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on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

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**REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
(March 2002-April 2003)**

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I. Introduction

The present progress report is submitted by the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in compliance with its Terms of Reference. It covers progress in the implementation of various decisions taken by the MCSD and its Steering Committee as well as the Contracting Parties, during the period March 2002 – April 2003.

Organization and implementation of the activities during this period were largely based on the preparation and contribution for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the intersessional activities of the thematic Working Groups, the preparation of Framework Orientations for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development as well as the Assessment and Prospects for MCSD.

The Eighth meeting of the MCSD, kindly co-financed by Croatia, will be held in Cavtat, Croatia from 14 to 16 May 2003, with three working days, the third expected to be shorter, including the adoption of the brief report of the meeting. The meeting is expected to be closed at 14.00 on 16 May 2003.

The new representatives of the fifteen non Contracting Parties members from the Major Groups will be participating for the first time to MCSD meetings; eventhough nominated by the Contracting Parties at their 12th meeting (Monaco 14-17 November 2001), they have not participated to the 7th MCSD meeting (Antalya, March 2002) as it was postponed from before the CP meeting for international geopolitical reasons. .

In order to improve the organisation and efficiency of the MCSD as requested by several members, we will attempt to move the meeting from a rather institutional to a more forum type one; One or two special guests would be invited, break out working sessions would be organised (Framework Orientations and MCSD prospects), as appropriate and necessary, and side events would be held, probably by NGOs (MIO-ECSDE), Business sector (ICC-Med) and Croatia.

Taking the opportunity of having Mediterranean Partners assuming important international responsibilities, we drew their attention to the necessity of improving MCSD's visibility and promoting its activities; these opportunities to build on are EU Presidency by Greece and then Italy in 2003, Croatia as Member of the UN-CSD Bureau and Morocco as Head of the Group of 77 and China.

In addition to the thematic issues and, as appropriate, their related findings and proposals, the agenda of the 8th MCSD meeting will focus on:

- The WSSD, its Plan of Implementation and its application to the Mediterranean level;
- The "Framework Orientations" for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development; the review of the draft report and identification of further steps;
- The Assessment of and the Prospects for the MCSD; the review of the draft report and proposals from the Task Force, and recommendations on next steps.

The contents of the report hereunder derive from the active work carried out during this intersessional period, but with an unsustainable shortness of adequate resources, ending up by affecting the quality of the results and the overall work of the Secretariat. Several information documents were prepared as a contribution to the WSSD preparatory process, a MAP/MCSD Type II Partnership Initiative was prepared, a meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee was organised, two experts meetings and one Workshop were held on "Orientations for a Mediterranean Strategy, two working sessions of the MCSD Task Force on Assessment and Prospects were organised (and to all these meetings, pre and post

documents were prepared), in addition to thematic activities undertaken by the Support Centres/Regional Activity Centres (in particular BP/RAC on Water, Free Trade, Financing, etc. – PAP/RAC on Coastal Zone Management and CP/RAC on Industry) and by Task Managers (in particular France on Natural and Cultural Heritage).

Finally, and in conformity with the decision of the 7th MCSD meeting, only a brief report would be prepared and adopted, consisting of a “reasoned record of decisions preceded by a short introduction reflecting only the spirit of the discussions, the whole of which would not be longer than ten pages”

II. Brief history of the MCSD: benchmarks and decisions

The post-Rio era was an important period in the history of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) during which the Governments of the Mediterranean region and the European Community, in cooperation with concerned partners, started the process of translating and adapting UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context through the preparation of Agenda MED 21, reorientation of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).

The MCSD was established in 1995 within the framework of MAP, as an advisory body with the following mandate:

- to identify, evaluate and examine major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals thereon to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and facilitate the exchange of information among institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
- to enhance regional cooperation and rationalise the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues.

At their Extraordinary Meeting (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Terms of Reference and the Composition of the Commission. According to the Terms of Reference, the Commission is composed of 36 members, sitting on equal footing, consisting of high-level representatives from each of the Contracting Parties (21), representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organisations (15), working in the fields of environment and sustainable development.

During its first meeting (Rabat, December 1996), the Commission elected its first Steering Committee; it agreed on a programme built on activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region: sustainable management of coastal regions and management of water demand, sustainable development indicators, tourism, information, awareness and participation, free trade and environment, industry and sustainable development, management of urban and rural development.

The method of work consisted in organizing thematic Working Groups with Task Managers and Support Centres to deal with each selected theme. The MAP funds allocated to the MCSD will be considered as seed money since the task managers and support centres are expected to look for the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise for the activities of the thematic Working Groups.

The second meeting of the Commission (Palma de Majorca, May 1997) has mainly reviewed progress achieved and problems encountered since its first meeting.

At their third meeting (Sophia Antipolis, October 1997) the members of the MCSD agreed upon sets of recommendations and proposals for action related to management of water demand and sustainable management of coastal zones, together with MCSD's draft rules of procedure, before presenting them to the Contracting Parties that adopted them at their tenth meeting (Tunis, November 1997).

At its fourth meeting (Monaco, October 1998) the Commission examined the progress made by the six "medium-term" thematic Working Groups, as well as issues related to follow-up of recommendations, new themes, method of work and cooperation with UN agencies and other partners. Moreover and in conformity with the MCSD's specific rules of procedure, a new Steering Committee was elected.

The fifth meeting of the MCSD (Rome, July 1999) agreed on sets of recommendations and proposals for action related to "Sustainable Development Indicators" and "Information, Awareness, Environmental Education and Participation"; the ones related to "Tourism and Sustainable Development" were reviewed and finalized some weeks later; they were then all presented to the 11th meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999) who adopted the three sets of recommendations; moreover, the MCSD members agreed on the set of criteria to be applied for the preparation of pre-feasibility studies for and selection of possible new themes for the next programme of work of the MCSD.

The fifth Meeting of the MCSD and the 11th Meeting of the Contracting Parties have discussed aim, organisation and method of work for the preparation of the Strategic Review for the year 2000, as agreed upon in the Terms of Reference of the MCSD;

Fifteen new members representing the three Major Groups (Local Authorities, Socio-Economic Actors and NGOs) were selected by the Contracting Parties at their 11th meeting, in 1999; These members are expected to attend the 6th and 7th MCSD meeting, and participate to the intersessional activities throughout the period between the 6th and 8th MCSD meetings.

At the sixth meeting of the MCSD (Tunis November 2000), the fifteen new members representing the three Major Groups took over and participated to the meeting that was mainly devoted to the examination of the Strategic Review and its recommendations and proposals for action as well as to a draft "Tunis Declaration"; this meeting comprised an important High Level Segment with several Ministers of the Environment; it was also the occasion for a very animated debate on the follow up of MCSD proposals, possible new issues and method of work, preparing the ground for relevant discussions in the next MCSD and Contracting Parties meetings. These subjects were also taken up in the 5th meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee (Monaco, May 2001).

At its first Extraordinary Meeting (Monaco, 12 November 2001), the organization of which was decided because of the international context and the holding of the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties (Monaco, 14-17 November 2001), the MCSD members discussed and prepared four sets of findings and proposals related to: "Industry and Sustainable Development", "Urban management and Sustainable Development", "Free Trade and Environment in the Euro-Mediterranean context", and "Implementation and Follow up of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action"; proposed recommendations were then reviewed and approved by the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The Seventh meeting of the MCSD (Antalya, March 2002) was postponed from October 2001 to March 2002 because of the international context and its impacts at the regional

level; as the thematic issues from the Working Groups, and from which a set of recommendations were prepared, were dealt with by the Extraordinary MCSD meeting that had just preceded the 12th Conference of the Contracting Parties, the 7th MCSD has mostly focused on MCSD Assessment and Prospects, and the "Framework Orientations" for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. The meeting agreed on a methodology for the "Orientations", decided to establish a Task Force to consider further MCSD Prospects, recommend the organisation of regional fora, opted for few new themes (financing, agriculture, consumption patterns and waste) and advised on activities related to other issues (such as tourism, historic sites, water, free trade and local governance). Conclusions of the 7th MCSD meeting are attached in Annex I of this report.

In order to assist and advise the Secretariat on progress on intersessional activities, the Steering Committee of the MCSD met in Calvia, Spain (6th Session, November 2002) to mainly discuss issues related to MCSD Assessment and Prospects, and Framework Orientations. Derived recommendations (attached in Annex II of this report) were then taken into account by the Task Force and the preparation for the Strategy.

III. MCSD Steering Committee

In conformity with its Rules of Procedure, a new Steering Committee is expected to be elected at the beginning of the 8th MCSD meeting; in principle, it would include the host country, and the President of the Contracting Parties. Two other members from the Contracting Parties and one member from each of the Major Groups need to be designated.

The list of present and previous members of the Steering Committees is attached in annex VIII of this report.

MCSD members have been requested by email/fax on 24 March 2003, to inform the Secretariat in due time about their interest in joining the Steering Committee;

IV. The WSSD and the Mediterranean

MAP activities and achievements in relation to Sustainable Development and mainly through the MCSD have contributed to the promotion of the exemplarity of the Mediterranean, despite the shortcomings regarding the follow up and implementation of the recommendations and proposals for action. High expectations have been created among most of the MCSD members and other partners. The various sets of recommendations, the multiple workshops, the recent publications, the Strategic Review and some thematic brochures together with the launching of the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy, have all much contributed to MAP and MCSD's visibility, but still a lot needs to be done.

With the active support of several MCSD members, the notion of "Mediterranean Agenda 21" was introduced in the WSSD Plan of Implementation; moreover, an important Mediterranean Side Event was organized at the WSSD with the support of MIO-ECSDE and Monaco, and the active participation of several Mediterranean and European partners.

As for the Johannesburg Summit, the crucial challenges for the Mediterranean Strategy will be to present Sustainable Development as a set of choices which are relevant to all Mediterranean Partners and actors, a set of principles which can guide future action and a set of practical policies at local, national and regional levels.

From the key documents approved at the WSSD, mainly the Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation, many issues, of high interest and relevance to the Mediterranean, ought to be given due consideration by the MCSD in its future programme of work and throughout the preparatory process of the "Orientations" and then the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy.

As preparatory documents and outputs from the WSSD were widely disseminated and easily accessible, a few selected issues would be highlighted hereunder, keeping in mind that a more complete set of highlights is attached in annex III. This set of highlights was prepared by Mr. N. Georgiades (in the framework of the activities related to MCSD assessment and prospects), using as basis the global set of highlights issued by UN/DESA on September 2002.

Considering the importance given to the Type II Partnership Initiatives, the Secretariat of MAP/MCSD has prepared a Mediterranean initiative concerning the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy, entitled "Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean: Policy and Tools"; our proposal was finally endorsed by the UN CSD/WSSD Secretariat and approved in Johannesburg (attached in annex IV of this report) The main objective of this Partnership Initiative is to provide visibility and recognition to Mediterranean achievements and plans towards Sustainable Development; in fact, the Type II initiative and the preparatory process for the Mediterranean Strategy are closely related and mutually supportive. In this context, the UNEP/MAP-MCSD Partnership would be presented during the UN-CSD 11 Partnerships Fair. This would also be a good opportunity to present the Mediterranean and its MAP/MCSD, considering that otherwise we cannot express ourselves directly, if not through a Member, a Partner or UNEP.

Among these key issues, the following ones are absolutely determinant for Sustainable Development in the Region:

- collective responsibility, dialogue and cooperation;
- participatory approach and partnerships with major groups;
- mutually reinforcing pillars of Sustainable Development and access to basic and necessary requirements;
- corporate responsibility and strengthening of governance;
- poverty eradication, changing production and consumption patterns, addressing globalization.

And more specifically, the following suggestions could be considered in the context of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy:

- develop national programmes for Sustainable Development, focusing on poverty eradication;
- promote the development of programmes in support of initiative towards sustainable consumption and production, including cleaner production, social and environmental performance of industry, energy efficiency and use of renewable energies, waste minimization
- halve by 2010 the proportion of people who have not access to basic needs;
- develop water efficiency plans by 2005 together with integrated and sustainable water resources management;
- promote integrated and sustainable coastal and sea management;
- promote preparation and implementation of strategic programmes for pollution control;
- develop sustainable fishery plans by 2010;
- promote sustainable tourism development plans by 2007;

- strengthen regional trade and cooperation agreements, including corporate responsibility and accountability , in a Sustainable Development perspective;
- elaborate specific action plans for vulnerable areas;
- develop and promote the implementation of a work programme on education for Sustainable Development;
- promote the participatory approach and develop the capacity of civil society to participate to decision making;
- develop methodologies and capacities for Sustainable Development decision making;
- promote implementation of Agenda 21 and WSSD outcomes at regional level;
- develop a strategy for mobilization of technical and financial means for Sustainable Development;
- promote cooperation and partnerships with the private sector for achieving the objectives for Sustainable Development;
- strengthen institutional arrangements for Sustainable Development at local, national and regional levels.

At their last meeting (November 2002) the members of the MCSD Steering Committee have called for the identification of concrete objectives in line with the WSSD Plan of Implementation, and as far as possible measurable objectives with the necessary means and partnerships for their implementation. It would be important to give this issue the necessary attention, so as to demonstrate the interest and importance in promoting and implementing Sustainable Development through the bridge of the Regional level, in particular eco-regions such as the Mediterranean.

V. Vision for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean

The regional review clearly shows the progress which has been made towards sustainable development and environmental protection as well as the flaws which continue to exist, since the Mediterranean Action Plan and Barcelona Convention and its Protocols were revised in 1995.

New types of growth and development which take greater account of the social well-being of the entire population and of environmental concerns need to be sought.

The environmental, economic and social cost to be borne in the short term by certain countries within a context of integration and liberalization which favors market mechanisms can only be acceptable if serious accompanying measures are adopted in order to cushion the impact on the least privileged sectors of society, and which will guarantee more long-term sustainability.

At national level, the difficulty of giving concrete expression to measures towards sustainable development decided upon by the Mediterranean community shows, on the one hand, that the new concept has not as yet managed to mobilize all spheres of Society and, on the other, that States have been slow in implementing some of the decisions taken.

Although it is highly active, co-operation in the Mediterranean is affected, on the one hand, by a lack of common vision and inadequate co-ordination between the main partners currently or potentially involved and, on the other, by a mismatch between resources available for development and investments, given the scale of the tasks to be accomplished.

This is exacerbated by the fact that the short-term effects of the Uruguay Round's decisions have not produced the expected results for the developing Mediterranean countries, judging by the worsening foreign trade deficit faced by most countries.

Apart from a clear political impetus, any shift towards sustainable development also requires reference models which identify and put across a shared vision, which takes account of the Mediterranean peculiarities, as well as a coherent strategy capable of guiding the various stages of its implementation.

Finally, the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention were invited to define a common vision of the region's future along with all of the partners concerned. For this purpose, it was agreed within the framework of MAP and with all the partners concerned, to adopt a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. This Strategy should reflect a responsible acceptance of the medium and long-term stakes and clear commitment and solidarity at all levels (regional, national, local) and in all sectors (economic, social, environmental);

In conformity with this request, a discussion on the Vision was held during the workshop on the "Orientations" and the outlines and major components of such a vision were defined. Following the workshop and the positive reaction by the participants to related proposals, Mr. M.Ennabli was requested, as a consultant, to draft a brief note on the Vision for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean; a first draft was reviewed by a group of expert on 15 and 16 April 2003 in Tunis and a revised draft version of the Vision is proposed to the 8th MCSD for the consideration of the participants and their endorsement. The text of the draft vision is attached as annex V of this report. This vision, structured on a series of challenges for the Mediterranean Sustainable Development and derived necessary strategic "contract", provides rational and coherent framework for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

VI. Framework Orientations for a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

Pursuing Sustainable Development is essentially a task of transforming governance, and preparing and implementing a Sustainable Development Strategy could be considered as a test case for good governance. Therefore, moving towards Sustainable Development will require adequate structural changes in economic, social, environmental and political sectors: reforming fiscal policies, inequity and inequality of access to assets and resources, integrating environment in development policies, decoupling environmental degradation and resource consumption from economic and social development, reorienting and increasing public and private investment towards Sustainable Development.

Sustainable Development has become an overriding national policy in most Mediterranean countries, and as there can be no "one size fits all" approach to Sustainable Development, each country must chart its own course in line with its specificities and priorities. But some critical Sustainable Development challenges are regional that require collaboration by all partners and concrete responses at local/national and regional/institutional levels.

Consequently, even though Sustainable Development concerns all areas of economic, social, environmental and political life, a Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy would better focus on a small number of problems which pose severe or irreversible threats to the Region, to the well being of its people and regional cooperation, so as to bridge the gap between an ambitious vision and practical political action.

The Mediterranean, as an area for "North-South" partnership between Europe and other Mediterranean countries should provide the arena in which to try out and apply the Sustainable Development concept. In the interest of greater efficiency, the basic elements which could avoid the failure of any Sustainable Development Strategy in the Mediterranean could come in the following guise:

- Allowing States to play their full role and encouraging the emerging role of local authorities;
- Drawing on all elements of Society;
- Working towards economic and social justice and taking national culture and values into account;
- Promoting scientific activity and technological achievement;
- Building / strengthening human resources and institutional capacity;

There is no doubt that only reforms which constitute various packages of statutory, fiscal, financial, commercial or economic measures will allow the rules to be changes and the outcome to be co-axed through the channels intended; there national and regional Mediterranean reforms to be considered would be rendered still more beneficial and desirable by the fact that their impact would encourage growth, alleviate poverty, protect environment and reduce income inequality. Thus the aims of the reforms and decisions to be taken would look for:

- Striving for efficiency in terms of rationalizing economic activity;
- Creating equity in terms of social justice and shared will-being;
- Preserving the natural resources base in terms of recovering the real cost of their use.

Given the multiple transition process (economic, technological, social, institutional, informational) in a more and more globalized world, a new social contract is necessary between concerned partners, providing a new equilibrium between economic growth and sustained improvement in quality of life; a dynamic and constructive interaction between globalization and decentralisation should be established, especially on governance and business partners; moreover, in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, the Mediterranean could be an interacting regional case.

The challenge of realising Mediterranean Sustainable Development is to translate the Strategy into concrete objectives and concrete action in openness and dialogue among authorities, citizens and experts; the active participation of all concerned actors at different levels is necessary. Adequate mechanisms and appropriate means should be identified, especially for financing sustainable development (domestic, regional and international resources, foreign direct investments, international trade, bilateral and multi-lateral cooperation).

Following the discussions, and the decisions of the 7th MCSD, the Secretariat has reviewed and finalized the terms of references for the preparation of the Strategy Orientations. Considering available human and financial resources together with the provisional timetable for the elaboration process for the Mediterranean Strategy, three qualified experts were finally identified in May 2002; in order to launch this important preparatory process on common ground without major misunderstandings, a debriefing and brainstorming working session was held in MEDU's premises on the 3rd of July 2002 with the three experts and concerned directors from the Regional Activity Centres.

The three experts that have been identified are:

- Mr. Magdi Ibrahim, Director of ENDA-Environment and Development-Maghreb, for the "Environment and Natural Resources" component;
- Mr. Azzam Mahjoub, Professor of Economics in Tunis and member of the team of experts for the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Tunisia, for the "Economic Development and Social Equity";

- Mr. Juan Prats, Director of the International Institute for Governance in Barcelona, for the “Governance, Political and Institutional issues”; Mr. Prats will also prepare a draft Orientations paper, to be based on the three “thematic” documents.

For the sake of efficiency and for providing reasonable practical and acceptable results in a short period of time, the experts were requested to identify the major and most determinant stakes that are mainly and mostly of Regional nature and that concern many key actors in the Mediterranean region. These stakes and related actions and policies would provide the blocks on which to structure and build the “Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development”. The integrated approach was expected to guide the work, focusing on policy rather than sectorial issues, considering the specific “thematic” pillar as a coherent part of a system, the Mediterranean Region in a sustainable development context.

As the Orientations and then the Sustainable Development Strategy are expected to mainly deal with policy issues that would correspond to the necessary responses for the promotion of Sustainable Development at the regional level, the work actually being undertaken by the Blue Plan/RAC for the preparation of a Mediterranean Environment and Development report will be used as background information, as it is expected to mainly deal with pressures and status issues. As the two “exercises” are almost running in parallel, a communication and consultation bridge has been established: the Secretariat participates in the Steering Committee of the “Blue Plan’s report” and BP/RAC is associated to the preparation of the Orientations; this should strengthen coherence between these two activities and their outputs.

Based on a common vision for the Region, a vision to be shared by all the Countries but also by the regional partners (IGOs, NGOs, Civil Society, Business Sectors), the framework Orientations should identify the guiding principles for the elaboration of the Strategy together with a limited number of stakes and issues of regional nature on which the Strategy would be structured. As far as possible and realistic, some measurable objectives would be identified, to be further precised by the MCSD and the Contracting Parties together with concerned partners.

First framework “thematic” papers were prepared in September 2002 by each of the consultants before they prepared, following comments by the Secretariat, their respective first drafts that were submitted to the members of the Steering Committee for their consideration.

Following an intense discussion on the contents of the first drafts of the three “thematic” reports together with the expectations from the preparatory process for the “framework orientations”, the MCSD Steering Committee considered that these documents constitute a good working basis for further steps, including their review and use in the preparatory process for the Sustainable Development Strategy, a series of conclusions and recommendations were agreed upon (attached in Annex II of this report).

The three draft papers as prepared by their respective authors, under the Secretariat’s coordination, constitute a valuable set of information that will feed in the preparation of the “Orientations”; Revised drafts were then prepared and submitted as working documents to a major workshop, organized in Barcelona, on 13-15 March 2003, with the financial support of Spain. The experts, around 50, have discussed their contents and defined a set of stakes and priorities on which to structure the Orientations and then the Regional Strategy. As such, the contents of the three draft reports provide interesting food for thought; revised versions are being prepared and they would be then made available to MCSD members and considered as information documents and no longer as working documents. These three reports are expected to be disseminated during the 8th MCSD meeting (or earlier by email if possible).

If the conceptual framework for Sustainable Development has been structured on the three "Economic, Social and Environment" pillars, the last decade since Rio has shown the crucial importance of good governance to achieve Sustainable Development. If governance is and should be integrated in each of these three pillars, governance could be as well considered as a distinctive pillar, probably the most important one as efficiency in previous ones will depend on the institutional arrangements and capacities together with partnership commitments and collective actions, and their underlying civil culture and political structure. Raising Governance capacity is definitely a must for any strategy of sustainable development, would it be at local, national or regional levels.

The framework Orientations document is not just a summary or a synthesis of the three papers. Using in an appropriate and comprehensive way the findings and proposals of each one of them, and inter-relating them through an integrated approach, the Orientations report is expected to capitalize on their respective "messages".

Following the very interesting and constructive discussions during the workshop on the "Orientations" (report of the workshop will be disseminated during the 8th MCSD meeting and if possible by email a week before the meeting), where diagnostic issues, stakes and challenges, external and internal parameters, vision and fields of activities were defined and generally agreed upon, three additional experts were requested, as consultants, to contribute to the elaboration of a draft "Orientations" report. These experts, Mr. G.Corm, ex-Minister of Finance of Lebanon, Mr. M. Ennabli, ex-Minister of Environment of Tunisia and Mr. A. Laouina, UNESCO Chair of Sustainable Development in Morocco, provided very interesting insights and inputs that were discussed during a working session in Tunis on 15 and 16 April 2003 together with the three "thematic" consultants and the Secretariat. This overall exercise, undertaken with limited means and in a short period of time under extreme pressure since January 2003, has resulted in the preparation of several documents that will all constitute building blocks and basic contribution to the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

A draft report on framework "Orientations" for a MSSD is attached in Annex VI of this report, for the review and endorsement by MCSD members and partners, together with advice on further steps, including identifications of necessary means. These would concern the communication and "marketing" activities, the preparatory process of the MSSD and if possible its structure and table of contents, identification of key partners and networking, and as far as possible voluntary interest and offers to contribute to the preparatory process.

If the Mediterranean Action Plan concerns primarily the 21 Contracting Parties, the MCSD concerns in principle the whole Mediterranean Society through the Contracting Parties and the representatives of the Major Groups. The latter applies also to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development; in fact this Regional Strategy, eventhough prepared by and in the framework of UNEP/MAP, should concern the whole Mediterranean and its actors. This was recently confirmed by the decision of the 2nd Euro-Mediterranean Ministerial Conference on the Environment (Athens, July 2002), considering that the Barcelona Convention/MAP framework is the appropriate context to deal with a regional Sustainable Development Strategy in the Mediterranean.

Consequently, these Orientations and then the Strategy should be prepared in view of their endorsement not only by the Contracting Parties and the MCSD members including the major NGO networks, the regional Business associations and the Cities networks, but also by other partners such as the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and METAP, CEDARE and the League of Arab States, UN concerned Agencies and Offices. A good indicator for that

would be their active participation and contribution to the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development.

The Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, in conformity to the Orientations that would be agreed upon, would be prepared, if necessary and adequate means are made available in due time, over the whole year of 2004, and the first half of 2005 would be devoted to its revision and finalization. To that end, partnerships and means should be clearly identified and as far as possible secured before December 2003. The preparation of the MSSD would benefit at its early stages from the international meeting of Experts to be organized by France in early 2004, following the proposal made in Johannesburg

It would be important that MCSD members and partners could provide the necessary financial assistance for the organization of working sessions with potential partners of the MSSD; in principle three working sessions to present the Orientations to the Private Sector, the NGO networks and the IGOs respectively, and get their active participation and support in the MSSD preparatory process; each of these working sessions would require 20.000 to 30.000 Euros. It is important that necessary be provided before the Secretariat mobilizes the cooperation of these partners.

VII. MCSD Assessment and Prospects

Since the first set of MCSD recommendations was prepared and adopted by the Contracting Parties in 1997, a series of questions were raised concerning its method of work, the quality and usefulness of the results, the implementation and follow up of the recommendations and the membership and participation issues.

Six years after its creation, with various institutional and intersessional meetings, a review and assessment of the MCSD organization and method of work were considered necessary in order to define options for further evolution so as to make the MCSD more efficient in advising the Contracting Parties and all other concerned partners in their respective tasks towards sustainable development.

This important issue was put on the agenda of the 7th Meeting of the MCSD (Antalya, 13-16 March 2002) so as to explore and identify at least a series of orientations and prospects for an improved, better organized and more efficient MCSD. Considering that further discussions are necessary before identifying and deciding on appropriate actions for a more efficient MCSD, a Task Force was established.

