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Conference of Plenipotentiaries of  
the Coastal States of the  
Mediterranean Region on the  
Protection of the Mediterranean  
Sea (convened by UNEP)  
2-13 February 1976

Introductory Note

The three draft legal instruments attached hereto <sup>1/</sup> have been prepared on the basis of drafts elaborated, respectively, by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), as regards the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment Against Pollution in the Mediterranean; by the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO), as regards the Protocol on Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency; and by the Government of Spain, as regards the Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft.

These drafts are inspired by the guidelines laid down during the Consultation on the Protection of Living Resources and Fisheries from Pollution in the Mediterranean, which was held in Rome, under the auspices of FAO and the General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean (GFCM), from 19 to 23 February and from 27 May to 1 June 1974. They also take into account the comments offered by the Governments of the Mediterranean States in response to a questionnaire circulated by the Director-General of FAO on 1 August 1974, and the discussions at the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean, which was held in Barcelona, at the initiative of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), from 28 January to 4 February 1975. Subsequently, they were submitted to a Working Group of Experts on Draft Legal Instruments for the Protection of the Mediterranean which met in Geneva, under UNEP auspices, from 7 to 11 April 1975, and whose report is attached herewith.

The final clauses of the three drafts (articles and paragraphs identified by an asterisk) were, in accordance with the recommendations of the Working Group, reviewed and harmonized by the secretariat of the Group. Also, additional clauses which the Working Group requested the secretariat to draft, as well as alternative draft provisions proposed by the Working Group, have been included in square brackets.

The three drafts will eventually be submitted for adoption to a conference of plenipotentiaries convened by UNEP in Co-operation with FAO and other United Nations agencies concerned and scheduled to be held in Barcelona from 2 to 13 February 1976.

<sup>1/</sup> UNEP/CONF.1/3, UNEP/CONF.1/4, and UNEP/CONF.1/5.