



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

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

REMPEC/WG.51/INF.6
Date: 25 March 2021

Online, 31 May – 2 June 2021

Original: English

Agenda Item 5

**REPORT OF THE REGIONAL MEETING OF NATIONAL EXPERTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN
STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION OF, AND RESPONSE TO, MARINE POLLUTION FROM
SHIPS (2022-2031), (Online, 10 March 2021)**

Note by the Secretary

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document presents the Report of the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to, Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) (Online, 10 March 2021)

Action to be taken: Paragraph 3

Related documents: REMPEC/WG.49/8, REMPEC/WG.51/4, REMPEC/WG.51/5

Background

1 As indicated in document REMPEC/WG.51/4, the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to, Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) was organised online by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) on 10 March 2021, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP.

2 The Report of the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to, Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) is presented in the **Appendix** to the present document.

Actions requested by the Meeting

3 The Meeting is invited to take note of the information provided in the present document.

APPENDIX

Report of the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to, Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), (Online, 10 March 2021)

REMPEC/WG.49/8



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

Regional Meeting of National Experts on the
Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of,
and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)

Online, 10 March 2021

REMPEC/WG.49/8
Date: 10 March 2021

Original: English

REPORT
OF THE REGIONAL MEETING OF
NATIONAL EXPERTS ON THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION OF,
AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2022-2031)

Online, 10 March 2021

INTRODUCTION

1 The Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) was organised online by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) on 10 March 2021, pursuant to the Programme of Work and Budget for 2020-2021 of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), also referred to as UNEP/MAP.

2 The principal objectives of the Meeting were to discuss and agree upon the proposed Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), hereinafter referred to as “the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031)”, prior to its submission, for further consideration by the 14th Meeting of the Focal Point of REMPEC, for approval by the next Meeting of the UNEP/MAP Focal Points, and for adoption by the Twenty-second Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22).

3 The Meeting was attended by delegations from the following Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| ALBANIA | LEBANON |
| ALGERIA | LIBYA |
| BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA | MALTA |
| CROATIA | MONACO |
| CYPRUS | MONTENEGRO |
| EGYPT | MOROCCO |
| EUROPEAN UNION | SLOVENIA |
| FRANCE | SPAIN |
| GREECE | TUNISIA |
| ISRAEL | TURKEY |
| ITALY | |

by representatives from the following UN organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
- UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME / MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (UNEP/MAP)

by a representative from the following inter-governmental organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS (IOPC FUNDS)
- THE AGREEMENT ON THE CONSERVATION OF CETACEANS OF THE BLACK SEA, MEDITERRANEAN SEA AND CONTIGUOUS ATLANTIC AREA (ACCOBAMS)

by representatives from other organizations:

- INTERNATIONAL OCEAN INSTITUTE (IOI)
- IPIECA
- HYDRO ENGINEERING INSTITUTE SARAJEVO (HEIS)
- UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN
- GREEN TRANSITION DENMARK
- CLIMAZUL
- INSTITUTE OF SHIPPING ECONOMICS AND LOGISTICS (ISL)
- OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD. (OSRL)
- SEA ALARM FOUNDATION

4 A complete list of participants appears in **Annex I** to the present report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5 The Meeting was opened by Mr Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme on Wednesday 10 March 2021 at 09:00 hours. He welcomed the participants to the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031). He highlighted the diversity and number of participants at the Meeting, which was in itself a testament to the importance

of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). He recalled the work that had been achieved, and the improvements that had been made in the region over the last four decades, which was as a result of the ambition and commitment of the governments and partners in the Mediterranean. He highlighted the timely nature of the development of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), with the publication of the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean (SoED), which gives a clear message that the Mediterranean environment is worsening. As a means to address this situation, he stressed the importance of the role of Contracting Parties to improve enforcement in the region. Finally, he acknowledged the importance of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) as a means to contribute to the implementation of other overarching thematic strategies and action plans in the Mediterranean, including the Mid-Term Strategy (2028–2033) of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP).

