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## MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Rabat, Morocco, 5-6 May 2010

### REPORT

#### OF THE MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND THE COASTAL REGION OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND ITS PROTOCOLS



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Report

Annex I: List of participants

Annex II. Agenda

Annex III: Decisions



## Introduction

1. At the invitation of the Government of Morocco, the 70<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols was held on 5 and 6 May 2010 at the Golden Tulip Farah Hotel in Rabat, Morocco.

## Participation

2. The following members of the Bureau and advisers attended the meeting: Mr Mohamed Benyahia (Morocco), Ms Marijana Mance-Kowalsky (Croatia), Ms Mawaheb Abu-Elazm (Egypt), Mr Ilias Mavroidis (Greece), Ms Ayelet Rosen (Israel) and Mr Oliviero Montanaro (Italy), Ms Fatiha El Mahdaoui and Mr Rachid Firadi (Morocco) and Ms Heba Sharawy (Egypt).

3. UNEP and the MAP Coordinating Unit were represented by Ms Maria Luisa Silva Meijas, Officer-in-Charge and Deputy Coordinator of MAP and Ms Tatjana Hema, MAP Programme Officer.

4. The list of participants is attached as **Annex I** to this report.

## **Agenda item 1:      Opening of the meeting**

5. The President of the Bureau, Mr Mohamed Benyahia, Director of Communication and Cooperation Partnership, Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco, opened the meeting, warmly welcomed the participants and thanked the Secretariat for making all necessary preparations for the present meeting. In his opening speech, he highlighted a number of important recent developments and activities in Morocco such as the process for preparing the national Environment and Sustainable Development Chart through a process of consultation with regional and local authorities, and all other stakeholders: civil society, media, academic and scientific community and private sector. He also briefed the meeting regarding the celebration in Morocco of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth day, an event that gathered together, for almost one week, civil society and the governmental sector. Such celebrations were concluded through commitment and establishment of partnerships among different stakeholders including the socio-economic actors for projects on renewable energies, CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction through gas generation from the landfill in Rabat etc. All this work demonstrates the commitment of Morocco with regard to the environment also as a contribution to the environmental protection at the regional level. The President continued his opening speech by pointing out the expected outcome of this Bureau meeting, in particular the guidance to the Secretariat on the proposed roadmaps for different processes in view of implementing the MAP programme of work. In particular, he emphasised the commitment of Morocco, newly elected as member of the Compliance Committee in Marrakesh, to contribute to the successful implementation of its programme of work over the biennium, thus facilitating the work of the Contracting Parties to achieve compliance with the obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and principles of sustainable development.

6. Ms Silva Meijas, Officer-in-charge and Deputy Coordinator of MAP, thanking, on behalf of the Secretariat, the Ministry of Energy, Mines, Water and Environment for hosting in Rabat the first Bureau meeting since the 16<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties in Marrakesh and their hospitality and their efforts in supporting meeting preparations, pointed out the main directions of the work of the Secretariat since Marrakesh in terms of planning, organizing and strategizing key priorities in particular in the field of MAP Governance and establishing the necessary partnerships that would allow MAP to advance as much as possible in the implementation of its programme of work, including the Marrakesh Declaration. In the views of the Secretariat, the purpose of this Bureau meeting was two-fold: to report on progress

achieved and seek Bureau guidance on several issues that would enable the Secretariat to strategize its work, launch key priority outputs and focus on their deliverables.

**Agenda item 2: Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work**

7. The meeting adopted the agenda and annotated agenda contained in documents UNEP/BUR/70/1 and 2. The agenda is attached as **Annex II** to the present report.

**Agenda item 3: Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period November 2009 – March 2010**

8. The meeting examined the Progress Report (UNEP/BUR/70/3) section by section.

**Governance**

*1. Legal issues*

9. Ms Silva, reviewing the information contained in the progress report UNEP/BUR/70/3, highlighted the importance that the Secretariat attached to ratification process and emphasized the progress achieved with regard to the increased number of parties for which the new and revised MAP legal instruments were already in force. In particular, she informed the meeting of the likely universal ratification of the Barcelona Convention because of Bosnia-Herzegovina/one Contracting Party's announcement regarding the ratification of all MAP revised and new legal instruments that is expected to be finalized soon. As a result, the Offshore and Dumping Protocols, needing only one additional ratification/acceptance, may also enter into force at the same time. The ICZM Protocol for which the process of ratification was at an advanced stage which means that if those processes are finalized as reported, this Protocol may enter into force by the end of this year.

10. During discussions, several issues were raised. With reference to MAP reporting system, it was requested that INFO/RAC should make the online reporting system more user friendly. Bureau members highlighted the necessity and importance of having the online reporting system operational as soon as possible with the view to facilitating the Contracting Parties work for uploading their reports on measures taken during 2008-2009 biennium to implement the Convention and its Protocols.

11. Responding to a question regarding the work of the Compliance Committee, Ms Silva clarified that the meeting was scheduled early 2011 in order to enable the Committee to address issues arisen from 2008-2009 reporting cycle, the implementation of which was foreseen during the second six months of 2010, thus ensuring that the Compliance Committee focuses mainly on substantial matters.

12. Mr Benyahia while indicating that the ratification process of the ICZM Protocol was close to its finalization in Morocco, in his capacity as the President of the Bureau thanked those Contracting Parties that have advanced ratification process urging all the other Contracting Parties to make progress with a view to achieving the universal ratification of the Barcelona Convention and in particular the entry into force of the ICZM Protocol and of the 1995 amendments to the Dumping Protocol.

