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XII. Agenda Items 8.5, 9.5: INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

53. The Meeting considered the institutional and financial implications of the Blue Plan and of the Priority Actions Programme in the light of Governing Council decision 50 (IV) "requesting the Executive Director further to develop work in the Mediterranean ... while taking steps towards the progressive transfer of executive responsibility to the Governments of the region".

54. The Meeting took note of the Executive Director's intention to discuss with the two Governments which had formally offered to contribute to the objectives of the Integrated Planning chapter adopted at Barcelona I by hosting and supporting such sub-units as he may decide to establish for the purpose of initiating activities relevant to this chapter. The Meeting welcomed these offers by France and Yugoslavia, which make it possible to carry out a useful experiment in the further strengthening of functional capabilities in the coastal regions of the Mediterranean Sea. Besides the two sub-units to be established in France and Yugoslavia, the Meeting felt that in order to achieve an equitable geographical distribution of institutions among the countries of the region, a sub-unit should be created in the countries of the southern Mediterranean. The Meeting requested the Executive Director to seek such further authority from the UNEP Governing Council as he may need to initiate activities in the Blue Plan and Priority Actions Programme within the context of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

55. The Meeting requested the Executive Director to inform the Mediterranean Governments of the status of these activities at the forthcoming Monaco meeting

(28 November 1977), where all aspects of the Mediterranean Action Plan will be reviewed. With regard to the future structure at the international level for the Integrated Planning chapter, the Meeting requested the Executive Director to assess the experimental phase and prepare recommendations for consideration at a further meeting in late 1978, so that Governments may then decide on such further arrangements as may then appear desirable.

56. The importance of national focal points was made clear and it was agreed that each Government which had not yet done so would attempt by 29 April 1977 to inform UNEP of the name, title and address of the office which it designates to serve as a

focal point for activities relevant to both the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme. It would be most helpful if these could be located in or attached to the appropriate ministerial or inter-ministerial organ in each government institutional structure, and could effectively carry co-ordination responsibilities for this programme between the national administrations and agencies involved in its implementation as well as co-ordination with other international organizations with similar objects. This office should normally be represented at intergovernmental meetings dealing with the Integrated Planning chapter, and is encouraged to correspond either directly with other national focal points (with copies if possible to UNEP) or indirectly through UNEP.

57. The indicative budget covering the first phase (1977-1978) of the Blue Plan (UNEP/IG.5/5, annex II) and the accompanying calendar of work (UNEP/IG.5/5, annex I) were considered. The total cost of \$1,490,000 was agreed to with the understanding that the breakdown was very tentative and would be developed with greater precision taking into account views expressed.

58. The sharing of costs among the international organizations (50 per cent) and the Mediterranean countries (50 per cent) was also accepted in the light of the clarifications provided by the representative of UNDP, who confirmed UNDP's willingness to act promptly on any request from a Government or group of Governments for the utilization of funds placed at their disposal by UNDP. In view of the method of operation of UNDP and the specialized agencies it is not possible to provide a definite figure or percentage in advance.

59. Since the activities under the Priority Actions Programme could not be defined with greater precision at this meeting, but require further development at the expert level, no estimate of costs is yet possible. Nonetheless the Meeting noted UNEP's willingness to bear its share once the resources necessary to carry out these activities have been mobilized. The Meeting welcomed the offer of Yugoslavia to join the Executive Director in his search for the resources required for the implementation of the PAP and requested him to take into account the views expressed in the Yugoslav paper in this matter.

60. The revised scale of assessments (UNEP/IG.5/6/Rev.1), which is merely a conversion of the current United Nations scale of assessments to apply to the 13 coastal States of the Mediterranean region, was generally accepted (except by one country) as an approximate basis for sharing costs of the Blue Plan among Mediterranean States, but one which should be treated with flexibility since it does not necessarily reflect those States' relative interest in or potential contributions to the Blue Plan. States were requested to consider making higher contributions, and one country indicated that it would consider contributing on a voluntary basis more than requested. The same country invited contributions to be made in cash, rather than in kind, so as to ensure that the best possible expertise was available to the Blue Plan activities.

61. The question how the various contributions from member States are co-ordinated within the Blue Plan was considered and will be brought before the Governing Council at its fifth session. The following delegations indicated the intention of their Governments to contribute at the approximate levels indicated, on condition that the general scheme of expenditures mentioned in paragraph 57 is respected: Algeria, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The remaining delegations

agreed to request their Governments to inform the Executive Director not later than Friday, 29 April 1977, before the next session of the UNEP Governing Council, about their willingness to contribute to the cost of the Blue Plan.

62. Initiation of Blue Plan activities will be subject to the availability of the required resources, preferably in cash, or in a form which will contribute to the agreed objectives of the project.

63. The Priority Actions Programme will be developed within the fields identified by the Meeting. PAP will involve on-going activities, supported by UNDP and others and executed by the specialized agencies, which could be adapted for Mediterranean purposes by providing additional facilities for training, observation, study tours and exchange of information. The additional elements or new activities may be financed by UNDP from the countries' Indicative Planning Figures, through the regional planning figure for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, co-operative programmes, multilateral, bilateral and cost-sharing projects. In addition these actions can be carried out as indirect or concerted actions using procedures developed in other international organizations and institutions.

64. Several activities financed by the Fund of UNEP may provide limited support for fellowships and study travel and other sources of financial support should be sought.

65. In the field of information exchange to serve both the Blue Plan and the Priority Action Programme, UNEP/IRS together with National Focal Points should play useful roles.

66. It was agreed that training in connexion with Integrated Planning or with the operation of National Focal Points could usefully be provided, particularly by those with experience in these fields who are prepared to make it available to others on request either directly or through UNEP.