6 Ms. Helen Buni, Technical Officer, from the Subdivision for Implementation, at the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Marine Environment Division, welcomed the participants in the Meeting on behalf of the IMO. Ms Buni made reference to the challenging nature of continuing collaborative work with the current COVID-19 global pandemic and offered her thanks and appreciation to colleagues at REMPEC for successfully organising the online Meeting despite those challenges. She referred to the impact of the pandemic on the work of the IMO and its partners, and the need for evolving and adapting the modus operandi of the organization, and commended REMPEC for taking a 'business as usual approach' in the development of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). Ms Buni confirmed that the IMO is committed to working with all stakeholders who had contributed to date, and would continue to contribute, to the development and finalisation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). She praised the ongoing consultation process that had already taken place, bringing together national competent authorities, relevant regional international institutions, and other stakeholders. The collaborative approach would enable the identification of synergies, which would help the region to recover post pandemic, and help navigate the environmental challenges and opportunities faced in the Mediterranean region.

7 Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, thanked the IMO for supporting REMPEC in the development of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), recognising the efforts of colleagues at the coordinating unit in Athens, alongside colleagues in London at the IMO Headquarters. Mr Gonzalez commented on the high-level representation at the Meeting and thanked the participants who had registered to attend and welcomed the presence of 21 out of the 22 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, alongside representation from numerous partner organisations. The Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) would set the agenda for the next 10 years, and therefore having such a high-level of engagement at the Meeting was welcomed and further supported the proposed coordination and collaboration needed to deliver the objectives of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031). Mr Gonzalez stressed that the drafting of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) had been largely informed by the consultation process that had been undertaken to date, encompassing the objectives, key concerns, and priorities raised by Contracting Parties and associated partners.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

8 The Meeting agreed to apply, *mutatis mutandis*, the rules of procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocols to its deliberations (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

2.2 Election of Officers

9 Following informal consultations with the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Head of REMPEC proposed Monaco as Chair, Turkey as Vice-Chair and France as Rapporteur. The Meeting unanimously agreed to elect the following officers of the Meeting:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Mr. Pierre Bouchet (Monaco) | Chair |
| Ms Didem Uğur (Turkey) | Vice-Chair |
| Ms Marie-Sophie Dufaut-Richet (France) | Rapporteur |

2.3 Working Languages

10 The working languages of the Meeting were English and French. Simultaneous English/French/English interpretation was provided during the Meeting. All working documents were available in both official languages of the Centre. However, information documents were available in their original language only, unless a translation was provided in the second working language.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

11 The Chair thanked the Meeting for supporting his election and proposed that the Provisional Agenda, contained in document REMPEC/WG.49/3/1 and annotated in document REMPEC/WG.45/3/2, be adopted.

12 The Meeting adopted the Agenda reproduced in **Annex II** to the present report. The list of documents is set out in **Annex III** thereto.

AGENDA ITEM 4: METHODOLOGY AND CONSULTATION PROCESS

13 At the invitation of the Chair, Mr Joseph Zerafa, REMPEC Consultant, introduced the process detailed in the document REMPEC/WG.49/7, and a brief overview of the survey outcome reproduced in the document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.4.

14 At the invitation of the Chair, Ms. Jennifer Godwin, REMPEC Consultant, provided a short presentation on the Analysis of relevant projects, strategies and action plans reproduced in the document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.3.

15 The Meeting **noted** the information presented.

AGENDA ITEM 5: DRAFT STRATEGY

16 The Head of Office of REMPEC introduced the Second Draft of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) reproduced in REMPEC/WG.49/5.

17 The Meeting examined and commented on the proposed recommendations and conclusions on the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) put forward by the Secretariat under document REMPEC/WG.49/7, based on the feedback received on the draft recommendations and conclusions disseminated by the Secretariat in preparation of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DRAFT ACTION PLAN

18 The Head of Office of REMPEC introduced the Action Plan for the Second Draft of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) reproduced in REMPEC/WG.49/5.