*2. Coordination and cooperation*

13. Introducing this subject, Ms Silva pointed out that during the period under reporting, the Secretariat's work was focused on enhancing internal governance by inducing a very intense planning and distribution of responsibilities among RACs judicating for the smooth

implementation of the programme of work and advancing the RAC country agreement process in consultation with UNEP, Bureau and the respective Contracting Parties. On the external side, the work was focused on enhancing cooperation with 11 partners for UNEP/MAP GEF Strategic Partnership LME project, in particular the relationship with World Bank regarding the investment component; cooperation with EC and EEA, in the context of implementing H2020 initiative and the joint UNEP/MAP EC work programme. She reported that discussions were ongoing with the EC on ways and means to ensuring synergy, in particular with regard to the projects implemented in the framework of H2020 initiative, (MESHIP, SEIS and Capacity Building) as well as the coordination component of UNEP/MAP GEF SP LME project. An idea under discussion was the possibility to implement a common replication strategy for the investment and capacity building components of these projects.

14. Pending further and more in-depth discussion on this matter under Agenda item 4 during next sessions, Bureau members noted that synergy and close coordination with regional actors is key to achieve success and effectiveness. Bureau members congratulated the Secretariat for all efforts made during such a short period of time, in particular for cooperating closely with the EC on several issues of importance and the EEA, and advised that the work for the shared information system should be closely linked to INFO MAP.

15. The Secretariat was advised to follow up closely the recent developments of environmental regional governance in the Mediterranean including other fora such as Adriatic and Ionian initiatives, 5+5 meetings, etc. Such evolving developments should be updated and followed in a careful manner.

### *3. Financial, personnel and administrative matters*

16. Ms Silva reviewed the information contained in the progress report on the status of contribution pointing out that the amounts already deposited were higher than those received by the same month during the previous biennium. A larger number of Contracting Parties had already paid their ordinary contributions for 2010. She also informed the Bureau on some effective cost cutting and greening measures by the Secretariat in view of implementing the decision of the 16th Contracting Parties meeting on the programme budget 2010-2011. Information on vacant posts at the Coordinating Unit and two RACs, including consultants recruited by them with a view to enhancing the implementation of programme of work, was also provided.

17. Several issues were raised during discussions in particular with respect to the collection of the arrears, vacant posts and hiring of consultants.

18. The meeting appreciated the work of the Secretariat in undertaking cost-cutting measures. It was requested that all MAP components do so without delay: implement in particular the CP/RAC audit measures and ISO certification as done by Blue Plan.

19. Mr Oliviero Montanaro (Italy) informed the Bureau members that ISPRA, the Italian Institute hosting INFO/RAC, is under reorganization and all measures will be taken to organize INFO/RAC as an autonomous structure within ISPRA. Bureau members appreciating the legal steps taken by the Government of Italy in respect of INFO/RAC, emphasized that apart from information/knowledge management component, INFO/RAC should focus its work on communication such as children education.

20. With reference to vacant posts in the Coordinating Unit and other RACs, several Bureau members pointed out the need to fill them on an urgent basis. With regard to the PAP/ RAC Director vacant post, Ms Mance (Croatia) informed the meeting that the current Steering Committee of PAP/RAC confirmed Mr. Marko Prem as director ad interim and that the process is expected to advance pending the renewal of the Centre's Steering Committee.

21. Highlighting the strategic importance and the necessity of having the MAP Coordinator's post filled as quickly as possible and within 2010, several Bureau members shared some concerns with regard to the delays and procedures followed for the recruitment of the post during the first round vacancy announcement process and why Contracting Parties through the Bureau were not informed, neither on the short list selected nor consulted prior to deciding that no candidate would be recommended for the post. The Bureau firmly requested to be informed in real time of the outcome of every step of the recruitment process once the deadline for receiving applications was over on 21 May 2010.

22. Mr Mavroidis (Greece) informed the meeting regarding a communication on this matter to UNEP Executive Director by Ms Tina Birbili, Minister of Environment, Energy and Climate Change and copied to Bureau members, the intention of which was to highlight MAP importance and the urgent need to expedite the Coordinator recruitment.

23. Acknowledging the urgency and the political relevance of the matter, concluding the discussions on this topic, the President requested UNEP to inform the Bureau in real time of the outcome of every single step of the recruitment process and make every effort to accelerate it with a view to having the MAP Coordinator on board and fully involved and operational well in advance of the 17<sup>th</sup> Contracting Parties meeting.

24. With reference to consultants, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to use a coherent and wide approach in view of assessing and timely planning its consultancy needs, building up a permanent roster of experts as well as establishing a quality control procedure of their work.

25. Reviewing and taking note of the information provided in the tables to the progress report with regard to progress achieved in the implementation of 2010-2011 Programme of work for the 6 themes, Bureau members made some suggestions. With regard to climate change, it was suggested to ensure a better linkage with other processes such as UfM Mediterranean Water Strategy. It was also requested to emphasize the need to prioritize the work on ICZM theme with a view to preparing an operational strategy to guide the implementation of the ICZM Protocol.

**Agenda item 4: Report by the Secretariat on Specific issues**

**Implementation of Programme of Work 2010-2011 in relation to the Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work**

26. Ms Silva, introducing the report by the Secretariat on Specific Issues, document UNEP/BUR/70/4, provided explanations on the rationale behind the proposals contained with regard to priority planning, the role of lead components for different outputs of MAP Programme of work, proposed calendar of meetings and progress reporting template, including an indicative and concise list of key activities as priority actions for the forthcoming months.

27. Following discussions, the Bureau agreed with the Secretariat proposals and the approach followed on all matters addressed and made several suggestions. It was proposed to build up a MAP cross-cutting output matrix with a view to a better understanding of who does what in MAP Secretariat (Coordinating Unit and Components) for each theme.

28. With reference to 6-month Progress Reporting Format on the implementation of the Programme of Work, the Bureau requested the Secretariat to strengthen the narrative part of the template in the form of an executive summary, thus providing information and a strategic



vision on issues related to implementation, difficulties occurred, issues at stake, reasons for delaying or lack of implementation, if any etc. It was recommended that the report on specific issues should be future oriented and focused on matters of importance for the forthcoming period. In addition, preparation of a summary of accomplished outputs would also be a very good tool to track and project progress.

