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## MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP) REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)

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Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional  
Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre  
for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.51/11  
Date: 15 April 2021

Online, 31 May – 2 June 2021

Original: English

Agenda Item 11

### PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF REMPEC FOR THE BIENNIUM 2022-2023

#### Note by the Secretary

#### SUMMARY

**Executive Summary:** This document presents in its Annex, the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023 and explains the rationale used in preparing it.

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 14

**Related documents:** UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.24/22 (Decision IG.24/14), UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.19/8 Annex II, Decision IG 19/5, REMPEC/WG.51/5

#### Background

1 The Programme of Work (PoW) and Budget 2020-2021<sup>1</sup>, adopted by the Twenty-first Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”) and its Protocols (COP21), mandated the Barcelona Convention Secretariat to prepare, in consultation with the Bureau, in line with the relevant provisions of the decision on the Mandates of the Components of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP)<sup>2</sup> and in accordance with the draft Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for 2022-2027, a simplified and more strategic result-based PoW for 2022-2023, taking into account the progress achieved during the implementation of Programme of work 2020-2021.

2 To this effect, and under the leadership of the Barcelona Convention Secretariat, the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) consisting of the Directors of the MAP Components and led by the MAP Coordinator, agreed upon a Guiding Programming and Planning Paper to facilitate a coordinated identification of major activities and their deliverables for 2022-2023.

3 To provide a clear picture on the process and principles for the development of the 2022-2023 PoW, the Guiding Programming and Planning Paper was disseminated among the MAP Focal Points and the Focal Points of REMPEC on 3 February and 10 February 2021, respectively.

4 In December 2020, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) initiated the preparation of its 2022-2023 PoW which was reviewed at the 44<sup>th</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> ECP Meetings, held online, on 19-20 January 2021 and 29-30 March 2021, respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.24/22, Decision IG.24/14

<sup>2</sup> UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.19/8 Annex II, Decision IG 19/5

5 REMPEC's Focal Points were consulted on 10 February 2021<sup>3</sup>, and invited to review and provide comments on the initial list of activities proposed for the 2022-2023 biennium.

6 The objective of this consultation was to trigger a first technical discussion on the relevance of the proposed activities and their deliverables to REMPEC's core mandate, as well as to gather views on their technical feasibility. Based on the comments received from Mediterranean coastal States, REMPEC concluded the PoW proposal and submitted it to the Barcelona Convention Secretariat, for its further elaboration and consultation, as per the agreed procedure stipulated in the Governance Paper<sup>4</sup>.

7 Further to the consultation with the MAP Focal Points, the PoW is submitted to the Focal Points of each MAP Components for onward transmission to the next Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 14-17 September 2021) for approval, prior to its submission for adoption by the Twenty-Second Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22) (tentatively Ankara, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021).

### **Introduction to the draft Programme of Work 2020-2021 of REMPEC**

8 The Draft PoW for the 2022-2023 biennium of REMPEC, as reproduced in the Annex to the present document, has been prepared as a follow-on to the 2020-2021 PoW, and in full alignment with the draft UNEP/MAP MTS 2022-2027.

9 The PoW was developed, taking into account the priorities defined in the Draft Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan<sup>5</sup> (Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)).

10 In this regard, it is recalled that the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) aims to contribute to the implementation of overarching and thematic Mediterranean strategies, particularly the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) (2016-2025), the United Nations (UN) Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP)'s Mid-Term Strategy (2022-2027), the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp) and its roadmap for implementation, the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management (BWM) and the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean adopted in the Framework of Article 15 of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) to the Barcelona Convention. It also strives to contribute to global and other regional goals and strategies, notably, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Strategic Plan for the six-year period 2018 to 2023<sup>6</sup>, the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships, the IMO strategy on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from ships (IMO's GHG Strategy), disaster resilience, prevention, preparedness and response, in line with the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the European Green Deal, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) 5-Year Strategy (2020-2024), the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) ministerial declaration on Sustainable Blue Economy, and the work of the Convention on Biological Diversity through the Aichi Targets (specifically target 9 on invasive alien species), and the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework which is currently in development.