19 The Meeting examined and commented on the proposed recommendations and conclusions related to the Action Plan of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) put forward by the Secretariat under document REMPEC/WG.49/7, based on the feedback received on the draft recommendations and conclusions disseminated by the Secretariat in preparation of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 7: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

20 The conclusions and recommendations related to the Meeting are reproduced in **Annex IV**.

AGENDA ITEM 8: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

21 The Chair closed the Meeting at 17:00 hours on Wednesday, 10 March 2021.

ANNEX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Methodology and Consultation Process
5. Draft Strategy
6. Draft Action Plan
7. Conclusions and Recommendations
17. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX(E) I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS / LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS

CONTRACTING PARTIES / PARTIES CONTRACTANTES

ALBANIA / ALBANIE

Mr Elson THANA
Expert, Sector of Policies and Strategies for the Development of Maritime Transport
Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy

ALGERIA / ALGERIE

M. Mohamed Redouane CHAKOUR
Chef d'Etudes, Ministère des travaux publics et des transports

BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA / BOSNIE-HERZÉGOVINE

Mr Dario BUSIC
Head of Department for Air, Water and Pipeline Transport,
Ministry of Communications and Transport

CROATIA / CROATIE

Mrs Biserka VISTICA
Environmental Protection Unit,
Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia

CYPRUS / CHYPRE

Mr Marinos IOANNOU
Officer in Charge of Oil Pollution Combating, Head of Naval Service of the Department of
Fisheries and Marine Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment

Mr Stavros IOANNIDES
President of the Ad Hoc Committee for evaluation of Facilities contingency plans for oil pollution
preparedness, response and combating, Department of Fisheries and Marine Research

Mr Ioannis EFSTRATIOU
Senior Marine Surveyor, Head of Marine Environment Unit,
Shipping Deputy Ministry to the President.

Mr Themis EVRIVIADES
Senior Marine Surveyor, Deputy Ministry of Shipping

EGYPT / EGYPTE

Mrs Rehab ABOU ELFADL
Senior Researcher - International Conventions & Treaties Department, The Egyptian Maritime
Transport Sector

Eng. Yosra ABDELAZIZ
General Manager of Environmental Crisis Management, EEAA - Egyptian Environmental Affair
Agency

EUROPEAN UNION / UNION EUROPÉENNE

Ms Asta MACKEVICIUTE
Policy Officer, European Commission

Mr Maik SCHMAHL
Policy Officer, European Commission

Mr Olaf DEUSSEN
Regional civil protection cooperation co-desk, DG ECHO, European Commission

Mr Giuseppe RUSSO
Senior Project Officer for Training and Cooperation, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

Ms. Stephanie SEDDON-BROWN
Senior Project Officer, Sustainability European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA)

Mr Frédéric HÉBERT
Head of Unit Sustainability, European Maritime Safety Agency

FRANCE / FRANCE

Mr Nicolas TAMIC
Deputy manager - head of operations, Cedre

Ms Mathilde KRAFT
Head of West MoPoCo Project, Secrétariat général de la mer

Mme Marie-Sophie DUFAU-RICHET
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GREECE / GRÈCE

Mr Constantinos TRIANTAFILLOU
Director General, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA)

Mr Ioannis PESMATZOGLOU
Training Officer, Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association (HELMEPA)

Mr Dimitrios STRINGLIS
Marine Environment Protection Directorate, Hellenic Coast Guard

Ms Aikaterini STAMOU
Head of Section, International co-operation, Hellenic Coast Guard,
Marine Environment Protection Directorate, Hellenic Ministry of Maritime Affairs & Insular Policy

ISRAEL / ISRAEL

Mr Nir LEVINSKI
North Regional Manager, Marine environment protection division, Ministry of the environment state of Israel

Mr Fred ARZOINE
Deputy director at the marine environmental protection division, Ministry of environmental protection

Mr Rotem Trivizki
Atarim, municipal corporation managing the coast line of Tel Aviv Yafo

ITALY / ITALIE

Mrs Anna GEROMETTA
Head Cittadini per l'aria ETS

Mr Luca LACITIGNOLA
Manager Policy Development, Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Planning

Mr Matteo BOCCI
Deputy Leader, WestMED Assistance Mechanism

Mr Leonardo MANZARI
WestMED National Hub for Italy, WestMED Assistance Mechanism

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Dr. Rania MAROUN
Water, Environment and Oil Spill Contingency Planning Expert, SSTEPS sarl