29. It was also suggested that the stocktaking ICZM exercise should be highlighted as key priority action and coordinated with the similar exercise in the framework of the EU ICZM recommendations implementation, in order to avoid responding to different questionnaires. In addition, it was requested to further work on linking climate change with ICZM. The Secretariat informed the meeting that at the next Bureau meeting it would share a position paper on that subject currently under preparation by PAP/RAC.

30. The Bureau agreed that the resource mobilization plan and preparation of the new programming cycle be given priority attention in the forthcoming period and included in the agenda of the next Bureau meeting in order to speed up resource mobilization efforts for unfunded and most urgent priorities. In addition, the Bureau also requested the Secretariat to develop a strategic approach with regard to the re-allocation of unspent funds for implementing priority outputs for consideration and decision by the Bureau.

31. Following discussion on key priorities during the forthcoming 6 months, Ms Silva clarified that the Secretariat was aware of the gaps in terms of funding and instead of developing a very comprehensive document, which would have taken very long time and due to the financial crisis affecting the Mediterranean countries, had targeted some resource mobilization. Therefore, the Secretariat was in discussion to get some resources for the MCSD, for the ecosystems approach and also for climate change adaptation. After the holiday period, the Secretariat would engage into developing a full fledged strategy which would not only cover the short term, but the full five-year programme of work.

32. The Bureau endorsed the back-to-back meeting approach as an effective tool, provided that overlapping is avoided in order for the Contracting Parties to nominate the same expert attending such meetings as appropriate, with a view to reducing costs.

#### *Draft Template Country Agreement for MAP Regional Activity Centres*

33. Ms Silva presented the process for finalizing the Country Agreement template, in coordination with UNEP and consultation with the Bureau, pointing out in particular its added value. Referring to an organigramme distributed to the Bureau members that in a simplified manner showed the institutional setup of RACs management including the relevant technical and management bodies, she considered the establishment of a Steering Committee as an important mechanism to ensure the necessary dialogue with the respective governments with regard to RAC performance and work.

34. During discussions several issues were raised. Generally agreeing with the content of the template communicated to the RAC hosting countries by the Secretariat, the Bureau made some proposals indicating above all that RACs should be given functional autonomy for the purpose of implementing the programme of work. The need for flexibility in order to accommodate the specificities of respective countries during the national customizing of RAC agreement template was strongly recommended.

35. Emphasis was placed on the need to ensure that the Steering Committee mandate would be drafted in a way that should avoid any confusion regarding the role of RAC Director for implementing the MAP programme of work and the ECP coordinating mechanisms at the Secretariat level. Some Bureau members suggested that the number of country representatives at the Steering Committee should be larger; the differences between RAC

national and international personnel and the nationality of RAC directors should be better clarified so as to leave no room for any misinterpretation. Discussions were also held on whether the Country Agreement should refer to a mechanism for using MTF resources as a contribution to the running of the RACs, thus leaving the Contracting Parties meeting to decide on concrete figures. It was reported that for some RACs, Steering Committees and or management boards or advisory boards were already in place as very useful and effective structures. In some cases the mandate of such boards already includes the appointment of RAC Director in consultation with the MAP Coordinating Unit.

36. Following discussions, the Bureau highlighted as a major importance the need to identify a number of key and principal elements for the functioning of RACs equal and common to all of them *inter alia* that the director should have the necessary qualifications for the post and be a national of the host country; the Coordinating Unit be a permanent Steering Committee member, the RACs should have functional autonomy in order to effectively discharge their regional role, etc.

37. The President clarified that the RACs, in spite of being national institutions, need to conform to a set of agreed common indispensable elements a sort of a common standards for all the RACs in order to be part of UNEP/MAP so as to ensure equality and uniformity, and allow RACs to play effectively their regional role. With regard to other issues referred to in the draft template RAC agreement, the President advised to leave them at the discretion of the Host country and UNEP/MAP Secretariat for mutual negotiation based on both legal situations and the established RAC management bodies.

38. The Bureau agreed that the Secretariat should further work on precisely defining the common standards based on the orientations and current discussions of the Bureau on this matter and submit them for the consideration of the meeting of the Bureau during the adoption session the next day of the present Bureau meeting.

#### Information Communication Strategy

39. Referring to Chapter 4 of the Report on Specific Issues UNEP BUR 70/4 - Addendum 1, Ms Silva indicated that as mandated by the Governance Paper, the Secretariat is working to speak with a single voice. She provided information on the participatory process carried out for elaborating the strategy and in this respect, the Secretariat's approach was to focus on developing in the future a strategy that should be based on 3 pillars: a) pass a MAP common message across with a view to clearly brand all components as part of the same organization, b) identify and mobilize strong partners from the civil society and from private sector and c) using a campaign approach with a view to inspire other actors at regional and national levels and public at large around key issues. She shared with the Bureau members some of the preliminary recommendations of the assessment.

40. Following discussions, the Bureau congratulated the Secretariat for the initiative and pointed out the importance of communication as an important tool to enhance MAP objectives, reaching the public and MAP partners. All that could be useful also in terms of mobilizing additional external resources. The Bureau also suggested to prepare targeted actions for different categories of stakeholders: legal, government and large public. It would also imply permanent consultation and update information on the regional organizations cooperation.

#### Implementation of Decision IG 17/6 on Ecosystem Approach

41. Considering the implementation of ecosystem approach as a process aimed at producing concrete results and owned by the Contracting Parties, Ms Silva, introducing the chapter of the document BUR/70/4 on Specific Issues, invited the Bureau to focus the

discussion on three issues: work plan 2010-2011, necessary synergy with relevant processes and Secretariat's proposal for developing the SoE report based on the outcome of assessment steps of ecosystem approach implementation. She also emphasized that more resources and time are needed in order to ensure a proper involvement of the Contracting Parties in this process. In this respect, combining activities with regard to effectiveness indicators with the process of ecosystem approach implementation would allow a more effective use of resources. In addition, the Secretariat is confident that additional support would come from the EC for this purpose.