This Task Force, composed of 8 MCSD members including Italy and Spain as co-chairs, has met on the 15th of October 2002 and on 3-4 April 2003 in Barcelona. The Task Force had to consider a note by the Secretariat and mainly a draft report by an expert, member of the MCSD, Mr. Nicos Georgiades; findings and proposals were discussed in an open and constructive manner and, consequently a revised report by the Task Force was prepared and submitted for the attention of the 8th MCSD; this report is attached in Annex VIII, together with a selection of the most essential proposals from this report for easy reference at the end of the Annex.

Context and Status, facts for thought

MCSD activities and related outputs have contributed to the promotion of Sustainable Development at Mediterranean, national and local levels. Considering its obvious positive achievements, the MCSD has created many expectations but also raised various questions related to its efficiency.

If the MCSD has been working in conformity with its purpose and functions, it has not been able to fulfill them all in a satisfactory way, notably as regards the evaluation of the effectiveness of the follow up to the decisions of the Contracting Parties or the enhancement of regional cooperation and rationalization of the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues. Moreover, as Sustainable Development issues have been put higher on the agenda of national, regional and international institutions, new stakes have arisen and more expectations have been created.

In this context, it is important to give due consideration to the following elements, which became rather commonly known facts from experience:

- The MCSD has no specific staff and almost no budget until recently as a budget line has been created mainly for follow up of MCSD recommendations and preparations for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, in addition to the budget for MCSD and its Steering Committee meetings. Relevant budget lines from concerned MAP Support Centres were usually devoted to MCSD activities from their “usual programme of activities” and then put also on the credit of the MCSD, with the exception of new issues in MAP programme such as “free trade and environment” and “cooperation and financing for Sustainable Development” for which we usually had to re-allocate some funds. In most cases, it was possible to obtain some external funding, for specific MCSD activities or for meetings and workshops. Considering the issues tackled until now by the MCSD, the support to the Working Groups was mainly provided by the BP/RAC; MEDU, PAP/RAC, CP/RAC and MEDPOL had also provided support in their respective fields;
- Participation from MCSD members has been very unequal, representing for most of them the environment sector; moreover, many participants used to behave as representatives of their institution and not always in their own expert capacity. As MAP was not used to work with the Local Authorities and the Socio-Economic sectors, there have been difficulties in identifying and promoting interest and involvement from potential dynamic partners. For example, recent meetings and working sessions with networks of Local Authorities and business actors could not be seriously followed mainly due to the lack of appropriate means. It is obvious that a “marketing strategy” is needed but available means do not allow coping with it in a satisfactory manner. Considering the large diversity of interests for the present and potential representatives of the Major Groups, the Secretariat is expected to have a catalytic and inducing role so as to secure an active participation and useful contribution.
- Considering the context of its creation, and prime fields of interest and expertise of MAP, the MCSD was until recently driven much more by the environment interest and approach, still as a key pillar to Sustainable Development, than by the social and economic aspects. Coping efficiently with Sustainable Development, in conformity with the decisions of the Contracting Parties as reflected in their Declaration to the World Summit on Sustainable Development and in line with the outcomes of the Johannesburg Summit, would necessarily require a revised approach, with appropriate means in which economic, social, political and governance issues will be at least as important as environment ones.

From relevant discussions at the 7th MCSD meeting in Antalya, several important points were highlighted among which:

- it is time to look seriously at the questions of the effectiveness, achievements, mandate, membership and methods of work of the MCSD. It is important for the

MCSO to be sufficiently flexible to adapt to the post-Johannesburg requirements of sustainable development and it is a healthy initiative for it to take stock of what had been achieved with a view to remedying its shortcomings and strengthening the MCSO for the future;

- the MCSO has had problems in identifying its precise role and means of action, because of the complexity of Sustainable Development and the Mediterranean context;
- the development of the participatory approach and the promotion of partnerships with relevant actors have been rather weak;
- the MCSO remained focused much more on the environment than on the social, economic, political, financial and structural aspects of sustainable development;
- it was necessary to broaden the dialogue within the MCSO and with other partners particularly through the involvement in its work of representatives of economic and social ministries, together with relevant private actors backed up by experts in the various fields and collaboration with other competent regional and international organizations;
- in order to improve participation and contribution to sustainable development issues, it will be necessary to define adequate profiles for MCSO members representing all categories, that should participate in their own expert capacity;
- implementation and follow up of MCSO recommendations would require practical guidance and suggestions together with extensive communication; this would be improved by cooperating with and inducing relevant national institutions towards implementation;
- there is a certain ambiguity about the place and role of MCSO within MAP and its relationship with MAP components, that need to be clarified and better defined;
- additional financial resources are badly needed and further action should be taken to identify sources and partners and attract support;
- more human resources should be allocated to the work of the MCSO.

Stakes and means, towards a substantial improvement

The revised and updated legal framework together with MAP II have obviously extended the scope of MAP programme of activities, adding new fields of concern. Moreover, the economic, social and environment developments at all levels have also had their trickle down effects on the Mediterranean in general and MAP in particular. Awareness on the inter-relations between economic, social and environment issues has been increasing, with emerging stakes and necessary new partnerships.

Deriving from the Rio Agenda 21, Agenda Med 21, and the globalization phenomenon, but also from the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership and the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, focus can no longer be put only or too much on environmental issues if necessary actions are to be dealt with in a sustainable manner. Economic and social issues as well as political and governance issues deserve at least as much attention, and preferably through an integrated approach involving all concerned actors.

If MAP, including its MCSD, has already made many positive and constructive steps in this direction, much more still needs to be made, mainly with regards to economic and social policy issues, regional cooperation and partnerships, as well as practical and effective strategies and policies with relevant projects to be implemented at regional, national and local levels.

Considering the context and prime concerns of MAP, most of its capacity and expertise as well as its direct partners in concerned countries are from the environment field, eventhough the scope of analysis and activities has been extended to sustainable development. However, available MAP capacity has cumulated a valuable expertise on which any proposal for improvement should lean.

Taking as reference the building blocks strategies, existing MAP blocks/components (MEDU and RACs) could be strengthened so as to fulfill better their purposes and cope with the expectations with regards to Sustainable Development. The options of either, at least strengthening the MCSD Secretariat within the Coordinating Unit, or adding a new block in establishing a specific Support Unit for the MCSD with adequate autonomous means as mentioned in Mr. Georgiades's paper, should be further considered in the post-Johannesburg context.

Of course, such a new option should give due consideration to mandates, capacities, expertise and means within MAP so as to avoid conflicts, clarify respective mandates and result in an explicit added value for MAP and Mediterranean interest in promoting Sustainable Development.

In addition to the requests and expectations related to "thematic" issues of the 3 pillars of Sustainable Development, there is an obvious need for initiatives in the region that would identify and induce Mediterranean Partners to cooperate and coordinate their actions for the benefit of the region and the countries, at strategic and policy levels as well as at project level. Concerned partners would be the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership/EU, the METAP/the World Bank, the League of Arab States and CEDARE, UN and UNEP Regional Commissions and Offices as well as relevant UN institutions such as UNDP and its CAP 2015 or UNIDO and WHO. But identifying and inducing partners for Mediterranean cooperation towards Sustainable Development concerns also the private sector and the civil society for which an active "marketing" strategy would be required.

Considering that the business-as-usual scenario cannot be sustainable for the MCSD, for an efficient and satisfactory operation, participation by and contribution from the MCSD members and partners should be improved, and means of the MCSD Secretariat need to be substantially re-evaluated and improved. In this context, the sequential and evolutionary approach as proposed by the Task Force deserves due consideration as it would progressively improve the situation with increased means, promote a more efficient MAP and Regional Partners cooperation, providing also a more adequate capacity to fulfill expectations and cope with mandate; this, in addition to the various proposed improvements in the report of the Task Force.

Throughout the proposed evolution, the MCSD Secretariat would in any case keep on operating within MAP Structure, serving MAP and the Mediterranean partners with more or less financial and technical means for a more or less improved efficiency. The MCSD Secretariat is also expected to coordinate the preparation and then the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, and this major task, in addition to present ones as per the MCSD mandate, do require the urgent identification and allocation of necessary additional means to MCSD Secretariat and Support Centres.

Finally, with the goal to become more relevant and effective in the post-WSSD era, the MCSD is expected to:

- consider the content of the MCSD Assessment and Prospects report submitted by the Task Force and endorse its proposals;
- review and approve the summary of the most essential of these proposals as attached at the end of related report;
- commit themselves to immediately implement all the proposals that are of the direct responsibility of the Commission and the rest once approved by the Contracting Parties;
- invite the MAP Coordinator and MCSD Secretariat to circulate the report for comments to all other intergovernmental actors in the Mediterranean, seeking for their active participation and effective support;
- call upon the MAP Coordinator to submit the report for approval, together with any additional comments received, to the next meeting for the Contracting Parties, in Catania, November 2003.

VIII. Intersessional Thematic Activities

Information, thematic progress reports and, as appropriate, relevant proposals for recommendations, would be forwarded later on by email and/or made available during the 8th MCSD meeting.

1. Tourism and Sustainable Development

So far, expected activities related to the development by Turkey of a specific strategic programme on Tourism and Sustainable Development were not undertaken; it is hoped that related activities could be resumed soon and that this important programme be given due consideration before the 9th MCSD meeting, including the organization of a regional forum on Tourism and Sustainable Development, a major issue for a MSSD.

2. Cultural Heritage and Sustainable Development

A meeting of the Working Group was recently organized by the Task Manager (France) on 10-12 April 2003, in Nice; a report by the Task Managers (France and Tunisia) on the progress together with a set of proposals will be disseminated soon.

3. Industry and Sustainable Development

Recommendations adopted by the 12th CP Conference are divided into 5 main lines of action (reinforcement of the use of existing mechanisms, tools and stakeholders; introduction of sustainable standards within companies; promotion of the transfer of knowledge; control and follow-up mechanisms and follow-up)

The Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (RAC/CP) who actively participated in the elaboration of those recommendations is already implementing some of them, by:

- Integrating sustainable industrial environmental criteria into the activities carried out under the Strategic Action Programme and the GEF project by means of developing 3 regional guidelines and 1 regional plan to be used by the countries to develop their own National Action Plans taking into account the industrial sustainable principles and approach.

- Strengthening and making coordinated use of the existing resources such as a Mediterranean expert's database; a cooperation agreement for technical assistance on environmental questions with the Mediterranean Chamber of Commerce Association (ASCAME).
- Promoting and supporting the establishment of resource centres and other relevant sources of expertise at national and local levels such as its participation in the establishment of a Bosnia Herzegovina CP centre, the organisation of capacity building activities and training of trainers to create national capacities.
- Introducing sustainable standards within companies and transfer of knowledge by means of developing methodological tools; preparing industrial case studies, guidelines, multimedia and studies on pollution prevention opportunities; carrying out databases of sector-related technologies compiling various sound options on pollution prevention techniques; exchanging information.

Likewise and according to the recommendation, *Reinforcement of the use of existing mechanisms, tools and stakeholders*, the Regional Activity Centre for Cleaner Production (RAC/CP) convened on 26 February 2003 a get-together meeting with some of the relevant institutions working for the sustainability of the Mediterranean industry (UNEP, UNIDO, MEDPOL, ASCAME representing the industry and RAC/CP).

The main aim of the meeting was to discuss the industrial sustainable initiatives and activities that participants are promoting and carrying out in the Mediterranean region, to identify which of them correspond to the MCSD Industry and Sustainable Development recommendations and to analyse possible ways to strengthen cooperation and synergy.

4. Free Trade and Environment

Progress report and a set of recommendations are being prepared by BP/RAC

5. Cooperation and Financing for Sustainable Development

Progress report and first findings are being prepared by BP/RAC

6. Management of Water Demand

An important forum (Fiuggi, Italy, in 2002) to review the implementation of the MCSD recommendations was organised; a progress report with a set of recommendations is being prepared by BP/RAC

7. Other Issues

Information on other issues, new or follow up of previous subjects, are expected from BP/RAC and PAP/RAC.

Missing information and related documents are expected to be sent by email soon through MEDU or directly by concerned RACs to the participants of the 8th MCSD meeting and/or

disseminated during the meeting in Cavtat. Concerned Support Centres and Task Managers will introduce their respective findings and proposals.

8. Major Groups Forum

The Forum that the MCSD Major Groups representatives were expected to organise to discuss ways and means for improved participation and contribution to MCSD could not be held; it is essential that such a forum, at the initiative of the Major Groups, be organised soon mainly in the framework of the preparation of the Orientations for and then the elaboration of the MSSD.

IX. Ninth MCSD Meeting

In addition to progress and proposals from “thematic” issues, the 9th MCSD meeting would have to deal with the launching and organisation of the preparation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development together with the programme of work of the MCSD for the period 2005-2015 and related method of work and necessary means;

Considering that many of the proposals from the 8th MCSD would need to be reviewed and approved by the 13th Conference of the Contracting Parties in November 2003, it is proposed to organise the 9th MCSD meeting around mid-May 2004, so that the period June 2004-March 2005 be intensively devoted for the preparation of the MSSD.

Expression of interest by MCSD members for hosting and co-organising the 9th MCSD meeting would be appreciated, with an offer to cover most or at least a substantial part of its costs.

As necessary, the MCSD Steering Committee would meet in the intersessional period to review progress and advice on further steps; the Steering Committee could meet on September 2003 to review and finalise the revised versions of the “Orientations” and “MCSD Assessment and Prospects” before submitting them to the CP Conference; it could meet again in January 2004 to review and advise on the preparatory process for the MSSD.

ANNEX I

Record of decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) Antalya, 13-16 March, 2002

Election of the Steering Committee

The Commission elected its new Steering Committee, the composition of which was as follows: President: H.E. Mr F. Aytekin (Turkey), Vice-Presidents: H.E. Mr B. Fautrier (Monaco), Mr J. Echirk (Algeria), Mr V. Escobar (Spain), Ms M. Najera Aranzabal (Municipality of Calvia), Mr A. Benhallou (MEDENER), Rapporteur: Mr M. Ibrahim (ENDA)

MCSD assessment and prospects

After examining the report presented by the Secretariat, the Meeting agreed that a task force of the MCSD should be established to examine ways in which the MCSD could be strengthened and its action refocused in the post-Johannesburg era. The task force should take into account developments in other regions and prepare comprehensive proposals. (The terms of reference for the task force, prepared by Italy and Spain in collaboration with the Secretariat, are attached as Annex IV, Appendix II to the report of the Meeting.). Moreover, a revised version of the summary of conclusions and recommendations was agreed upon, incorporating the comments made during the discussion, and reworded in language more suitable to a text intended for wide distribution. (This revised version is attached as Annex IV, Appendix I to the report of the Meeting.)

Assessment of implementation and follow-up of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action

Considering that this issue was previously discussed at the Extraordinary meeting of the MCSD and examining related recommendations as adopted by the 12th meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting agreed that regional thematic forums should be organized in the context of the MCSD for those responsible at the national level in the various fields covered by its recommendations, as well as other concerned actors. Such regional forums should then be followed up by further activities within countries to ensure that a large number of stakeholders were aware of the MCSD's guidance and recommendations and were involved in their implementation. It was agreed that this methodology should be first tested in the field of tourism, which was of immense importance in the region and where little had yet been done to follow-up the MCSD's recommendations.

"Framework orientations" for a Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development

The Meeting recalled that the terms of reference of the MCSD included the provision of assistance to the Contracting Parties in formulating and implementing a regional sustainable development strategy. It was recalled in this respect that, to be effective, in view of the breadth of the subject, such a strategy would need to focus on a small number of issues related, for example, to severe or irreversible threats, the well-being of the people and regional cooperation.

In this context, the Meeting agreed that the holding of an expert meeting in October in Spain to prepare the orientations based on the above three key pillars by applying the proposed methodology was a sound way to establish a coherent framework, a detailed table of contents and a related agenda for the formulation of a Mediterranean strategy for sustainable development, with a view to preparing a brief preliminary draft taking into account other relevant initiatives for submission to the Eighth Meeting of the MCSD.

Tourism and sustainable development: A regional programme

In response to a proposal by Turkey to establish a MAP Regional Activity Centre/Eco-Tourism (RAC/ET) in Antalya, Turkey, subsequently modified to a programme on tourism and sustainable development, the Meeting agreed that Turkey would review its proposals for the development of a programme on tourism and sustainable development, giving due consideration to the comments made by the MCSD, with a view to presenting a more detailed proposal to the next meeting of the MCSD so that it could make its recommendations to the Contracting Parties for a final decision on this issue.

Historic sites and sustainable development

The Meeting noted that, at their 12th Ordinary Meeting and following an evaluation of the 100 Historic Sites Programme, the Contracting Parties had requested the Secretariat to prepare, using the MCSD framework as appropriate, a draft of a new programme on cultural heritage. The Meeting decided that a programme on the Cultural Heritage of the Mediterranean would be undertaken by MAP; this programme would be based on the 100 Historic Sites network, but substantially recast in the context of sustainable development; and that linkages would be established with tourism development problems. It was decided that France and Tunisia would co-chair a working group. Monaco, Turkey, Morocco, Croatia and Greece agreed to participate in the group, which would remain open-ended; the Municipality of Naples and the MEDCITES network would be invited to participate; at the invitation of the representative of France, an initial meeting would be organized by France within one year.

New issues and reexamination of some already studied

Reexamination of issues already studied

Management of water demand

The Meeting recalled the importance of what was at stake with regard to the management of water demand for the region, the proposals emerging from the MCSD's deliberations in 1997, and the activities carried out since then by MAP, by the major international partners (the Euro-Mediterranean Conference in Turin, the World Forum in the Hague), as well as by certain countries. The Meeting emphasized the importance of the regional forum which would take place in Rome at the beginning of October 2003 and which was being organized by MAP-BP/RAC in partnership with the Global Water Partnership and with the support of France and Italy. It would provide an opportunity to assess in detail the progress made and the difficulties encountered, as well as the tools to be preferred for the implementation of the recommendations. The forum would therefore also be under the aegis of the MCSD.

Free trade and environment

The Meeting reviewed progress on this issue and recalled that the European Commission was about to call for tenders for a sustainability impact assessment of free trade in the region. The Meeting hoped that MAP, which had the capacity to contribute to the assessment, and through the participatory approach of the MCSD, could be fully associated with it. It was agreed that the forthcoming meeting of the Bureau should discuss this matter, establish the relevant contacts with the European Commission and decide on the steps that MAP could take in this respect.

Local governance

Following a proposal that a working group on local governance should be set up to identify the main problems concerning sustainability at local level, set the rationale for action, establish priorities, decide who were the main stakeholders, form partner coalitions and consensus building in specific policy areas, operationalize manageable tasks and implement, assess and establish benchmarks, the Meeting agreed that, with the support of PAP/RAC, the working group should focus on a few identifiable outputs, with a view to the holding of a forum in 2003 bringing together a wide range of actors.

New issues

Agriculture and rural development

Considering the importance of agriculture and rural development for the Mediterranean Sustainable Development, the Meeting agreed that the MCSD could produce added value by working in partnership with other actors, notably ICAMAS, FAO and IAMF, as well as with national expertise. BP/RAC was given a mandate to do the preparatory work establishing the necessary contacts and partnerships. It was agreed that the issue would then be taken up in depth and the network would be operational in some 18 months' time.

Consumption patterns and urban waste management

On consumption patterns and urban waste management, the consensus of the Meeting was that there was no need to embark on a full-scale programme immediately, but that work should be focused on building on the extensive knowledge that existed, particularly in the field of waste management, reviewing achievements to date and assessing what needed to be done in the future. The added value that the MCSD could bring to the issue would lie in networking and exchanging experience, and also in reinforcing capacities, since local authorities all too often lacked the necessary technical and financial resources. It was agreed that PAP/RAC would undertake efforts to identify partners. This would be done taking into account existing organizations, such as METAP. Progress in this respect would be reported to the Eighth Meeting of the MCSD, prior to defining a clearer orientation for the added value and expected achievements in this important area.

Financing and cooperation for sustainable development

Being a key issue for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region, for which the MCSD could provide a useful contribution to the debate by serving as a legitimate forum for bringing together concerned partners for a joint reflection and to put forward relevant strategies and proposals, the Meeting decided that the theme "Financing and cooperation for sustainable development in the Mediterranean" would be launched without delay. It would proceed on the basis of the report presented by Blue Plan, supplemented by a number of considerations put forward at the Meeting, in particular the question of the mobilization of domestic resources and recourse to more appropriate international and bilateral mechanisms, such as debt swap arrangements for sustainable development projects. In order to carry out these activities, the Secretariat would seek expertise available at the regional level and in volunteer countries, and also in relevant financial organizations and among the main European and international donors from whom support was requested. A steering committee bringing together these partners would provide guidance for the studies and the preparation of the forum scheduled to be held before the Eighth Meeting of the MCSD.

Finally, in view of the fact that the issues of agricultural and rural development, consumption patterns and urban waste management and financing and cooperation for sustainable development were all new issues, the Meeting agreed that all three would be dealt with but at a different pace and at different levels, as follows: financing and cooperation as a full-scale new programme on which work would proceed immediately; consumption patterns and waste management through networking and partnerships; and agriculture and rural development by building on the work of existing institutions pending the launching of a full-scale programme.

Major groups: Participation and contribution to MCSD activities

The Meeting noted the information provided by the representatives of the Major groups on this subject and hoped that issues discussed in relation to ways and means for improving their participation and contribution to MCSD activities would be further elaborated at the Major Groups Forum to be held in Naples around May 2002.

MAP/MCSD participation and contribution to the WSSD preparatory process

Noting MAP/MCSD progress in this context, the Meeting agreed that information on the MCSD's activities and MAP should be more widely disseminated throughout the WSSD process. It was also decided that the members of the MCSD should ensure their active participation in the WSSD to promote the visibility of the region and its active contribution to sustainable development.

Eighth MCSD Meeting

It was noted that the Eighth Meeting of the MCSD would be held around April 2003 in Algiers. The agenda proposed in document UNEP(DEC)/MED WG.188/2 would be refined to take into account the discussions at the present meeting. Two meetings of the Steering Committee were planned before the Eighth Meeting. Finally, a two-day forum of experts on finance and cooperation for sustainable development would be held immediately prior to the MCSD meeting.

Adoption of the report

Following the discussions concerning the adoption of the report, the Meeting decided that the product of the MCSD's meetings would henceforth consist principally of a reasoned record of decisions preceded by a short introduction reflecting only the spirit of the discussions, the whole of which would not be longer than ten pages. The lessons to be learned from this new type of report would be drawn at the next session of the MCSD.

ANNEX II

6th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD Calvià, 21 and 22 November 2002

Summary of Decisions

At the opening of the meeting the members of the Steering Committee declared themselves deeply preoccupied by the accidental marine pollution currently affecting the Spanish coasts and expressed their solidarity with the Authorities and population of Galicia. They took this opportunity to reaffirm the need for the Contracting Parties to ratify and implement as soon as possible the Barcelona Convention and its protocols, and in particular the new "Protocol concerning Cooperation in Preventing Pollution from Ships and, in cases of Emergency, Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea".

Lessons from the Johannesburg Summit for the MCSD

- Taking note of the set of objectives and recommendations agreed upon by the WSSD, the Steering Committee decided that more concrete and as far as possible measurable objectives at the regional level should be defined together with the necessary means and partnerships for their implementation; due attention should be given to this throughout the elaboration process for the Strategy, the finalization of which is foreseen for the year 2005.
- Among the set of objectives proposed in the Secretariat's report, based on the WSSD conclusions, the Steering Committee has insisted notably on education for sustainable development, considered as one of the most essential crosscutting themes. Due attention should also be given to the specificity of the problems related to the Mediterranean eco-region, in particular concerning fisheries, management of water resources, pollutions, ICZM and tourism. In the field of energy the Steering Committee agreed on the necessity to improve the existing practices in terms of energy efficiency and a more systematic use of renewable energies.
- Moreover, in accordance with the Plan of Implementation of the WSSD, the issue of poverty can no longer be ignored at the regional level. Therefore, Type II initiatives contributing to its reduction, should be given priority, as well as the identification of partnerships for the implementation of the decisions through a participatory approach with the civil society, the private sector the local authorities and all other relevant actors.

Orientations for the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

- The three orientation documents submitted by the experts constitute a good working basis but require some adjustments. The experts are therefore required to ensure more coherence with the Environment and Development Report actually being prepared by the Blue Plan and that should be used as an information background together with any relevant document from MAP or other Mediterranean or international entities, throughout the preparatory process of the Strategy.
- Concerning the document “environment and natural resources”: better define the priority issues with specific objectives in accordance with the thematic issues being considered in the framework of MAP and in particular by BP/RAC.
- Concerning the document “economic development and social equity”: the macroeconomic concerns are well identified with an interesting system of using “lights”; they however require to be better defined through the sectorial concerns.
- Concerning the document “governance, political and institutional issues”: an unnecessary academic debate should be avoided by clearly distinguishing between the process and the concept itself; governance should be applied for the thematic approaches as well as the general and crosscutting ones. It is important to identify the necessary institutional reforms together with the required capacities and partnerships so as to define the relevant approach in view of achieving the objectives agreed upon in the framework of the Orientations. Moreover it has been recommended to draw appropriate lessons in terms of governance from the thematic approaches in particular those related to water or ICZM and tourism.
- These Strategic Orientations should concern the whole of the Mediterranean, its institutions and actors beyond MAP framework. It is therefore necessary to induce and motivate other actors to get involved in the Strategy in view of developing a common sense of ownership. This is particularly true for the EU and the EMP.
- It would be useful to apply the signaletic approach of indicators to the whole of the work concerning the orientations to get a more coherent overview.
- The meeting of experts on the orientations for the MSSD must elaborate the methodological frame for the preparation of the Strategy while selecting a set of realistic and feasible objectives. This meeting of experts must also propose a detailed table of contents of the Strategy including the necessary processes and means, partnerships, accompanying measures and specific responsibilities in view of their examination by the MCSD at its next meeting and then by the Contracting Parties, it being understood that the preparation of the Strategy itself will take place during the year 2004.

MCS D Assessment and Prospects

- It has been recognized that the MCS D Secretariat needs to be strengthened with more adequate means at its disposal while keeping its financial and operational autonomy in order to meet the requirements of sustainable development.
- In view of the coming meeting of the Contracting Parties and in the wake of the WSSD, the time seems particularly appropriate to reinforce the action of the Commission in the social and economic fields, with due attention to the necessary resources and supporting structure. In that respect, the Steering Committee approved the idea of reinforcing the Secretariat or with the possibility of a Support Unit which would be relatively autonomous in the framework of MAP.
- In view of the calendar of scheduled meetings, it was felt that the Task Force should meet quickly and more at length in order to define with clarity the two options it envisaged for the reinforcement of the Commission Secretariat, including the prospect of creating a distinct Support Unit with a quantified identification of the means required in term of financing and partnerships, together with a draft detailed mandate while giving due consideration to the mandates of MAP components. Accordingly the Steering Committee felt it was necessary to start making contacts with potential partners including the EU, hosting local authorities and Contracting Parties in order to appraise the feasibility of these proposals.
- These proposals will have to be examined by the MCS D, before being submitted to the Bureau and the Contracting Parties in the overall framework of the general evaluation of MAP.

