

5. INSTITUTIONAL STATUS OF THE RACS

As acknowledged during the Bureau meeting held in Slovenia on 6-7 April 2006 (see document UNEP/BUR 64/4) the status of the RACs at present is highly varied, ranging from the United Nations official status of REMPEC to the status of national agency/body of CP/RAC, INFO/RAC and SPA/RAC, to the “embedded” MAP status of MED POL and to the almost NGO status of BP/RAC.

It was recognized that such diversity poses serious obstacles to fully functional and harmonized coordination among the Secretariat and MAP components.

The homogenization/harmonization of the institutional status of the RACs (including MED POL), along with a clarification of their specific roles in the process of implementation of the Barcelona Convention is therefore a priority.

This in fact represents a crucial prerequisite for a fully functional and consolidated system of good governance for MAP.

In this context, transforming the RACs into international centres outside the UN system might be appropriate.