42. The Bureau addressed in depth the need for ensuring synergies as an opportunity to enhance political attention on marine and coastal issues in the Mediterranean and contribute to implementing coherent approaches so as to avoid useless duplication of efforts and resources. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the EC has established a coordination mechanism that would enable the regional seas to exchange experience and take the lead on different aspects in the implementation of the ecosystem approach.

43. With regard to the work plan, some Bureau members expressed their concern regarding possible discrepancies for implementing decision IG 16/5 of the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Almeria and the EU MSFD. The representative of Greece made some suggestions to correct some paragraphs related to the proposed work plan in the text of the report and some references to targets and indicators and timetable in Annex IV to the report.

44. The representative of Italy requested the Secretariat to undertake activities that would identify potential synergies with EU MSFD to be achieved in the short and long term prospective because it would be very hard for EU member states to run two different processes in parallel on the same issue.

45. With regard to the assessment report on the status of marine environment, some Bureau members requested the Secretariat to make every effort in ensuring the necessary balances among chapters covering pollution and biodiversity, in view of the fact that the MSFD descriptors/indicators and expected ecological objectives would be substantially biodiversity related. Furthermore, the overall assessment for the whole Mediterranean from the different sub regional assessment report needed further discussions and reflection.

46. Finally, the members of the Bureau requested that the prioritization exercise should be first inspired by issues than by areas based on the assessment report outcome. With regard to the timetable for implementing the ecosystem approach roadmap, the Bureau also advised to consider and take into account the necessary synergy to be established with the implementation cycle of the MSFD as appropriate, with the view to further advancing the MAP process and enhancing resources for their effective implementation.

47. Taking the floor, Ms Silva thanked the members of the Bureau for supporting the efforts made so far for implementing ecosystem approach roadmap and explaining the main reasons for which the Secretariat has brought this subject to the attention of the Bureau: to ensure Party ownership, to ensure work resources and to ensure synergies and advance the process, while all technical issues will be addressed in depth by the second meeting of experts of July 2010.

48. Following several interventions, the Bureau advised towards implementing a spirit of coherence and strengthening convergences between both processes and mandated the Secretariat to identify with the support of technical expertise, the necessary synergies for discussion at the July meeting of experts on ecosystem approach, bearing in mind that the Parties cannot afford to undertake different assessment processes and different monitoring programmes.

*Specially Protected Areas of a Mediterranean importance (SPAMI) beyond national jurisdiction*

49. Ms Silva, reviewing chapter 5 of the document BUR/70/4, explained the rationale for asking Bureau's approval for the SPA/RAC to hold its Extraordinary meeting of its Focal points as well as some proposals of the Secretariat with regard to MAP involvement at the CBD Nagaya meeting in October 2010.

50. The Bureau agreed with the proposal with regard to the Extraordinary SPA/RAC's Focal points meeting and had an exchange of views with regard to its expected outcome. In particular, the Bureau addressed ways and means for elaborating a sound legal and institutional approach for establishing SPAMIs in areas beyond national jurisdiction for further discussion by the Bureau and SPA/RAC Focal Points. This approach would help creating a clear vision with regard to SPAMI management and the need to enhance cooperation with other component international organizations for this purpose, in line with MAP Programme of work and Marrakesh Declaration. It was highlighted that the Parties may need time and internal consultation with other Ministries including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs for studying the entire aspects and all legal implications for establishing areas beyond national jurisdiction as SPAMI.

*CBD 2010*

51. The meeting exchanged views on the most effective way of MAP presence and contribution to the CBD 11 Nagaya, taking into account that the Mediterranean has a historical and natural heritage in which one could find, in a small scale, all global concerns, and in a medium scale the north and south cooperation that is absolutely original. Analyzing the three proposed options, stand, side event, conference, the Bureau agreed with the proposal of the Secretariat regarding the stand and organization of a side event at CBD 11 October 2010 in Nagaya Japan and that a statement is made by the President/UNEP/MAP Coordinator to the ministerial session of this meeting. The Bureau agreed on the procedure for preparing such a statement under the guidance of the President.

**Implementation of Marrakesh Declaration**

*Climate change adaptation regional framework*

52. Ms Silva presented the roadmap for preparing the regional framework on adaptation to climate change in the Mediterranean following the Marrakesh Declaration and the 12<sup>th</sup> MCSD meeting.

53. The Bureau agreed on the proposals by the Secretariat including the approach used for preparing the template, advising that the template may be a sort of a framework of principles or action oriented and which should provide clear linkages with other actors and existing regional policy platforms such as ICZM, MSSD, UfM Water Strategy, UNEP/MAP GEF climate variability project, application of ecosystem approach by MAP and MSFD and to focus on marine and coastal zone. The representative of Egypt emphasized the need to keep working on assessing vulnerability to climate change areas within a timeframe, due to the urgency of the matter and serious implications of climate change for the Mediterranean.

54. The Bureau suggested that MAP Focal Points should be contacted by the Secretariat with a view to providing information on actions, programmes, and institutions with regard to adaptation to climate change stock taking paper that is expected to contain information on knowledge networks, existing programmes and organizations.

55. In addition, it was suggested that the national communications in the framework of UNFCCC could be an excellent source of information for preparing the stock taking paper.

56. With regard to necessary resources for developing the regional framework, the Bureau agreed that the Secretariat could use unspent budget funds, emphasizing that in the future, a policy should be established according to which a list of priority activities/actions should be submitted by the Secretariat for Bureau consideration and approval of unspent funds according to established priorities.

### Regional Governance

57. Recalling that in Marrakesh, the Contracting Parties requested the different organizations working in the Mediterranean to establish synergies based on their comparative advantages, Ms Silva shared with the Bureau some reflections made by the Secretariat during the last 6 months on how to best operationalize the implementation of this general statement and commitments for synergy with the view to identifying key areas for and the best modalities of cooperation, in particular with the UfM. Being an important regional actor at strategic and institutional level as well as at project level, in the Secretariat's view, it would be wise and useful to establish the first contact with UfM Secretariat in order to perform this cooperation in a structural manner by participating in its processes for developing policy documents and establish institutional cooperation with regard to projects.