Dates of meetings

Considering the need to coordinate with the Bureau of the Contracting Parties for issues of common interest related to MAP evaluation, the dates of some meetings, were changed as follows:

- Meeting of the Task Force: end of January-beginning of February 2003
- Meeting of Experts (Orientations): first half (13-15) of March 2003
- 8th Meeting of the MCS D: during the week of the 7-9 of May 2003

Follow up of MCS D Proposals and review of progress

- The Steering Committee confirmed the interest and willingness of the MCS D to be involved and have an active role, and not just being consulted, in the implementation of the EC Sustainability Impact Analysis.

Eighth MCSD meeting

- The Steering Committee welcome with interest the Secretariat's proposal to improve the organization of the MCSD meeting with, as far as possible, a few side events related to the agenda items and by having a few keynote speakers.
- The Secretariat is requested to identify new partners, with the assistance of the MCSD members, and invite the most relevant ones in relation to the agenda items; in this respect and as an example, a side event could be organized by ICC/Monaco and ICC/Croatia on behalf of ICC.

The members of the Steering Committee expressed their appreciation to the warm hospitality by the Municipality of Calvià and for the excellent support and cooperation in the organization of the meeting.

ANNEX III

A. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JOHANNESBURG DECLARATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Broader commitment

- collective responsibility to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social development and environmental protection– at local, national, regional and global levels

Overarching objectives

- poverty eradication
- changing consumption and production patterns
- protecting and managing the natural resource base
- address globalization

Commitment to Sustainable Development

- dialogue and cooperation
- access to basic requirements such as clean water, sanitation, shelter, energy, health care, food security and the protection of bio-diversity
- access to financial resources, benefit from the opening of markets, ensure capacity building, use modern technology to bring about development, and make sure that there is technology transfer, human resource development, education and training

Stronger regional groupings and alliances

- broad-based participation
- stable partnerships with all major groups
- corporate responsibility
- strengthen and improve governance at all levels

Multilateralism is the Future

- effective, democratic and accountable international and multilateral institutions.
- monitor progress at regular intervals

Making it Happen!

- an inclusive process, involving all the major groups and governments

B. HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JOHANNESBURG PLAN OF IMPLEMENTATION, AS THEY RELATE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AND THE MAP/MCSD

I. INTRODUCTION

- Involve all relevant actors through *partnerships*, especially between Governments of the North and South, on the one hand, and between Governments and major groups, on the other, to achieve the widely shared goals of sustainable development

II. POVERTY ERADICATION

- Develop *national programmes for sustainable development*
- Combat *desertification* and mitigate the effects of drought and floods
- **Provide access to safe drinking water and to basic sanitation**
- Achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million *slum dwellers*

III. CHANGING UNSUSTAINABLE PATTERNS OF CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

- Promote the development of a *10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production*
- Establish and support *cleaner production programmes and centres*
- Encourage *industry to improve social and environmental performance*
- *Integrate energy considerations, including energy efficiency, affordability and accessibility, into socio-economic programmes*
- *substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources*
- Promote *waste prevention and minimization*
- Promote efforts to *prevent international illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals and hazardous wastes*

IV. PROTECTING AND MANAGING THE NATURAL RESOURCE BASE OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- Halve, by the year 2015, the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford *safe drinking water* as outlined in the Millennium Declaration and the proportion of people without access to *basic sanitation*
- Develop *integrated water resources management and water efficiency plans* by 2005
- Encourage the application by 2010 of the *ecosystem approach in fisheries management*
- Promote *integrated coastal and ocean management*
- Maintain or restore *fish stocks* not later than 2015
- Support the sustainable development of *aquaculture*
- Maintain the productivity and biodiversity of important and vulnerable *marine and coastal areas*

- Elaborate regional programmes of action for the sustainable development of *coastal and marine resources*
- Accelerate the development of measures to address *invasive alien species* in ballast water
- Build capacity in *marine science, information and management*
- Support the establishment of effective regional, subregional and national strategies and scientific and technical institutional support for *disaster management*
- **Reduce the risks of flooding and drought in vulnerable countries**
- Increase understanding of the sustainable use, protection and management of *water resources*
- Promote the conservation, and sustainable use and management of *traditional and indigenous agricultural systems*
- Integrate measures to prevent and combat *desertification* as well as to mitigate the effects of drought
- Develop and promote programmes, policies and approaches that integrate environmental, economic and social components of *sustainable mountain development*
- Promote *sustainable tourism developmen*;
- Develop programmes, including education and training programmes, that encourage people to participate in *eco-tourism*
- Integrate the objectives of the *Convention (on Biological Diversity)* into global, regional and national sectoral and cross-sectoral programmes and policies
- Promote the wide implementation and further development of the *ecosystem approach*, as being elaborated in the ongoing work of the Convention
- Support efforts to address the environmental, economic, health and social impacts and benefits of *mining, minerals and metals* throughout their life cycle, including workers' health and safety

V. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN A GLOBALIZING WORLD

- Enhance the capacities of developing countries to benefit from *liberalized trade opportunities*
- Actively promote *corporate responsibility and accountability*
- Strengthen *regional trade and cooperation agreements*....with a view to achieving the objectives of sustainable development

VII. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES

- Assist small island developing States, including through the elaboration of specific initiatives, in *delimiting and managing in a sustainable manner their coastal areas and exclusive economic zones and the continental shelf*
- Develop community-based initiatives on *sustainable tourism* by 2004
- Support the finalization and subsequent early operationalization, ...of *vulnerability indices*

VIII. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR AFRICA

- Develop projects, programmes and partnerships.....for the effective implementation of the outcome of the *African Process for the Protection and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment*
- Provide financial and technical support for Africa's efforts to implement the *Convention to Combat Desertification* at the national level
- Develop and implement *integrated river basin and watershed management* strategies and plans

IX. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- Promote *mutual supportiveness between the multilateral trading system and the multilateral environmental agreements*
- Promote and improve *science-based decision-making* and reaffirm the *precautionary approach*
- Continue to implement the work programme of the Commission on Sustainable Development on *education for sustainable development*
- Develop the capacity of civil society to participate in decision- making
- Promote and further develop methodologies at policy, strategy and project levels for *sustainable development decision-making at the local and national levels, and where relevant at the regional level*

X. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development at the international level
- Strengthen and better integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development policies and programmes, and promote the full integration of sustainable development objectives into programmes and policies of bodies that have a primary focus on social issues
- **Role and function of the Commission on Sustainable Development**
 - Review progress and promote the further implementation of Agenda 21
 - Serve as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development
 - Provide a forum for analysis and exchange of experience on measures that assist sustainable development planning, decision-making and the implementation of sustainable development strategies
 - Furthering the contribution of educators to sustainable development
 - Role of international institutions
- *Strengthen cooperation among UNEP and other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO, within their mandates*
- UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNDP and UNCTAD, within their mandates, should strengthen their contribution to sustainable development programmes and the

- implementation of Agenda 21 at all levels, particularly in the area of promoting capacity-building
- Strengthening institutional arrangements for sustainable development at the regional level
 - Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the regional commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies
 - *Intraregional coordination and cooperation on sustainable development should be improved* among the regional commissions, United Nations Funds, programmes and agencies, regional development banks, and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies
 - Facilitate and promote a balanced *integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development into the work of regional, subregional and other bodies*
 - *Assist in the mobilization of technical and financial assistance, and facilitate the provision of adequate financing for the implementation of regionally and subregionally agreed sustainable development programmes and projects*
 - Continue to promote *multi-stakeholder participation* and encourage partnerships
 - Strengthening institutional frameworks for sustainable development at the national level
 - Take immediate steps to make progress in the *formulation and elaboration of national strategies for sustainable development* and begin their implementation by 2005
 - Further promote the *establishment or enhancement of sustainable development councils* and/or coordination structures at the national level, including at the local level
 - *Enhance the role and capacity of local authorities* as well as stakeholders in implementing Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit

Participation of major groups

Enhance partnerships between governmental and non-governmental actors, including all major groups, as well as volunteer groups, on programmes and activities for the achievement of sustainable development at all levels.

C. HIGHLIGHTS OF COMMITMENTS AND IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVES AT THE WSSD

The following is a list of some of the agreements reached and initiatives announced during the Johannesburg Summit. This list is not exhaustive, but reflects some key highlights of the Summit process. The commitments shown are those agreed in the Implementation Plan adopted by Governments at the close of the Summit.

Water & Sanitation

Commitments

- Commitment to halve the proportion of people without access to sanitation by 2015; this matches the goal of halving the proportion of people without access to safe drinking water by 2015.

Initiatives

- The United States announced \$970 million in investments over the next three years on water and sanitation projects.
- The European Union announced the “Water for Life” initiative that seeks to engage partners to meet goals for water and sanitation, primarily in Africa and Central Asia. The Asia Development Bank provided a \$5 million grant to UN Habitat and \$500 million in fast-track credit for the Water for Asian Cities Programme.
- The UN has received 21 other water and sanitation initiatives with at least \$20 million in extra resources.

Energy

Commitments

- Commitment to increase access to modern energy services increase energy efficiency and to increase the use of renewable energy
- To phase out, where appropriate, energy subsidies.
- To support the NEPAD objective of ensuring access to energy for at least 35% of the African population within 20 years

Initiatives

- The nine major electricity companies of the E7 signed a range of agreements with the UN to facilitate technical cooperation for sustainable energy projects in developing countries.
- The European Union announced a \$700 million partnership initiative on energy and the United States announced that it would invest up to \$43 million in 2003.
- The South African energy utility Eskom announced a partnership to extend modern energy services to neighboring countries.
- The UN has received 32 partnership submissions for energy projects with at least \$26 million in resources.

Health

Commitments

- Commitment that by 2020, chemicals should be used and produced in ways that do not harm human health and the environment.
- To enhance cooperation to reduce air pollution.

- To improve developing countries' access to environmentally sound alternatives to ozone depleting chemicals by 2010.

Initiatives

- United States announced commitment to spend \$2.3 billion through 2003 on health, some of which was earmarked earlier for the Global Fund.
- The UN has received 16 partnership submissions for health projects with \$3 million in resources.

Agriculture

Commitments

- The GEF will consider inclusion of the Convention to Combat Desertification as a focal area for funding.
- In Africa, development of food security strategies by 2005.

Initiatives

- The United States will invest \$90 million in 2003 for sustainable agriculture programmes.
- The UN has received 17 partnership submissions with at least \$2 million in additional resources.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management

Commitments

- Commitment to reduce biodiversity loss by 2010.
- Commitment to reverse the current trend in natural resource degradation.
- Commitment to restore fisheries to their maximum sustainable yields by 2015.
- Commitment to establish a representative network of marine protected areas by 2012.
- Commitment to improve developing countries' access to environmentally-sound alternatives to ozone depleting chemicals by 2010.
- Undertake initiatives by 2004 to implement the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Sources of Pollution.

Initiatives

- The UN has received 32 partnership initiatives with \$100 million in resources.
- The United States has announced \$53 million for forests in 2002-2005.

Cross-Cutting Issues

Commitments

- Recognition that opening up access to markets is a key to development for many countries.
- Support the phase out of all forms of export subsidies.
- Commitment to establish a 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production.
- Commitment to actively promote corporate responsibility and accountability.
- Commitments to develop and strengthen a range of activities to improve natural disaster preparedness and response.

Initiative

- Agreement to the replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, with a total of \$3 billion (\$2.92 billion announced pre-Summit and \$80 million added by EU in Johannesburg).

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ANNEX IV

REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MEDITERRANEAN: POLICY AND TOOLS

A Mediterranean Partnership Initiative in the framework of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

The Mediterranean is potentially one of the eco-regions in which the concept of sustainable development could be implemented, as a regional test case, due to its rapid development, the scarcity of its natural resources, the different levels of development between riparian States, and also because of certain quite spectacular developments which are very specific to the region, such as tourism development and competition for the coastal region.

The Mediterranean context

Both the Mediterranean Sea and the countries fringing it, particularly their coastal areas, face heavy pressures, most of them the result of human activities related to uncontrolled and rapid development. The resident population of the Mediterranean countries has jumped from 246 million in 1960 to 427 million in the year 2000. Urbanisation, overcrowding in coastal regions, evolution of consumption patterns, intensive agriculture, mass tourism, and unrestricted coastal area development combine to assault the natural environment –marine, terrestrial and water resources. These factors interact to cause pollution loads that endanger peoples' quality of life. Pollution hot spots are typically found in coastal areas with semi-enclosed gulfs and bays near important harbours, big cities and industrial areas. They constitute a major Mediterranean problem and a potential threat.

An important quantity of untreated wastewater and many toxic substances are discharged into the semi-enclosed Mediterranean Sea. Transport and industries cause atmospheric pollution that is damaging to human health, nature and archaeological sites. Increasing sea transportation of oil and hazardous materials poses threats of accidental pollution. The delicate Mediterranean ecosystem is disturbed in a variety of ways from the contamination of fish by industrial effluents to the destruction of the habitats of endangered species by tourism.

Through the United Nations Environment Programme / Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP), countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea and the European Union have been cooperating since 1975 to improve their common Mediterranean environment.

Over the past 27 years, UNEP/MAP has evolved in response to the improved understanding of the close relationships between environment, conservation and development. It has expanded its remit, and no longer focuses solely on Mediterranean sea pollution but also concerns itself with pollution generated on land due to the development process with integrated coastal zone planning and natural resource management as the key tools through which solutions are being sought. In the late '80s and early '90s, global developments in environmental approaches confirmed and supported MAP's widening scope, in particular, Agenda 21. MAP responded in 1994 with the presentation of Agenda MED 21, adapting Agenda 21 to the Mediterranean context and incorporating the Rio Declaration Principles in the revised Barcelona Convention (1995).

Throughout the history, the regular and intense exchanges and inter-relations between the riparian countries, which created a series of common concerns and a certain sense of Mediterranean identity, have characterized the Mediterranean. This provided a solid basis

for the cooperation in the region, notably through UNEP/MAP, for the protection of the sea in the beginning and progressively for the protection of the marine and coastal environment as well as for the promotion of sustainable development. Early enough and certainly in the '90s, the Contracting Parties have developed a real sense of ownership for their MAP, providing it with regular financial support and showing real interest in the preparation, planning, monitoring and evaluation of its programme of activities. This positive situation has then provided opportunities for substantial additional financial resources either from partners on a voluntary basis or through projects, mainly from the European Union and the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Since the creation of MAP and mainly since the result of its activities in late '80s and early '90s, several regional programmes were established, aiming at further promoting MAP objectives through more practical projects; among these programmes the most visible ones are the Mediterranean Environment Technical Assistance Programme (METAP) and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership (EMP) and its Short and Medium Term Priority Environmental Action Programme (SMAP).

The establishment of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) in 1996 demonstrated the commitment of MAP Contracting Parties to further working towards integrating environment and development in the entire region. The MCSD is composed of 36 members representing the 20 Mediterranean Countries and the European Community (EC); the NGOs (5); the Socio-Economic Actors (5) and the Local Authorities (5), the later 15 being renewed every two years to ensure a wider representation of the Civil Society and Major Groups. The preparation and endorsement in 2001 of the Strategic Review for sustainable development in the Mediterranean together with the decision to prepare a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development as a contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21, Agenda MED 21 and the follow up of the WSSD, are two other indicators of the willingness of Mediterranean Partners to protect their environment and promote sustainable development.

These commitments were clearly expressed in the Mediterranean Declaration for the Johannesburg Summit prepared by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention at their 12th conference (Monaco, 14-17 November 2001).

A quarter-century of activities has seen lot of progress and achievements, but there is still a long way to go towards a satisfactory protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development in the Mediterranean. To progress further towards our goals, a series of achievements are required; the present Partnership Initiative is expected to contribute to the further promotion and implementation of sustainable development in the Mediterranean Region, in conformity with the Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration goals.

This new partnership initiative, agreed upon by concerned parties and their partners, is a contribution to the implementation of Agenda 21, Agenda MED 21 and the follow up of WSSD and its Plan of Implementation, in particular regarding its application at Regional levels, in this case the Mediterranean Eco-Region.

Name of Partnership Initiative: *Preparation of a Regional Sustainable Development Strategy for the Mediterranean: Policy and Tools*

Date of initiation: September 2002

Expected date of completion:

- December 2005 for the preparation and adoption of the Strategy by concerned Partners;
- December 2010 for the implementation of specific time-bound targets (could be reviewed throughout the process).

Partners involved:

Governments: 20 Mediterranean bordering Countries, Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

Intergovernmental Organisations: UNEP/MAP, European Commission, as Contracting Party to the Barcelona Convention and Partner to METAP and EMP/SMAP, World Bank, UNDP and EIB as METAP Partners. Other partners would join this Initiative during the preparation and implementation of the Strategy.

Major Groups: Some 20 Organisations from the Major Groups and Civil Society will be involved in the preparation of the Strategy, most of them being already active Partners to MAP and the MCSDD such as the networks of the Mediterranean NGOs (MIO-ECSDE, MEDFORUM, ENDA, Friends Of the Earth, RAED, most of them already accredited to ECOSOC), network of Local Authorities (MEDCITIES) and of Private Sector (ASCAME, ICC, etc).

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Main objectives of the Partnership Initiative:

The main objective of this proposal is to prepare and then implement a Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean, involving all concerned actors, most of them already active partners in MAP and the MCSDD; in addition to the Mediterranean Countries, this initiative will be actively supported by Mediterranean representatives of the Major Groups and Civil Society, as well as, Regional Actors such as EMP/SMAP and METAP (these Partners are expected to provide financial support for the preparation and later on the implementation of the Regional Strategy).

The preparatory process of this Regional Strategy makes appropriate use of relevant information and analysis, available at regional and national levels, notably the Strategic Review prepared recently as an assessment of activities related to Sustainable Development at national and regional levels in relation with the implementation of Agenda 21, following the Commission on Sustainable Development request in the framework of the preparatory process for the WSSD. The preparation for this Strategy will also make adequate use of the indicators and prospective analysis to be included in the Mediterranean Environment and Development Report, being elaborated by the UNEP/MAP Blue Plan Regional Activity Centre. This Regional Strategy will focus on relevant policies and practical tools necessary for building up a coherent Strategic Programme with time bound and implementable results.

Moreover, building on its large knowledge of the environment and development inter-relations in the Region, as well as the commitments of the Mediterranean Partners, the preparatory process of the Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development will be a participatory one, involving all concerned actors, most of them being members of or partners to the MCSD; such process will then induce countries and concerned partners to prepare National / Local Sustainable Development Strategies. The Regional Strategy will also include a series of time-bound targets.

The MCSD has proved to be an interesting forum for dialogue and partnership. By promoting its visibility at the global level, the MCSD could be strengthened and its regional case as a bridge between global and national / local levels could be shared with other regions that could draw lessons and adapt similar structures to their contexts.

Expected results:

- Improved Governance for regional and national sustainable development;
- Better preparation at national and regional levels to ensure that the environment and trade policies are mutually supportive, in view of the Euro-Mediterranean Free-Trade area;
- Better coordination and use of national and external investments in the Region;
- Strengthening of the MCSD through a stronger implication of concerned Major Groups;
- Exchange of experience among multi-stakeholders on sustainable development;
- Publications related to and international workshops on the Mediterranean Regional case for exchange of experience and possible replication;
- Awareness raising and capacity building in the field of sustainable development;
- Coherence between regional and national approaches for sustainable development;
- Strengthening of existing networks (MAP, METAP, SMAP, Major Groups networks) and interlinkages among them.
- Specific targets of the Partnership Initiative and timeframe for their achievements:
- To induce and assist Mediterranean Countries and partners in (to be reviewed throughout the preparatory process of the Strategy and better defined in 2005):
- Establishing National Environment and Development Observatories or similar information and decision making tool (5–8 countries by 2010);
- Establishing Cleaner Production Centres (7–10 countries by 2010);
- Preparing and implementing Local Governance through coastal management and participatory approach (5–8 countries by 2010);
- Halting the decline of biodiversity by managing specially protected areas of Mediterranean importance;
- Developing and implementing plans for integrated management of the water demand, putting special emphasis on drinking water and irrigation;
- Encouraging the establishment of National Commissions on Sustainable Development and the adoption of National Sustainable Development Strategies;
- Developing and implementing a Regional Strategic Action Plan on Tourism and Sustainable Development (by 2006);
- Preparing and implementing a Regional Information, Awareness and Public Participation Strategy (by 2006).

**Coordination and Implementation mechanisms
(UPDATED APRIL 2003):**

All 36 MCSD members (representing Mediterranean countries: 20; European Commission and the Majors Groups: 15) are committed to this partnership as the preparation of the Regional Strategy and then the follow up of its implementation constitute a commonly agreed task for the MCSD.

Under the supervision of the Steering Committee (SC) of the MCSD, the implementation will be coordinated by the Secretariat of MAP and MCSD with the support of its members and the assistance of a team of eminent and highly qualified experts.

Following the WSSD in Johannesburg, a group of 3 experts has been appointed. The preparatory process, launched in September 2002 for the preparation of a Mediterranean Strategy starting with the elaboration of coherent framework "orientations" related to the three pillars.

In order to carefully prepare the Regional Strategy, it was decided to first define and agree on an "orientations framework" for the Strategy to be based on a limited set of key stakes and priority issues, with as far as possible some quantifiable and time-bound results; in this context, three background "thematic" studies related to the three pillars have been undertaken on "economic development and social equity", "environment and natural resources" and "governance, policy and institutional issues", all three giving due consideration to relevant contents of the WSSD Plan of Implementation and the Millenium Development Goals as well as to decisions taken by concerned partners and relevant to the Mediterranean regional context.

Progress and Further steps:

The SC, composed of four representatives of countries, and of one representing each of the private sector, the NGOs and the Local Authorities (actually the SC of the MCSD), until a more specific and appropriate SC is formed for this partnership) has reviewed a first draft for these three studies and discussed the framework orientations together with next steps; a workshop of some 50 qualified experts was then organized on 13–15 March 2003 in Barcelona, Spain, to further discuss the findings of the three studies and define the framework orientations that will be then reviewed by the members of the MCSD (representing countries and major groups) during the 8th meeting of the MCSD on 14–16 May 2003 in Cavtat, Croatia.

Interest from the IGOs (the World Bank, UNDP, EC and EIB) to contributing to this Regional Strategy has been confirmed during meetings in Brussels (December 2002), Barcelona (March 2003) and Brussels (April 2003) when progress on preparatory process was presented; more partners will be identified through the preparatory process with the objective of securing their effective participation and commitment in the elaboration and implementation of the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy.

In order to ensure active participation and contribution to the preparation and implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy by concerned Regional Actors, a more pro-active information and communication mechanism will be defined and followed so as to secure partnerships, commitments and ownership, with necessary means, once the first draft of the "Orientations" for the Regional Strategy will be finalized (end of May 2003).

Arrangements for funding:

Announced seed money for launching this Partnership Initiative has been received, so far US\$ 180,000 (from the UNEP / Mediterranean Trust Fund, Spain and Monaco); and already largely engaged / spent and once the "framework orientations" for the Regional Strategy will be agreed upon (May 2003), the required amount of necessary funds for next steps will be assessed and a funding strategy will be defined.

Similar amounts and even more could be reasonably expected from MAP budget and from donor countries in addition to projects to be submitted to relevant funding agencies and partners.

Arrangements for capacity building and technology transfer:

Throughout the period of the project, several workshops for exchange of information, awareness raising and capacity building will be organized on specific issues such as:

- Preparation of national Sustainable Development Strategies;
- Exchange of experience on governance for sustainable development at the national and local level, with focus on participatory approach;
- Planning for sustainable development policies in relation to some critical fields: tourism, transport, energy, urban and rural development, coastal management, water and waste management.

Links of Partnership Initiative with on-going sustainable development activities at the international and / or regional:

The preparation of the Regional Sustainable Development Strategy will take into account the developments within the Euro-Mediterranean partnership, more specifically the establishment of a Free Trade Area in the Region, the Enlargement of EU, the Euro-Arab cooperation, the East-Adriatic and Arab Subregional initiatives, as well as the GWP Med Initiative on "Water and Poverty" in the Mediterranean, the Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region, Mediterranean Education Initiative / MEDIES, local Agenda 21 Initiatives, and other regional Partnerships. It will benefit from the international meeting to be organized by France early 2004 as a contribution to this Regional Strategy.

Monitoring arrangements:

A set of monitoring and performance indicators will be identified and a reporting system established, to be regularly reviewed, assessed and evaluated by the MCSD and the SC and members / partners at the regular institutional meetings.

Other relevant information:

Considering the WSSD Plan of Implementation, it is important that the Commission on Sustainable Development gives adequate visibility to Partnerships and facilitates the exchange of experiences between those that address some common concerns.

In the particular case of this Partnership, it is necessary that the Commission on Sustainable Development gives more importance to regional approaches, not just through the classical UN regions but also through eco-regions such as the UNEP Regional Seas and in particular the Mediterranean Region;

Identifying, informing and inducing new potential partners to join and support some of the Partnership initiatives could also be of great support.

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**Preparation of a Regional Sustainable Development Strategy
for the Mediterranean: Policy and Tools**

Summary:

The main objective of this proposal is to prepare a Regional Strategy for Sustainable Development for the Mediterranean, involving all concerned actors, most of them already active partners in MAP and the MCSD. In addition to the Mediterranean Countries, this initiative will be actively supported by Mediterranean representatives of the Major Groups and Civil Society, as well as, Regional Actors such as EMP/SMAP and METAP (these last two Partners are expected to provide substantial financial support for the preparation and later on the implementation of the Regional Strategy).

The preparatory process of this Regional Strategy will make appropriate use of relevant information and analysis, available at regional and national levels, notably the Strategic Review prepared recently as an assessment of activities related to Sustainable Development at national and regional levels in relation with the implementation of Agenda 21.

This Regional Strategy will focus on relevant policies and practical tools necessary for building up a coherent Strategic Programme with time bound and implementable results.

The expected results include the following:

- Better preparation at national and regional levels to ensure that the environment and trade policies are mutually supportive, in view of the Euro-Mediterranean Free-Trade area;
- Better coordination and use of national and external investments in the Region;
- Strengthening of the MCSD through a stronger implication of concerned Major Groups;
- Exchange of experience among multi-stakeholders on sustainable development;
- Publications related to and international workshops on the Mediterranean Regional case for exchange of experience and possible replication;
- Awareness raising and capacity building in the field of sustainable development;
- Coherence between regional and national approached for sustainable development; and
- Strengthening of existing networks (MAP, METAP, SMAP, Major Groups networks) and inter-linkages among them.