Mr. Assem ABOU IBRAHIM
Board Member, Lebanese Petroleum Administration

Dr. Grace RACHID
HSE Consultant, Lebanese petroleum administration

Mrs Darine MAWLA
HSE Consultant, Lebanese petroleum administration

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Eng Mohamed ZAYED
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Mr KHAIRI KROUZ
Environmental Advisor, National Oil Corporation

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Head Marine Operations, Incident Response, Transport Malta

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Ministry for Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects

Mrs Josianne MUSCAT
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Ms Annabel VELLA
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Senior Compliance Officer, The Environment and Resources Authority

Mr. Nathan BARBARA
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MONTENEGRO / MONTENEGRO

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Mrs Loubna SALHI
State Engineer, Directorate Of Merchant Marine

Mr Youssef HOUMAI
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Direction de la Marine Marchande

Mr Amine EL KARAM
DIRECTEUR, ANP

Mrs Mounia HAMDIOU
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Mr. Fathi Amine SAANANE
Environnemental manager, National Port Agency / Agence Nationale des ports

Mr Mostapha BENOMAR
Scientific research, Institut National de Recherche Halieutique

Mme Niama MAAMOUR
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Docteur Sanae AMMARI
Chercheur, Institut National de Recherches Halieutiques (INRH)

Mme Btissam EL MENOJAR
Cadre supérieure, Département de l'ENVIRONNEMENT

SLOVENIA / SLOVENIE

Mr Arturo STEFFE
Head of Section, Slovenia Maritime Administration, Ministry of Infrastructure

Mr Aleš GOMBAČ
Coastal Sea Guard, Slovenia Maritime Administration, Ministry of Infrastructure

SPAIN / ESPAGNE

Mr Pablo PEDROSA REY
Head Pollution Response Unit, Directorate General of Merchant Marine, Ministry of Public Works and Transport

TUNISIA / TUNISIE

Mr Samir KHEDHIRA
Expert contrôleur général de la pollution marine, Agence nationale de protection de l'environnement (ANPE), Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement

TURKEY / TURQUIE

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Environmental Engineer, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, DG Environmental Management, Marine and Coastal Management Department

Ms Özlem ÖZER
Environmental Expert, Ministry of Environment and Urbanization

Mr. Gokhan DONMEZ
Maritime Expert, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure

UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS / ORGANISATIONS DES NATIONS-UNIES

International Maritime Organization (IMO) / Organisation maritime internationale (OMI)

Ms Helen BUNI
Technical Officer, Subdivision for Implementation, Marine Environment Division, International Maritime Organization

United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) / Programme des Nations Unies pour l'Environnement / Plan d'action pour la Méditerranée (PNUÉ / PAM)

Mr Gaetano Leone

Coordinator, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit,
Barcelona Convention Secretariat

Ms Tatjana HEMA
Deputy Coordinator, UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan Coordinating Unit,
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Mr Stavros ANTONIADIS
Policy and Project Expert, UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION/ ORGANISATIONS INTERGOUVERNEMENTALES

International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC FUNDS) / Fonds internationaux d'indemnisation pour les dommages dus à la pollution par les hydrocarbures (FIPOL)

Ms Chiara DELLA MEA
Claims Manager

The Agreement on the Conservation of Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and contiguous Atlantic area (ACCOBAMS)

Ms. Susana SALVADOR
Executive Secretary

Ms Maylis SALIVAS
Project officer

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS / AUTRES ORGANISATIONS

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Project Officer, Malta

IPIECA

Mr Robert COX
Technical Director

Hydro Engineering Institute Sarajevo (HEIS)

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Mr Christophe BLAZY
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Centre régional Méditerranéen pour l'intervention d'urgence contre la pollution marine
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Mr Gabino GONZALEZ
Head of Office

Mr Malek SMAOUI
Programme Officer (OPRC)

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Junior Programme Officer (JPO)

Ms Agnieszka PAWINSKA
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Ms Amanda INGLIS
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**MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION OF, AND RESPONSE TO
MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (2022-2031) CONSULTANT TEAM**

Capt. Joseph ZERFAFA
Independent Consultant

Ms Jennifer GODWIN
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ANNEX III