58. Following discussion it was pointed out that UfM worked at the very high political level and at project level while MAP addressed a number of key policy and technical issues on marine and coastal environment and related sustainable development issues at political, legal and institutional levels. In this respect, MAP could lend to UfM its key target and priorities to the highest political agenda of the UfM and could take from the UfM the capacity for mobilizing and bringing additional financial resources and projects in its field of competence and higher political attention to MAP agenda. In spite of difficulties that the UfM is facing, there was a strong support from the Contracting Parties, some of which were holding position in the institutional structure of the UfM, that establishing cooperation is of major importance.

59. Bureau members agreed with the proposed approach for cooperation. Articulating the practical aspects of establishing contacts with UfM to build organic linkages at both political and projects levels was considered as a major importance. A first step to be taken at first hand was to exchange information on projects undertaken in order to avoid overlapping and ensure complementarities. It might be left to MAP to promote projects because of its knowledge of countries' need and priorities, thus promote resource mobilization.

60. In the ensuing discussion, some Bureau members suggested that MAP should liaise with UfM in a prudent manner. Others considered that MAP needs to know UfM priorities with regard to the environment and develop a strategic vision of cooperation with the Union. Another member suggested to wait for the meeting of environmental ministers so as to have a clearer idea on the UfM agenda regarding the environment before embarking into discussion with the UfM Secretariat. The representative of Croatia, regretting that the Dubrovnik ministerial meeting was postponed, emphasized the need for MAP to be present at the ministerial meeting because it was in a position to play a key role, has knowledge, long standing experience with the countries and use should be made of UfM political relevance to enable MAP to bring additional important financial resources to the region and enhance the attention of the political fora.

61. The President, concluding the discussions, pointed out that this was the right time to move from the statement by the Contracting Parties into operationalization of cooperation, to concrete results that would be quite challenging. In addition, although all regional organizations confirmed their will to cooperate with each other, when it came to put the

matter in practice, it became complicated. He recalled that the meeting of the Contracting Parties, in particular the last meeting in Marrakesh, identified the UfM as an important regional process with which MAP should have strong cooperation, complementarity and favour respective synergies. Although UfM was not advancing at the required speed, it was important that at least, at the level of projects, an organic and fully operational link be established, MAP having a lot to offer, taking into account its longstanding 35-year experience and the institutional and human network with regard to different projects. UfM being a major actor, MAP should establish links at operational, technical and strategic levels in order to play its role and enhance its visibility. Although, at the beginning, the cooperation may not be effective in terms of achieving concrete results, it is important to initiate contacts and create long term prospective. This will be beneficial for UfM, MAP itself and above all for the people of the Mediterranean.

62. Ms Silva, again taking the floor, introduced another EU led initiative on integrated maritime policy, a process that has been followed carefully by MAP. A stock taking exercise was undertaken with regard to integrated maritime policy with a view to identifying governance opportunities, including the current regional structures for enhancing regional cooperation in this field.

63. Bureau members pointed out the necessary linkages to be established between both the EU MFSD and EU Integrated Maritime Policy. The representative of Italy suggested that in addition to the addressed field of cooperation with the EC, namely ecosystem approach, integrated maritime policy, H2020, three other topics were very important: ICZM, EU Water Framework Directive and LBS Protocol.

#### MCSD/MSSD assessment

64. Introducing this agenda sub item, Ms Silva explained the mandate to assess the MSSD implementation in 2010. She added that the ToR of the assessment were revised to make sure that they took into consideration the evolving situation of the Mediterranean and the new actors. The Steering Committee of the MCSD has been consulted and the ToR have been agreed. The Secretariat has prepared a detailed work plan including a timeline of around seven months. The revision of the composition of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, which is the other mandate that was pending, had to wait until the assessment was done because the assessment would provide some direction and ideas as to how the MCSD should be working in the future. Therefore, the Secretariat asked the Bureau to share their views on the ToR for the assessment and the process, the roadmap that is foreseen for having the assessment done with a view to assist the Secretariat in future discussions on considering the MCSD as a platform to which it can span environmental concerns into other sectorial policies.

65. The representative of Greece, as a member of the Steering Committee of the MCSD, informed the meeting that his country was involved in this process and very pleased with the results.

66. The Bureau requested that besides the process to review the mandate and the structure of MCSD, an effort to use savings should be made to link the activity of the MCSD to the updating of the strategic 5-year indicative project and the biannual Programme of Work for the next conference of the Parties because the work of the MCSD should influence the final mechanism of the preparation of the Programme of Work. With regard to funds requested, the Bureau agreed with the request of the Secretariat to use savings to support MCSD activities, but in the future there is a need to have clear information on figures in terms of savings.

67. Responding to the concern on the gap between the expected finalization of the MSSD assessment process, February 2011 and the MCSD meeting in May 2011, Ms Silva clarified that all efforts are being made to secure the necessary funds to start a serious and a very solid consultation process on the assessment outcome with a particular focus and on the new/revised priorities for the MCSD.

Legally binding measures and programmes to combat pollution

68. Introducing the sub item, Ms Tatjana Hema, MAP Programme Officer, recalled the decision taken in Marrakesh on the development of another set of legally-binding measures on Mercury, on food industry and a number of POPs. She informed the Bureau that the work has already started and the Secretariat would like to share with the Bureau its views regarding the process, taking into account the important role the Contracting Parties should play in the development of such a mechanism, not only on implementing the legally-binding measures but also in their formulation.

69. In view of several assessment processes taking place in MAP during this year, the members of the Bureau requested the Secretariat to make all these activities more synergetic in order to avoid overlapping and excessive burden for the countries. Assessments undertaken on the global level and other regional levels as the one on Mercury, should take into account the need for synergy and coherence, otherwise the Contracting Parties would have to submit information on the same matter to three different processes. The Bureau also pointed out that the timeline with regard to assessment on Mercury was tighter compared to the global process timeframe undertaken in the framework of UNEP Governing Council decision in 2010.

