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Meeting of the MAP Focal Points

Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-15 September 2023

**Agenda Item 6: Preparation of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 23)**

**Elements of the Provisional Agenda of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties and Preliminary Note on the Theme of the Ministerial Session**

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**Elements of the Provisional Agenda of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties**

## **Provisional Agenda**

### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

### **2. Organizational Matters**

- 2.1. Rules of Procedure
- 2.2. Election of Officers
- 2.3. Adoption of the Agenda
- 2.4. Organization of Work
- 2.5. Verification of Credentials

### **3. Thematic Decisions**

- 3.1. Draft Decision: Compliance and Reporting
- 3.2. Draft Decision: Governance
- 3.3. Draft Decision: The 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and a Renewed Ecosystem Approach Policy in the Mediterranean
- 3.4. Draft Decision: Amendments to Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean
- 3.5. Draft Decision: Specially Protected Areas, Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance and Ecosystem Restoration
- 3.6. Draft Decision: Regional Plan on Agriculture Management in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol
- 3.7. Draft Decision: Regional Plan on Aquaculture Management in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol
- 3.8. Draft Decision: Regional Plan on Stormwater Management in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol
- 3.9. Draft Decision: Updated Guidelines for the Dumping of Inert Uncontaminated Inorganic Geological Materials
- 3.10. Draft Decision: Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean
- 3.11. Draft Decision: Regional Harmonised Procedures for the Uniform Implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Mediterranean Sea
- 3.12. [Draft Decision: Proposal by Türkiye on the Establishment of Regional Activity Centre on Climate Change hosted by Türkiye]
- 3.13. Draft Decision: Assessment Studies: Summary for Policymakers of the MedECC Special Report on Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks

### **4. Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025**

**5. Ministerial Session**

- 5.1. Opening of the Session
- 5.2. Report on Activities carried out in the framework of UNEP/MAP since the 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP22)
- 5.3. Interactive Ministerial Policy Review Session
- 5.4. Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2022-2023
- 5.5. Portoroz Ministerial Declaration

**6. Dates and Place of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 24)**

**7. Any Other Business**

**8. Adoption of the Report**

**9. Closure of the Meeting**

**Preliminary Note on the Theme of the Ministerial Session**

**[Initial draft, to be updated in consultation with the Host Country]**

### **Initial Considerations on the Format of the Ministerial Session**

1. COP 23, as customary in the MAP system, will have its Ministerial-level discussions. The Ministerial session would benefit from an interactive format, in the form of a panel, as was the case in COP 22. The interactive Ministerial Session is envisaged following the opening session and the report on activities carried out since COP 22. The Theme of the Ministerial-level discussions will be “Green transition in the Mediterranean: From decisions into actions”, as agreed at the 94th Meeting of the Bureau (Izola, Slovenia, 20-21 June 2023).

2. The ministerial discussion will be triggered by a keynote speaker. A panel is envisaged that would consist of 4-5 speakers/resource persons coming from different strands of work and expertise relevant to the work of the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention and the theme of the COP representing categories of relevant stakeholders. Resource persons are expected to make a short introduction on the theme from their perspective and the discussion that will follow would involve the Ministers/Heads of Delegations and stakeholders/MAP Partners.

3. An event on Women Leaders is planned to be led by the President of Slovenia, H.E. Ms. Nataša Pirc Musar. Importance will be also placed on Youth and Education, including possibly through panel participation and/or a dedicated youth event. The Ministerial Session is also expected to include the short interventions by Ministers and Heads of Delegations that are expected to focus on the theme of the COP, the ceremony for awarding the Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2022-2023, and the adoption of the Portoroz Ministerial Declaration.

4. Finally, a series of parallel/side events organized around specific activities/achievements of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and partners in the main thematic areas of the COP with regional and sub-regional scope and other formats of outreach would be arranged throughout the COP, culminating during the Ministerial Session. These would include:

- a) Signing of bilateral agreements;
- b) Side events, including with stakeholders;
- c) Photo exhibitions;
- d) Media events;
- e) Other.

### **Theme of Ministerial Session**

5. The present proposal takes into account the policy messages contained in Antalya Ministerial Declaration and the latest developments on the global and regional environmental and sustainable development governance scene.

6. Following a proposal by the Secretariat, in consultation with Slovenia, Host Country of COP 23, the 94<sup>th</sup> Bureau Meeting agreed on the “***Green transition in the Mediterranean: From decisions into actions***” as main theme of the COP, to trigger discussions on the way forward and on the commitments that will be included in the future Portoroz Ministerial Declaration.

7. The substantial development of the regulatory and policy framework that the Contracting Parties requires an adequate translation into a proportionate/equivalent improvement in the state of the marine and coastal environment. Evidence, including the findings of the MED 23 QSR report, and reports by the Contracting Parties on measures taken to implement the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols points to gaps in implementation at the national level. Where do the issues lie? What’s hindering full and effective implementation? How can the Contracting Parties overcome national difficulties to ensure sustainability and reach Good Environment Status? How we can better catalyze effective action and concrete results on the ground. Two years before marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the revised UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system, this is the time for bold, coordinated action.

8. Two years after COP 22 in Antalya, at which the Contracting Parties committed to pursuing a green post-lockdown future, it is time to take stock and reflect on ways to unlock the green transition potential in the Mediterranean. In doing so, full account should be taken of the global evolutions, including the new global Treaties and UNEA-6, the relevant up-to-date studies such as the 2023 MED QSR and the MED2050 Foresight Study, the MedECC reports emanating from MAR1 as well as important regional development in the Mediterranean.