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Dates:

- September 2002 – December 2005 for the preparation and adoption of the Strategy by concerned partners;
- December 2010 for the implementation of specific time-bound targets.

Links: Capacity-Building, technology transfer.

ANNEX V

MEDITERRANEAN VISION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT¹

The Mediterranean is made up of many different countries, but today it is no longer what it once was.

For most international organizations, it does not have its own status.

One certainty remains, however, the feeling shared by people in the region that they belong to the same community and their hope of a better future based on renewed prosperity.

Faced with future challenges, the people of the Mediterranean should make the Mediterranean's rehabilitation a multilateral cooperation project, respecting the region's values.

A shared vision of the future would help to guide the various stages in such cooperation.

It would allow the will to cooperate to be integrated within a consensual process.

It would mean taking note of the onerous historical trends that affect Mediterranean societies in order to apprehend the real issues that have to be considered.

A shared vision to promote action must be strategic.

Its endorsement must be the result of consensus, otherwise the subsequent stages in the process cannot be envisaged.

It will help us to become aware of the real questions and the major challenges to be met.

It will mean changes going beyond borders.

Taking the broader view, the more long-term view, striving to achieve sustainability, these should be the watchwords for the future.

The broader view in the sense that it is necessary to look beyond national borders in order to understand that abundance and scarcity are unequally shared and that the regional ecological balance has already been upset.

The more long-term view in the sense that it is essential to make the right choices now in order to arrive at a sustainable balance in the long term.

Our vision of the future should be an ecoregion that is developing while at the same time becoming more diversified, whose environment is healthy, whose natural

¹ Document prepared by Mr. M. Ennabli (and reviewed by the Secretariat) following the workshop on "Orientations for the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy (13 to 15 March 2003, Barcelona) and the restricted meeting of experts (15 and 16 April 2003), which reviewed the first draft text of the "Vision".

diversity is protected, where there is greater prosperity and more democracy and where the common cultural heritage is cherished.

Today, we are a long way from being able to call development in the region sustainable.

Sustainable development is a series of reforms that must be implemented, an invitation to participate at the political level, to assume responsibility, to develop new ideas.

Globalization is showing the way towards growing economic, political and cultural interdependence.

Despite the problems it raises, globalization has many advantages, but they are unequally shared.

Only by being associated with sustainable development can globalization lead to a more equitable trading system, provided that countries share the costs of their ecological and socio-economic action.

In such a context, the implementation of a Mediterranean sustainable development strategy would be the culmination of a lengthy process of consultation and regional cooperation, despite certain differences.

Its elaboration would be a test case of the determination to undertake a political and institutional analysis of ways of assuring the transition to sustainable development.

It means transformation towards governance that takes into account issues related to serious threats and the well-being of the population in order to integrate sustainable development in all decision-making structures.

Sustainable development goes against the rule of "all, at once".

It naturally also means combating pollution, developing cleaner technology, promoting renewable energy, recycling waste, all ecological concepts, and will in the end impose itself by its own contribution.

The initiatives taken at the regional level to make the new concept better known include the elaboration of Agenda MED 21 in 1994, the revision of the Barcelona Convention in 1995, and the creation of the MCSD within the MAP in 1996.

The strategic review of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, prepared in 2000, shows that the transition to sustainable development depends on the capacity of States to formulate policies, to involve the public, local authorities and non-governmental organizations.

In view of the demographic, economic, technological and socio-cultural differences between the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean and the difficulty of overcoming present constraints, progress has manifestly been limited.

In this process, there are six major challenges because the sustainable development process cannot move ahead if it ignores the region's geographical, political and cultural features.

The first challenge is peace.

In the Mediterranean, there are both antagonisms and coexistence so cooperation and security can never be definitively assumed.

Under those circumstances, working towards sustainability means making determined efforts to establish significant levels of collective action.

Going beyond the illusory quest for parity, Mediterranean countries should, according to their means, build a Mediterranean that is managed in partnership, in which the quest is not so much equality of contributions but the result of cooperation, even if it is unequal.

Since 1995, the Barcelona process has been endeavouring to preserve a zone of peace and stability, to create a common area of prosperity, by establishing a free-trade area and promoting dialogue built around different culturally defined and politically organized entities.

For the moment, however, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership represents a balance of interests rather than genuine common interest.

The cold war has ended, but conflicts persist.

The collapse of the Middle East peace process has shattered development prospects.

The future of the region calls for mutually guaranteed security, a subtle balance backed up by a legal agreement that cannot be confined to military aspects because the real threats are in the economic and social spheres.

The dangers on the horizon are due to the demographic imbalance between the two shores.

The feeling that we share a common destiny has to be fostered in our diverse societies because we all need a stable and balanced relationship with our partners.

The second challenge is poverty and inequality.

Countries in the South and East of the Mediterranean find it all the more difficult to meet the growing needs of their populations because the financial constraints are considerable and indebtedness is difficult to bear.

There is a contradiction between the necessary management of consumption and the desire to consume, exacerbated by the dissemination of a Western lifestyle.

Human poverty is two to three times more common in the South than in countries of the North.

This means problems in obtaining access to health services, drinking water and sanitation, an increase in maternal and infant mortality, and significant inequalities between men and women.

There is nothing to suggest that the Mediterranean free-trade area will have a significant impact in terms of convergence in coming decades.

Regular schooling for girls, giving women access to the labour market, are two factors that help to lower fertility rates.

Reducing men's unemployment should, under no circumstances, prejudice women's rights.

The essential need for a significant level of convergence must be an integral part of a common vision.

Building a non-asymmetrical system of interdependence on the basis of guaranteed peace and security means readjusting the transfer of resources for the benefit of countries of the South and East in order to offset their trade deficits.

A "social contract" needs to be imposed in order to rebuild a sharing society by reducing poverty and the disparities that lead to despair and exclusion.

This was the aim of the commitment made at the Copenhagen Summit on Social Development, organized by the United Nations in 1995.

The revolution introduced by new information and communication technology has transformed and refashioned work, education, and family.

This is an opportunity to be seized so that the benefits of globalization can be more equitably shared.

The third challenge is development and its impact on the environment

The fear of uncontrolled flows of migrants to countries of the North has incited the European Union to act so that some of the effects of its growth aid the development of countries of the South and East within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

These countries must however know how to benefit from this narrow margin of competitiveness given to them in comparison with their competitors both within and outside the European Union.

The Community's economic area cannot without risk exclude countries of the South from joint development.

If that occurred, the insecurity on the Southern shores would become worse and, moreover, would deprive Europe of privileged outlets in an area with a high rate of demographic growth in favour of other economic areas.

The Barcelona Declaration deals with the relationship between economic growth and environmental protection. It also calls for the integration of environmental

and economic policies and mitigation of the effects of growth that harm the environment.

The creation of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership constituted a major step that could promote broader multilateral cooperation and environmental integration with a view to sustainable development.

Even countries in the South are now becoming aware of the ravages of certain forms of development for their potential, their wealth, and their population.

Patterns of production based on non-renewable sources cannot become generalized without compromising the future of generations to come.

History teaches us that civilizations also fall because of their excesses if nothing is done in time.

Measures taken to protect the environment at the national level become meaningless if they are not backed up at least at the regional level because the problems ignore borders.

A “natural contract” based on an alliance between development and environmental protection should give priority to sustainability and take into account the right of future generations to quality of life without harmful effects.

This is the least of our responsibilities towards generations to come.

The fourth challenge is globalization.

As a result of globalization, a purely national vision cannot resolve the majority of issues.

It would be extremely dangerous not to look to the future we seek because our common destiny would then depend on short-term elements such as financial markets, stock exchange trends and raw material prices.

Globalization reaffirms the hegemony of the economy and technology, markets and networks.

It tends to impose a dominant economic and cultural model.

It could be perceived as conveying cultural imperialism and denying existing values.

The nation would then, more than ever, be a rampart against the collapse of society.

A “cultural contract” based on education for all, throughout their lives, could be a powerful source of identity in order to move from the information (often misinformation) society to the knowledge and know-how society.

In-depth reform of education for young people is needed, with the emphasis on creation and innovation and not the blind endorsement of a dominant culture.

Generalizing access to knowledge through distance learning will be a considerable challenge.

National cultures are the element that binds social actors and protects them from chaos. They are the only element that could reaffirm solidarity at the national level and build regional groups that can face up to globalization.

The integration of the elite in their respective societies and their involvement in the national project will be decisive for the preservation of the Mediterranean's special characteristics.

A Mediterranean regional culture composed of creativeness, able to attract young people in a world of new technology would be an asset in the light of the trend towards hegemony that is emerging.

The fifth challenge is productivity and innovation.

The Mediterranean's economy has not yet taken off.

The relatively inefficient systems under which the majority of countries in the South operate have derived little benefit from technological progress because there has been no effective transfer of technology.

The low levels of efficiency only permit modest growth and industry's share in the sectoral breakdown of growth barely accounts for one third of the GDP.

The conditions that will allow Mediterranean societies to go back to work have to be created so as to enhance productivity and reduce emigration.

Endogenous catalysts for growth will be essential.

A "business contract" for a more productive Mediterranean will be needed to provide an impetus and make intra-Mediterranean relations coherent in order to see renewed prosperity on both shores.

The merger of large multinationals underlines the increased power of liberalism and leads to domination of markets, thereby jeopardizing competition.

The danger is that globalization will ignore countries with few resources and no markets to develop.

Job creation, as well as export success, are mainly due to SMEs.

Transfer of ecotechnology and the use of cleaner production techniques within the framework of a partnership freely negotiated among professional associations on both shores of the Mediterranean would make the new sharing of roles meaningful and acceptable.

The sixth challenge is governance.

Promoting sustainable development based on know-how, the networking of knowledge and competence would be synonymous with well-being.

Enhancing democracy in the social field is a political responsibility, but at the same time the responsibility of society as a whole and of intellectuals in particular.

This means moving from a centralized decision-making process to negotiation, cooperation, and concerted action.

In the absence of a regional governance structure, a Mediterranean sustainable development strategy should focus less on direct implementation and more on promoting mobilization and building the capacity of actors (government authorities, the private sector and organizations in civil society), within the framework of a system that is able to complement the traditional system of governance.

This type of approach to reinforcing Mediterranean governance for sustainable development would be based on relevant regional and international organizations.

Associations could help to bring about a new culture of democracy that would involve the Mediterranean as a whole, in view of the pitfalls of assimilation or falling back on identity.

An “ethical contract” would give meaning and perspective to a Mediterranean sustainable development process that would respect a shared ethical view of sustainability that responds to a moral imperative and transcends any utilitarian considerations.

The active participation of organizations in civil society, which are the repository of the wide variety of cultural values and traditions in the region, would be useful in this regard.

The right to development and to live in a healthy environment should be reaffirmed in order to be heard.

The principles of the Rio Declaration, which underlined the environmental dimension of sustainability, should be an integral part of the process.

They include:

- integration of environmental protection in the development process, with systemic analysis and consultation;
- internalization of environmental costs (the polluter pays principle);
- participation in and access to information and justice;
- equity among generations;
- the common and the different responsibilities of developed countries and those that are not yet developed;
- prevention and prudence (the precautionary principle) in the absence of certainty;
- the interdependent relations between the global and local levels (the principle of subsidiarity).

These principles concern our relations with nature : to protect the environment in order to ensure the durability of human life and to take into account all aspects of equity.

The ethical contract would not, however, be complete without sharing and solidarity, sustainable development should benefit all.

The objective of the sustainable development process in the Mediterranean would therefore be to protect society's physical and human capital in the long term.

It should mobilize not only States but also actors in civil society at all levels and strengthen regional cooperation.

Only a holistic and integrated vision will be able to integrate the environment-development interface and allow the sustainable development process to minimize the impact of human activities on the environment, taking into account the effects of environmental degradation on such activities.

Such a vision will have to take account of political, economic and social realities in the Mediterranean:

- the enlargement of Europe towards the East;
- the instability of borders, still a source of conflict;
- the relative effectiveness of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership;
- the absence of a dynamic and organized private sector;
- the emergence of the social dimension and governance at the Johannesburg Summit on sustainable development;
- the globalization that is being institutionalized through the World Trade Organization, and the Commission on Sustainable Development, as well as the major environmental conventions.

ANNEX VI

Draft report on:

ORIENTATIONS FOR A MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

ORIENTATIONS FOR A MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY*¹

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Sustainable development is a process that involves all the actors.

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¹ This report was prepared by Mr. M. Ennabli and is based on the discussions and conclusions of the workshop on Orientations for a Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy (13 to 15 March 2003, Barcelona) and the restricted meeting of experts (15 and 16 April 2003, Tunis), as well as the "thematic" reports and strategic notes prepared by Mr. G. Corm, Mr. M. Ibrahim, Mr. A. Laouina, Mr. A. Mahjoub, and Mr. J. Prats.

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- 3.2 In order to enhance the quality of life, land use planning should take greater account of the need for a regional balance.
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Areas for priority action: sustainable water management;
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 coastal development;
 sustainability of polluting industrial activities;
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 more rational maritime transport

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- 4.1 The Mediterranean free-trade area opens up prospects, but the North-South gap is wide.
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5.1 At the Mediterranean level, the MAP : a qualified partner. National economic and social actors and supranational actors : regional strategy administrators.

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6. Conclusion

The economic and social decline in the Mediterranean : a downward trend that is the cause of the development and governance deficit in the region.

The North-South asymmetry and the lack of convergence between the two shores : obstacles to the transition towards sustainable development.

Catalyzation of economies through innovation and creativeness, institutional strengthening, establishment of participatory processes, and identification of key actors : reforms are needed.

Coordination at the regional level to deal with priority issues and define the objectives.

Definitions

Sustainable development

The aim of sustainable development is to guarantee social justice by reducing poverty and its causes and preserving opportunities for future generations to enjoy natural resources, the cultural heritage and the physical capital that is their right.

It is the result of **a process that involves all the actors in economic and social development** in institutional forms of dialogue intended to overcome the current inertia that prevents harmonious development that would be of benefit to all sectors of the population, with the aim of changing growth patterns that lead to the degradation of the cultural and physical heritage and the region's natural resources.

Through this process, the economic, social and cultural actors become more fully aware of the challenges that are posed at various levels in the society in which they live and ways of overcoming them.

ANNEX VI

ORIENTATIONS FOR A MEDITERRANEAN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

1. The process must be strategic

This implies :

- Links between the long-term vision, the medium-term objectives, and short-term action.
- Horizontal intersectoral links in order to follow a coordinated approach to development.
- Vertical links in terms of space so that local, national, regional and global policies are consistent.
- Partnership among governments, business circles and voluntary organizations.

The strategy will be an ongoing participatory process, with a follow-up, a learning process and constant improvement.

1.1 It must pay special attention to the recommendations of the MCSD and the proposals for action in the "Strategic review of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region".

The Mediterranean sustainable development strategy should reflect responsible acceptance of the medium-term and long-term challenges, a clear commitment and solidarity at all levels (regional, national and local) in all fields (economic, social and environmental).

Led by the MAP, the process should from the outset involve other Mediterranean actors that will be called on to endorse the strategy and thus contribute to its implementation.

It should also be wholly consistent with the Plan of Implementation of the Johannesburg Summit, adapting it to the Mediterranean context and putting it into effect at the regional level.

1.2 It must respect a certain number of criteria

The regional strategy will be **organized around the economic, social and environmental components, but special attention should also be paid to governance** because the sustainable development of Mediterranean States implies the conscious implementation of efforts to establish significant levels of coordinated and collective action.

Shared political will is needed for any collective action in such a special region where the inequalities are great and where security and cooperation cannot be definitively assumed.

Building the capacity for governance at all levels will therefore be a major challenge for the regional sustainable development strategy as it is above all a question of ensuring consistency between the actions to be proposed and the reforms that need to be launched.

Whether or not Mediterranean societies can give their citizens well-being on a lasting basis depends on the choices made by individuals, enterprises, local authorities, and governments concerning the way in which their assets are to be used and transformed.

The goal of the regional strategy will be **joint action** to incorporate sustainable development as a common value in all the Mediterranean's diverse cultural traditions.

In order to achieve this, the regional strategy must be **explicitly based on the ethical principles of sustainable development**. It will have to be part of a **shared vision of the future** for all stakeholders and an effective and repeated consensual process of selecting targets and identifying ways of achieving them.

A clear formulation should make it possible to explain properly to governments in particular the strategic importance and interest of the process by highlighting the links between the strategy's short and medium term objectives and the long-term political advantages of the sustainable development process.

1.3 Strategic orientations : first stage of the process

In the first stage, the orientations are intended to lay down the bases for the regional strategy by identifying priority issues likely to meet with the informed endorsement of national and regional partners in favour of a process whose long-term objective will be to improve living standards in Mediterranean societies.

They can serve as a methodological framework for the elaboration of the strategy by defining the priority issues to be dealt with at the regional level, the regional partners to be involved, the complementary measures to be taken, and resources for implementing and following up the initiatives.

Mediterranean countries are changing rapidly in an increasingly complex context characterized by globalization.

In such a context, meeting the three major objectives of sustainable development, namely, economic efficiency, environmental integrity, and social justice, means guiding the changes taking place at the ecoregion level.

Accelerated change and the growing number of uncertainties call for an objective analysis of the current situation, the situation foreseeable in the short term, and also a possible vision for the future.

The strategic orientations must be elaborated **despite all the uncertainties** in the information available, the analyses of the Mediterranean system, and the evaluation of the external and internal variables that affect it.

They will make it possible to have a global prospective understanding of the Mediterranean system, focusing on monitoring over time the relationship between environment and development.

Lastly, they will allow the priorities for action for sustainable development to be assessed and help governments in Mediterranean countries to take decisions on land use planning and integrated management of the area.

2. The facts to be taken into account in order to facilitate the process

2.1 The Mediterranean's role in the world : i.e. its decline and the consequences

2.1.1 Certain threats should be forestalled

The Mediterranean region is at the crossroads of three continents and is **the subject of long-standing external rivalry that imposes a number of constraints and risks.**

Peace and security are threatened by events outside the region and the absence of a mutually endorsed pact.

Secure supplies of petroleum and investment by the great powers have imposed new political and economic relations in the region, going beyond the regional framework, and Mediterranean countries appear unable to control them.

For many people, the Mediterranean cannot simply be an operational adjunct to the global economy, but its great opportunity is that its collapse would put an end to European hopes of resisting the ascension of the Pacific.

The Euro-Mediterranean Partnership will have to be built up by managing the inevitable contradictions present today in the Mediterranean Basin, by associating neighbouring areas in the South and East in its progress, by strengthening their competitiveness, despite **the heterogeneous nature of the Mediterranean economic area, overly asymmetric interaction, exaggeratedly strong competition** compared to the complementarities, **barriers to free movement of goods and persons.**

Bearing in mind the attractions of Asia, the development of the South and the East of the Mediterranean would benefit from hitching itself to the European locomotive, if only to attenuate the extent of clandestine immigration.

There need to be initiatives to diminish the virulence of liberalism so that the economy serves humankind and not the other way around.

There is no reason to think that globalization in itself represents progress.

Free trade engenders inequalities and the over-riding power of global capitalism is not without danger for countries.

Collective awareness of this danger would be salutary.

Full understanding of globalization could help in detecting the dangers and would serve to avoid or circumvent certain choices imposed from outside so that they are no longer so burdensome.

The uniformity of consumption and culture among young people is an alarming fact, even in the modern and economically powerful countries of the North.

Without seeking cultural isolation, it would be to the Mediterranean's advantage to ensure that its relations with the outside obey the logic and requirements of regional development.

The brain drain is an important obstacle and leads to a net loss for the region. The political and economic causes of this phenomenon should be analysed and, as far as possible, controlled.

2.1.2 Certain opportunities should be seized

There are opportunities which the Mediterranean should seize in order to meet the external challenges facing its peoples : integration in the global economy, participation in science and technology, the brain drain, the regional impact of climate change.

New information and communication technology, biotechnology, cleaner production techniques, are all subjects that could be mastered rapidly through distance learning and they could be made socially and economically profitable through teleworking.

As an ecoregion, the Mediterranean could also take advantage of **the multilateral cooperation initiated by organizations of the United Nations system** under international conventions within the UNCSD context and the Johannesburg Summit Plan of Implementation.

2.2. The tensions at work within the Mediterranean : i.e. the cleavages and North-South asymmetry

2.2.1 Some strengths could be exploited

- **The Mediterranean environment-development cooperation** initiated in Barcelona in 1975 has allowed 21 Mediterranean States and the EC to carry out pioneering work foreshadowing sustainable development.

Such experience, put to good use by the MAP's structures, is a considerable asset for the region.

The structure set up is already **a tool for consultation and work** that is effective at the regional level and serves the environment and sustainable development.

- The creation of the **Euro-Mediterranean Partnership** in 1995 offered vast potential for general multilateral cooperation in the region and for environmental integration with a view to sustainable development.

One of the objectives of the Barcelona Declaration is economic cooperation through the gradual establishment of a Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area, the environment being one of the priorities.

The collective aspect of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is complemented by several Euro-Mediterranean Association Agreements governing bilateral relations between each of the nine partners that are not candidates and the EU as a whole.

The MEDA, which is the financial arm of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, provides for close collaboration with the EIB on major trans-regional environmental projects.

The SMAP is the environmental component of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. It is a programme for priority short-term and medium-term action adopted in 1997 and is intended to serve as a framework for policy orientation and financing at both the regional and national levels.

The programme's objective is to promote sustainable development, and the Barcelona Declaration recognizes "the importance of reconciling economic development with environmental protection, of integrating environmental concerns into the relevant aspects of economic policy and mitigating the negative environmental consequences which might arise".

The Valencia Conference in April 2002 strengthened the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership by advocating a global response based on full cooperation and solidarity, emphasizing that peace, stability and security in the Mediterranean region constituted a common asset to be promoted and strengthened by all means and were the pre-condition for any efforts to achieve sustainable development and for any environmental protection policy.

Reaffirming its attachment to the Barcelona Convention and the Mediterranean Action Plan and taking full account of existing multilateral programmes (such as, METAL and LIFE-Third Countries), the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership is called on to become a major driving force in implementing a Mediterranean sustainable development strategy.

- Blue Plan's positive use of many sectoral and prospective studies on the region as a whole is a strength that will necessarily underpin the strategy. The report on "**Environment-Development in the Mediterranean**" currently being prepared at the request of the Contracting Parties underlines the unity and diversity of situations, the sustainable development efforts under way and the difficulties encountered, good practices, and the medium-term and long-term performance objectives fixed by countries. It will serve as background information for the regional strategy.

- A number of **special Mediterranean characteristics** are also strong points that could act as a catalyst for the promotion of sustainable development:

- A richly diverse ecosystem, a unique historical and cultural heritage, an urban heritage of considerable architectural quality, lifestyles and prime products and areas that make the Mediterranean important for the world, which has made it the foremost tourist destination.
- A sea at the heart of the ecoregion, a common asset and natural link in an emerging Mediterranean community that is urbanized and hospitable, has evolved sustainable methods, is aware of the importance of social relations, with dynamic family enterprises and a willing labour force that seeks to be utilized.
- A geographical position that puts the Mediterranean in the right place to promote trade between Europe, Asia and Africa in terms of transport and navigation.
- Regional actors that are being put on an official footing, networks that are becoming stronger, a growing number of events, initiatives covering all political, economic and socio-cultural spheres, attesting to the awakening of a new regional consciousness.

2.2.2 Certain weaknesses need to be remedied

There are, however, many weaknesses in the Mediterranean region.

- **The Mediterranean is highly fragile**, both in terms of its limited resources, its human settlements, and its natural environment.

For a number of reasons, the road towards sustainable development that respects the ecoregion's fragility will be long and full of obstacles, like the fault lines that criss-cross its path.

- **The major demographic trends** will continue to transform the Mediterranean over the coming 25 years and will determine the future of urban and rural areas, water resources, and energy, transport, and the coast, by accentuating differences and divergences between the two shores.
- **The asymmetries and cleavages** between the relative prosperity of the highly urbanized coastline, sustained by earnings from tourism, and the rural and mountainous or barren hinterland where the population endures much more difficult living conditions.
- The inadequate efforts made by States, as can be seen from the 2000 Strategic Review, despite undeniable progress.

The **institutional deficit** in controlling urbanization, protecting the coast and threatened areas, saving energy, *inter alia*, call for national environmental policies because the lack of capacity is a vitally important weak spot.

The result is that the functioning of economic and social mechanisms is dominated by special interests and the environment and heritage deteriorates.

- **Civil society in various countries is not yet properly organized**, enterprises, associations, local authorities, on which the State could rely and which could play a more important role in preparing and implementing national strategies.

As a result the challenges of sustainable development are not properly apprehended.

Conflict in the Mediterranean has not disappeared and its long-term structural impact results in displaced populations, loss or monopoly of land, the breakdown of society and local solidarity, and malfunctioning institutions, to the detriment of sustainability.

- Increased vulnerability in terms of exogenous and endogenous **structural economic obstacles** are responsible for the poor performance recorded. The capacity to mobilize private funds for sustainable development is modest because competition is increasing at the international level.

A cash-based economy is not beneficial for dynamism and creativeness, free trade and liberalization and it places social and political relations in a situation of dependence and hegemony by groups which control the source of cash.

- The inability of Mediterranean peoples to use the few clearly comparative advantages of the region and transform them into a catalyst that can restore the balance by developing

human resources and creating new axes for development and growth (for example, transport, energy).

The **lack of long-term political vision**, institutional breakdown and a governance deficit constitute serious obstacles both at the economic and political levels.

- Other shortcomings are also weak points and because there is no tangible convergence between the two shores in many areas, they exacerbate the North-South asymmetry, which is the main weakness in the Mediterranean.

Lack of synergy among regional actors, inefficient use of resources, the brain drain, low productivity, financial difficulties, are the major factors.

2.3 Respect for common principles and values in order to face up to the challenges

Despite the extreme diversity of peoples, the Mediterranean jealously maintains certain ancestral values that are its foundation.

- **The diversity of cultures that nevertheless form a whole** is the heart of the Mediterranean identity.

It takes the form of brotherhood and solidarity that are particularly appropriate for North-South neighbourly relations which allow each component to live its own life.

- Awareness of the need for the region as a whole to take into account **the common Mediterranean heritage**, which brings together peoples opposed to each other because of declared or latent conflicts, in a spirit of mutual support.

- **Decentralized cooperation** pointing the way to the rebirth of Mediterranean cities is a positive way forward that should be promoted so as to bring peoples together and replace scorn by solidarity.

