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23rd Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee

Videoconference, 1-2 June 2022

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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UNEP/MAP
Athens, 2022

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. In accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) and in consultation with Mr. Mitja Bricelj (Slovenia), President of the MCSD, the 23rd Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee will be held on 1-2 June 2022 through videoconference. Modalities for connection through electronic means will be communicated to the participants in due time.
2. The purpose of this meeting is twofold: (1) reviewing progress on the work done since the 19th Meeting of the MCSD (videoconference, 7-9 June 2021); and (2) discussing specific issues related to the MCSD mandate and to decisions adopted at the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22) (Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021).
3. Documentation is provided in English and French, as per Document UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English and French during the meeting.
4. The following annotations to the Provisional Agenda, as included in Document UNEP/MED WG.523/1, were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the MCSD Steering Committee in its deliberations.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The meeting will be opened by Mr. Mitja Bricelj, President of the MCSD, followed by welcoming remarks from Ms. Tatjana Hema, Coordinator of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention Secretariat, on Wednesday 1 June 2022 at 10:00 local time in Athens, Greece (GMT+3).

Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.523/1
	UNEP/MED WG.523/2
Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1
	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.2

6. As per Rule 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the MCSD, the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols will apply *mutatis mutandis*.
7. The meeting is expected to review and adopt the Provisional Agenda contained in Document UNEP/MED WG.523/1 and annotated in the present document.
8. It is expected that the MCSD Steering Committee discusses all the items of the agenda during the two day-meeting. It is envisaged to close the meeting on Thursday 2 June 2022 at 17:45.
9. The report of the meeting will be finalized and distributed to the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee after the meeting for their comments and approval through electronic means.

Agenda item 3: Work of the MCSD and MSSD Implementation: Review of Progress for the Period July 2021 – April 2022

Working Document	UNEP/MED WG.523/3
Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.3

	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.4
	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.5
	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.6
Reference Documents and publications	See Document UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1

10. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator will introduce Document UNEP/MED WG.523/3 “Progress Report and Specific Issues”, which presents the progress in MCSD and MSSD related activities since the 19th Meeting of the MCSD, covering the period July 2021 – April 2022.

11. In addition, the Secretariat (SCP/RAC) will deliver a presentation of the “Set of regional measures to support the development of green and circular businesses and strengthen the demand for more sustainable products in the Mediterranean” (see publications in Document UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1).

12. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee are expected to comment on the progress presented by the Secretariat and to report on their own activities that contributed to the MSSD implementation and follow-up during this period.

Agenda item 4: Specific Issues

Working Document	UNEP/MED WG.523/3
Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1
	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.3
	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.4
	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.5
	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.6
	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.7
Reference Documents and publications	See Document UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1

13. The Secretariat will introduce the specific issues introduced in Document UNEP/MED WG.523/3 “Progress Report and Specific Issues” for review and discussion by the MCSD Steering Committee, which is expected to provide comments and guidance on the following specific issues:

A. *Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and Sustainable Consumption and Production Indicators*

14. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC) will deliver an interactive live demonstration of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard, including Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Indicators, as integrated in the World Environment Situation Room¹ (WESR), which is the UNEP data, information and knowledge platform, and especially through its MapX cartographic component².

15. Following the live demonstration, a discussion may be held to collect feedback and comments from the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee, including on technicalities and practical modalities in using the WESR Mediterranean, in view of further developments in the future.

¹ <https://wesr.unep.org/>

² <https://app.mapx.org/?project=MX-R2F-467-2PL-J9H-CCR&language=en>

16. The MCSD Steering Committee will also be invited to provide advice to the Secretariat about the integration of the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and of the regional observatory of the environment and development in the global WESR platform, considering this achievement for an efficient monitoring of progress towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean.

17. In addition, taking into account the role of Regional Seas for reporting and monitoring processes on environmental Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets, and the forthcoming MAP assessment studies (e.g., 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report / MED QSR 2023, MED 2050 Foresight Study), it may be timely to engage a dialogue with the MCSD Steering Committee about a number of possible challenges, such as: (i) Streamlining the MAP monitoring system with relevant global and regional processes, (ii) Integrating relevant SDG and regional sea indicators in the Barcelona Convention Reporting System (BCRS), including the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard; (iii) Fine-tuning adequate reporting mechanisms, including capacity building and trainings.

18. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) will also update the MCSD Steering Committee about how previous recommendations from the MCSD and its Steering Committee on the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard have been considered in the context of innovative activities on environmental governance (legal indicators) and on monitoring the interactions between Health and Environment – in the context of the One Health approach to Build Back Better in the post-Covid era. Discussions could for instance address the feasibility of integrating legal indicators, as well as indicators to monitor the interaction between Health and Environment, into the Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard.

B. MSSD Flagship Initiatives

19. The Secretariat and invited speakers (to be confirmed) will introduce the status of implementation of MSSD Flagship Initiatives in which the Secretariat is directly involved, namely:

- Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award (Secretariat): upgrade of the methodology and procedures in view of simplifying them to raise more interest from potential candidate cities;
- WeMed Green Business Award (SCP/RAC): roadmap for the second edition;
- Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change (MedECC): update on the most recent developments, including three thematic reports, and next steps;
- Regional Assessments and Knowledge Exchanges of High- and Low-Tech Solutions successfully Implemented to Achieve Waste Reduction (MIO-ECSDE): update on the online repository of Mediterranean best practices in achieving waste reduction;
- Environmental Governance – Encourage the Accession to and Implementation of the Aarhus Convention on Public Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) (MIO-ESCDE, COMPSUD and MEPIELAN): Foundation Discussion Document (FDD) for the Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention;
- Environmental Governance – Develop capacity building programmes on issues related to implementation and compliance with environmental obligations and agreements, including environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments: update on the project entitled “Mainstreaming the Public Trust Approach (PTA) in the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention System” (MEPIELAN).