11 The deliverables proposed for the 2022-2023 biennium aim at contributing, based on the available budget (both the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and externally mobilized funds), to the implementation of the decisions taken by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, as well as the provisions set out in the following instruments and initiatives:

1. the 1976 Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency (Emergency Protocol),
2. the 2002 Protocol concerning Co-operation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in Cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea (Prevention and Emergency Protocol),

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<sup>3</sup> Circular Letter No. 05/2021

<sup>4</sup> UNEP(DEPI)/MED IG.17/10 Annex V, Decision IG 17/5

<sup>5</sup> REMPEC/WG.51/5

<sup>6</sup> Resolution A.1110(30)

3. the Ecosystem Approach to achieve Good Environmental Status (GES) in the Mediterranean and its process and Roadmap,
4. Action Plan concerning species introduction and invasive species in the Mediterranean Sea adopted to support the implementation of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean, as well as
5. the Draft Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management (2022-2027)<sup>7</sup>.

12 Substantive progress towards results-based management has been initiated over the current biennium and will be reinforced in 2022-2023, through concrete and measurable deliverables, detailed indicators and quantifiable targets. Lessons learned from previous biennia have also been taken into consideration, particularly in terms of the feasibility of planned deliverables, implementation flexibility to be considered when programming, the number and size of planned actions and how to consolidate activities of a similar nature.

13 External funds (mobilized by UNEP/MAP, IMO and/or REMPEC) are focused on implementing sea-based pollution prevention and reduction policy development and capacity building in the Mediterranean in line with the 2022-2027 MTS.

#### **Actions requested by the Meeting**

14 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **consider, discuss and agree** upon the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2022-2023, which is presented in the **Annex** to the present document, and to propose it for approval by the next meeting of the MAP Focal Points prior to its submission for adoption by COP 22.

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<sup>7</sup> REMPEC/WG.51/6



**ANNEX**

**PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK OF REMPEC FOR THE BIENNIUM 2022-2023**

**Annex**  
**Proposed Programme of Work of Rempec for the Biennium 2022-2023**

<b>MTS Programme 1. Towards a pollution and litter free Mediterranean Sea and Coast embracing circular economy</b>						
<b>Main activity (means of implementation)</b>	<b>Expected deliverable</b>	<b>Lead Component</b>	<b>Other Component(s)</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>SDG Targets</b>	<b>MTF/External Resources/Both</b>
<b>Outcome 1.1. Strategies and Action plan addressing marine litter and plastics developed and implemented through comprehensive, coherent and collaborative approaches</b>						
<p>1.1.1. Undertake national, subregional, regional actions to boost the implementation of the Marine Litter Regional Plan in the Mediterranean</p> <p>(in-house expertise, consultancy, regional/ sub-regional meetings, regional platform, pilots and national capacity building)</p>	<p>e) Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, to implement the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships and the related provisions of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, where appropriate.</p> <p>f) Relevant activities of the IMO-FAO-Norway GloLitter Partnerships Project facilitated in the Mediterranean, as appropriate.</p> <p>g) Synergies between the amended Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the IMO Action Plan/Strategy to address marine plastic litter from ships, as well as other relevant plans or initiatives, maintained and strengthened.</p>	REMPEC, CU	MED POL	IMO, FAO, GFCM, EBRD	12.4; 12.5; 14.1	External resources

<b>Outcome 1.2. A holistic and efficient response to land and sea-based pollution, [as a part of overall Ecosystem Approach for Mediterranean policy] (chemicals, contaminants, eutrophication, noise, oil and emerging pollution) for a sustainable Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystem is implemented</b>						
<p>1.2.9. Improve follow-up of pollution events and enhance level of enforcement and the prosecution of discharge offenders.  (in-house expertise, regional meeting, technical country support)</p>	<p>a) Fifth Meeting of MENELAS organised and recommendations implemented through technical support provided to CPs, which so request.</p>	<p>REMPEC</p>	<p>CU</p>	<p>IMO, INTERPOL, CBSS (ENPRO), OSPAR (NSN), Bonn Agreement, Cedre, UPGM</p>	<p>12.4; 14.1</p>	<p>MTF</p>
	<p>b) Modalities of possible creation and operation of a regional "Blue Fund", including in terms of governance and financing, prepared.</p>					
	<p>c) Co-ordinated aerial surveillance operations for illicit ship pollution discharges promoted and supported.</p>					
<p>1.2.10. Strengthen the capacity of individual coastal states to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents (in-house expertise, consultancy, national workshops, sub-regional workshops, training, exercises and meetings, sub-regional Cooperation Agreements)</p>	<p>a) Up to six (6) national workshops organised on the assessment of management capabilities and national systems to reponse to marine oil pollution organised in Central and Eastearn Mediterranean coastal States.</p>	<p>REMPEC</p>	<p>CU</p>	<p>IMO, WestMoPoCo Project Partners, IPIECA, ARPEL, CEFIC</p>	<p>12.4; 14.1</p>	<p>MTF</p>
	<p>b) Up to six (6) national workshops organised on the implementation of the improvement plan of the national system to respond to marine oil pollution.</p>					<p>MTF</p>
	<p>c) coordinated spill response exercises and trainings implemented and supported to strengthen the capacities at the National and Sub-regional levels to respond to HNS and oil spills and to improve the quality and interoperability of response capacities.</p>	<p>REMPEC</p>	<p>CU</p>	<p>IMO, WestMoPoCo Project Partners, IPIECA,</p>	<p>External resources</p>	