Respect for identity over and above the differences is a special feature of the twinning activities already undertaken by Mediterranean cities.

- **The primacy of international law** and multiple axes as the basis for relations among peoples from the ethical, political, economic and social standpoints; inequality between persons and genders should be prohibited.

Cultural characteristics and socio-cultural traditions cannot be neglected or denied, but they must not become alibis for making covenants on economic, social, civil and political rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights meaningless.

- **Humankind as the ultimate objective of development**

As the objective and ultimate target of economic, social and cultural development, Mediterranean people have the right to receive education and training that in no way rejects the cultural bases of their societies but does not become an excuse for not taking any action on the pretext of ethnic or religious identity or traditional forms of economic or social organization.

The Mediterranean people want to rebuild their identity on a permanent basis, where their roots interlock, using all that the outside world can provide in the form of tangible progress in all fields of knowledge and know-how.

- **Humanism** that is unequivocal and tolerant, resulting from a cosmopolitan history, a remarkable capacity for assimilation, a patriarchal vision of the family, dietary habits that are anchored on living traditions, an original way of life marked by the special nature of its images, beliefs, music and clothing.

2.4 Respect for the diversity of existing political structures

Sustainable development requires that present policies should not jeopardize the future.

The most urgent challenge facing governments is to incorporate sustainability considerations into economic policy and for communities the challenge is to become more aware of problems and make a commitment to overcome them.

The role played by States is essential at the regional level.

The Mediterranean cannot dispense with direct consultation among States in order to move ahead with the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in a system of coherent economic and human interdependence that serves sustainable development.

Civil society in various countries (enterprises, associations, local authorities) must play a more important role in preparing and implementing national strategies.

The wide diversity of political structures in Mediterranean countries shows, on the one hand, the complexity of the present political and socio-economic structures and, on the other, the range of experience in terms of establishing appropriate systems of governance.

Governance systems should become more effective so as to ensure that development is sustainable.

Their capacity to carry out the reforms needed could be assessed throughout the three succeeding stages, namely:

- initiation of the process as part of a "**strategic logic**" for sustainable development in which defining the objectives is the key element;
- incorporation of sustainability as part of a "**political logic**" in which stimulating action and reconciling interests are primordial;
- institutionalizing structures as part of an "**organizational logic**" in which management of the new context created becomes indispensable in order to consolidate the achievements already made.

It is unrealistic to try to draw up any plan of action at the regional level because there is too great a contrast between certain countries that have already moved ahead with the clarification process and others that have not yet even considered it.

This situation should be taken into account in the approach to the Mediterranean sustainable development strategy.

States could be asked to observe the outline of the regional strategy, at a pace to be agreed, and the criteria marking the permitted margin of tolerance so as to allow the necessary flexibility.

Every country faces different problems and has a level of experience that cannot always be compared with that of others.

The sustainable development efforts undertaken should therefore be evaluated taking into account the structural characteristics and institutional capacity of States for the elaboration and implementation of policies:

- sharing of power between the central level of the State and local authorities;
- existence and scope of powers, plans, programmes and resources made available to the authorities responsible for the environment;
- updating of national legislation to meet regional and international environmental commitments.

The institutional aspect is therefore vital for sustainable development in the Mediterranean Basin, which can only be meaningful if it involves an interactive approach and coordination among Mediterranean countries.

3. Areas for priority action

It is therefore necessary to assess to what extent the situation in the Mediterranean region is compatible with the principles of sustainable development so as to highlight the constraints hindering sustainable development and apprehend the socio-economic and environmental challenges facing the region.

Systemic analysis shows the relations among the environmental components and development activities in order to define the possible areas for priority action in the region.

3.1 It is essential to attenuate the strong pressures exerted on natural resources and the coast.

These pressures are the result of population growth, urbanization, agriculture, industry, energy consumption, transport, and tourism.

They can be seen mainly in the following:

3.1.1 Forests : over-exploitation of forest resources

Wooded areas have shrunk and Mediterranean forests have lost many endemic species.

3.1.2 Soil : degradation and loss of arable land

Deforestation exacerbates erosion by water and wind and so threatens Mediterranean agricultural land.

It helps to silt up dams and the advance of desertification.

Growing salinity caused by intensive farming degrades irrigated land.

3.1.3 Water : increased demand, chemical and organic pollution

During the second half of the 20th century, water demand doubled and will continue to rise.

In 2000, 44 million people had inadequate water supplies in countries of the South and 19 million suffered from water shortages.

Bearing in mind demographic estimates for 2025, 168 million people will not have sufficient water, and 63 million will suffer from water shortages.

The major consumer of water in volume terms is irrigation, followed by drinking water, then industrial use, while environmental demand is emerging.

Drinking water will become increasingly important in total water demand, to the detriment of other sectors, because of urbanization and tourism.

The situation differs greatly from country to country.

Some countries have severely limited renewable resources of freshwater and must recycle it or find other sources.

In other countries, the problem is the capacity to mobilize the resource, build and manage the infrastructure for obtaining and transporting water.

At the local level, over-exploitation is on the increase, as is the unsustainable production of non-renewable fossil water.

The use of other non-traditional water resources is growing.

Water use as a whole will greatly increase the environmental impact on the surrounding area and the resource itself.

Degradation of human origin has already reached such an extent that it is modifying the regime or quality of resources and in turn exacerbating the existing tensions.

Hydraulic structures are affecting wetland ecosystems.

The infiltration of saltwater has become virtually irreversible and widespread in coastal aquifers. Polluting waste of urban or industrial origin is increasing, affecting the quality of freshwater and the marine environment.

3.1.4 Biological diversity : deterioration and depreciation of ecosystems

Many plant species have disappeared while others are endangered and there is a constant decrease in the numbers of land and marine mammals, as well as the invasion of exogenous marine species, to the detriment of remarkable biological diversity.

3.1.5 Air : concentration of emissions and increase in greenhouse gases

The production and **consumption of energy are responsible for 90 per cent of emissions of polluting gases**, which increase the risk of air pollution. Energy is at the heart of sustainable development concerns because each person's consumption affects the future of all.

In the Mediterranean, fossil fuels are the main resource.

The share of renewable energy is only making slow progress, despite a revival of interest.

Emissions of polluting gases are responsible at the local level for the degradation of air quality and at the international level for global warming.

Other risks related to the energy infrastructure should also be taken into account.

3.1.6 Sea : over-exploitation of fisheries resources, land-based pollution

Uncontrolled land-based pollution and the risk of oil spills caused by the transport of hydrocarbons, which accounts for one third of global traffic, and an ageing fleet as well as flags of convenience.

The Mediterranean is at a crossroads that has been made fragile by the diversity of its activities and it deserves special attention.

3.2 In order to enhance the quality of life, land use planning should take greater account of the need for a regional balance

The development of coasts and coastal plains for the purpose of urban, tourism and industrial expansion has led to an imbalance in the original harmony and a gradual concentration of the population, infrastructure and economic activities along the coast, to the detriment of the interior.

Coastal development affects the whole Mediterranean area.

It has a marked territorial and environmental impact that leads to "cementing" of the coast, the loss of agricultural land and natural habitats of great value, pollution and degradation of ecosystems and coastal and agrarian landscapes.

Initiatives should be taken in the following areas.

3.2.1 Control of coastal development and of the concentration of population and activities so as to attenuate conflicts of interest and the degradation of resources and living standards.

3.2.2 Development of marginalized areas in the hinterland by promoting axes of growth that integrate mountains, steppes, oases and other fragile rural areas by protecting the landscape and ecosystems, through ecotourism and combating desertification.

3.3 Costly efforts will have to be made to ensure the sustainability of certain essential activities

Degradation of forests, the soil, biological diversity, the air, the sea and the coast have a significant impact on the human population and its activities.

This pressure can principally be seen in the following:

3.3.1 Health and population : contamination of the environment and stress

It is the poorest populations that suffer the impact of the degradation of the natural, atmospheric, water and marine environment, in terms of morbidity and reduced life expectancy caused principally by industrial pollution.

Private spending on health is on the increase, but it cannot offset the cuts in public spending because of the financial difficulties faced by the most underprivileged sectors in obtaining access to the health system, consequently many environment-related health problems remain unresolved.

At the Mediterranean level, it is “**environmentally sensitive products**” – i.e. those whose use causes the greatest amount of pollution – which are a problem.

For many countries, these products are both a comparative advantage and a non-negligible contribution to foreign trade.

This underlines the **need for a joint strategic approach to industrial sustainability** by the Mediterranean as a whole, focusing on the priority sensitive sectors whose comparative advantage and contribution to foreign trade will no doubt become even more important in a Mediterranean free trade area.

Mediterranean countries must face up to the environmental risks caused by the use of certain chemicals, which are the cause of many cancers.

3.3.2 Urbanization : high cost of sanitation, degradation of living standards

The well-being of the population suffers greatly from the impact of the degradation of the urban environment, particularly as urbanization is advancing rapidly and is concentrated in fragile coastal areas.

The average rate of demographic growth in the Mediterranean is declining.

In countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean, however, it continues to rise.

The concentration of impoverished populations in the large cities of the South is exacerbated by desertification, which incites people to abandon their land and swell the ranks of the unemployed.

Human poverty makes access to water and sanitation services difficult due to the lack of an adequate urban infrastructure.

Coastal development and urban sprawl are becoming more widespread, the need to use a vehicle to get around, increased demand for water and sanitation, anarchic building, all significantly increase the cost of essential services in coastal cities in particular, whose population totalled 145 million people in 2000 but will be 176 million in 2025.

The population density in coastal regions is three times higher than the average density in Mediterranean countries, and the financial implications of controlling solid waste, liquid effluent and gaseous emissions are prejudicial to productive investment.

Adapting the capacity to manage problems caused by urban growth and coastal development raises the issue of **the price which urban society will have to pay in order to maintain acceptable living standards**, particularly as the essential cause of urbanization is the rural exodus.

The cost of environmental degradation in urban areas is extremely high and is seriously prejudicial to development.

Lack of housing and basic structures makes part of the population more vulnerable and hampers the opportunities for economic and social progress.

The need for clean drinking water, increased discharge of urban and industrial wastewater, pollution caused by fertilizers, all make it necessary to treat water, and the vulnerability of water supplies increases the cost of exploitation and the risk of disputes among users.

The vulnerability of urban areas to natural and technological risks raises the cost that society has to pay for industrial and urban development that is sustainable.

A posteriori installation of drinking water and wastewater pipes and distribution structures in unofficial shanty towns are a significant economic burden.

The same applies to transport because of the breakdown of urban services : traffic congestion, atmospheric pollution, traffic accidents, time wasted.

Internalization of the cost of using automobiles is the only way of lifting the burden on the community.

Lastly, there is more and more urban waste and this may have an impact on the economy in terms of nuisances that are prejudicial to certain activities, tourism for example.

3.3.3 Agriculture and the agro-food sector : decrease in soil fertility
and crop yields, contamination of products and the disappearance of traditional agriculture.

Soil degradation leads to loss and impoverishment of arable land that is prejudicial to the sustainability of agricultural productivity.

The downgrading of rural and agricultural areas economically marginalizes certain sectors of society.

The rural economy pays a high price in terms of desertification caused by inadequate control of erosion and the abandonment of age-old agricultural practices that were better adapted to an arid climate and different climatic regimes.

The increase in natural risks, over-exploitation of grazing areas and forests devitalizes vast areas that were previously productive.

Agriculture's contribution to economic growth in the Mediterranean is modest overall.

Ecoefficiency in agricultural water use in the Mediterranean (value added per m³ of water consumed) in general shows **a relatively low level** (+ or – US\$ 1/m³), which is particularly serious in view of the fact that water use as a percentage of total resources is high (+ or – 30 per cent on average).

Setting side by side the Mediterranean's comparative advantage in the agro-food sector and hydraulic efficiency in agriculture shows that **substantial improvements are needed** as regards ecoefficiency with a view to sustainability because the agricultural sector is by far the biggest user of water, taking 80 per cent.

Food imports by countries in the South correspond to a virtual transfer of 40 billion m³ of water a year.

Socio-economic policies that are more in keeping with the challenges of land use planning and sustainable agricultural development should be promoted at the regional level.

3.3.4 Industry : higher manufacturing costs

A sectoral breakdown of economic growth in the Mediterranean shows that industry accounts for less than one third of the GDP, a decline that is due to the decrease in the share of non-manufacturing industry.

Manufacturing industry, however, has slightly increased its share.

Growth was higher than the global average of the GDP

Energy ecoefficiency, i.e. the value added of all sectors combined per kg. of petroleum equivalent, is around US\$5 in countries of the North and an average of US\$1.5 in countries of the South.

The significant comparative advantage of Mediterranean countries is combined with the lowest energy efficiency.

Under such circumstances, sustainability will be difficult in the medium and long terms.

Greater efficiency must be sought, particularly as the rate of cover is low and bearing in mind the strategic nature of the energy sector and its environmental implications in terms of contributing to the emission of greenhouse gases.

With regard to **manufactures**, the Mediterranean as a whole specializes in certain manufactures and globally has a **comparative advantage**.

Many of the manufactures are, however, "environmentally sensitive" because their use and the considerable discharge per value added make them highly polluting.

The internalization of environmental costs, following the **polluter pays principle**, would penalize the industrial sector in the first instance.

The development of **ecotechnology** and more general use of **cleaner production** techniques would lessen or even control this problem in the long term and so guarantee the sustainability of these activities.

3.3.5 Tourism : losses caused by the degradation of natural sites

Tourism plays an increasingly decisive role in the economy of almost all Mediterranean countries because the Mediterranean has become a historically essential site for human exchanges.

Because of the beauty of the landscapes, the high quality of the architecture in historic sites and the wealth of the cultural heritage, **coastal development**, in terms of "cementing" the coast, pollution and the disappearance of coastal ecosystems, is jeopardizing the sustainability of the sector.

Tourism is mainly Euro-Mediterranean and relies to a great extent on tour operators who enjoy a virtual monopoly in the tourists' home countries

The absence of any long-term commitment to the destination countries by these operators means that it is not easy to preserve tourist areas from the pressures exerted on the sites.

The services sector is growing and tourism occupies an important place.

Travel and transport account for 60 per cent of foreign trade in services around the Mediterranean.

The Mediterranean has a **marked comparative advantage for travel**.

The sustainability of the tourism sector will have to take account of the environmental impact of pollution and coastal development in particular. The absence of a regional cooperation mechanism does not allow coherent management and development of tourist flows.

Competing countries have been unable to get together to establish a better relationship between tourism and sustainable development.

The degradation affecting the common Mediterranean heritage is thus not only the effect but also the cause of unsatisfactory development that is inequitably shared and lacks the sustainability that it should have.

3.3.6 Maritime transport : increased costs

Commercial vessels from all over the world go through the Mediterranean so it is constantly under threat from the 300 oil tankers that often knowingly empty out their ballast.

The danger of oil spills of crude petroleum is undeniable.

The current trend towards carriers that transport more soluble refined products which are more toxic for biological diversity could in the future constitute an even greater danger.

The cost of combating these potential risks will be high, but it is necessary so that international maritime routes are not harmful to the surrounding shores.

The following are the areas for priority action:

- **sustainable water management** in order to prevent shortages of usable water;
- **excess consumption of fossil fuels**, which is harmful to health and the climate;
- **coastal development** in terms of territorial and environmental impact;
- **sustainability of polluting industrial activities** that nevertheless have a competitive advantage;
- **improvement in urban living standards** in terms of access to basic services;
- **preservation of rural areas for balanced development**;
- **more rational tourism with a view to its sustainability**;
- **more rational maritime transport in order to minimize the risks**.

4. Political framework for joint action

4.1 The Mediterranean Free-Trade Area opens up prospects, but the North-South gap is wide

It is economic sectors deemed priorities that are supposed to act as the locomotive for growth in the free-trade area by reinforcing the existing competitive advantages.

It is strategically important to foresee the environmental impact (pressures, depletion of resources, intensified pollution) so as to ensure their sustainability.

The impact of the Mediterranean Free-Trade Area could be a considerable plus for growth.

While the cost of adjustment is inevitable in terms of fiscal revenue foregone, loss of jobs, deviation of commercial traffic, the potential gains depend to a large extent on foreign direct investment and official development aid, with the danger of social upheavals in the least developed countries.

The North-South socio-economic disparities cannot be neglected when looking to the free-trade area.

4.1.1. At the economic level :

- there is a downward trend in investment in the South;
- almost all foreign direct investment is in countries of the North;
- official development aid is decreasing substantially;
- the level of indebtedness is growing overall in the South;
- the budgetary deficit remains a source of concern.

Bearing in mind past trends and the predictable impact of the free-trade area, despite the progress made as a result of structural adjustment policies, the situation remains fragile in terms of macroeconomic stability with potential threats as regards the debt and the budgetary deficit in particular.

4.1.2 At the social level as well :

- real per capita GDP in the South represents one-tenth of that in the North and only one quarter of the purchasing power;
- the human development index is higher in countries of the North than the South. There is a degree of convergence in terms of life expectancy and school attendance, but also significant differences with regard to adult and women's literacy in particular;
- there are more women in the labour force in countries of the North than in the South. Their average income represents one half of that of men in the North and not even one third in countries of the South;
- unemployment and poverty are more prevalent in countries of the South.

Illiteracy, lack of drinking water, and access to health and sanitation services, maternal and infant mortality are the most obvious consequences of the North-South gap. They risk becoming more marked in the free-trade area, which will have unpredictable social effects.

4.2 Substantial convergence is essential

The gradual establishment of an area of shared prosperity based on free trade, within the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, will mean raising the living standards of the people, increasing the number of jobs, bridging the development gaps in the Mediterranean region, and promoting regional integration.

This means implementing **appropriate economic coordination** and cooperation in the relevant areas, and a substantial increase in EU financial assistance to its partners.

The aim of the regional strategy would be to place sustainable development at the heart of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership so as to demand action and measures that ensure proper integration of the environment and economic and social development at all levels.

With this aim in mind, the countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean will be called upon :

- on the one hand, to pursue policies based on market economy principles; and

- on the other, to make adjustments to their economic, social and institutional structures favourable to a market economy.

Strong growth alone will allow the countries of the South and East of the Mediterranean to improve convergence to some extent, subject to a certain number of requirements to be met, and thus reverse the negative trends noted :

- significant increase in MEDA, EIB loans and foreign direct investment;
- agreement on aligning/converting debt;
- successful policies for adjusting to free trade (reforms and active complementary policies).

The essential need for substantial convergence implies the reaffirmation of a Euro-Mediterranean political objective aimed at:

- promoting a coherent and non-asymmetrical system of economic and human interdependence based on stronger peace and security;
- bringing societies together through structural policies to combat poverty and exclusion;
- restoring the balance in transfer of resources for the benefit of countries in the South and East of the Mediterranean through a **political response** in terms of official development aid and an alignment/conversion of the public debt, together with an **economic response** in terms of additional flows of portfolio investment and, above all, foreign direct investment.

4.3 Joint action at the regional and national levels

The identification of pressures and their causes will make it possible to assign responsibility for collective action at the proper level so that priority issues can be dealt with in order to provide innovative solutions.

4.3.1 Firstly, at the regional level : coordination and "network governance"

This concerns responsibility for coordinating, mobilizing and building the capacity of the numerous actors.

In the absence of an ad hoc regional structure, "network governance" could complement the traditional system, using new communication technology and bringing together government authorities, the private sector and organizations in civil society within the framework of a regional system.

This type of Mediterranean network for collective action would be a vital tool in benefiting from experience so as to guide the introduction of an approach specific to the Mediterranean region.

It would allow various tasks to be assumed, for example:

- launching public discussion on priority issues and the objectives set;
- generating and disseminating knowledge;
- strengthening participatory processes;
- transforming the results of negotiations into directives and practical action.

Such networks, open to relevant actors and decision-makers at the governmental and non-governmental levels and to actors concerned by a particular issue, should be built around clear and specific issues and given an appropriate structure with centralized service or support mechanisms so as to be able to make a relevant and high-quality contribution at any time.

Mediterranean governance for sustainable development will be based on **regional and international organizations** which, within the networks, could play various roles, for example:

- mobilizing the principal interest groups;
- providing a platform for exchanging points of view;
- launching action;
- advocating the implementation of regulations;
- establishing links at various levels for the purpose of taking decisions;
- mobilizing resources for programmes related to the implementation of regional government policies.

Network governance would certainly be the most appropriate way of opening up to actors in the public sector, civil society, the business world, and give the necessary flexibility to adapt to a changing environment.

Chambers of commerce and professional associations should receive support, in particular so that they can play a positive role in the private sector with a view to sustainable development.

These networks would accommodate various concepts of the decision-making process that reflect different cultural contexts.

Sustainable development implies a systemic vision of the relations among the economic, social and environmental sectors.

At the regional level, it will have to be assessed to what extent a situation in the Mediterranean is consistent with the principles of sustainable development and the links between the various issues will have to be highlighted in order to underline the need to take them into account as a whole.

An analysis of the pressures and the links among them shows that the joint action to be taken in order to overcome the pressures not only depends on government institutions, but also on organizations in civil society, enterprises, public opinion, and personal commitment, because it is a matter of changing patterns of production and consumption.

The rules of global trade and the price of certain raw materials are exogenous variables that affect national economies and, consequently, social conditions and the exploitation of natural resources in all countries in the Mediterranean Basin.

The Mediterranean does not have its own political status nor is it a geographic reference point, but it is an ecoregion and the Barcelona Convention and the MAP give it its own status at the environmental level.

These two instruments are able to ensure the cohesion of leaders, maintain the impetus within the region and, indirectly, exert a positive influence on the conduct of States and all stakeholders.

In addition to coordination of the political, institutional and regulatory components of the priority sustainable development issues contained in the regional strategy, some global environmental problems will be ongoing subjects of concern in the Mediterranean Basin. For example :

In the short and medium terms :

oil spillages at sea, the proliferation of algae, transboundary water pollution, discharge of toxic products into the sea, transport of hazardous wastes, the question of fishing zones.

In the long term :

the increase in ecotoxicity, global pollution of the sea and soil, radioactive contamination, climate change, deforestation, loss of genetic diversity.

A climate favourable to cooperation that encourages the participation of all Mediterranean countries in decision-making is needed to maintain the impetus in favour of sustainable development and prevent the failure of the initiatives taken.

4.3.2 At the national level : guiding the transition

This concerns responsibility for adequately assessing whether situations and trends in each country are compatible with sustainable development.

This is the level at which environmental problems relating to international trade and the North-South imbalance emerge.

It is also the level of development of Mediterranean trade, transfer of technology and cooperation within the Mediterranean Basin.

At this level, it is essential to evaluate the social and environmental conditions, the main strengths and weaknesses, the essential relationship between the human component and ecosystems, the options and programmes adopted, the processes and mechanisms for sustainable development put in place.

It is also important to determine at what point all components of society feel concerned by sustainability and the orientation towards change.

The identification of stakeholders able to act during the transition towards sustainable development, their interests, powers and relations, will lead to a better definition of the **objective coalitions in favour of reform** and make it possible to delegate certain processes to the actors best suited to formulate and apply effectively the political solutions recommended.

Each Mediterranean country is facing different problems and its level of experience also differs and has to be taken into account.

The national level is that of planning, i.e. the principal level for action by public decision-makers in regard to:

In the short and medium terms :

The definition of national environmental policies, the management of national parks and the disappearance of species, product controls, the relationship between economic activities and the environment.

In the long term :

Land use planning, management of resources, assimilation of technology.

A vision shared by all Mediterranean countries would undoubtedly promote action in favour of sustainable development in every country in the region.

Three major categories of action could underpin national sustainable development policies in each country:

They are the following:

- ecologically rational use of natural resources so as to protect all nature's components;
- better living standards so as to preserve the well-being of all components of society;
- control of pollution and risks so as to promote cleaner production.

4.4 Objectives will identify the specific activities for joint action

Each objective will relate to a particular issue and will cover the major changes to be made in order to ensure the transition to sustainable development.

It will be expressed in sufficiently general terms to cover all aspects of the issue and obtain the commitment of all countries, but it will be sufficiently precise to define the specific activities leading to measurable results so as to ensure the effective participation of all stakeholders concerned.

In order to cover the main economic, social and environmental concerns raised by sustainable development, the strategy should include a sufficient number of objectives but not so many that they cannot be achieved.

The activities resulting from these objectives will have to be the outcome of negotiations.

Links will have to be established between the objectives of the regional strategy and those of other sectoral strategies or the strategies of regional or international organizations.

In addition to the regional strategy's objectives which, in relation to each of the priority environmental challenges mentioned, will have to deal with the principal changes to be made to ensure the transition to sustainable development and which still have to be defined in each of the Mediterranean countries so that they can be translated into

measurable specific activities, a number of other objectives of regional scope concerning **improved governance, boosting the economy, and lessening inequalities** should be proposed.

These objectives relate to the following:

- Raising awareness of the challenges of sustainable development through training and communication with public opinion, decision-makers, and actors.
- Establishing partnerships among the public sector, local authorities and actors by placing their relations on a contractual basis through contract-programmes.
- Fostering good sustainable development practices by networking and sharing knowledge and experience among sustainable development actors.
- Adapting teaching to the needs of the national economy so as to halt the brain drain by establishing links with the private sector and professional associations, and developing research in coordination with the private sector.
- Economic and effective management of natural resources through regulations and appropriate taxation.
- Developing creative competition at the private sector level and gradually integrating small informal family enterprises into the economy, encouraging their productivity.
- Land use planning to protect natural sites and areas by establishing guidelines and appropriate urban regulations.
- Assimilating the electronic and digital revolution for the purposes of innovation in all areas of education and training, health, research and development.
- Fostering the entrepreneurial spirit and dynamism of Mediterranean enterprises so that they take advantage of economic globalization and the technological revolutions that have occurred in rapid succession over the past century.
- Reducing urban and rural poverty, unemployment and exclusion by increasing official development aid and other financial flows between the North and South of the Mediterranean.
- Developing intra-Mediterranean cooperation to combat the effects of desertification and climate change at the regional level.
- Implementing mechanisms to ensure equal opportunities through social solidarity and combating all forms of economic and social insecurity, implementing appropriate government policies that associate the private sector at the national level, and better targeted aid and cooperation policies among Mediterranean countries.

There will be some prerequisites in order to ensure that the process achieves a minimum level of efficiency:

- Conscious and deliberate willingness to cooperate.
- Focusing efforts on areas in which organization at the regional level has a comparative advantage.
- Selection of the narrowest range of activities taking into account the resources available and market requirements.
- Important role to be played by the State, but also involvement of all sustainable development stakeholders.
- Consistent mechanisms in place with objectives fixed.
- Taking into account economic, social and environmental pressures within the region or from the outside.