70. Concluding the discussions, the President requested that such matters are given priority by the Secretariat to coordinate with the other organizations in order to avoid duplication of efforts and unnecessary burden to the countries.

Med Globallast Strategy

71. Ms Silva introducing this Agenda sub-item, referred to the last Contracting Parties meeting decision on the elaboration of Globallast Strategy, the process of which is supported by a global project, which is implemented by the Global Environmental Facility, UNDP and IMO. The Mediterranean is one of the key regions under this project. REMPEC has undertaken some activities to advance the elaboration of that strategy through the UNEP/MAP system. REMPEC would be interested to have the Bureau's support in encouraging the Contracting Parties in to do their utmost to attend the meetings of the Task Force that has been created to finalize the regional strategy currently under development. As such, it would ensure a great degree of ownership and participation before submission to the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties in November 2011.

72. The Bureau agreed with the proposed recommendations and exchanged some views regarding the ratification and implementation of Ballast Water Management Convention since the ballast water problem is an issue of high priority for the environment biodiversity in the Mediterranean.

73. Some Bureau members confirmed that they are close to ratification of the Convention and expressed their support of all the activities that were undertaken in the context of Ballast Water Management Convention, believing that the attendance at the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting under REMPEC is of high importance and therefore encouraged all Parties to take an active part, highlighting in particular their strong support to the establishment of the national legal task

forces, cross-cutting committees which substantially facilitate the work towards the ratification and implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention.

74. There were a number of operational elements, namely the guidelines being implemented by IMO that should be taken into account. As such, Italy would propose to focus the meeting that will be held in June 2010 in Turkey, on the operational part of this Convention namely the customization in the Mediterranean of the guidelines so as to strengthen the common work with IMO. Italy was preparing a project to establish a standard post monitoring system to check the implementation of Ballast Water Management Convention and to control the capacity of ships to discharge water in ports. He confirmed that soon, as this project would be completed, its outcome would be put at the disposal of all Contracting Parties for replication purposes, as appropriate.

**Agenda item 5: Any other business**

75. At the kind invitation of Ms Mance, it was decided that the next meeting of the Bureau would be held in Zagreb, Croatia in December 2010.

**Agenda item 6: Conclusions and decisions**

76. The Bureau reviewed a set of conclusions and decisions prepared by the Secretariat that were adopted as amended by the Bureau. The list of conclusions and decisions are contained in **Annex III** to this report.

**Agenda item 7: Closure of the meeting**

77. Following the usual exchange of courtesies, the President closed the meeting at 1.00 p.m. on Thursday 6 May 2010.



## ANNEX I

## LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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## ANNEX II

### AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the Provisional Agenda and organization of work
3. Progress Report by the Secretariat on activities carried out during the period November 2009 – March 2010
4. Specific issues
  - 4.1 UNEP/MAP Governance
    - a) *Implementation of Programme of Work 2010-2011 in relation to the Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work*
      - Calendar of major MAP meetings
      - Priorities 2010-2011
    - b) *Draft Country Agreement template for Regional Activity Centers*
    - c) *Information Communication Assessment: sharing first results*
  - 4.2 Implementation of decision IG 17/6 on Ecosystem Approach (ECAP)
  - 4.3 Biodiversity
    - a) *SPAMI beyond national jurisdiction*
    - b) *CBD 2010*
  - 4.4 Implementation of Marrakech Declaration
    - a) *Climate change adaptation planning process*
    - b) *Regional Governance*
    - c) *MCSD/MSSD assessment*
  - 4.5 Legally binding Measures and programmes to combat pollution
  - 4.6 Med Globallast Strategy
5. Any other business
6. Conclusions and decisions
7. Closure of the meeting



## ANNEX III

### Conclusions and decisions

#### **1. *Entry into force of MAP legal instruments***

The Bureau acknowledging the important progress achieved by the Contracting Parties with regard to ratification of the Convention and its Protocols called upon those Contracting Parties that have not yet done so to accelerate ratification and/or acceptance procedures, in particular the ICZM Protocol, with the view to making the MAP legal basis fully effective.

#### **2. *Reporting 2008-2009***

1. The Bureau called upon the Contracting Parties to submit on time their reports on measures taken during the 2008-2009 biennium for implementing the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols as well as the relevant decisions of the Contracting Parties.
2. The Bureau requested the INFO/RAC and Coordinating Unit to make every effort for having the MAP reporting format on line, in a user-friendly manner and as soon as possible and provide any technical assistance to the Contracting Parties upon request.

#### **3. *Implementation of Programme of Work 2010-2011 in relation to the Five-Year Strategic Programme of Work***

1. The Bureau agreed with measures taken to advance in the coherent implementation of the Programme of Work, in particular the identification for timeline and budgetary purposes of core system-wide priorities (Appendix 1) and requested Blue Plan to follow the same approach; and, on the clarification of which UNEP/MAP components have leadership responsibility for delivering of outputs.
2. The Bureau approved the progress monitoring and reporting template as proposed by the Secretariat, and suggested to strengthen the narrative part so as to have a more in-depth explanation on outputs, results and difficulties encountered during implementation.
3. The Bureau approved the proposed key MAP meetings calendar as presented in Appendix 2, subject to adjustment as appropriate and appreciated the efforts made to enhance efficiency of the system by holding, to the extent possible, back to back meetings.
4. The Bureau agreed that resource mobilization plan and preparation of the new programming cycle be given priority attention in the forthcoming period and included in the agenda of the next bureau meeting in order to speed up resource mobilization efforts for unfunded most urgent priorities.
5. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to propose a strategic approach with regard to the re-allocation of unspent funds for implementing priority outputs for consideration and decision by the Bureau.