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

WORKING DOCUMENTS

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| REMPEC/WG.49/3/1 | Provisional agenda |
| REMPEC/WG.49/3/2 | Annotated provisional agenda and draft timetable |
| REMPEC/WG.49/5 | Second Draft Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) |
| REMPEC/WG.49/7 | Initial draft conclusions and recommendations |
| REMPEC/WG.49/WP.1 | Conclusions and recommendations |
| REMPEC/WG.49/8 | Report of the Meeting |

INFORMATION DOCUMENTS

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| REMPEC/WG.49/INF.1 | List of documents |
| REMPEC/WG.49/INF.2 | List of participants |
| REMPEC/WG.49/INF.3 | Analysis of relevant projects, strategies and action plans (English only) |
| REMPEC/WG.49/INF.4 | Survey for the preparation of the of the Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (Post2021) (English only) |
| REMPEC/WG.49/INF.5 | Links between the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan and other regional and international goals and objectives |

ANNEX IV

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031), which was held online on 10 March 2021, hereinafter referred to as the “Meeting”:

1 expressed appreciation for the financial support provided by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) and the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO);

2 welcomed the establishment of the “Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group” composed of representatives from the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), IMO, the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP), the European Commission, the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and IPIECA and its joint analysis to identify the complementarities of relevant projects implemented in the Mediterranean region, in particular the SAFEMED IV Project, and REMPEC activities in the framework of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021) and to propose concrete synergies;

3 expressed its satisfaction on the success of the ongoing wide consultation process involving national competent authorities, relevant regional and international institutions and stakeholders addressing challenges and offering expertise, resources, and funding to progress in the improvement of the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean region:

- a) to define, through a collaborative approach, the vision, the strategic directions, and objectives of the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, hereinafter referred to as “the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan”;
- b) to outline the main institutions and stakeholders’ roles and responsibilities within their respective mandate, and identify required synergies; and
- c) to propose a modus operandi (e.g. Action Plan) to ensure concerted planning, coordinated implementation, and monitoring procedures;

4 acknowledged the collaborative and consultative approach applied for the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, through:

- a) the two separate surveys completed by the Focal Points of REMPEC, and by the Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.4;
- b) the preparation of a comparative analysis of relevant strategies and action plans, National Action Plans for the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021), and sheets providing information on projects supporting the implementation of the Regional Strategy (2016-2021)), presented in document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.3;
- c) the review of the First Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”), and by specialised agencies of the United Nations, other governmental and non-governmental organisations, as well as to international professional organisations and associations, the activities of which are relevant to the work of the Centre; and
- d) the examination by the present Meeting of the Second Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, prepared by the Secretariat based on comments received in the

consultation process referred in paragraph 4.c above, and submitted as document REMPEC/WG.49/5;

5 agreed upon the **title of the Strategy**, i.e. "Mediterranean Strategy for the prevention, preparedness and response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031)" and notably on the period of 10 (ten) years from 2022 to 2031, inclusive;

6 concurred with the proposed **vision** of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, i.e. "A clean and healthy Mediterranean marine and coastal environment with a sustainable and pollution free maritime sector, supported by a rigorous enforcement system and strengthened multi-sectoral cooperation, for the benefit of present and future generations";

7 acknowledged the contribution of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan in meeting the regional and global objectives laid down in the amended **Overarching Objectives** and took note of links between the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan and other regional and international goals and objectives presented in the document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.5;

8 recognised the importance of the amended **Guiding Principles** to ensure a balanced and cooperative approach, in particular by building on the achievements and lessons learnt, taking into account the precautionary approach and streamlining the Ecosystem Approach (EcAp);

9 welcomed the valuable updated data on the **Mediterranean Region** extracted notably from the REMPEC (2020) Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean prepared by REMPEC to inform decision-makers;

10 acknowledged the **geographical scope** of the application of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, as defined in in Article 1 of the 1976 Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution as amended by the 1995 Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean;

11 recognised the progress that has been achieved in the framework of the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Prevention of, Preparedness for, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021), notably through the preparation of National Action Plans for the implementation of the said strategy and stressed the importance of **building the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) on the said Regional Strategy (2016-2021)**;

12 emphasised the importance of the **governance, partnership and resource mobilisation** proposal, notably the governance of the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan in the framework of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, as well as the establishment of partnership agreements between regional and international institutions to formalise their cooperation to provide financial and technical support to Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);

