



**United Nations
Environment Programme
Mediterranean Action Plan**

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Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points

Athens, Greece, 24-26 May 2023

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2022-2023 adopted in Decision IG.25/19 by COP 22 (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021), the Secretariat (MED POL) is organizing the “Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points” to be held in Athens, Greece from 24 to 26 May 2023.

2. The main objective of the MED POL Focal Points Meeting is to review the progress on the implementation of PoW activities carried out during the 2022-2023 biennium, and the status of implementation of the pollution-related Protocols of the Barcelona Convention including its monitoring and assessment aspects which are under the MED POL Programme responsibility.

3. The Meeting will review and expected to approve several documents and will address issues related to key aspects of the MED POL mandate such as:

- a) The final drafts of the Regional Plans on Agriculture, Aquaculture and Stormwater Management.
- b) New/Updated IMAP Assessment Criteria for Nutrients, Contaminants and Marine Litter.
- c) Proposed measures and related key messages to respond to the findings of the assessments related to pollution and litter clusters of the MED 2023 QSR;
- d) Main findings and recommendations of the TDA (2023) -Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis for the Mediterranean Sea and Coast;
- e) Updated Guidelines for the Dumping of Inert Uncontaminated Inorganic Geological Materials
- f) Three regional guidelines addressing pre-treatment standards for discharge of industrial effluents, wastewater and sludge treatment technologies as well as standards for discharge from desalination plants.

4. The Meeting will also review proposed activities to be implemented during the next biennium for inclusion in the MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 under Thematic Programme (1) “Towards a Pollution and Litter Free Mediterranean Sea and Coast Embracing Circular Economy,” as well as Foundational Programme (5) “Governance” and Enabling Programme (6) “Together towards a Shared Knowledge and Foresight of the Mediterranean Sea and Coast” of the Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2022-2027, which will be executed by MED POL.

5. The following annotations to the Provisional Agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.

Provisional Annotated Agenda

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. The Meeting will be opened at 9:30 AM on Wednesday 24 May 2023 by Ms. Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP - Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

Agenda item 2: Organizational Matters

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/1</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.563/2</i>
<i>Information Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.1</i>

a) Rules of Procedure

7. The Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI) will apply mutatis mutandis to the present Meeting.

b) Election of Officers

8. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the Meeting will elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties, a President, three Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur.

c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

9. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.563/1 and annotated in the present document UNEP/MED WG.563/2 will be reviewed and proposed for adoption by the meeting including the timetable presented at the end of the present document.

d) Organization of Work

10. The discussions are planned to be held over three (3) days with two three-hour plenary daily sessions opening at 9:30 and closing at 17:30 as per the Meeting Timetable included at the end of the annotated agenda, with a 2-hour mid-day lunch break.

11. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for all sessions. All documentation is provided in English and French. Participants are encouraged to download the documentation on their computers in advance of the session. The meeting will be recorded for future reference.

12. It is envisaged to close the Meeting at 17:30 on 26 May 2023 after adopting its Conclusions and Recommendations.

Agenda item 3: Status of implementation activities by MED POL during 2022-2023 biennium

<i>Working Document</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/3</i>
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13. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.563/3 which summarizes the status of implementation of the main activities carried out by the Secretariat (MED POL) during the current biennium.

14. The Meeting will be asked to take note of, and comment, as appropriate, the work carried out for the implementation of the Programme of Work 2022-2023.

Agenda item 4: Regional Plans on agriculture, aquaculture and stormwater management

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/4</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/5</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/6</i>
<i>Information Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.5</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.14</i>

15. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present documents UNEP/MED WG.563/4 “Final Draft Regional Plan on Agriculture Management,” UNEP/MED WG.563/5 “Final Draft Regional Plan on Aquaculture Management,” and UNEP/MED WG.563/6 “Final Draft Regional Plan on Stormwater Management.” Further to the conclusions of the First Meeting of the Working Groups held in Athens from 25 to 27 October 2022, MED POL received additional comments after the Meeting. These comments were reflected in the corresponding Regional Plans and resubmitted for the review and comments of the Second Meeting of the Working Groups held back-to-back with the present MED POL Focal Points Meeting.

