the Compliance Committee. A member of the Bureau noted that the Compliance Committee has a very broad area of activity and authority and that, while the Committee can make recommendations on its effective functioning, the final decision lies with the Contracting Parties.

24. The meeting noted that the decision of the Committee in relation to the communication from the NGO Ecologistas en Acción de la Región Murciana is taking longer than expected.

25. **Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau strongly urges those Contracting Parties who have not yet done so, to submit their national implementation reports for the reporting periods 2012–2013, 2014–2015 (2 Contracting Parties) and/or 2016–2017 (4 Contracting Parties) without further delay to complete the reporting for these biennia as soon as possible;**

**(b) The Bureau encourages Contracting Parties to expedite the submission of their national implementation reports for the biennium 2018-2019 in preparation for COP22, with the support of INFO/RAC as needed, so that COP is in a position to keep under review in a timely manner the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as per article 18 of the Barcelona Convention;**

**(c) The Bureau expresses its appreciation for the work of the Compliance Committee in preparation to COP 22 in particular of its facilitating role to promote compliance with the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols. In this respect the Bureau encourages the Committee to focus their work on supporting cases related to the difficulties in implementing the Convention and its Protocols or potential non-compliance cases.**

**- C. Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and Preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy, including the follow-up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee on the MTS**

26. The Coordinator referred to the progress related to the preparation of the new MTS and the evaluation of the current MTS, making specific reference to the outcome of the MTS Steering Committee meeting (Teleconference, 5-6 July 2021) as presented in document UNEP/MED BUR.91/7. She noted that the meeting should especially look at the vision of the MTS and the title of Programme 6, which are still open, while she also referred to the progress in relation to the systemic analysis to accompany the new MTS which had to start after the first draft of the MTS was prepared.

27. In the ensuing discussion, the members of the Bureau expressed their satisfaction with the progress achieved. One Bureau member noted that the systemic analysis should be prepared leaving adequate time for examination before the COP. The representative of the Observer noted the importance of the milestones to be achieved by 2023 in relation to the preparation of the MED QSR.

**28. Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau notes with appreciation the inclusive processes followed for the current MTS evaluation and the preparation of the new MTS as well as the active contribution by the Contracting Parties and MAP partners, and requests the Secretariat to ensure that the evaluation report and the new MTS take into account the comments and suggestions received during the second MTS Steering Committee and 91<sup>st</sup> Bureau meetings and submit its final version to the MAP Focal Points Meeting of September 2021;**

**(b) The Bureau takes note of the progress in the assessment of the current structure and the needs for enabling the Secretariat and MAP Components to deliver the new MTS and requests the Secretariat to ensure the timely elaboration of the assessment for submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting in September 2021.**

**- D. Follow-up to the work of the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA Technical Committee of Experts and the processes of Updating the Regional Plans on Pollution**

29. The Coordinator presented the progress in relation to these important processes. She reiterated the importance of the implementation of the road map for a proposal for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an emission control area for sulphur oxides (MED SECA) and expressed her satisfaction for the progress achieved during the REMPEC Focal Points meeting.

30. The Coordinator also referred to the Regional Plans on Pollution, and noted the parallel developments in relation to the amendments of the relevant EU directive; therefore, it is advisable to consider steps to avoid any possible delays of the approval process of the Regional Plans by the MAP Focal Points and the COP. Some concerns were also expressed with regards to the delayed transmission of the documents related to the relevant meeting established for the Plans' negotiation. The Coordinator, acknowledging the delay due to the difficult working conditions of this year and the very loaded mandate of MED POL during this biennium, paid tribute to the constructive contribution of all Contracting Parties during the respective meeting to make up for these delays and recommended the submission of the Regional Plans to the MAP Focal Points meeting for consideration at COP 22.

31. The representative of the Observer noted the commitment of the European Union on the implementation of the road map for a proposal for the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an emission control area for sulphur oxides.