Outcome 1.2. A holistic and efficient response to land and sea-based pollution, [as a part of overall Ecosystem Approach for Mediterranean policy] (chemicals, contaminants, eutrophication, noise, oil and emerging pollution) for a sustainable Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystem is implemented						
	d) Sub-regional workshops and meetings organised to assist in the administration, update, development and the implementation of Sub-regional contingency plans.	REMPEC	CU	RAMOGE, IOPC, ITOPF, Cedre, IPIECA, Sea Alarm, MONGOOS		MTF
	e) Cooperation and synergies between Sub-regional Agreements operationalised and enhanced.					
	f) Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) maintained and, where appropriate, expanded; and MAU special revolving fund balance maintained.					



Outcome 1.4. One Health approach developed and implemented, linking human and ecosystems health with pollution reduction and prevention, taking into account lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic						
<p>1.4.2. Implement the agreed Med SOx ECA Road Map (Decision IG.24/8), and explore the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for nitrogen oxides</p> <p>(in-house expertise, consultancy, national workshops, regional meeting)</p>	<p>a) Technical support and capacity building provided to CPs, which so request, to ratify and effectively implement MARPOL Annex VI.</p>	REMPEC	CU, MED POL, PB/RAC	IMO, EMSA, Med MoU, Paris MoU	3.9; 12.4; 14.1	External resources
	<p>b) Joint and coordinated proposal for the designation of the proposed Med SOx ECA submitted to the IMO, and discussions at MEPC facilitated, as appropriate.</p>			IMO		MTF
	<p>c) Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) nitrogen oxides (NOx) Emission Control Area (ECA)(s) Technical Committee of Experts established.</p>			IMO	MTF	
	<p>d) Terms of Reference for a specific Technical and Feasibility Study to assess the relevant existing studies and gather further knowledge on the possible designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for nitrogen oxides, developed and validated by the NOx ECA(s) Technical Committee of Experts.</p>			IMO, HELCOM, OSPAR, Bonn Agreement	3.9; 12.4; 14.1	MTF

MTS Programme 2. Towards Healthy Mediterranean Ecosystems and Enhanced Biodiversity						
Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component(s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
<b>Outcome 2.4. Non-indigenous species introductions minimized and introduction pathways under control</b>						
<p>2.4.1. Update and implement the regional action plan on Non Indigenous species (NIS) and species introductions, as well as targeted measures of the Mediterranean Strategy on Ships' Ballast Water Management and Action Plan</p> <p>(in-house expertise, consultancy, regional meetings and events, national capacities building)</p>	<p>g) Share best practices and lessons learnt among Contracting Parties through regional meeting;</p> <p>h) measures to control and manage ships' biofouling to minimise the transfer of invasive aquatic species implemented; assistance provided</p> <p>i) Targeted technical support provided to CPs for the ratification and implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention as well as for the implementation of the 2011 Guidelines for the control and management of ships' biofouling to minimize the transfer of invasive aquatic species.</p>	REMPEC, SPA/RAC	CU	IMO, GEF, UNDP, EBRD		Both

MTS Programme 3. Towards a Climate Resilient Mediterranean						
Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component(s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
<b>Outcome 3.2. Nature-based, technical solutions implemented to prevent or reduce the impact of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems and increase resilience to climatic variability and change</b>						
<p>3.2.3. Mobilise and implement innovative solutions to reduce GHG emissions from ships in selected ports, including energy efficiency and decarbonisation</p> <p>(in-house expertise, consultancy, national and regional workshops/capacity building, regional and international partnerships, pilot project)</p>	<p>a) Institutional capacity of countries for implementation and enforcement of IMO' energy efficiency measures for ships, in line with the IMO Initial GHG Strategy, improved and elevated, in particular through the development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs).</p> <p>b) Capacity Building activities on low carbon shipping and clean ports implemented.</p> <p>c) International and regional partnerships for technology innovation and cooperation towards energy efficient and clean shipping and ports promoted via the creation of public-private, North-South and industry-shipping-port-hinterland transport alliances at regional levels. A set of workshops and studies as well as pilot demonstration projects will be implemented.</p>	REMPEC	CU, SCP/RAC, Plan Bleu	IMO, UNDP, EMSA, UfM, WestMed Initiative, EUSAIR, MTCC Africa	3.9; 11.6; 13.1; 13.2	External resources (unsecured)