13 concurred with the need to carry out a **mid-term review and evaluation** of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan, in 2026, to ensure its adaptation to new priorities and full alignment with the Mid-Term Strategy (2028–2033) of the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP);

14 took note of the assumptions made to **mitigate risks** related to the COVID-19 global pandemic, appropriate and adequate funding and potential political instabilities;

15 agreed upon the **title of the proposed Common Strategic Objectives (CSOs)**:

- a. CSO 1: Prevent, prepare for, and respond to operational, illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships;
- b. CSO 2: Promote and support the development and implementation of innovative global solutions to mitigate and respond to climate change;

- c. CSO 3: Reduce and monitor air emissions from ships to a level that is not harmful to the marine environment, or the health of the coastal population of the Mediterranean;
- d. CSO 4: Prevent and reduce litter (in particular plastic) entering the marine environment from ships, in order to limit the environmental, health, and socio-economic impact of marine litter in the Mediterranean;
- e. CSO 5: Eliminate the introduction of non-indigenous species by shipping activity;
- f. CSO 6: Achieve a well-managed safe and pollution free Mediterranean, with integrated marine spatial planning and designation of special areas, where shipping activity has a limited impact upon the marine environment; and
- g. CSO 7: Identify and understand collectively emerging issues related to pollution from ships in the Mediterranean, and define required actions to address issues identified.

16 noted the **amended content of the Common Strategic Objectives** following the consultation process, laid down in the document REMPEC/WG.49/7;

17 acknowledged **Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention's responsibility to achieve, as far as possible, the seven CSOs** with the support of all relevant stakeholders in the region through a collaborative, coordinated, and collective effort to plan, finance, and implement at national, sub-regional and regional level actions on people and institutions, as well as action for infrastructure, information and knowledge sharing;

18 understood the concept of the interconnection between the CSOs, the corresponding areas of influence (people, institutions, infrastructure, information and knowledge sharing), and the implementing / governing body responsible for delivering the actions;

19 agreed on the **practical arrangements for the management and implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan**, in particular the terms of reference and objectives of the biennial meeting, the definition of its Secretariat and members, the terms of condition for participation and the required national network;

20 concurred with the proposed **reporting and monitoring procedure**, in particular the completion of an online concise progress report providing input on ongoing and future related actions based on the action tables of the Action Plan;

21 encouraged Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to take the necessary measures to raise **public awareness** on key issues relevant to the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);

22 agreed upon the need to define for each action, measurable indicators and targets and endorsed the proposed indicators and targets, as amended by the meeting;

23 requested the Secretariat of the present Meeting to coordinate the approach leading to the identification of the most relevant lead implementing / governing body responsible for supporting the implementation of each action, during the biannual meetings for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031);

24 valued and agreed upon the proposed prioritisation of each action as high, medium, or low, taking into account the outcome the two separate surveys completed by the Focal Points of REMPEC, and by the Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group, as set out in document REMPEC/WG.49/INF.4;

25 took note of the **amended content of the Action Plan** following the consultation process, presented in Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.49/7;

26 invited the Secretariat in consultation with members of the "Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group", to assess the human and financial resources required for the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan;

27 invited relevant regional and international institutions and stakeholders addressing challenges and offering expertise, resources, and funding to progress in the improvement of the prevention of and response to marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean region and Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention:

- a. to submit a sheet for each bilateral, multilateral or regional project or activity relevant to the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), based on the template set out in the Annex to document [REMPEC/WG.41/12](#), to REMPEC by no later than 15 April 2021; and
- b. report the main developments or outcomes at the Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC following the submission of the fiche, possibly by means of information documents, with a view to increasing visibility on these projects/activities;

28 agreed upon the Second Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan as amended by the Meeting; and the Conclusions and Recommendations presented in the present document, and requested the Secretariat to make the necessary editorial corrections, prior to onward transmission to the 14th Meeting of Focal Point of REMPEC for its review and approval; and

29 thanked the chair of the Meeting, and REMPEC, as Secretariat, as well as the members of the “Post 2021 Mediterranean Strategy Brainstorming Group”, and all Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention who activity contributed to the work carried out with regard to the preparation of the Draft Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) and its Action Plan.