**32. Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau notes with appreciation the good progress made for delivering these important mandates of COP 21 and requests the Secretariat and the respective MAP components to ensure all steps are undertaken in a timely manner for their submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting of September 2021;**

**(b) The Bureau encourages the Contracting Parties that have not yet done so, to take necessary actions for ratifying MARPOL Annex VI to facilitate the designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides Pursuant to MARPOL Annex VI, within the Framework of the Barcelona Convention, and requested the Secretariat and REMPEC, in collaboration with IMO, to support these processes upon request. The Bureau congratulates Albania for ratifying Annex VI of the MARPOL Convention as an encouraging example for other Contracting Parties to do so.**

**- E. Main Directions of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023**

33. The Coordinator presented the progress in relation to the preparation of the Programme of Work and Budget (PoW) 2022-2023, noting that the process has been inclusive, transparent, through a collective effort of the Coordinating Unit and MAP Components, with full involvement of the Contracting Parties. Ms. Hema added that, in line with the financial rules, the PoW needs to be sent first to the UNEP Executive Director. She explained the four scenarios proposed in the PoW with emphasis on scenarios C and D, adding that the time has come for a very frank discussion, initially with the Bureau and then with the MAP Focal Points, on an annual increase in the assessed contributions, in line with the practice of most international conventions.

34. The Bureau thanked the Secretariat for the explanations and for the inclusive process of the PoW preparation involving all MAP Components. One member of the Bureau noted that his country has difficulties in increasing the assessed contribution and that scenario C of the PoW is preferable, noting the possibility to use the surplus together with voluntary contributions to support the implementation of the PoW. Another representative noted that her country is not against an increase in assessed contribution, if this increase is directed to activities. The representative of the Observer noted the importance of the implementation of projects and of the structures needed to support them, adding that she understands the call of the Secretariat to increase the assessed contributions to have long term sustainability of the budget; however, she expressed the difficulties to do so if there is a surplus. Bureau members also pointed out that an alternative to the increase of assessed contributions can be the voluntary contributions by different Contracting Parties.

35. The Coordinator thanked the Bureau members for their feedback and noted that the Secretariat wanted to present the full picture and that the PoW cannot be complemented for a long time from the positive balance of the surplus. Therefore, there is a need for additional resources to maintain the same level of funding for activities. She added that, as indicated, the Secretariat will present the PoW to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points, fully in line with the respective COP decision.

**36. Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau took note of the proposed programmatic and budgetary elements of the proposed PoW and budget for 2022-2023, including possible budget scenarios. While expressing concerns on a possible increase of the assessed contributions during the next biennium considering especially the Covid-19 pandemic, requested the Secretariat to prepare the Budget in line with the COP 21 Decision and the new MTS 2022-2027.**

**- F. Preparations for COP 22: Format, Ministerial Session and Declaration, Host Country Preparations**

37. The Secretariat introduced the progress regarding the preparation of COP 22, noting that preparations are progressing in close cooperation with the Host Country of the COP, Turkey. Ms. Hema added that the plan is for the COP to be held in person and informed the meeting that the Executive Director of UNEP, Ms. Inger Andersen, is planning to attend the COP. Regarding the Host Country Agreement for the COP it was noted that it is under finalization and was sent to the UNEP



Headquarters for clearance. She also referred to the two options submitted in relation to the theme of the COP, noting that these are preliminary. The representative of Turkey, Host Country of COP 22, thanked the Coordinator for the proposals and the collaboration in the preparation of the COP, adding that the proposed themes are under consideration by the Host Country and that feedback will be sent at a later stage. She also referred to the possibility to hold a Youth Event, as was also the case for COP 21. The Coordinator then asked the advice of the Bureau members on the theme of the COP, so that this is taken into consideration for the preparation of a short concept note.