5. Means of implementation

Implementation implies identifying the institutions to be responsible for the activities to be undertaken in order to achieve the strategy's objectives.

5.1 At the Mediterranean level : the MAP, a qualified partner

Competence is needed for the effective coordination of the sustainable development strategy.

The MAP would be fully qualified to:

- identify the priority issues and the stakeholders at the regional level;
- promote capacity-building, studies, participatory efforts, synergy, communications, networking, raising awareness;
- negotiate agreements and build a consensus;
- ensure the follow-up and evaluation.

Network governance would be an innovative tool that could be effective.

Although it is the responsibility of experts to provide useful methodological assistance to circumscribe the main axes of joint strategic reflection, **it is basically the responsibility of the principal economic and social actors, in each country in the region, to define a Mediterranean sustainable development policy and strategy in the course of a consultative process.**

In order to do this, they will rely on supranational actors such as the EC, the EIB, the Arab League, multilateral and regional financing agencies such as the AFESD, the ADB, the IDB, the WB and United Nations specialized agencies.

5.2 At the national level : more appropriate governance will be required

Governance efforts are essential to ensure the transition to sustainable development.

The capacity for joint action at various levels does not always correspond to the requirements of sustainability of development in terms of interdependence among strategic actors, government actors, non-governmental, economic and socio-cultural actors.

A lengthy participatory and interactive process of change is needed to reinforce the values of sustainability in the social corps. Its efficacy will depend on the dialogue to take place for the purpose of obtaining the support of stakeholders and of the public.

The capacity for joint action is related to current institutional arrangements.

The primary requirement is institutional, because institutional change can promote sustainable development and yield both economic and social results.

Sustainable development calls for coherent integration of policies in the economic, social and environmental sectors.

This implies:

- * A clear definition of responsibilities.
- * Strengthening of horizontal consistency (in the central authorities).
- * Sharing of power between the central level and local authorities.
- * Innovative decision-making mechanisms bringing together the State and the private sector (chambers of commerce, associations of industrialists, banks, insurance companies, chambers of agriculture, associations of engineers, lawyers, physicians, pharmacists, workers and employees, farmers' organizations) and non-governmental organizations.
- * Updating of national legislation to respond to regional and international environmental commitments.

The effectiveness of governance will also depend on governments' capacity to:

- evaluate external factors and the effects of the regulations on economic and social planning;
- remedy the shortcomings of the market and of government action itself;
- internalize social and environmental costs through financial mechanisms to be set up, recover the cost of environmental services from polluters and beneficiaries and assimilate ecotechnology;
- abolish subsidies with distorting effects, impose better adaptation of tariffs applied to users, and use market mechanisms to harmonize incentives with the strategy's orientations.

Lastly, the effectiveness of governance will depend on the ability to mobilize stakeholders capable of bringing about the changes by taking into account their interests and their relations in order to encourage the emergence of reformist coalitions in business circles, in civil society, and among scientists.

Local authorities and the media should be in a position to contribute to achieving the objectives of sustainable development.

6. Conclusion

- **The sustainable development deficit in the Mediterranean is part of the economic and social decline** that has affected the region since the axis of the global economy moved towards the Atlantic.

The modernization of countries in the South and East of the Mediterranean during the colonial period did not lead to significant economic and social development.

The asymmetry in development and the absence of convergence in economic and social development that can be seen on the two shores of the Mediterranean today are the result of this significant historical trend that is not conducive to an increase in trade.

Countries of the South only attract investment from those of the North to a marginal extent, with the exception of some sectors such as energy, tourism, and textiles.

A cash-based economy that is not adapted to free trade does not foster dynamism and creativeness.

The decline of agriculture in the Mediterranean contributes to a massive and destructive rural exodus towards the coast, which only complicates the problems of managing resources and uncontrolled urban development in many coastal cities.

The failure of certain key actors in the economy and in society to participate also shows that there is a **governance deficit**, which is preventing dialogue and the shouldering of responsibility needed to change the existing situation.

- In addition to environmental protection, whose priority challenges are **shortage of usable water, excess consumption of fossil fuels, territorial and environmental impact of coastal development, industrial sustainability of sectors with competitive advantages, improving urban living standards, preserving rural areas, more rational tourism, and the risks of maritime transport**, there are two other challenges that need to be confronted in order to promote sustainable development:

- **reducing the asymmetry** and geographical cleavages both at the national and regional levels;
- **giving renewed impetus to the economy** through innovation and creativeness.

These two challenges are related because reducing the cleavages cannot be achieved without catalyzing the economy, which should be based on the global objective of reducing inequalities if it is to become effective.

- **Reforms are essential** in order to respond to these challenges, facilitate and accompany the implementation of the strategy, involving all the actors concerned in sustainable development.

These changes should significantly improve governance and lead to the establishment of participatory processes that should form the basis for any efforts to implement sustainable development policies in practical terms.

Institutional strengthening is required in order to ensure the success of the participatory process.

It concerns the following:

- **Decentralization**, because the participatory process that will lead to the definition and implementation of sustainable development must come from the grassroots, local authorities must become organized and stimulate dialogue among actors at the local level.
- **Capacity building** for dialogue and reflection among the principal actors of sustainable development because organizations representing actors in the private sector must be made aware of the goals of dialogue on sustainable development, and be given the means to conduct studies so as to participate effectively.
- The establishment of **new forms of international cooperation**, taking into account the need to involve local authorities and other major economic, social and cultural actors so that they can play their role in the sustainable development process.

- **Identification of the key actors** in sustainable development and acceptance of the role and responsibilities of each of them implies raising their awareness.

Organizations representing actors in the private sector in particular must become more involved in the participatory processes so as to improve the conditions for development and general prosperity by becoming more integrated in the existing institutional fabric.

The importance of **transparency** needs to be underlined both within State organizations and private sector entities, which are still marked by a "culture of secrecy" that is prejudicial to fruitful dialogue with other components of civil society, in the absence of business ethics in terms of social responsibility and environmental protection.

Schools and universities are important actors that can promote the creation of new economic activities that are socially and environmentally beneficial.

Then there is the migrant community, because of their numbers and the close links they maintain with their countries of origin.

If they are completed as planned, the changes to be brought about should lead to greater awareness and mobilization of actors, and thus to more dynamic economies, by reversing the historical trend towards a decline, and by putting in place reforms that aim to deal with the systemic causes of situations of wastage and lack of governance, as well as the propagation of effective sustainable development actions.

ANNEX VII

**REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE FOR
THE ASSESSMENT AND PROSPECTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

April 2003

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ANNEX VII

REPORT OF THE TASK FORCE¹ ON THE ASSESSMENT AND PROSPECTS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

INTRODUCTION

Over the last few years, issues relating to the activities of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD) (e.g., method of work; quality and usefulness of the results; implementation and follow up of the recommendations; membership and participation; etc.), have been raised and discussed on several occasions, either at MCSD meetings, or at meetings of the Contracting Parties (CPs).

MAJOR MANDATE OF THE TASK FORCE

The main outcome of the above was a report on the MCSD Assessment and Prospects debated during the 7th Meeting of the Commission, in Antalya, leading to an in-depth assessment of the MCSD activities and explaining/ justifying the need for improvement, changes, and additional means, for which appropriate recommendations were made by the Commission.

Based on the above, as well as on several decisions from the parallel process on the follow up of recommendations and a contribution from the main groups within the MCSD, a decision was also taken in Antalya for the establishment of the present Task Force, to examine ways in which the MCSD could be further strengthened and its action refocused in the post-Johannesburg era.

The Task Force met twice in Barcelona, in October 15, 2002 and April 3-4, 2003. Drawing heavily from the above debate as well as from comments by the MCSD Steering Committee meeting in Calvia, of 21-22 November 2002, the Task Force submits the present report for consideration and endorsement by the 8th MCSD meeting, with the goal of subsequently submitting it for approval at the 13th meeting of the Contracting Parties.

The report is guided by the broader concerns arising out of the Antalya recommendations, calling for-

- improved effectiveness
- improved performance
- greater resources
- more cooperation between partners
- more effective participation
- more strategic proposals
- identifying measures for implementing recommendations

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THE MCSD WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE POST WORLD SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (WSSD) ERA

The MCSD is a regional forum for dialogue and a framework for defining a regional direction and perspective. Its composition, pluralism and participatory approach give to the Commission a distinctive character as a reference in the region, promoting sustainable development issues. However, it has so far not been adequately utilized by many fora and partners operating in the Mediterranean in the broad field of sustainable development, partly due to the 'confinement' of the Commission within the MAP structure.

The above has to change, as the MCSD remains more relevant than ever in the post WSSD era. All three major outcomes of WSSD (Political declaration, Plan of implementation, Partnerships initiatives), are a testimony to the wisdom of establishing the Commission, 8 years ago.

The broader commitment of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development refers to the global *collective responsibility* to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development at local, national, regional and global levels.

From the four overarching objectives of the Declaration (*poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns, protecting and managing the natural resource base, addressing globalization*) the MCSD has so far tackled issues relating to the two, but all four are at the forefront of the concerns of Mediterranean civil society.

The Declaration also calls for a real *commitment to sustainable development* and for the necessity for *stronger regional groupings and alliances* characterized by broad-based participation and stable partnerships, '*Making it all Happen*' through an inclusive process, *involving all the major groups and governments*.

If a close look is taken at the Plan of Implementation, the relevancy of the MCSD becomes apparent, together, however, with the necessity to re-orient its vision towards the other pillars of sustainable development (economic and social development) as well, when preparing and adopting its new programme of action, as proposed later on. The following pertinent issues are highlighted, as they relate to or should relate to the Mediterranean and MAP's and MCSD's work-

- *poverty eradication* (e.g. national programmes for sustainable development)
- *changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production* (e.g. 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production; substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources)
- *protecting and managing the natural resource base* (e.g. integrated water resources management; ecosystem approach; sustainable fisheries management; integrated coastal and ocean management; protection of marine and coastal areas; prevention and combating desertification; sustainable tourism development)
- *sustainable development in a globalizing world* (e.g. strengthen regional trade and cooperation agreements)
- *sustainable development of small island developing states* (e.g. managing coastal areas; vulnerability indices)
- *sustainable development for Africa* (e.g. financial and technical support for Africa's efforts to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification at the national level)
- *means of implementation* (supportiveness between the multilateral trading system and multilateral environmental agreements; science-based decision-making and reaffirming the precautionary approach; education for sustainable development)

- *institutional framework for sustainable development* (strengthen the institutional framework for sustainable development at the international level; strengthen cooperation among UNEP and other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies; actively pursue at the regional and sub-regional levels the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit through a balanced integration of the dimensions of sustainable development into the work of regional, sub-regional and other bodies; mobilization of technical and financial assistance; provision of adequate financing for the implementation of regionally and sub-regionally agreed sustainable development programmes and projects)

Finally, the hundreds of *Initiatives* for partnerships in the major priority sectors of water and sanitation; energy (efficiency, renewables, subsidies); health (chemicals, air pollution); agriculture (desertification); and biological diversity (forests, protected areas); as well as in the cross-cutting issues (access to markets, consumption/production, corporate responsibility), allow for new opportunities, not only for the MCSD, but for the CPs, MAP and its bodies as well.

PROPOSALS FOR THE WAY FORWARD

In order to assist the MCSD become more relevant and effective in the post- WSSD era, the Task Force invites the members of the MCSD to adopt the following, which should guide the Commission at least during the first decade of the Millennium.

Mandate after Johannesburg

The MCSD should remain within MAP. Owing, however, to its function, mandate and composition, the MCSD is not, should not, be considered as just a representative of the MAP CPs. It is a body aimed to serve all partners in the sustainable development process in the Mediterranean, including other intergovernmental organizations. Thus, the renewed scope of the Commission should aim to promote this wider role and ensure that other partners,

- are convinced about the Commission's credibility
- do feel that the Commission can assist them in fulfilling their mandates
- be assured that they will have "ownership" of the Commission

The MCSD should not be seen as simply an advisory body but rather as a think tank/ high level policy forum for identifying, evaluating and examining major environmental, economic and social issues in the region, reflecting on them, exchanging views and providing multidimensional advice on strategic issues, the ultimate goal being to secure the integration desired so much. .

Areas of intervention

The Commission should concentrate on the following issues, as they relate to the Mediterranean priorities:

- integrating environmental concerns into the social and economic aspects of development
- operationalizing and defining the process of sustainable development
- providing sensitization, guidance and leadership into concrete aspects of sustainable development, particularly in 'localizing' regional approaches and proposals

Stakeholders/Links

The advice of the MCSD should be addressed to and reach wider sectors in international and regional agencies and national governments, as well as all the bodies within MAP, regional institutions of civil society and the public-at-large.

The Commission would act upon direct request from all institutions of MAP as well as international and regional agencies, and take initiatives to attract the attention of any of the above bodies to the necessity and usefulness of consulting the Commission on any relevant matter.

Follow- up and monitoring

Concerns on the real lack of follow-up and implementation of the Commission's findings and recommendations were taken up in a parallel process and have led to a series of recommendations already approved by the CPs, which need to be rigorously pursued.

Follow up in the sense of taking up and implementing the Commission's recommendations is not the responsibility of the MCSD. Responsibility to deliver, that is to implement, should be the concern of all actors and institutions involved. Certainly, governments would have the major implementation responsibility, but the responsibilities of civil society are equally important.

Follow-up responsibility should mainly be entrusted to MEDU, which should be empowered, utilizing the services of the Commission's Secretariat², to pursue the following:

- integrate into the MAP's programme the recommendations already approved by the CPs in Monaco, for improving communications, preparing national plans, promoting twinning projects and using other instruments and means of implementation
- take initiatives and utilize its existing channels for disseminating and providing information on the MCSD activities; pursue voluntary or bilateral agreements for the implementation of proposals; pursue pilot activities
- define the actual steps and measures that the CPs should take so as to improve communication and dissemination of MCSD recommendations and proposals for action to concerned actors in national and local public and private sectors as well as major groups from society
- advice on the content of the national plans that either need to be prepared for the implementation and follow up of the recommendations or for their integration in national Sustainable Development Strategies
- prepare specific guidelines for implementation and follow up of MCSD recommendations for each of the MCSD thematic sets, including where possible and appropriate, human, technical and financial requirements
- assist the CPs and partners in disseminating the information to concerned actors at all levels within and beyond states and implementing the MCSD recommendations

Major Groups should also commit to undertake to disseminate results and act to ensure follow up and be assisted to prepare brochures for dissemination of information at national and regional levels.

MAP NFPs and MCSD state members should undertake the joint responsibility, in consultation and co-ordination, to disseminate information nationally, inform accordingly and act on implementation and generally be obliged to take initiatives for implementation and follow up, nationally. In particular, every effort needs to be made to draw in the process Ministries beyond those of the environment, especially those with responsibilities on sustainable development issues.

The Commission needs to periodically devote time to be briefed upon and review and assess how things develop, but it should not be burdened with the requirement for actually directly monitoring

² Throughout the text, the term 'MCSD Secretariat' is freely used, denoting either current secretariat arrangements or future ones, as proposed in the report.

the progress made with regards to its recommendations. In order for the MCSD to be enabled to fulfil this function, the following could be adopted:

- the MCSD Secretariat to request short reports from governments and the other actors on progress made
- the MCSD Secretariat to prepare a common reporting format, not only on issues arising directly from the terms of the Convention and its Protocols, but on other issues arising from resolutions and recommendations adopted as well, unifying reporting of the legal with the non-legal components of the MAP
- the Secretariat to assess the implementation and follow up of MCSD recommendations every 3-5 years and report to the meetings of the MCSD and the CPs
- selected Working or ad-hoc Groups could be allowed to reconvene from time to time in order to assess the results from the periodic monitoring of the implementation of recommendations

Composition/ involvement of actors

The Commission's composition is its main strength, and any changes should maintain its open, autonomous, advisory and representative nature, with members that are informed experts from various sectors and civil society in general.

The MCSD should continue to consist of 36 members, 21 for the Contracting Parties and 15 seats allocated for the non- governmental sector, but introducing flexibility in their allocation. The general goal could be to allocate 5 seats each to local/regional authorities, industry/business, environmental protection/ consumer associations. The balance could shift, however, depending on the interest exhibited and the suitability of those proposed. At any one time, there should not be more than 6 or less than 2 persons from any of the above sectors.

A maximum of 3 additional seats could be allocated to intergovernmental organizations and/or broadly accepted professionals coming from any sector, governmental or not, the academia or professional associations. The Secretariat could, in addition, be empowered to invite, to each session and as ad hoc members, 2-3 persons having special competence in a matter included on the agenda of a meeting.

Although the informal nature of the Commission and the wide range of representation do not allow the adoption of specific criteria for the selection or the appointment of members, the following relevant guidelines should at least be followed:

- members should participate on their personal capacity as experts and not serve as representatives of any institution, although it cannot be overlooked that they would be nominated by institutions for state members, in particular it would be difficult to wear two hats
- state members in the MCSD meetings should be high caliber personalities coming from sectors such as environment, sustainable development, land use planning, economic and social development, either ministries, departments, agencies or commissions or equivalent structures; they should be prepared to serve as impartial experts not promoting government lines, and be committed to the goals of sustainable development and the work of the MCSD
- membership from environmental and development NGOs, local authorities and socio-economic actors should continue, but the basis of selection needs to be broadened (e.g. trade unions, federations of professionals, consumers groups, women, youth, etc.)
- members proposed by non- governmental partners should accept that they have a responsibility to consult with their peers on any particular issue

- proposals for membership should not relate to agencies or organizations, but to personalities well known in their respective fields, taking into consideration their ability and time to participate effectively
- every effort should be made to attract members from major networks of industry or large chambers of commerce
- all members need to bring with them particular competence in the field of the environment and sustainable development
- all members should undertake to widely consult nationally on an issue and be required to broadly disseminate decisions; this is particularly important for state members coming from those Ministries of the Environment that have a rather limited mandate: they would have to make every effort to draw into the process other Ministries as well, particularly in those important issues dealt with by the MCSD that are not within a specific member's sphere of competence

A simple, preferably not repetitive, procedure for the renewal of members has to be agreed upon, e.g. adoption of a 3- year term of service of non- governmental members, with the option for renewal in exceptional cases justified only by the work programme of the Commission.

Candidatures or proposals for candidates from the non- governmental sector should be submitted directly to MEDU but MAP NFPs and MCSD state members should be kept informed and have the right to express opinion on their nationals.

Groups should have full independence to propose members through their federations and networks.

Former members of MCSD should be associated selectively in information exchange, consultations and voluntary work.

The MCSD Secretariat as well as any other MAP NFP, MCSD member or member of the Interagency Platform (see below) could identify relevant candidates.

MEDU should take account of the proposals as assessed by the secretariat, include in the list its own candidates, seek the advice of the serving intersessional committee, take the final decision, and inform all MAP and other Mediterranean bodies accordingly.

Intersessional coordination

The practice that the host country of the next meeting and the President of the CPs should be represented in the MCSD's Steering Committee (or the proposed interim committee hereunder) is not actually necessary and should be discontinued.

Considering the Commission's method of work, the current multi-member Steering Committee does not appear to be necessary. On the other hand, not all intersessional issues can be left to the Commission's Secretariat.

An interim, 3-member committee, comprised of the Chair and the 2 Vice-Chairs of a concluding Session, could hold office for the intersessional period, to decide, liaise with, and advice the Secretariat on important issues that might arise, such as the following:

- situations for which the UNEP/MAP/MCSD rules do not provide guidance
- issues referred to the CPs, for which the Secretariat has to prepare documents not approved by the MCSD
- requests for advice referred to the secretariat by a working group
- advice to MEDU on the final selection of MCSD members
- draft agenda for a meeting based upon a proposal prepared by the Secretariat
- consulting relevant working group chairmen concerning progress on intersessional work; particular difficulties encountered and possible means to resolve them
- (if necessary) through the Chair, attend, and report to, the meeting of the CPs, on issues relating to factual reports; difficulties encountered together with any proposals on the means to resolve them; highlighting any aspects of a long-term work plan where co-ordination is required; reporting progress on intersessional work
- the convening of an extraordinary meeting of the Commission

Action programme

The Commission should adopt a Programme of work for the period 2005-2015. This Programme should be based on the WSSD Plan of Implementation, the outcome of the Athens Euro-Mediterranean Ministers Conference for the Environment (July 2002), the evolving Mediterranean Strategy on Sustainable Development and other initiatives, as they relate to the Mediterranean situation. The priorities adopted during these initiatives are summarized in Appendix I, to help decide on the priorities to be tackled.

The Programme will provide vision and perspective to the MCSD and thus overcome the problem of constantly shifting directions, emphasis and approaches, in response to ad-hoc initiatives of some of its members.

The Programme should be adopted during the 2004 session of the Commission, after it is developed by MEDU, in consultation with NFPs, the RACs and other actors in the Mediterranean. Apart from the sectoral priority issues (Appendix I), the following cross-cutting ones could be targeted:

- integration of the environment in sectoral policies
- operationalization of the principles of joint responsibility, precaution, prudent avoidance
- enhancement of public participation in decision-making

The following broader concepts could guide the process for the Programme's formulation:

- all MAP sectors, including the mainstream ones such as those on pollution and protected areas, should reconsider their mandates and activities, so as to help steer MAP's activities towards the broader aspects of sustainable development
- topics for consideration that are too broad and conceptual and necessitate the carrying out of costly and lengthy comparative studies or of original research, should be avoided
- issues should be selected in accordance with their significance
- issues already tackled could be reconsidered, either to complete assessment or to draw up new proposals in the light of contemporary concerns
- the Programme should incorporate timetables, cost estimates and indication of sources of financing
- issues should be regional in extent, but also of widespread local concerns
- coordination with the CSD issues needs to be secured, in those issues where the two processes are relevant

Further general guidelines about the Programme are submitted for consideration in Appendix II.

Until the Programme's adoption, the MCSD, during its 2003 meeting, should take interim decisions on its activities during 2003- 2004.

Guidance/ Steering

The MAP Coordinator should assume the responsibility to keep the whole process within the policy and strategic aspects of the issues and steer it away from any tendencies towards technical and downstream aspects. When necessary, he/she would seek the assistance of the intersessional committee.

Better participation of major groups

The reasons that restrict the effective and active participation of local authorities and socio-economic actors need to be identified, most possibly by an appropriate questionnaire to be filled by current and former members. The weaknesses thus identified should then be rectified, so as to allow all groups take advantage of, and contribute to, the opportunities and challenges offered by the setting up of the MCSD.

Members should be encouraged to address issues rather informally so that the distinction between members of the various groups becomes more blurred. This could be done, for example, by simplifying procedures, delegating to non-state members a more substantive role in contributing, encouraging them to make their participation visible, etc.

National counterpart action

Links of MCSD and the MAP structure with national commissions for sustainable development should be strengthened.

Pressure needs to be constantly exercised upon members (not just states, but local authorities and major socio- economic actors as well), for the preparation of appropriate sustainable development strategies.

Regional and thematic workshops to raise national awareness should be organized.

National state members could be assisted to organize national awareness- raising seminars.

Issues already tackled

The recommendations already made and adopted could be taken up with a view to their adaptation and operationalization to sub-regional and/or national/local circumstances through the MAP structure.

Post- recommendations process

The conclusions, suggestions and recommendations of the MCSD should not be restricted to a mere formal approval by the CPs, which have the major responsibility to deliver.

Not all proposals will have to be addressed to or be endorsed by the CPs, anyway.

The MCSD needs to identify the specific bodies to which its recommendations are being addressed.

All members of the MCSD proposed by major groups should undertake to disseminate the recommendations and proposals to the groups that proposed them.

Recommendations of the MCSD should not be submitted for approval at meetings of MAP NFPs, but only for information and follow up purposes.

The MCSD Secretariat and other MAP bodies, through external resources if necessary, should elaborate on the strategic recommendations, making them more explicit and strengthening them with detailed guidelines.

The outcome of the work of the MCSD should take the form of manuals, guidelines, other publications, seminars, forums, etc., dedicated to the Mediterranean region as a whole, groups of countries or to specific problems of individual countries, providing concrete advice (e.g. specific means, technologies, institutional arrangements) for solving problems. These texts will not be prepared by the MCSD, but the resources of MEDU, including the MCSD Secretariat, the RACs, the CPs, and the other actors should be utilized instead.

Thematic working groups

The practice of setting up thematic Working Groups with Task Managers and Support Centres to deal with each selected theme should be maintained, but it does not, by necessity, have to be followed in all cases. Enough flexibility should be maintained for adapting approaches.

Each major group will have a task manager/coordinator and a rapporteur, and be facilitated by one RAC or another intergovernmental or other resource agency, which would also provide the necessary scientific support to the group.

The Working Groups will be allowed to follow various paths, depending on the issue, the personalities of their leaders, their commitment, the support they receive from concerned MAP components or other agencies, as well as the funds available.

In order to secure more sense of ownership of the results by the group members and the MCSD, planning and actual work should not rely extensively on the RACs, the task manager, or an outside expert. Full participation and contribution should be secured from the beginning for all members of a group.

The activities of the Working Groups should not be prolonged for more than it is necessary (12- 18 months).

A new approach that could be followed is that of utilizing a more structured system characterized by the following elements:

- standing Working Groups could be established composed only from among the MCSD's members and focusing on broader issues to be agreed upon
- ad-hoc groups could be established in cases where there is no luxury for spending a lot of time on an issue or for going ahead with a full analysis, when an issue is not covered by a Standing group
- activities of the ad hoc Working Groups will be considered as completed with the adoption of the proposed recommendations
- the Standing Working Groups would deal with major issues of concern of particular significance to the Mediterranean that need constant attention; such issues could be broader cross- cutting ones, in order to secure focusing and involvement of members, provide opportunity for more consistent follow up efforts, and enable quick response to requests for

action; the Groups would also be able to deal with any subject associated with the major issue of their concern

Outside experts

External experts should not be heavily involved in the Commission's work.

New players such as international organizations or leading Mediterranean experts on questions where MAP does not have the requisite expertise should be brought in.

Other Centres outside MAP are also operating in the Mediterranean on MAP-related issues and they should be appropriately involved.

MEDU, including the dedicated MCSD Secretariat and the RACs, as well as other partners in the Mediterranean should also identify leading experts on the topic under consideration.

Meetings

The plenaries should be run as brainstorming and interactive sessions between experts, who are there to contribute, with free exchange of ideas, comments and suggestions.

In the reports of the meetings, specific reference should be made to the members intervening and contributing to the discussion. The debate should take the form of a structured dialogue between the members, not aimed to reach consensus, but rather to identify the most widely accepted concerns, issues or suggestions.

For every issue, one member, preferably a group rapporteur or a concerned professional from within MAP, should undertake to present basic talking points in order to initiate discussion.

Rapporteurs of groups would present their evaluations as working papers for consideration.