#### **4. *Draft Country Agreement template for Regional Activity Centers***

1. The Bureau highlighted the importance of country agreements and endorsed the process followed by the Coordinating Unit and UNEP for completing them.
2. In the process of customizing the country agreement template to national legal requirements, the Bureau clarified that all country agreements should preserve a set of core common features for ensuring a standard RAC performance. This should include inter alia:
  - All RACs should have the necessary functional autonomy to implement the programme of work and carry out all obligations described in the country agreement which are necessary to preserve their regional role and implementation of Contracting Parties and Bureau meetings decisions as well as UN standards;

- All RACs should include in their governance arrangements a Steering Committee with a mandate as specified in the country agreement, the composition of which should include the Coordinating Unit;
- Selection and appointment procedure for RAC Directors, ensuring their highest professionalism and competence is overseen by the Steering committee of each of the RACs in which a representative of the Coordinating Unit will be a member;
- The management of funds is done in accordance with highest criteria and submission of reports by the independent and reputable audit firms.

#### **5. Information and Communication Strategy**

The Bureau welcomed the progress made in rising UNEP/MAP visibility by developing an information and communication assessment and endorsed the proposed approach for building a strategy around three pillars of unifying the system, mobilizing other actors and inspiring them while undertaking quick win actions and taking into consideration the needs of different categories of stakeholders.

#### **6. Implementation of Decision IG 17/6 on Ecosystem Approach**

1. The Bureau appreciated the re-launching of the ecosystem approach process and engaged in in-depth discussions, making a number of substantive suggestions to the proposed work plan for implementing the ecosystem approach during the biennium.
2. In particular, the Bureau suggested that the assessment report ensures a balance between pollution and biodiversity and includes a chapter on common features of the whole Mediterranean region.
3. The Bureau expressed strong support in ensuring synergies and necessary linkages between the processes for implementing decision IG 17/6 on the ecosystem approach in the framework of MAP and the EU Marine Strategy Directive and requested the Secretariat to address this matter at the July 2010 meeting with the view to identifying the relationships in a concrete manner as possible.
4. The Bureau agreed on the proposal by the Secretariat for preparing the next State of the Environment report linked to the ecosystem approach and peer reviewed through a consultative process.
5. The Bureau approved the use of MTF resources assigned to pilot effectiveness indicators for the purposes of the ecosystem approach implementation.

#### **7. Biodiversity**

1. The Bureau approved the holding of the Extraordinary SPA/RAC focal points meeting the agenda of which should include:
  - sharing the outcome of the first phase of the identification of potential areas that may meet the scientific requirements of Annex I to the SPA Biodiversity Protocol on SPAMIs, including the criteria used by RAC/SPA for this purpose as well as views on implementing the second phase of EC funded SPAMI project;
  - developing an appropriate approach based on the relevant international frame on issues related to the necessary institutional legal setups with regard to the management of SPAMIs beyond national jurisdiction, as well as the necessary linkages with the other UN relevant processes and agencies for this purpose.
2. The Bureau mandated its President, with the support of the Secretariat, to deliver a policy statement at CBD COP on behalf of MAP, with the aim of highlighting the relevance of the Mediterranean in the context of the post 2010 biodiversity strategic plan and vision. The Bureau agreed to establish an e-mail consultation process among its members for the purpose of developing the paper.



3. The Bureau approved that the Secretariat organizes a side event at CBD as a joint effort with the other regional partner organizations in the Mediterranean and also prepare a stand for this purpose.
4. The Bureau invites the Contracting Parties to use the CBD COP as an opportunity to show the progress achieved and challenges encountered by them with regard to marine and coastal biodiversity conservation and protection and implementation of the SPA and Biodiversity Protocol of the Barcelona Convention.
5. The Secretariat should use GIS and remote sensing techniques to map the Mediterranean settlement and environmental specification as a baseline to assess the quality of the Mediterranean sea.

## **8. *Implementation of Marrakesh Declaration***

### **8.1 Climate Change Adaptation**

1. The Bureau agreed on the work plan and the road map for developing the regional framework on adaptation to climate change, highlighting the need to link it to the MSSD and the Mediterranean Water Strategy as well as other regional sectorial strategies such as ICZM and Biodiversity sectors on which UNEP/MAP can provide particular added value.
2. The Bureau agreed to use the balance from existing unspent budget resources for the purposes of strengthening the Secretariat with regard to MSSD and adaptation of climate change tasks.

### **8.2 Regional Governance**

1. The Bureau praised the progress made by the Secretariat in strengthening coordination and establishing synergies with other regional actors and encouraged the Secretariat to continue following up on regional and sub-regional developments with all relevant sectors in the Mediterranean.
2. The Bureau highlighted the importance of ensuring an effective MAP/UfM cooperation for reinforcing the environmental agenda in the Mediterranean and mobilizing additional resources. It mandated the Secretariat to structure its consultations with the Secretariat of the UfM around the five-year and 2-year programmes of work outputs. Cooperation at project level should ensure efficiency and complementarity.
3. The Bureau highlighted the importance of continuing the cooperation with the EU on ecosystem approach/MSFD, H2020, ICZM, Water Framework Directive/LBS Protocol and the EU Integrated maritime policy.
4. The Bureau in particular appreciated the effort in establishing cooperation and synergies with the H2020 initiative and its components, including the cooperation with the EEA for establishing a Mediterranean shared information system in the framework of INFO/MAP.
5. The Bureau encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts in ensuring necessary institutional synergies with the World Bank for implementing UNEP/MAP LME strategic partnership and WB sustainable MED projects and requested that Contracting Parties are consulted with regard to the selection of projects. In this respect, the Bureau also welcomed the suggestion of the Secretariat to explore extending the implementation of the replication strategy to other projects including the capacity building and investment components of the H2020 initiative.

## **9. *MCSO/MSSD***

The Bureau approved the revised ToR for MSSD assessment and the proposed work plan.