38. The Bureau members thanked Turkey, as Host Country of the COP, and the Secretariat for the information provided in the preparations of COP 22. In relation to the theme of the COP, they expressed preference for a combination of the two proposed themes, noting the importance of the biodiversity and climate change nexus and of the post-covid recovery, and stressing the links with the new Medium-Term Strategy. They also referred to the importance of the preparation of the Antalya Ministerial Declaration, toward which they offered their availability to collaborate. The representative of the EU noted that the plan of the EU is to attend the COP at the highest level, adding that the fact that the EU Presidency is held by a Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention, Slovenia, is advantageous.

39. During the discussion on the list of proposed COP Decisions, the representative of the Observer referred to the need that the draft Decision on Governance includes reference, as well as a related annex, to the governance mechanism of the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp), as an important input for the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR.

#### 40. **Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau welcomes the work by Turkey and the Secretariat for the preparation of COP 22 as an in-person meeting, and urges all Contracting Parties to ensure high level participation to the extent possible to maximise the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention's system visibility considering also that UNEP Executive Director has confirmed her participation;**

**(b) The Bureau welcomed the proposals provided by the Secretariat on the possible theme of the Ministerial Session of COP 22 and suggested to combine the proposed themes 1 and 2, noting the importance of the biodiversity and climate change nexus in the Mediterranean in the context of the Post-Covid recovery for the consideration of the Host Country. The Bureau encouraged both the Host Country and the Secretariat to work together for finalizing the proposal for the theme of the COP;**

**(c) The Bureau encourages both the Secretariat and the Host Country to draft the concept note and the first main elements of the Ministerial Declaration for submission to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points, where the theme will be agreed and the main elements of the Ministerial Declaration subsequently discussed;**

**(d) The Bureau takes note of the proposed list of draft Decisions for consideration by the MAP Focal Points and requests the Secretariat to finalize their preparation, in a timely manner for submission to the meeting of the MAP Focal Points.**

#### **- G. Partnerships**

41. The Coordinator referred to the progress in relation to cooperation and partners, noting the fact that the Secretariat including MAP Components had been very active in this period and adding that there is an increased interest for collaboration with the solid regulatory and policy framework of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system. The Programme Officer, Governance, Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis, presented in more detail the progress in relation to cooperation and partners, including new and renewed MAP Partners. He referred to the new (with PAM and COMPSUD) and updated (with FAO/GFCM) MoUs under preparation, adding that despite the efforts of the Secretariat there has been no progress in relation to the proposal for an MoU with UNESCO/MAB.

42. The Bureau members congratulated the Secretariat for the progress achieved in relation to partnerships and collaboration for the achievement of the objectives of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona

Convention system. One member of the Bureau referred in particular to the collaboration with FAO/GFCM as a very important process, while welcoming the key role of UNEP/MAP in relation to the Action Plan “The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030”. In relation to the expert to be seconded to the Coordinating Unit for supporting the implementation of this action plan, she added that the expert should work on all actions of the Action Plan. Another member of the Bureau noted the importance of the Action Plan being coordinated by UNEP/MAP, noting that she did not have the opportunity to examine it in detail. She added that it is important to clarify how this Action Plan is going to work in coordination with the work under the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, ensuring that the UNEP/MAP priorities are met, and what its added value is. Another Bureau member highlighted that the Action Plan is inline with the work under UNEP/MAP, adding that it is not legally binding and it aims to reinforce synergies in the Mediterranean, for example looking at biodiversity in an integrated manner from an environmental and a fisheries perspective. The Coordinator added that the Secretariat sees added value in this process, also in relation to monitoring and implementation, and added that it is in the right direction and it will use the existing framework under UNEP/MAP, without creating duplications. She added that the Secretariat will revert to the Bureau during the process, in case it is needed.