The holding of break- out sessions during the MCSD meetings (not in parallel with plenary sessions), should be pursued with more determination, so as to provide the plenary with results on issues thoroughly discussed.

The Commission should hold ordinary meetings once every year. Meetings should not last for more than three days. Issues to be debated at any one time should be restricted. Discussion texts should be distributed 2 months in advance.

The practice of holding meetings in various countries should be maintained, but proposals to host such meetings should be accompanied by a real commitment from the host country to make every effort to secure visibility of the MCSD and its meeting, highlight what has been achieved in the country through the implementation of MCSD recommendations, and support the meeting with a substantial financial contribution.

In the absence of feasible alternatives as above, meetings should be held in Athens, to be better served by MEDU's resources, or where the Commission's Secretariat would operate, if this eventuality becomes reality.

Funding means

In the post- Johannesburg era and taking advantage of the outcome of the Athens Ministerial Conference, it is advisable for the MEDU to undertake a concerted effort to identify sources, ways

and means to secure more stable and dedicated financing for the functioning of the MCSD and its supporting centres.

In the MAP's Budget, there should be a separate budget line for the Commission, including all the activities of MEDU and the RAC's wholly or partly related to the Commission's work and to sustainable development.

Priorities under the Convention and MAP need to be reconsidered, in light of the outcome of the WSSD and of the final orientations of the new Strategy for Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean and funds allocated to MCSD-related and sustainable development activities need to be increased appropriately.

RAC support centres, in close co-operation with the MCSD Secretariat and task managers, are expected to look for the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise for the MCSD activities they support.

For implementing the recommendations approved, MEDU, the MCSD Secretariat and the RACs should be encouraged to secure funds from other sources as well.

All the above do also point out to the necessity for the development of a fund- raising strategy (both from within as well as from outside MAP), as an indispensable ingredient of the other strategies developed under MAP auspices. MEDU should thus be mandated appropriately.

Partnerships

The MCSD is in a particular position to consolidate in the Mediterranean the regional dimension of Johannesburg.

Every effort needs to be exerted to establish connections with those commitments and implementation initiatives announced in Johannesburg or later which are of special interest to the Mediterranean or for which work already done and expertise accumulated presents the partners with a value added through the participation of Mediterranean institutions as well. An indicative list of such, Type II Initiatives, is provided in Appendix III.

The Commission should also strongly encourage its members to develop additional initiatives to promote the development of partnerships between Mediterranean countries and actors, enhance regional co-operation, rationalize inter-governmental decision-making capacity and strengthen sub-regional cooperation on issues of common concern. To this respect, the process could be guided by the so-called 'Bali criteria' for the WSSD Partnerships (Appendix IV).

Improvement of institutional arrangements

A no action policy on the institutional issues is not an alternative open to the Commission and the CPs, as this issues may undermine the whole structure. The business-as-usual scenario cannot be sustainable within the new framework proposed, as present MAP and mainly MEDU means in staff and funds will not be able to even maintain the existing level of the MCSD activities.

The MCSD Secretariat and the RACs that support it through the undertaking of sustainable development related activities need to be enhanced if the Commission is to rise up to the challenges of the times, and deliver on expectations.

A sequential, evolutionary, 2 or 3-stage process of strengthening the institutional set-up is proposed, in order to considerably improve the situation:

First stage: one new professional with necessary support to be appointed, as soon as practicable (2004), in MEDU for full time MCSD secretariat support, requiring an increase of about 100.000 € of MAP/ MEDU budget. This would somehow ease the burden on the existing resources, and partly ameliorate weaknesses in regional cooperation, visibility and communication, strategic and policy issues, etc.

Second stage: MEDU, will continue to provide the secretariat to the MCSD and its associated bodies, through a more dedicated, identifiable, unit. Under the guidance of the Co-ordinator, it would manage the whole process, coordinate activities, look for satisfactory results and proposals, follow up the implementation of the recommendations, induce concerned members through specific projects, promote visibility of the MCSD and get more active partners in addition to the necessary fund- raising activity. Those support centres primarily involved in sustainable development activities would also be supported.

It is estimated that an increase of staff will be required, to be completed between 2005- 2006. Not less than 4 professionals (2 for the MCSD Secretariat, to be covered by MAP budget and 2-3 to be seconded to MCSD Secretariat and support centres by countries/partners), with necessary support and relevant operational budget, would definitely improve the efficiency of the institutional set up, allow for effective implementation of the Commission's remit and overcome most of the present weaknesses. This would require an increase of appr. 250.000€ of MAP/MEDU budget, keeping in mind that the seconded experts would be hosted by concerned support centres (RACs) and MEDU. In this case, the risk for conflicts between the secretariat servicing the MCSD and the mainstream MAP activities would mainly be in the nature of differences in their respective priorities, method of work and type of results pursued. It will be the Co-ordinator's job to ensure that such concerns do not materialize.

Third stage: The feasibility of establishing, by 2007, within the MAP system, a full-fledged MCSD Secretariat, could be further explored, including the ascertaining of any interest by potential host country/ municipality/funding partners.

It is provisionally estimated that this Secretariat would require a budget of about 1.000.000 € per year.

This Secretariat will have its own means while giving due consideration to relevant MEDU responsibilities as defined in MAP II. It would be solely devoted to the MCSD and sustainable development and, even though within the MAP framework, it would be for the whole Mediterranean, including for the proposed Interagency Platform. Thus, it would require an international/UN status to be eventually more able to attract other partners; it would also require some autonomy of action so as to have more open discussions, bringing in high-level, eminent, qualified experts for relevant strategic and policy issues.

The Secretariat could be physically located either in MEDU, in Athens, or elsewhere, if a country and/ or municipality accept to host it and cover for at least 1/4 of its costs together with a clear partnership with the European Commission (that would accept to pay for 1/4 also).

The MCSD Secretariat, would deal with coordination issues, catalyzing between partners and groups, increasing awareness, accompanying countries on Sustainable Development Strategic and Policy issues, looking for rationalizing regional cooperation, raising funds, providing a framework for the activities, following the regional SD Strategy, etc.

The MCSD would continue to draw upon MEDU and its RACs, utilizing guidance, advice, support and follow up initiatives.

The Secretariat would bring about improved organizational effectiveness and productivity and increased quality of work and it is also expected to assist the supporting RACs, by improving coordination, looking for additional means, securing active partnerships, etc.

The mandate, tasks, management structure/ mechanism and budget breakdown for an eventual fully developed MCSD Secretariat are further considered in Appendix V.

Co- operation/ coordination

Representatives from the RACs should take part in the meetings of the MCSD and the groups, when their contribution is required, in consultation with MEDU/MCSD Secretariat.

A closer exchange of views and experiences should be secured with UNCSD and other bodies on sustainable development operating at national or international level. As a first step contacts should aim to ascertain what kept some of them away from the process.

The MCSD Secretariat could take initiatives to improve co-operation with international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund or regional banks, such as the European Investment Bank.

The relationships of the MCSD with MAP NFPs need to be closely looked at for improvement, especially by MEDU/MCSD Secretariat. Better interaction, joint meetings, more outreach efforts, will contribute to removing the present skepticism and antagonism felt, particularly with regards to certain initiatives.

MEDU should encourage CPs to take up the potentials of the MCSD to their full extent.

Mediterranean Interagency Platform on Sustainable Development

The MCSD is not a regional United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development. However, it should continue aiming to establish better working relations with the latter, becoming more pressing and demanding on UNCSD and UNEP, with the support of the Permanent Representations of the CPs to these bodies.

The work of the Commission could greatly facilitate the work of the other bodies operating in the Mediterranean and, in accordance with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, assist them to strengthen their contribution to sustainable development and help them meet the need for a coherent approach to the consideration of regional environmental change.

Moreover, cooperation between the multifarious United Nations agencies in their programmes and activities is still at a low ebb, leading to duplication and increased running costs. It is no easy task to assess their work in the Mediterranean, given that the programmes are specific to each of the countries in the region, and that the projects hail from various specialised agencies, without there being any built-in coordination between them.

Therefore, as far as interaction with other intergovernmental organizations active in the Region is concerned, the issue should now be approached within the context of the overall concern for improving global environmental governance, as evidenced by UNEP's Cartagena agreement on governance and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

Regarding the Cartagena decision on Governance, it is pointed out that UNEP attempted to do through this global environmental governance issue by Governing Council Decision_SS.VII/1 of 15.2.2002, which adopted the report on International Environmental Governance, covering, inter alia, proposals for improved coherence in international environmental policy-making, improved

coordination among and effectiveness of multilateral environmental agreements, and enhanced coordination across the United Nations system.

Para. 134 of the WSSD Plan of Implementation 'Request the Secretary-General of the United Nations, utilizing the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, including through informal collaborative efforts, to further promote system-wide inter-agency cooperation and coordination on sustainable development.....' Other relevant paras. of the same text are: 66 (welcomes regional and subregional forums to promote sustainable development and calls for their further development); 120 (calls for strengthening of international bodies and organizations dealing with sustainable development); 141 (provides for implementationat the regional and subregional levels, throughother regional and subregional institutions and bodies); etc.

Fully in line with the above developments and taking under consideration the preparation and further establishment of a Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development, it is proposed to pursue the establishment of a Mediterranean Interagency Platform on Sustainable Development, to provide a clear mechanism and a forum to encourage agencies involved in sustainable development to work together and promote greater coherence, co-ordination, interaction and integration of policies, programmes, plans and projects at the regional level.

MEDU is thus strongly advised to act as a catalyst and renew initiatives for the establishment of an informal Interagency Platform in the Mediterranean in consultation with the regional offices of agencies active in the region on sustainable development issues, a non-exhaustive list of which is attached as Appendix VI.

To this respect, any successful initiatives by MEDU and RACs to draw in other partners should be very closely drawn upon in order to be replicated.

The Platform could be established based on the model of the IACSD, which was a direct result of Agenda 21, but avoiding the main factor that led to its replacement, which was the opposition from those that took a negative attitude to it making suggestions about the work they should be engaged in, or in analysing and monitoring their effectiveness.

For coordination it would rely more on informal and flexible mechanisms rather than formal subsidiary bodies.

Over time and building on the confidence gradually secured, the Platform could jointly with MAP oversee the MCSD and its Secretariat, utilizing the former's comparative advantages in the respective fields of concern of each participating partner and the latter as a facilitator. The MCSD could thus also focus its work on the cross-sectoral aspects of specific sectoral issues.

The *modus operandi* of the platform would naturally have to be worked out in consultations between the bodies concerned. With regards to its objectives, they could partly be drawn from paras. 129 and 130 of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, that is, to-

- promote inter- agency coordination
- increase effectiveness and efficiency through limiting overlap and duplication of activities
- exchange information on progress and promote further implementation of sustainable development
- serve as a focal point for the discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development
- identify points of leverage for key issues within the WEHAB themes and new and emerging issues, especially on social and economic issues
- provide a forum for analysis and exchange of experience on measures that assist sustainable development planning, decision-making and the implementation of sustainable development strategies

- keep under periodic review environmental and sustainable issues in the Mediterranean, in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance received appropriate and adequate considerations
- advice on MCSD membership
- select Working Groups to facilitate their work
- promote complementarity among the work programmes of the various agencies that deal with specific aspects of sustainable development
- secure synergies between programmes and processes and better integration of policies, time frames, emphasis, priorities and objectives
- interface with the Euro-Med partnership
- identify new and emerging issues
- identify overall policy issues, major gaps and constraints affecting sustainable development in the Mediterranean

Whatever action is pursued, however, such intergovernmental partners should be convinced that they will be equal players in the process and that they would be associated with a system which is characterized by credibility. Such a credibility can only be secured by the Commission's actual output.

Irrespective of the fate of the above suggestion, representatives of the various agencies to MCSD meetings should be invited as a rule and on the basis of the relevance of the issues under consideration to their interests and activities and even be extended to meetings of Working Groups, depending on the issues tackled in any one meeting and their sphere of competence or expertise. Right of attendance should be expanded to equality of interaction as stakeholders, right of substantial contribution and active intervention at any time during the debate.

Visibility/ communication

Placing of information on the MCSD's activities on national web sites and the preparation of national brochures should be a priority activity.

Regional thematic forums should be organized, followed by further activities within countries.

The exchange of experience with other similar initiatives in other regions, particularly sub-regional ones, should be pursued.

The secretariat should provide assistance in disseminating information to NFPs.

The potentials offered by current manpower resources and relevant arrangements within MEDU should be fully utilized, with outside professional advice if necessary, in order to promote a programme to give greater visibility not only to the MCSD but to MAP itself, which still remains relatively not well known by national administrations and civil society.

The MCSD Secretariat should act for, results dissemination, monitoring the progress of action undertaken, encouraging all actors to engage in the process, fostering the flow of information, launching an MCSD awareness campaign and encouraging CPs to adopt national environmental framework programmes

The above should form part of a structured communications strategy and MEDU should be mandated to further pursue such an activity.

E. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF THE PROPOSALS WITH THE CURRENT SET-UP

All attempts towards organizational development and change potentially contain the seeds of discontent and cause concerns that they will upset established systems which are composed of interrelated and interdependent subsystems in dynamic interactions.

The proposals in this text could not be an exception to the above rule. Similar attempts within the UN system have steered controversies. Some of them have also been 'killed' by the reactions. Resistance to change is after all one of the main factors in causing bottlenecks to attempts for organizational renewal, as change causes perceived threats, leading to implicit defensive behaviours.

In this particular case, there is no explicit reason to suggest that such concerns will ultimately prove to be of substance. The MCSD has been in place for only a short time as institutional structures go and there has not been enough time for 'clientelle' relationships to be established and entrenched. Also, the proposals start from where the system is, and are aimed to bring about change which has been specifically requested by the people involved, a change pursued through a fully participatory and transparent process.

The consideration of the interrelationships of this report's proposals with the existing system is therefore approached within the above context.

Co-ordinating Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MEDU)

The MAP Co-ordinating Unit (MEDU) is based on the Regional Activity Centres and any enhanced arrangements for the MCSD's Secretariat, would definitely strengthen MEDU's role, whereas the Secretariat, as it would mostly be characterized by similar institutional/ organizational connections/links with the MEDU as the RACs, will not necessarily require substantial changes, neither will it cause any significant upsets.

However, consistent international and national experiences with such attempts have in many cases backfired, as they have led to empire-building tendencies by the new actors, thus becoming an ultimate source of conflict, upsetting the functioning of the whole system. Therefore and especially if the Secretariat is ultimately physically outside the MEDU, care should be taken to formally ensure that this will in no way mean independence: it will have to remain and work in the framework of MAP, even if it is successful in bringing in as close partners other institutions, exactly as the RACs are actually operating.

The relationships of MEDU with the other Centres may also be ultimately affected, as they might be tempted to establish closer ties with the Secretariat, particularly if the latter is hosted by a country committed to its success and prepared to invest considerably in its functioning.

MEDU should be empowered to supervise the Secretariat's activities and ensure their coordination with those of the RACs. This co-ordination action by the MEDU should ensure the integration and harmonious distribution of the various activities of the Centres and the Secretariat's, so that they act in synergy in the MAP framework. In a similar way, any tendencies for turf wars that might compromise the efficiency and effectiveness of MAP will have to be addressed and removed as soon they are noticed. MEDU should thus be given a very clear mandate, to act whenever there is a need for a determination as to whether there are overlaps in the activities of the Secretariat's with those of any RAC.

MEDU would also retain all of its current functions/mandate, such as the following:

- planning, organisation, information, and cooperation with inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations
- relationships with international programmes, including MEAs
- coordination of the Information Strategy
- managing diplomatic/political issues
- co-ordination and implementation of :
 - Programme for the Assessment and Control of Pollution in the Mediterranean Region (MEDPOL)
 - Related legal instruments (LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols)
 - Strategic Action Plan
 - development and follow up of national monitoring programmes
 - technical follow up to the implementation of LBS, Dumping and Hazardous Wastes Protocols
 - technical follow up to the implementation of SAP
 - follow up of the MAP legal framework
 - co-operation with NGOs
 - implementation of information programme
 - implementation of the Mediterranean GEF project

Regional Activity Centres

The Centres' functions, responsibilities and spheres of competence are well defined and should not be affected in any serious way by the proposals.

It is very important to emphasize the clear distinction that needs to be maintained between the functions of the MCSD Secretariat (coordination, policy and strategic issues, etc.) and the function of the RAC support centres (basically for "thematic issues" and related activities including some kind of follow up).

Nevertheless, the RACs should find the right partnership with the MCSD and the Secretariat, and this can only happen when they are encouraged by MEDU to refocus their programmes towards more sustainable development issues. This would enable them to broaden currently mostly sectoral approaches, without, however, losing their initial focus.

All the RACs should be better drawn in the process, as they have a lot to offer and a lot to gain. They should remain Support Centres for the scientific and technical aspects of the MCSD's "thematic" activities and continue to facilitate the MCSD and its groups by, inter alia,

- reviewing [not researching] particular issues in order to establish baseline conditions
- identifying policy gaps and concerns so as to serve as background contribution to the actual work of the Commission
- providing insights and comments on the recommendations produced
- rendering some secretariat support to the groups they deal with
- raising issues for advice and consideration
- synthesizing and integrating the findings of thematic assessments in order to develop a better understanding of the scientific interlinkages and the policy and technology trade-offs among different issues
- reporting on status of implementation
- monitoring, analysing and evaluating
- feeding back lessons learned and experiences gained from the country level

- maintaining country-specific information and data bases
- providing MAP and the MCSD with scientific and technical advice related to implementation in spheres within their mandate

The proposed changes also offer a unique opportunity to take a closer, independent, review into the mandate and activities of the Centres, particularly those established long time ago and targeted towards the traditional role and goals of the MAP and the Convention. It may be that renewal in roles and mandates is required and a refocusing of programmes may prove to the benefit of MAP. For example, traditional training components and programmes may have successfully served their purpose and countries may now be able to stand on their own or through bilateral arrangements. Funds could then be diverted to issues of integration in a horizontal manner (i.e. introducing biodiversity concerns and areas and species protection into national policies for agriculture, tourism, etc).

Thus, by being properly defined and efficiently implemented, the change options should be to the benefit of the MAP Support Centres and not create conflicts.

F. CONCLUSION

The original aims for the setting up of the MCSD are even more valid today.

The present MAP structure is not in a position to handle all the issues relating to sustainable development, particularly those relating to the pillars of social and economic development. The MCSD enables the MAP approach to the protection of the Mediterranean to be brought up to date and respond to contemporary global concerns and is bringing it closer towards a better understanding of sustainable development.

The renewed MCSD needs to be provided with a clear elaboration of its mandate and adequate support to carry out its task.

The emerging driving forces in the new millennium are all positive, and the revised model proposed to be pursued is aimed to capitalize on them. These forces are, the overwhelming public environmental awareness; changes in peoples' values and priorities; highly pluralistic decision-making systems; transparency; new actors; grassroots initiatives; strong national political agendas; and the post- WSSD process.

G. NEXT STEP

As a next step, the Coordinating Unit should take up the proposals of the Task Force to be finally approved in the 8th MCSD meeting in Cavtat, Croatia and circulate them for comments to all other intergovernmental actors in the Mediterranean, with a view to submitting the proposals to the CPs in Catania, in November 2003, together with the comments and proposals received. In the assessment of the latter, MEDU could be assisted by the intersessional committee.

APPENDIX I

MEDITERRANEAN PRIORITY ISSUES EMERGING OUT OF GLOBAL OR REGIONAL PROCESSES

The following priority issues are highlighted, as they relate to or should relate to the Mediterranean specificities:

Athens Declaration by the Euro-Mediterranean Ministers for the Environment

- retain the existing SMAP priority fields of action
- environmental integration in agriculture and tourism
- promoting environmental integration in all priority sectors of the regional economic co-operation (water, industry, energy, transport, and information society)
- mutual supportiveness between trade and environmental protection
- endorsement of the Sustainability Impact Assessment
- climate change/ sea level rise
- promoting sustainable integrated water resources management and water-efficiency
- promoting renewable energy and energy conservation and efficiency
- promoting sustainable urban management in coastal areas, including through Local Agendas 21
- halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity in the Mediterranean region
- addressing the causes of desertification and soil degradation

CEDARE

The priority programmes within CEDARE concern:

- the management of soil and water resources
- the management of coastal zone resources
- urbanisation and human settlements
- the socio-economic aspects of sustainable development

6th EAP Priorities

The 6th EAP determines four environmental themes that require urgent action:

Climate change (assessments to prepare regional adaptation measures such as water resources management, conservation of biodiversity, desertification and flood prevention).

Nature and biodiversity (promoting the integration of biodiversity considerations in agricultural policies and encouraging sustainable rural development; organic farming and agro-biodiversity; a balanced approach to the multifunctional role of rural communities).

Environment and health and quality of life (reducing negative impact of the environmental factors on human health and quality of life through enhanced consideration of linkages between environmental degradation and health risks).

Sustainable use and management of natural resources and wastes (impact of subsidies relating to natural resources and waste).

In addition to these four sectors, the 6th EAP defines three cross-sectoral themes: *Strategic approaches* (integration, sustainable production/consumption, partnerships); *International issues*

(achieving mutual supportiveness between trade and the needs for environmental protection by taking due account of the environmental dimension in Sustainability Impact Assessments of multilateral trade agreements); and *Environmental policy-making*.

Johannesburg Declaration

The broader commitment of the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development refers to global *collective responsibility* to advance and strengthen the interdependent and mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development at local, national, regional and global levels.

The Declaration has four overarching objectives: *poverty eradication, changing consumption and production patterns, protecting and managing the natural resource base, addressing globalization*.

The Declaration also calls for a real *commitment to sustainable development* and the necessity for *stronger regional groupings and alliances* characterized by broad-based participation and stable partnerships, *Making it all Happen* through an inclusive process, *involving all the major groups and governments*.

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation

- *poverty eradication* (e.g. national programmes for sustainable development)
- *changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production* (e.g. 10-year framework of programmes in support of regional and national initiatives to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production; substantially increase the global share of renewable energy sources; correct unsustainable patterns of production and consumption in developed countries; help developing countries put in place policies and tools to this end. A 10-year framework for programmes needs to be developed and promoted as the main instrument to achieve that goal)
- *protecting and managing the natural resource base* (e.g. integrated water resources management; ecosystem approach; sustainable fisheries management; integrated coastal and ocean management; protection of marine and coastal areas; prevention and combating desertification; sustainable tourism development)
- *sustainable development in a globalizing world* (e.g. strengthen regional trade and cooperation agreements)
- *sustainable development of small island developing states* (e.g. managing coastal areas; vulnerability indices)
- *sustainable development for Africa* (e.g. financial and technical support for Africa's efforts to implement the Convention to Combat Desertification at the national level)
- *means of implementation* (science-based decision-making and reaffirming the precautionary approach; education for sustainable development)

MAP II Priority fields of activities

- integration of environment and development (national strategies for sustainable development)
- integrated management of natural resources (integrated water management; measures against erosion and desertification; code of conduct for responsible fishing)
- integrated management of coastal areas
- agriculture (sustainable agricultural and rural development)
- industry and energy (promote and facilitate the use of new and renewable sources of energy)
- tourism (diversification of tourism)
- urban development and the environment (encourage town decision-makers to apply sustainable development policies)

- conservation of nature, landscape and sites (prepare and approve national strategies for the conservation of biodiversity)

Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development

- management of water demand
- sustainable management of coastal zones
- information, awareness, environmental education and public participation
- tourism and sustainable development
- indicators for sustainable development
- free trade and environment
- industry and sustainable development
- urban management
- cooperation and financing for Sustainable Development
- local governance
- agriculture and rural development
- consumption patterns and waste management

Mediterranean Declaration for the Johannesburg Summit

- management of natural resources and pollution combating (sustainable agriculture, environmentally friendly consumption)
- institutional and legal framework (Rio principles- precautionary principle, polluter pays principle, common and differentiated responsibility)
- cooperation, partnership and financing (incentives for environmentally and socially responsible investments; removal of environmentally damaging subsidies, debt for nature and sustainable development swaps)

METAP IV

- waste management including solid and hazardous waste
- water quality management, including integrated coastal zone management
- policy and legislation tools, including costs of environmental degradation, strengthening of environmental assessment, and environment and trade
- knowledge management

Millennium Goals

To ensure environmental sustainability by the year 2015, through the integration of the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and to reverse loss of environmental resources.

Partnership Initiatives

The hundreds of initiatives for partnerships adopted refer to the major priority sectors of water and sanitation; energy (efficiency, renewables, subsidies); health (chemicals, air pollution); agriculture (desertification); and biological diversity (forests, protected areas); as well as in the cross cutting issues (access to markets, consumption/production, corporate responsibility).

SMAP

- integrated water management (establishment of river basin and catchment area management plans)
- integrated coastal zone management (integrated environmental management plans and sustainable development programmes for Mediterranean islands)
- combating desertification (promoting changes of attitude and participatory processes, in particular of farmers, stock-breeders and other interested social groups)

Strategic Review Priorities

- water demand management
- tourism
- agriculture
- energy
- transport
- free trade and the environment
- information and awareness raising
- indicators for sustainable development
- land use planning
- coastal management and urban development
- national strategies towards impetus and implementation

WEHAB Initiative

This initiative complements the Plan of Implementation and has also helped to make the Summit outcomes more relevant to the world at large. Five key areas for action were identified: water and sanitation; energy; health; agriculture; and biodiversity and ecosystem management.

**Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development:
(work in progress – section to be completed in June 2003)**

APPENDIX II

PROPOSED INDICATIVE MCSD's FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

The Commission's programme is necessary in order to provide vision and perspective to the MCSD and thus overcome the current problem of constantly shifting directions, emphasis and approaches, in response to ad-hoc initiatives of some of its members.

Focus is essential to make the Commission's work programme manageable and to ensure that it is effective and relevant.

The MCSD's work programme should thus develop within the framework of a more focused agenda than the previous one, but with enough flexibility for the selection of issues in future, taking on board new and emerging issues as they are identified.

However, the range of issues to be tackled is very extensive, whilst most are discussed in various inter-governmental forums. Hence the Commission cannot, should not, be expected to address all aspects of all issues. Cross-sectoral, overarching issues, such as poverty eradication, globalization, gender, enabling environment, technology transfer, means of implementation, are the subject of broad policy deliberations in more specialized fora. Such issues should be considered as core elements in the analyses of each issue and not tackled in isolation.

Criteria for the selection of issues

The MCSD is expected to provide an integrated perspective, while avoiding duplication, on the inter-linkages between the three components of sustainable development and between natural resource issues and socio-economic ones.