**10. Preparation of legally binding plans and programmes as part of the LBS Protocol**

The Bureau took note of the process proposed for developing the legally binding measures for mercury, food industry and POPs, pointing out that, if need be, additional consultations should be undertaken with the view to ensuring a full ownership of the Contracting Parties over the process.

**11. Med Globalast Strategy**

1. The Bureau reiterated the importance of the strategy and encouraged the Contracting Parties to actively contribute to its finalization as well as to establish the necessary multi-stakeholder coordination mechanisms at national level, with a view to mitigating the threats posed to the marine biodiversity by the introduction of invasive species via ships' ballast water and facilitating the ratification, as appropriate, of the Ballast Water Management Convention.

2. The Bureau suggested that the meeting should also focus on the operational part of the Convention and the need for preparing the necessary operational guidelines in cooperation with IMO.

**12. Personnel and administrative matters**

1. The Bureau emphasized the political and strategic importance of having the post of MAP Coordinator filled well in advance of the forthcoming Contracting Parties meeting. The Bureau also requested to be informed in real time on all stages with regard to the recruitment process and its outcome.

2. The Bureau also emphasized the need to accelerate, as per rules and regulations, the recruitment of all other vacant posts at the Coordinating Unit and the RACs and encouraged the Contracting Parties to widely disseminate announcements with a view to promoting selection of best candidates.

3. The Bureau, taking note of the status of contributions to the MTF, called upon the Contracting Parties that have not yet paid their contribution, to do so without any further delay in order to enable smooth and effective implementation of the Programme of Work. In this respect, the Bureau requests the Secretariat to make a particular effort with regard to past arrears.

4. The Bureau appreciating the effort made by the Coordinating Unit and some MAP components with regard to cost-cutting measures, application of audit measures and/or ISO standards as well as improved quality in the preparation of meetings and documents, and requested the Coordinating Unit to coordinate the application of these measures by all MAP components.

5. The Bureau requested the Secretariat to analyze the basis on which MTF funds are allocated per component in close correlation with the results, outputs, activities and actions performed per component, with a view to establishing clear criteria for Bureau and Contracting Parties consideration.

## Appendix 1

### Key wide-system priorities

#### *Coordinating Unit*

- Important progress with regard to the application of ecosystems approach
- Climate change Adaptation framework
- Planning, monitoring and coordinating the Implementation of Programme of Work
- MSSD assessment process and MCSD reform
- Compliance Committee addresses general issues of non-compliance, including an operational reporting system
- Revised country agreement
- Information communication strategy

#### *MED POL*

The key priorities within the very large MEDPOL programme, will be on:

- Providing assistance to the implementation of the legally binding measures adopted in Marrakesh
- Developing new legally binding measures together with CP/RAC
- Publication and Assessment: A major outcome will be a status quality report on marine environment for the 17th Contracting Parties meeting that should build on existing reports
- NAP implementation

#### *REMPEC*

- Globallast strategy for the next COP 2011
- Strengthening of the ports state control capacities
- Establishment of a regional network for automatic identification of ships

#### *BP/RAC*

Programme of Work as scheduled and agreed by the Contracting Parties

#### *PAP/RAC*

Countries efforts to ratify and implement the ICZM Protocol are facilitated through:

- Explanatory guide for the ICZM Protocol
- Stocktaking on ICZM in order to establish the baseline, streamlining with other processes
- CAMP projects

- Special spatial planning systems in the Mediterranean
- GEF project: ICZM plan for Algeria and ICZM transboundary for Albania, Montenegro
- Climate change in the framework of ICZM
- Development of a strategic regional approach for implementing the ICZM Protocol

### *SPA/RAC*

2010 as biodiversity year is influencing the RAC SPA priorities in 4 directions:

- Protection of endangered species with particular focus on two or three species
- Establishment of SPAMIs
- Status of biodiversity in the Mediterranean: 2010 targets A report for the Contracting Parties meeting in 2011
- Communication/awareness: joint presentation with other regional organizations at CBD

### *CP/RAC*

Although the business plan is quite broad the focus will be on six major outputs in the framework of greening the economy:

- Streamlining SCP in national policies Target two Contracting Parties
- Capacity building on NAP sectors (BATs and BEPs)
- Enhance green competitiveness
- Promoting green procurement policies
- Legally binding measures Hg and POPs
- All this through the application of low carbon methodology

### *INFO/RAC*

- Make INFO MAP fully operational
- The on line MAP reporting system and training to enable countries to submit their reports on line by autumn 2010
- Contribute to enhance UNEP/MAP visibility through public awareness activities
- Important outputs in the framework of GEF that could be used by INFO RAC in a sustainable manner for the benefit of all MAP components (e learning model, clearing house etc)
- Work together with different components: CP RAC with communities on sustainable life style; REMPEC to develop tool for real time data and GIS to support emergency cases; to establish RAC SPA info system for protected areas; with PAP RAC Establishment of an ICZM info system

**Appendix 2**  
**KEY MAP MEETINGS PLANNED 2010-2011**

MEETINGS	2010												2011											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
CONTRACTING PARTIES																							1	
BUREAU																								
MAP FOCAL POINTS																								
MCSD																								
MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE																								
RAC FOCAL POINTS																								
EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL (ECP)																								
COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE																								
WORKING GROUP ON LIABILITY & COMPENSATION																								
MSSD: -ASSESSMENT PROCESS, INCLUDING ADAPTATION TO CC																								
CONSULTATION MEETINGS ON EFFECTIVENESS & INDICATORS																								
ECAP MEETINGS																								
GEF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP STEERING COMMITTEE INC. CLIMATE VARIABILITY PROJECT																								
GEF STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP COORDINATION GROUP																								
MEETING ON GLOBALLAST STRATEGY																								
EXTRAORDINARY SPA/RAC MEETING																								
MEETING ON LEGALLY BINDING MEASURES																								

1. Pending negotiations with the Host Country  
2. Held through electronic consultations

3. External resources to be mobilized  
4. Back-to-back with MED POL Focal Points Meeting