**43. Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau welcomes the work of the Secretariat on enhancing ocean governance and on strengthening cooperation and partnerships with global and regional organizations for joint impact on the ground;**

**(b) The Bureau welcomes the work by the secretariat in developing new MoUs with PAM and COMPSUD and in updating the Appendix of the MoU with FAO/GFCM, and requests the Secretariat to submit the draft text of these MoUs to the MAP Focal Points Meeting of September 2021;**

**(c) The Bureau takes note of the engagement of the Secretariat in the preparation of the Action Plan “The Mediterranean: a model sea by 2030” as well as the proposal for the secondment of a Technical Expert by France in the Coordinating Unit and requests the Secretariat to keep the Contracting Parties informed on the next steps;**

**(d) The Bureau endorses the applications submitted by “European Topic Centre – University of Malaga” (ETC-UMA), “Cittadini per l’aria onlus”, “Cercle Mallorquí de Negocis” (CMN), “SUBMON”, “Marevivo”, “All For Blue”, and the “World Ocean Council” (WOC), for accreditation as MAP Partners and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 22 for consideration and endorsement; the Bureau encourages “Ona Futura Foundation” to resubmit its application when the criterion of number of years of operation will be fulfilled;**

**(e) The Bureau endorses the renewal of the accreditation as MAP Partners of the organizations “Arab Network for Environment and Development (RAED)”, “Arab Office for Youth & Environment (AOYE)”, “Egyptian Sustainable Development Forum (ESDF)”, and “Turkish Marine Environment Protection Association (TURMEPA)” following the applications submitted by these organizations, and requests that the Secretariat submits them to the MAP Focal Points and to COP 22 for consideration and endorsement.**

**- H. Visibility and Communication**

44. Following an update by the Secretariat on the information and communication activities during this period, the Bureau welcomed the relevant progress and the proactive work of the Secretariat in this area.

**45. Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau welcomes the efforts and results of the work on information and outreach, and requests the Secretariat to further progress in this direction based on the objectives of the MAP Communication Strategy.**

**- I. Other Issues**

46. Under this agenda item, the Programme Officer, Governance, referred to the progress achieved in relation to the Host Country Agreements of Regional Activity Centers, in collaboration with their Host Countries, and the finalization of the set of common operational principles for MAP Components.

47. The Coordinator referred to the savings due to the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic and their proposed reallocation as communicated through a letter to the Bureau, noting that it is a pity not to use savings from some activities to other activities where they are most needed. The Bureau members noted that they agree in general with the proposed allocations, with some minor proposals for the use of certain savings for a different activity by the same MAP Component.

48. **Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau welcomes the finalization of the set of common operational principles for MAP Components and requests their submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting before further submission to COP 22;**

**(b) The Bureau takes note of the information provided by the Secretariat on savings due to the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic and as agreed previously the Secretariat will send the letter to the MAP Focal Points for no objection.**

**VI. Agenda Item 6: Calendar of Meetings and Events, including Date and Venue of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Bureau**

49. The Secretariat presented the calendar until the end of the biennium, noting that as per practice the 92<sup>nd</sup> Bureau meeting will be planned for April/May 2022.

**VII. Agenda Item 7: Outreach activity: update on the ratification of Annex VI of MARPOL Convention and participation to relevant Global Initiatives (Global Ocean Alliance and High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People)**

50. The issue of the ratification of Annex VI of MARPOL Convention was discussed under Agenda Item 5(D).

51. The representative of Italy referred to relevant Global Initiatives (Global Ocean Alliance and High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People) noting the importance of the objectives of the Global Ocean Alliance and adding that Italy made a commitment during the country's Presidency of the G20. Another member of the Bureau supported these initiatives and their objectives in relation to the protection of biodiversity, noting the links with the Post-2020 SAP BIO under UNEP/MAP and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework under the UN CBD.