20. The MCSD Steering Committee is expected to engage a discussion following short presentations of main achievements, challenges, and perspectives related to those MSSD Flagship Initiatives.

C. MED 2050 Foresight Study

21. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) will introduce background elements about the organisation, coordination, and structure of the MED 2050 Foresight Study. The presentation will then focus on the implementation of MED 2050 “Module 1: Building up the foresight baseline – past and future trends, weak signals and disruptions” and “Module 2: Contrasting visions”, as described in Document UNEP/MED WG.523/3. Key findings of Module 1 will be highlighted, including the thematic factsheets: see the report on the outcomes of MED 2050 Module 1 (Document UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.3).

22. A general discussion on specific issues for consideration by the MCSD Steering Committee, as included in Document UNEP/MED WG.523/3, will follow this presentation. The Secretariat (Plan Bleu) would appreciate guidance from the MCSD Steering Committee concerning opportunities to present and discuss the (draft) MED 2050 scenarios. That discussion may also address the use of MED 2050 results and products in the context of the forthcoming MSSD Review process.

D. MSSD Review Process

23. Document UNEP/MED WG.523/3 includes a draft rationale for the MSSD review process, taking into account outcomes of the MSSD mid-term evaluation undertaken in 2020-2021 in close collaboration with the MCSD Members and MAP Partners, for consideration by the MCSD Steering Committee.

24. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee will be invited to consider a number of elements in their discussion towards the best possible approach to be defined for the MSSD Review process, as included and described in Document UNEP/MED WG.523/3.

Agenda item 5: The Global and Regional Agenda on Sustainable Development in 2022-2023: Opportunities and Perspectives for the MCSD

Working Document	UNEP/MED WG.523/3
Information Documents	UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.5 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.6 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.7
Reference Documents and publications	See Document UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1

25. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat – and invited speakers (to be confirmed) – will raise the attention of the MCSD Steering Committee on the series of important global and regional events in the environmental and sustainable development agenda during the biennium 2022-2023, in particular those addressing SDG 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development” (see Document UNEP/MED WG.523/3), as relevant opportunities to promote the work of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system, including the MCSD, and amplify its visibility.

26. The Members of the MCSD Steering Committee will be invited to discuss suitable specific themes which echo both the scope of high-level conferences and the on-going activities undertaken by the MAP Components, MAP Partners and MCSD Members, including in the perspective of the

organization of the 20th Meeting of the MCSD in June/July 2023. Reference documents and recent publications, as listed in Document UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1, may support that discussion, noting that those products could be also mobilized in the context of the UNECE Ministerial Conference “Environment for Europe” to be held in Cyprus in October 2022.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Matters

Working Documents	UNEP/MED WG.523/1
	UNEP/MED WG.523/2
	UNEP/MED WG.523/3
Information Document	UNEP/MED WG.483/Inf.7

27. The MCSD Steering Committee will be invited to consider other issues that may be raised by its members.

Closure of the Meeting

28. The report of the meeting will be circulated to the MCSD Steering Committee at a later stage for approval through electronic means.

29. The meeting is expected to be closed by Mr. Mitja Bricelj, President of the MCSD, at approximately 17:45 on Thursday 2 June 2022.

Timetable*The timetable should be read in local time in Athens, Greece: GMT+3*

Wednesday, 1 June 2022			
Time	Agenda item		Document
10:00 – 10:30	1. Opening of the Meeting 2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and Organization of Work	President of the MCSD Steering Committee, Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.523/1 UNEP/MED WG.523/2 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.2
10:30 – 12:00	3. Work of the MCSD and MSSD Implementation: Review of Progress for the Period July 2021 – April 2022	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.523/3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.5 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.6
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Break</i>		
12:30 – 13:45	4. Specific Issues A. Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard and SCP Indicators	Secretariat (Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC)	UNEP/MED WG.523/3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1
13:45 – 14:30	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) B. MSSD Flagship Initiatives	Secretariat and invited speakers (tbc)	UNEP/MED WG.523/3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.6
14:30 – 15:45	<i>Lunch break</i>		
15:45 – 16:45	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) B. MSSD Flagship Initiatives	Secretariat and invited speakers (tbc)	UNEP/MED WG.523/3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.6
16:45 – 17:45	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) C. MED 2050 Foresight Study	Secretariat (Plan Bleu)	UNEP/MED WG.523/3 UNEP/MED WG.483/Inf.3
Thursday, 2 June 2022			
Time	Agenda item		Document
10:00 – 10:30	<i>Recap on Day 1</i>	Secretariat	
10:30 – 12:00	4. Specific Issues (cont'd) D. MSSD Review Process	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.523/3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.3
12:00 – 12:30	<i>Break</i>		
12:30 – 14:30	5. The Global and Regional Agenda on Sustainable Development in 2022-2023: Opportunities and Perspectives for the MCSD	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.523/3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.1 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.5 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.6 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.7
14:30 – 15:45	<i>Lunch break</i>		
15:45 – 17:45	5. Any Other Matters Conclusions and recommendations Closure of the Meeting	Secretariat	UNEP/MED WG.523/1 UNEP/MED WG.523/2 UNEP/MED WG.523/3 UNEP/MED WG.523/Inf.7