MTS Programme 4. Towards the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources including circular and blue economy						
Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component(s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
<b>Outcome 4.4. Measures defined within the Mediterranean Offshore Action Plan applied at regional level and by each Contracting Party within their jurisdiction to ensure the safety of offshore activities and reduce their potential impact on the marine environment and its ecosystem</b>						
4.4.1. Implement key targeted measures of the Offshore Action Plan.  (in-house expertise, consultancy, online trainings, regional meeting (OFOG))	a) Common criteria, rules and procedures for the removal of installations and the related financial aspects reviewed by the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) finalised.	REMPEC	CU	IOGP	9.4; 14.1; 14.2	External
	b) Online trainings organised on subjects from Appendix 2 of Mediterranean Action Plan to be defined by 2021 OFOG Meeting organised.					External
	c) Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) organised and held; Offshore Protocol implementation kept under review; sharing of best practices and latest relevant developments.					MTF

MTS Foundational Programme 5: Governance						
Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component(s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
<b>Outcome 5.1. Effective Implementation and Enforcement by the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols, MAP Policies, including Ecosystem Approach related COP decisions, the MSSD and Programmes of Measures achieved at regional and national levels</b>						
5.1.3. Ensure Contracting Parties compliance with adopted monitoring and reporting under Barcelona Convention Protocols  (in-house expertise, national assistance)	a) Awareness raised and support provided on reporting obligation under the Prevention and Emergency Protocol and related IMO Conventions.	REMPEC	CU, INFO/RAC	IMO	SDGs 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17; Especially: 14.1; 17.14	MTF
	b) BCRS, REMPEC Country Profile, MEDGIS-MAR, MENELAS Information System maintained; and updated by all Contracting Parties.					

Outcome 5.4. Enhanced partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement, including with the private sector and science policy interface						
<p>5.4.5. Implement the targeted actions of the Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)</p> <p>(in-house expertise, consultancy, national assistance, regional meeting)</p>	<p>a) Up to six (6) National Action Plans for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) developed, considering pollution, biodiversity and NIS, and climate change related aspects.</p>	REMPEC	CU	IMO, EMSA, UfM, WestMed Initiative		MTF
	<p>b) Biennial review of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) undertaken.</p> <p>c) Thematic meeting of REMPEC FP held in the first year of the biennium for this purpose.</p> <p>d) Recommendations on the way forward elaborated.</p>	REMPEC	CU	IMO, EMSA, UfM, WestMed Initiative	SDGs 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14, 17, Especially; 12.4; 14.1	MTF

MTS Enabling Programme 6: Together towards a shared knowledge and foresight of the Mediterranean sea and coast						
Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component(s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
<b>Outcome 6.3. [IMAP implementation and] Environment and Development Observation provide updated and quality assured data in support of decision-making by Contracting Parties and assessment of GES.</b>						
6.3.17. Streamline shipping and offshore data-sharing and monitoring platform with Info-MAP Data management system  (in-house expertise, consultancy, IMAP TF, awareness raising)	a) MEDGIS-MAR linked to Info-MAP Data management system.	REMPEC	INFO/RAC, CU		14.1 ; 14.a ; 9.4	MTF
	b) Awareness raised on a Common Emergency Communication System for the Mediterranean.					MTF
	c) Maintain, upgrade and implement REMPEC databases and data platforms.					MTF
	d) List of indicators reviewed; factsheets prepared and reviewed by the OFOG Meeting and CORMON Pollution.					MTF

MTS Enabling Programme 7: For informed and consistent advocacy, awareness, education and communication						
Main activity (means of implementation)	Expected deliverable	Lead Component	Other Component(s)	Partners	SDG Targets	MTF/External Resources/Both
<b>Outcome 7.2. Citizen and general public awareness and outreach raised through citizen science and digital campaigns</b>						
7.2.3. Enhance public awareness and outreach on key MAP topics  (in-house expertise, external expertise, Communication TF, digital campaigns, web platforms, outreach events, publications, IT services)	c) Awareness, information materials on marine pollution from ships and offshore produced and disseminated.	REMPEC	CU and other MAP component as relevant	IMO, IOGP, IPIECA and other partners		
	e) Support to a Green transport: publication of the study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean. Short videos on Med SOx ECA and Post 2021 Strategy.	REMPEC				