52. **Conclusions:**

**(a) The Bureau noted the information provided by Italy on the scope and objectives of the Global Ocean Alliance and the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, and encourages its Members to follow-up within their countries as well as with other Contracting Parties so as to increase participation in these global initiatives.**

**VIII. Agenda Item 8: Any Other Matters**

53. No other matters were raised by the Bureau members.

**IX. Agenda Item 9: Conclusions and Recommendations**

54. The Bureau adopted the set of conclusions as set in this report.

**X. Agenda Item 10: Closure of the Meeting**

55. The meeting was closed by the President at 18:00 (UTC+3) on Thursday, 8 July 2021.

**Annex I**  
**List of participants**

**MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU / MEMBRES DU BUREAU**

**ITALY / ITALIE**

**(PRESIDENT)**

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Director General of Sea and Coasts and President  
of the Bureau  
Ministry for Ecological Transition

**Mr. Roberto Giangreco**

Senior Officer  
Directorate General of Sea and Coasts  
Ministry for Ecological Transition

**Ms. Valentina Mauriello**

Technical Expert  
Directorate General of Sea and Coasts  
Ministry for Ecological Transition

**FRANCE / FRANCE**

**(VICE PRESIDENT)**

**Mr. Stéphane Pailler**

Chef de la délégation française  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Européennes

**Mr. Clément Payeur**

Protection internationale des océans – Global ocean  
protection  
Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires étrangères  
Sous-direction de l'environnement et du climat  
(CLEN)

**ISRAEL / ISRAEL**

**(VICE PRESIDENT)**

**Ms. Ayelet Rosen**

Head of Division  
Division of Multilateral Environmental  
Agreements  
Ministry of Environmental Protection

**MONTENEGRO / MONTÉNÉGRO**

**(VICE PRESIDENT)**

**Ms. Ivana Stojanovic**

Adviser, Department for Sustainable Development  
and Integrated Coastal Zone Management  
Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism

**TURKEY / TURQUIE**

**(VICE PRESIDENT)**

**Ms. Eda Bayar**

Expert  
Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of  
Turkey  
General Directorate of Environmental Management  
Marine and Coastal Management Department

**MOROCCO / MAROC**

**(RAPPORTEUR)**

**Ms. Nassira Rheyati**

Chef de la Division de la Coopération  
Internationale  
Direction du Partenariat, de la Communication et  
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**Ms. Khaoula Lagrini**

Chef de Service de la Coopération Multilatérale  
Direction du Partenariat, de la Communication et  
de la Coopération  
Ministère de l'Energie, des Mines et de  
l'Environnement - Département de  
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**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF THE  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN / SecrÉTARIAT DE LA CONVENTION DE  
BARCELONE ET COMPOSANTES DU PLAN D'ACTION POUR LA MÉDITERRANÉE**

**Ms. Tatjana Hema**  
Coordinator

**Mr. Ilias Mavroeidis**  
Programme Management Officer

**Mr. Stavros Antoniadis**  
Associate Administrative Officer

**Annex II**

**Agenda**



## **Agenda**

- Agenda Item 1**      **Opening of the Meeting**
- Agenda Item 2**      **Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work**
- Agenda Item 3**      **Progress Report for October 2020 – May 2021**
- Agenda Item 4**      **Report by the Secretariat on Financial and Administrative Issues**
- Agenda Item 5**      **Specific Issues:**
- a) Ratification of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols; Compliance and Reporting; Partnerships; Visibility and Communication
  - b) Evaluation of the 2016-2021 Medium-Term Strategy and Preparation of the 2022-2027 Medium-Term Strategy, including the follow-up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee on the MTS
  - c) Follow-up to the work of the SO<sub>x</sub> ECA Technical Committee of Experts and the processes of Updating the Regional Plans on Pollution
  - d) Main Directions of the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work and Budget 2022-2023
  - e) Preparations for COP 22: Format, Ministerial Session and Declaration, Host Country Preparations
- Agenda Item 6**      **Calendar of Meetings and Events, including Date and Venue of the 92<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Bureau**
- Agenda Item 7**      **Outreach activity: update on the ratification of Annex VI of MARPOL Convention and participation to relevant Global Initiatives (Global Ocean Alliance and High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People)**
- Agenda Item 8**      **Any Other Matters**
- Agenda Item 9**      **Conclusions and Recommendations**
- Agenda Item 10**     **Closure of the Meeting**