16. The Meeting is expected to review the three Regional Plans; address amendments which remained unresolved [i.e. in brackets] by the Second Working Groups Meeting; review the recommendations proposed; and approve the submission of the three Regional Plans, as amended by the present MEDPOL Focal Points Meeting, to the MAP Focal Points Meeting (September 2023) and COP23 (December 2023) for adoption.

Agenda item 5: Assessment of marine and Coastal Environment:

- a) **New/Updated IMAP Assessment Criteria for Nutrients, Contaminants and Marine Litter**
- b) **Measures related to assessment findings of the 2023 MED QSR for Pollution and Marine Litter**

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/7</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/8</i>
<i>Information Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.3</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.4</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.8</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.9</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.10</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.11</i>
	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.12</i>

17. Under Point (a) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.563/7 “New/Updated IMAP Assessment Criteria for Nutrients, Contaminants and Marine Litter,” for the consideration of the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points. The document elaborates on a series of assessment criteria being developed for IMAP Pollution-Marine Litter Cluster and used for the preparation of the assessments within the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR.

18. Under Point (b) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.563/8 “Proposed measures related to assessment findings of the 2023 MED QSR for Pollution and Marine Litter,” for the consideration of the Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points. The document elaborates policy and technical measures categorized per Common Indicator, which will guide the process of IMAP revision foreseen during the upcoming biennium.

19. The Meeting is expected to review and endorse the findings presented in documents UNEP/MED WG.563/7 and UNEP/MED WG.563/8, respectively, and recommend (a) the use of the assessment criteria for conducting assessments related to IMAP pollution-marine litter cluster as well as for the chapters of the 2023 MED QSR and their subsequent integration into a COP23 Decision related to the 2023 MED QSR; and (b) the use of the measures related to the assessment findings of the 2023 MED QSR for Pollution and Marine Litter, and their subsequent submission to the EcAp Coordination Group Meeting (September, 2023), the MAP Focal Points Meeting (12-15 September 2023) and COP23 (December 2023).

Agenda item 6: Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) 2023

<i>Working Document</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/9</i>
<i>Information Document</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.13</i>

20. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will introduce document UNEP/MED WG.563/9 prepared in the framework of the GEF-funded MedProgramme, and related to the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) for 2023 for the Mediterranean Sea and Coast specifically addressing the scientific and technical regional assessment of pollution and coastal and marine ecosystems priority issues, with the analysis of their causes and effects.”

21. The Meeting of the MED POL Focal Points is expected to review the identified transboundary issues in the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) 2023 Report and endorse their submission to the Global Environmental Facility (GEF).

Agenda item 7: Technical Guidelines

- a) **Updated Guidelines for the Dumping of Inert Uncontaminated Inorganic Geological Materials**
- b) **Regional guideline on pre-treatment standards and applicable Best Available Technologies for industrial sectors eligible to discharge to urban wastewater collection systems**
- c) **Regional guideline on available treatment technologies for urban wastewater and sewage sludge and decision support systems (DSS) for their selection**
- d) **Guideline on Regional Standards for Discharge from Desalination Plants and Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Desalination Technologies in the Mediterranean**

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/10</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.563/11</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.563/12</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.563/13</i>
<i>Information Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.6</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.7</i>

22. Under point (a) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.563/10 “Updated Guidelines for the Dumping of Inert Uncontaminated Inorganic Geological Materials” which was adopted by the Contracting Parties in COP14 (Portoroz, Slovenia, 8-11 November 2005) in line with the requirements of Articles 4.2 and 6.2 of the Protocol for the Prevention and Elimination of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft or Incineration (Dumping Protocol). The updated Guidelines were approved by the “Meeting to Review the Updated Guidelines for the Dumping of Inert Uncontaminated Geological Materials and Sharing Best Practices to Support Implementation of the Dumping Protocol” (13-14 February 2023). The MED POL Focal Points Meeting is expected to review and approve the submission of document UNEP/MED WG.563/10 to the MAP Focal Points Meeting and COP23 for adoption.