The following broader concepts and primary considerations could guide the process for the design of the programme and organization of work of the MCSD:

- avoid duplicating the work of other forums or specialized bodies
- all MAP sectors should benefit from re-examination from outsiders and civil society
- topics for consideration that are too broad and conceptual and necessitate the carrying out of costly and lengthy comparative studies or of original research, should be avoided
- issues should be selected in accordance with their significance
- issues relating to natural resources and relevant economic sectors such as water, energy, biodiversity, land and agriculture, tourism, etc., are of primary concern
- issues already tackled could be reconsidered, either to complete assessment or to draw up new proposals in the light of new concerns
- issues should be regional in extent, but also of widespread local concerns, such as sustainable consumption and production patterns and governance
- the programme should incorporate timetables, cost estimates and indication of sources of financing

Priority Issues

Priorities should be selected taking into consideration those already adopted at various global and regional initiatives as they relate to the Mediterranean (Appendix I), as well as the ones to be established by the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy.

Organization of work

The need to narrow the focus within the future CSD work cycles could be addressed in a variety of ways. There is a need to avoid the rigid preselection of themes, that would set in advance the agenda for the next 10 years, leaving little room for flexibility and postponing vital issues for many years. Similarly, having no pre-set thematic programme of work, but selecting some sectors every few years would allow a maximum of flexibility but selection of sectors may prove to be difficult without agreement on issues to be addressed subsequently.

The programme for the next decade should have some degree of flexibility to allow the Commission to address emerging challenges, This would require provisions for changing and modifying the programme of work over the years. At the same time, there is need to ensure some level of predictability and flexibility in the programme of work, to allow longer-term preparations.

The UN CSD is expected to alternate implementation reviews in one year with policy discussions and negotiations the next. The MCSD could follow an extended pattern of this version, that is policy reviews with implementation ones in-between.

The programme could be based on assuming that there will be around 30-32 active members at any one time, providing the Commission with the option to establish 4- 7 groups of a varied membership, 3 of which could be Standing ones.

It is advisable to pre-select 2 to 4 broad areas (new and revisiting of earlier ones) for each review, while 1 or 2 areas could be left to be determined by future sessions. This would provide a mix of “predictability” and “flexibility”.

The Commission could thus establish in 2004 its multi-year work programme, by deciding on the sectors it would consider over the next ten years but also leaving room for emerging issues or challenges that could be addressed at relatively short notice or looking again at issues discussed earlier cycles, if it is so required.

An purely indicative model for the programme is proposed below:

Year	Nature of session	General goal of session	Proposed issues for consideration
2004	Organization/ Session Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set up Standing Working Groups • select issues for consideration in 2005 and 2006 • set up ad hoc WGs • review previous issues 	<p><u>New</u> 5 issues selected in 2004</p> <p><u>Previous</u> 1 issue selected in 2004</p>
2005	Policy Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report of WGs on 2005 issues/adoption of recommendations 	

2006	Organization/Policy Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report of WGs on 2006 issues/adoption of recommendations • select issues for consideration in 2007 and 2008 • set up ad hoc WGs 	<p><u>New</u> 5 issues selected in 2004 2 issues selected in 2006</p>
2007	Policy/Review Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report of WGs on 2007 issues/adoption of recommendations • review previous issues 	<p><u>Previous</u> 1 issue selected in 2004</p>
2008	Organization/Policy/Review Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report of WGs on 2008 issues/adoption of recommendations • select issues for consideration in 2009 and 2010 • set up ad hoc WGs • review previous issues • review progress in implementing o the 2005 issues 	<p><u>New</u> 5 issues selected in 2004 2 issues selected in 2008</p> <p><u>Previous</u> 1 issue selected in 2004</p>
2009	Policy/Review Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report of WGs on 2009 issues/adoption of recommendations • review previous issues 	<p><u>Previous</u> 1 issue selected in 2004</p>
2010	Organisation/Policy Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report of WGs on 2010 issues/adoption of recommendations • select issues for consideration in 2011 and 2012 • set up ad hoc WGs 	<p><u>New</u> 3 issues selected in 2004 2 issues selected in 2010</p> <p><u>Previous</u> 1 issue selected in 2004</p>
2011	Policy/Review Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report of WGs on 2011 issues/adoption of recommendations • review previous issues • review progress in implementing 2006 issues 	<p><u>Previous</u> 1 issue selected in 2004</p>
2012	Organisation/Policy Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • report of WGs for 2012 issues/adoption of recommendations • select issues for consideration in 2013 and 2014 • set up ad hoc WGs 	<p><u>New</u> 2 issues selected in 2004 3 issues selected in 2012</p>

2013	Review Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• review progress in implementing 2007, 2008, 2009 issues	
2014	Policy/Review Session/Earth Summit 2015 Contributing Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• report of WGs for 2013, 2014 issues/adoption of recommendations• review progress in implementing 2010, 2011 issues• contribution to the Earth Summit	
2015	Earth Summit 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• assessment/reconsideration of the MCSD role	

APPENDIX III

MEDITERRANEAN- RELATED PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Partnership between the Belgian Government, Belgian Scientific institutions, the CGIAR centres and Southern partners in the promotion of agricultural research for development.
Leading partners: CGIAR-centers.

Promoting Sustainable Development in Southern Agricultural research Systems.
Leading partner: AGROPOLIS, France/GFAR Secretariat, Rome.

Promotion of Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean Region.
Leading Partner: Italian Ministry of the Environment and Territory, Rome.

Euro-Mediterranean Water and Poverty Facility (EuroMed WPF).
Leading Partner: Global Water Partnership Mediterranean, Athens, Greece.

EU Water Initiative: Water for Life.
Leading Partner: European Commission, EU Member States and others.

Sustainable Water Management in the Balkan and Southeast Mediterranean Area.
Leading partner: region of Crete.

ADRICOSM – ADRIatic sea integrated Coastal AreaS and river basin Management system pilot project.
Leading partner: Italian Ministry of Environment and Territory

Integrated Framework of Tools for Implementing Sustainable Development in Small Islands (SUSTIS)
Leading partner: Malta Environment and Planning Authority.

African Process for the Development and Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment in Sub-Saharan Africa.
Leading Partner: Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS), London.

Capacity-Building on the applications of ICT for the establishment of Environmental Information Systems for Sustainable Development in Africa – SISEI.
Leading Partner: UNITAR/OSS, Switzerland/Tunisia.

SIRMA: Water economy in irrigated Systems in North Africa.
Leading Partner: French Government.

Mediterranean Education Initiative for Environment and Sustainability (MEDIES).
Leading Partners: Government of Greece, MIO-ECSDE/UNESCO.

A21Adriatic Sea Forum – Local Agenda 21 for Adriatic Sea Region.
Leading partner:City of Ancona, Italy.

Regional Sustainable Cities and Towns Campaigns promoting local Agenda 21.
Leading partner: European Commission, Directorate General Environment.

Preparation of a Regional Sustainable Development Strategy in the Mediterranean.
Leading partner: UNEP/MAP Athens, Greece.

APPENDIX IV

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

These guiding principles, as presented at the WSSD Prep.Com.4 in Bali, could serve as reference and be applied/adapted to the preparation and development of additional Mediterranean Partnerships for the promotion of Sustainable Development in the Region.

“The following guiding principles for partnerships should be adhered to in the design and implementation of all partnerships to be recognized as part of the WSSD outcomes:

Objective of partnerships

Partnerships for sustainable development are specific commitments by various partners intended to contribute to and reinforce the implementation of the outcomes of the intergovernmental negotiations of the WSSD (Programme of Action and Political Declaration) and to help achieve the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals.

Voluntary nature/respect for fundamental principles and values

Partnerships are of a voluntary, ‘self-organizing’ nature; they are based on mutual respect and shared responsibility of the partners involved, taking into account the Rio Declaration Principles and the values expressed in the Millennium Declaration.

Link with globally agreed outcomes

Partnerships are to complement the intergovernmentally agreed outcomes of WSSD: they are not intended to substitute commitments made by governments. Rather they should serve as mechanisms for the delivery of the globally agreed commitments by mobilizing the capacity for producing action on the ground. Partnerships should be anchored in the intergovernmentally agreed outcomes of WSSD (Programme of Action and Political Declaration) and help achieve the further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Millennium Development Goals.

Integrated approach to sustainable development

Partnerships should integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in their design and implementation. They should be consistent, where applicable, with sustainable development strategies and poverty reduction strategies of the countries, regions and communities where their implementation takes place.

Multi-stakeholder approach

Partnerships should have a multi-stakeholder approach and preferably involve a range of significant actors in a given area of work. They can be arranged among any combination of partners, including governments, regional groups, local authorities, non-governmental actors, international institutions and private sector partners. All partners should be involved in the development of a partnership from an early stage, so that it is genuinely participatory in approach. Yet as partnerships evolve, there should be an opportunity for additional partners to join on an equal basis.

Transparency and accountability

Partnerships should be developed and implemented in an open and transparent manner and in good faith, so that ownership of the partnership process and its outcomes is shared among all partners, and all partners are equally accountable. They should specify arrangements to monitor and review their performance against the objectives and targets they set and report in regular intervals ('self-reporting'). These reports should be made accessible to the public.

Tangible Results

Each partnership should define its intended outcome and benefits. Partnerships should have clear objectives and set specific measurable targets and timeframes for their achievement. All partners should explicitly commit to their role in achieving the aims and objectives of the partnerships.

Funding arrangements

Available and /or expected sources of funding should be identified. At least the initial funding should be assured at the time of the Summit, if the partnership is to be recognized there.

New/value added partnerships

Ideally, partnerships for sustainable development should be "new", i.e. developed within the framework of the WSSD process. In case of on-going partnerships, there has to be a significant added value to these partnerships in the context of the WSSD (e.g. more partners taken on board, replicating an initiative or extending it to another geographical region, increasing financial resources, etc.)

Local involvement and international impact

While the active involvement of local communities in the design and implementation of partnerships is strongly encouraged (bottom-up approach), partnerships should be international in their impact, which means their impact should extend beyond the national level (global, regional and/or sub-regional).

Follow-up process

Partnerships should keep the Commission on Sustainable Development informed about their activities and progress in achieving their targets. The CSD should serve as a focal point for discussion of partnerships that promote sustainable development, including sharing lessons learnt, progress made and best practices.

Opportunities to develop partnerships for sustainable development will continue after the WSSD. Submissions of partnerships after the Summit will be considered in the follow-up process."

APPENDIX V

STRENGTHENING THE MCSD THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEDICATED FULL-TIME, FULLY- FUNCTIONING SECRETARIAT

Functions of the Secretariat

Activities of an effectively operational nature should be avoided, to prevent overlaps with the remit and work plan of the RACs and unnecessary institutional and staff upsets within MEDU.

The Secretariat would-

- help identify policy-relevant gaps in the sustainable development assessment structure
- support the MCSD's day-to-day functioning
- strengthen linkages with civil society and develop innovative modes of partnership
- coordinate system-wide response to the work of the MCSD
- promote an active and continuous dialogue with governments, civil society and other international organisations aimed at building partnerships to solve key issues and problems related to sustainable development
- forge close links between the current parallel and independent processes and those of the MCSD
- service joint meetings of various bodies
- support the Mediterranean Interagency Platform on Sustainable Development
- deal with Working Group coordination issues
- increase awareness
- raise funds
- report back to the MCSD sessions, in order to help monitor the process more transparently
- pursue the implementation of activities by actors, members or RACs, in accordance with the Work-plan and the recommendations
- formulate recommendations to enhance the effectiveness of implementation
- prepare reports on sustainable development issues
- prepare reports on achievements in eliminating obstacles and difficulties
- contribute socioeconomic development perspectives to the work of other mechanisms
- carry out representation functions in intergovernmental and interagency processes outside of MCSD

Staff of the MCSD Secretariat

Head

Planning and coordination of the MCSD's work programme; supervision of the work assignments of staff; management of the Secretariat's strategic support; government agencies and inter- MAP liaison; external relations; programme/budget/planning; legal aspects.

Socio-economic Development

Socio-economic aspects; consumption and production patterns; trade and sustainable development; finance and sustainable development; industry; tourism; energy; transport; national sustainable development strategies.

Policy integration, institutions and programme coordination

Policy development work; review of documentation for consistence; liaison with others; interaction with major groups; public outreach/ publications; general programme support; national, regional, international institutions.

Environment/ Natural resources

Integrated management and development of freshwater resources; policy advisory services and technical cooperation on water resources development and management; coastal areas; sectoral issues of natural resources; oceans and land.

Information/ communications assistant

Information; indicators; reporting guidelines; analysis of submitted information; information website.

Thematic assistants to RAC-related issues

Functions of Staff

- elaboration of documents and reports, background information, workplans and timetables related to their fields of activity
- preparation of contracts for consultants and following their work
- pursuing working arrangements with other agencies
- contribution in the preparation and organisation of meetings
- collaboration with the RACs in the preparation of progress reports
- following up day to day supervision of work
- preparation of annual budget reports and ad-hoc financial reports
- assisting MEDU in preparations for major intergovernmental deliberations and conferences on issues of common interest
- assisting in the preparation of expert meetings and of their outcomes, including the selection of experts and topics to be addressed; logistics of meetings including drafting agendas, invitation letters, proceedings and final reports; administrative arrangements with relevant government ministry
- contributing to public outreach and awareness activities
- maintaining working contacts with delegations, outside experts and other international organizations
- preparing and/or reviewing comments, studies, statements, concerning sustainable development
- providing advisory services on reporting and identifying areas for improvement
- approaching donors to provide support; developing options/strategies for financing; ensuring involvement of donors to support relevant components which fall under priority in implementation
- evaluation of the extent to which objectives have been realized
- assisting relevant institutions to develop national and regional networks with civil society organizations and NGOs dealing with environment issues
- reviewing country documents

The Secretariat does not require any Management Board, as this would entail substantial additional costs (cost of meetings, including interpretation, documentation and travel; review of documentation; additional secretarial support; documentation costs; summaries; election procedures; etc.).

If within MEDU, it would be the responsibility of the MAP Coordinator to oversee activities, pursue assessment and monitoring and take decisions on substantive issues. If the Secretariat is physically outside MEDU, it could be overseen by the MAP Co-ordinator, with the participation of 2 of the agencies from the ones participating in the Interagency Platform on a rotational, 2-year, basis.

Costs of the Secretariat

Ideally, the Secretariat would require a budget of about 1.000.000 € per year³ (slightly less if established within MEDU in Athens which would entail some savings in support/operating costs) that could be divided roughly as follows:

4 professional staff (Head, Environment/ National Resources Expert, Economic/ Social Development Expert, Political/ Institutions Expert); <i>all professionals with fund raising expertise and good communication capabilities.</i>	400.000 €
3 assistants (1 on information and communication to be covered by the project, and 2 assistants on thematic issues to be seconded by countries or Mediterranean/European partners, that could work directly with concerned RACs as Support Centres for related issues)	100.000 €
Support Staff (2 Secretaries, 1 technician/computer issues, 1 admin/finance issues)	150.000 €
Activities: preparation and dissemination of position papers, working sessions and workshops, all related to regional coordination and strategy/policy issues, the scientific and technical “thematic” activities being carried out directly by Support Centres (generally MAP RACs but also by other partners as appropriate)	150.000 €
MCSD major sessions ⁴ and meetings of Steering Committee	50.000 €
Travel	50.000 €
Operating Cost (telephones, electricity cost, publications, translations, communication, miscellaneous)	100.000 €
Total	1.000.000 €

APPENDIX VI

³ In the 2002-2003 MAP Budget, about 175.000 € were allocated yearly to the Secretariat/MEDU for MCSD related activities; in case that a specific support unit is established, this amount would increase to 250.000€. It is important to note that some 155.000 € were also allocated to RAC/BP and RAC/PAP mainly as Support Centres for MCSD related activities; these amounts should of course be maintained and if possible increased.

⁴ From experience, it would be realistic to consider that countries and partners would provide additional financial support for MCSD activities and meetings for about 100.000 € or more per year.

RELEVANT BODIES ACTIVE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (list not exhaustive-to be completed)**CEDARE**

CEDARE concerns 32 Arab and European countries. Several of the Arab countries are Contracting Parties and members of the MCSA. It has an environmental information and a documentation unit, both of which are operational and would benefit from using its Mediterranean anchor point.

European Union (and its institutions, e.g EEA)

The work of the European Union in the Mediterranean, as a Contracting Party to MAP, one of METAP's partners, a promoter of the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and with 6 Mediterranean countries as members, is of strategic importance.

EIB

The EIB's interest in protecting the environment is shown through the funding of projects related to water mobilization, air pollution, the urban environment, controlling erosion, and the supply of natural gas.

FAO

It is the focal point of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development for soil, forests, mountains and agriculture, marine environment and fisheries, management of water resources, genetic resources and river basin management.

GEF

The Fund targets global environment issues: climate change, biodiversity, international waters and the protection of the ozone layer. In the Mediterranean it has funded global studies on biodiversity, the conservation of wetlands and coastal eco-systems, climate change, controlling gases which threaten the ozone layer, international waters, etc.

IAEA

The IAEA works alongside MAP through its Laboratory for the Marine Environment in Monaco, in evaluating radioactive substances, organic compounds, and in providing reference standards for analysing main contaminants. With the support of the United Nations Programme for the Environment, it has developed different forms of surveillance of the marine environment on a worldwide scale.

International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)

The IFAD supports certain inter-governmental cooperation projects towards sustainable development in shared river basins. It has also conducted a food aid programme to support environmental conservation and to develop certain agricultural activities.

IMO

The IMO is active in the Mediterranean through close collaboration with MAP in terms of supporting and supervising the REMPEC in Malta.

Islamic Development Bank

It aims at the economic development and social advancement of its 53 members, 9 of them Mediterranean. Although it recognizes the importance of taking account of the environmental dimension in the projects which it finances, this element is still not the object of any specifically established strategy.

League of Arab States

Created in 1945, it acts as an instrument of concertation between its 22 member states. It works alongside various regional organisations in implementing activities related to sustainable development, although it is not easy for it to work out any real strategy of its own with its concerns being first and foremost of a political nature. In this respect, the Council of Arab Ministers for the Environment could play an important driving role towards regional cooperation and sustainable development.

METAP

Launched in 1989 at the initiative of the World Bank as an operational instrument within the Mediterranean Environment Programme (MEP) involving the EIB, UNDP and the EC, the METAP (Mediterranean Environment Technical Assistance Programme) has developed a specific strategy on sustainable development for 14 countries in the region.

OECD

OECD supports its governments primarily through the work of its [Environment Policy Committee](#), through Joint Working Parties on Agriculture and Environment and on Trade and Environment and through Joint Meetings of Tax and Environment Experts. Overall, these activities contribute to the cross-cutting work of the OECD on sustainable development.

UNCED

The 'Mediterranean 2000' programme is a three-year capacity building programme for SMEs and stimulating their growth and competitiveness in six developing countries around the Mediterranean basin. The "Globalisation, Liberalisation and Sustainable Development" programme is run jointly with the UNDP.

UNDP

The UNDP has shown a clear commitment to the environment and sustainable development, both directly through its own programmes at regional and national level, as well as indirectly by financing specific activities implemented by other agencies within the United Nations system.

UNESCO

UNESCO has a Mediterranean component in all its programmes, such as the MAB and its network of biosphere reserves and the BRIM (biosphere reserves integrated monitoring). The INSULA programme facilitates, *inter alia*, the inter-linkage of Mediterranean biosphere reserves and is developing programmes related to energy issues in the islands. MED-GOOS deals with

data on environmental degradation, climate change and coastal area management. The IOC is actively involved in various of MAP's pollution assessment activities.

UNPF

The UNPF supports work in the region related to child health, the setting up of maternity units, the analysis of factors which determine women's health, access to family planning, making childbirth safer, and combating discriminatory practices towards women.

WHO

Within the MAP framework, the WHO participates directly in MEDPOL activities as well as in the preparation and implementation of the Strategic Actions Programme; other WHO programmes also affect the Mediterranean region, such as *The towns and health programme and the programme for zoonosis control in the Mediterranean*.

WMO

The WMO was able to work with MAP on monitoring, modeling and assessing pollution from the atmosphere in the Mediterranean Sea. It has also contributed to assessing long- term changes to the marine and coastal environment resulting from climate change.

World Bank

The initiatives of the World Bank have targeted five major problems in the region: overuse of water resources; desertification of arable land; uncontrolled urbanisation; air pollution in the most densely populated areas; and threatened marine and coastal resources.

UN and UNEP Regional Commissions/Offices

SUMMARY

MOST ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS FROM THE TASK FORCE REPORT ON THE MCSD ASSESSMENT AND PROSPECTS, ADOPTED BY THE MCSD

1. The MCSD should be a think tank/ high level policy forum for identifying, evaluating and examining major environmental, economic and social issues in the region. The Commission should aim to extend its advise to international and regional agencies and national governments, as well as all the bodies within MAP and civil society.
2. The work of the Commission needs to facilitate the work of the other bodies operating in the Mediterranean, assist them strengthen their contribution to sustainable development and help them meet the need for a more coherent regional approach. Within the context of the overall concern for improving global environmental governance, as evidenced by UNEP's Cartagena agreement on governance and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, MEDU is urged to act as a catalyst and renew initiatives for the establishment of an informal Interagency Platform in the Mediterranean in consultation with the regional offices of agencies active in the region on sustainable development issues.
3. The recommendations of the MCSD should not be restricted to a mere formal approval by the CPs, which have the major responsibility to deliver. The MCSD Secretariat and other MAP bodies, through external resources if necessary, should elaborate on the strategic recommendations, making them more explicit and strengthening them with detailed guidelines.
4. Responsibility to implement remains the concern of all actors and institutions involved. Follow-up responsibility should mainly be entrusted to MEDU. The MCSD Secretariat should assess the implementation and follow up of MCSD recommendations every 3-5 years and report to the meetings of the MCSD and the CPs
5. The MCSD should continue to consist of 36 members, with 15 seats allocated for the non-governmental sectors, but introducing flexibility in their allocation. At any one time, there should not be more than 6 or less than 2 persons from any of the above sectors. A maximum of 3 additional seats need to be allocated to intergovernmental organizations. To each session, 2-3 ad hoc members could be invited, having special competence in the matters included in the agenda of a meeting.
6. The Commission will hold ordinary meetings once every year, to last for three days and consider a limited number of issues each time. The practice of holding meetings in various countries will be maintained, but proposals to host such meetings should be accompanied by a substantial contribution of the host country towards the logistics of the meeting.
7. The reasons that restrict the effective and active participation of some groups will be identified and weaknesses rectified, so as to allow all groups take advantage of, and contribute to, the opportunities and challenges offered by the setting up of the MCSD.
8. Representatives of the various agencies to MCSD meetings should be invited not only to MCSD meetings but also, on the basis of the relevance of the issues to their interests, to meetings of Working Groups as well, participating with equality of interaction as stakeholders.
9. Standing Working Groups will be established, focusing on broader issues to be agreed upon, with ad-hoc groups formulated to consider specific ones. International organizations

or leading Mediterranean experts will be brought in the process. Other Centres outside MAP also operating in the Mediterranean will be appropriately involved.

10. An 3-member committee, comprised of the Chair and the 2 Vice-Chairs of a concluding Session, should hold office for the intersessional period, to decide, liaise with, and advise the Secretariat on important issues that might arise. The MAP Coordinator should assume the responsibility to keep the whole process within the policy and strategic aspects of the issues.
11. Every effort will be exerted to establish connections with the Johannesburg Type II initiatives which are of special interest to the Mediterranean. The Commission will also strongly encourage its members to develop additional partnership initiatives guided by the 'Bali criteria' for the WSSD Partnerships.
12. A sequential, evolutionary, process of establishing an MCSD Secretariat is proposed. Initially (2004) one new professional with necessary support needs to be appointed in MEDU for full time MCSD secretariat work. This to be followed (2005-2006) with the setting up of a more dedicated, identifiable, secretariat unit, estimated to require not less than 4 professionals (2 for the MCSD Secretariat, to be covered by MAP budget and 3 to be seconded to support centres by countries/partners), with necessary support and relevant operational budget. The feasibility of establishing, by 2007, within the MAP system, a full-fledged MCSD Secretariat, needs to be further explored, including the ascertaining of any interest by potential host country/ municipality/funding partners. This Secretariat would be solely devoted to the MCSD and sustainable development and, even though within the MAP framework, it would be for the whole Mediterranean. The Secretariat could be physically located either in MEDU, in Athens, or elsewhere, if a country and/ or municipality accept to host it.
13. In addition to its current functions/mandate, MEDU should oversee the Secretariat's activities and ensure their coordination with those of the RACs, and act whenever there is a need for a determination as to whether there are overlaps in activities.
14. A clear distinction should be maintained between the functions of the MCSD Secretariat (coordination, policy and strategic issues, etc.) and the function of the RAC support centres (basically for "thematic issues" and related activities including some kind of follow up).
15. All RACs are encouraged to refocus their programmes towards more sustainable development issues, act as Support Centres for the scientific and technical aspects of the MCSD's "thematic" activities and continue to facilitate the MCSD and its groups.
16. The potentials offered by current manpower resources and relevant arrangements within MEDU should be fully utilized, with outside professional advice if necessary, in order to give greater visibility not only to the MCSD but to MAP itself, as an integral part of a structured communications strategy.
17. In the MAP's Budget, there should be a separate budget line for the Commission, including all the activities of MEDU and the RAC's related to sustainable development. A fund-raising strategy should be developed, as an indispensable ingredient of the other strategies developed under MAP auspices.
18. In its 2004 Session, the Commission will adopt a Programme of Work for the period 2005-2015, based on the priorities of a variety of relevant global and regional initiatives, as they relate to the Mediterranean specificities.

ANNEX VIII

MEMBERS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE MCSD

1ST MCSD (1996)

President: MOROCCO
Vice President: ASCAME
Vice President : CREE
Vice President : CROATIA
Vice President : EGYPT
Vice President : EC
Vice President : TUNISIA
Rapporteur : ECOMEDITERRANEA

6th MCSD (2000)

President : MONACO
Vice President : TUNISIA
Vice President : MALTA
Vice President : GREECE
Vice President : EOAEN
Vice President : ENDA
Rapporteur: NAPLES

4th MCSD (1998)

President : TUNISIA
Vice President : EOAEN
Vice President : CYPRUS
Vice President : MIO-ECSDE
Vice President : SILIFKE
Vice President : SPAIN
Rapporteur : MONACO

7th MCSD (2002)

President: TURKEY
Vice President: MONACO
Vice President: ALGERIA
Vice President: SPAIN
Vice President: CALVIA
Vice President: MEDENER
Rapporteur: ENDA

5TH MCSD (1999)

President : TUNISIA
Vice President : EOAEN
Vice President : ROME
Vice President : MALTA
Vice President : MONACO
Vice President : TURKEY
Rapporteur : WWF