23. Under points (b), (c) and (d) of this agenda item, the Secretariat will present documents UNEP/MED WG.563/11 “Regional guideline on pre-treatment standards and applicable Best Available Technologies for industrial sectors eligible to discharge to urban wastewater collection systems;” UNEP/MED WG.563/12 “Regional guideline on available treatment technologies for urban wastewater and sewage sludge and decision support systems (DSS) for their selection;” and UNEP/MED WG.563/13 “Guideline on Regional Standards for Discharge from Desalination Plants and Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Desalination Technologies in the Mediterranean,” respectively. All three Guidelines were reviewed by the “Regional meeting to review guidelines on available treatment technologies for

urban wastewater and sludge, industrial pre-treatment, and environmental standards and available desalination treatment technologies” (Ankara, 22-23 November 2022) for their use by the Contracting Parties in support of implementation of the respective regional plans. The MED POL Focal Points Meeting is expected to review and approve the use of the three Guidelines by the Contracting Parties in support of implementation of the respective regional plans.

Agenda item 8: MED POL Activities 2024-2025

<i>Working Documents</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/14</i>
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24. Under this Agenda item, the Secretariat will present document UNEP/MED WG.563/14 which lists and briefly describes the proposed MED POL Programme of Work for the biennium 2024-2025.

25. The Meeting is expected to review and approve as appropriate the proposed Programme of Work as well as mandate the Secretariat to integrate it into the UNEP/MAP Programme of Work 2024-2025 proposal for submission to the MAP Focal Points Meeting.

Agenda item 9: Any Other Business

26. Under this Agenda item, the participants will be able to raise any other business related to the agenda of the Meeting.

Agenda item 10: Conclusions and Recommendations

27. Under this Agenda item, the meeting will review, amend and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations that will result from the Meeting discussions as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting

28. The Chair will close the Meeting at 17:30 hours on 26 May 2023.

Proposed Timetable

Wednesday 24 May 2023		Related documents
09:00 – 09:30	Registration	
09:30 – 09:45	Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting	
09:45 – 10:00	Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/1 UNEP/MED WG.563/2 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.1</i>
10:00 – 11:00	Agenda Item 3: Status of implementation activities by MED POL during 2022-2023 biennium	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/3</i>
11:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 4: Regional Plans on agriculture, aquaculture and stormwater management	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/4 UNEP/MED WG.563/5 UNEP/MED WG.563/6 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.5 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.14</i>
12:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:30 – 17:30	Agenda Item 4: <i>(continued)</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/4 UNEP/MED WG.563/5 UNEP/MED WG.563/6 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.5 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.14</i>
Thursday 25 May 2023		
09:30 – 12:30	Agenda Item 5: Assessment of marine and Coastal Environment a) New/Updated IMAP Assessment Criteria for Nutrients, Contaminants and Marine Litter b) Measures related to assessment findings of the 2023 MED QSR for Pollution and Marine Litter	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/7 UNEP/MED WG.563/8 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.3 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.4 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.8 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.9 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.10 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.11 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.12</i>
12:30 – 14:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda Item 6: Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) 2023	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/9 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.13</i>
15:30 – 17:30	Agenda Item 7: Technical Guidelines a) Updated Guidelines for the Dumping of Inert Uncontaminated Inorganic Geological Materials b) Regional guideline on pre-treatment standards and applicable Best Available Technologies for industrial sectors eligible to discharge to urban wastewater collection systems c) Regional guideline on available treatment technologies for urban wastewater and sewage sludge and decision support systems (DSS) for their selection d) Guideline on Regional Standards for Discharge from Desalination Plants and	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/10 UNEP/MED WG.563/11 UNEP/MED WG.563/12 UNEP/MED WG.563/13 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.6 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.7</i>

	Decision Support Systems for Sustainable Desalination Technologies in the Mediterranean	
Friday 26 May 2023		
09:30 – 11:30	Agenda Item 7: <i>(Continued)</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/10 UNEP/MED WG.563/11 UNEP/MED WG.563/12 UNEP/MED WG.563/13 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.6 UNEP/MED WG.563/Inf.7</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Agenda Item 8: MED POL Activities 2024-2025	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/14</i>
<i>12:30 – 14:30</i>	<i>Lunch break</i>	
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda Item 8: <i>(continued)</i>	<i>UNEP/MED WG.563/14</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Agenda Item 9: Any other business	
16:00 – 17:30	Agenda Item 10: Conclusions and recommendations	
17:30	Agenda Item 11: Closure of the Meeting	