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**Mediterranean
Action Plan**
Barcelona
Convention

5 October 2023
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23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

Provisional Annotated Agenda

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Provisional Annotated Agenda

Introduction

1. At the kind invitation of the Government of Slovenia and in line with the decision of the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols (Barcelona Convention) (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021), the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 23) will be hosted in Portoroz, Slovenia, on 5-8 December 2023.
2. In accordance with Article 18 of the Barcelona Convention, the objective of the Meeting is to review the progress achieved during the 2022-2023 biennium by the Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention system and take decisions on a number of important matters, including on the Programme of Work and Budget for 2024–2025. A Ministerial Session is also envisaged to take place on 7 December 2023.
3. The following annotations to the proposed agenda were prepared by the Secretariat to assist the meeting in its deliberations.
4. The opening session will be preceded, as per practice, by an informal meeting of the Heads of Delegations at 9 a.m.

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The meeting will be opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, 5 December 2023, by Ms. Fatma Varank, President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, or her representative;
6. Opening statements will be made by:
 - a) Ms. Fatma Varank, President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties, Deputy Minister of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change of Türkiye;
 - b) H.E. Mr. Uroš Brežan, Minister of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of Slovenia, or his representative;
 - c) Ms. Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP;
 - d) Ms. Tatjana Hema, Coordinator, UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention.

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters

Working Documents: UNEP/MED IG.26/1, 26/2

Information Documents: UNEP/MED IG.26/Inf.1

2.1 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 Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols will apply to this meeting.

2.2 Election of Officers

8. Subject to the Rules of Procedure, the meeting shall elect the members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties, consisting of a President, four Vice-Presidents and a Rapporteur. It is recalled that “*the principle of equitable geographical distribution shall be observed*” (Article 19 of the Barcelona Convention).

2.3 Adoption of the Agenda

9. The Provisional Agenda of COP 23, as agreed during the Meeting of MAP Focal Points (Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-15 September 2023), is contained in document UNEP/MED IG.26/1 and annotated in the present document.

10. Subject to the Rules of Procedure referred to in paragraph 2.1, the Meeting may wish to adopt the agenda and timetable appearing in the Annex to the present document, amended as appropriate.

2.4 Organization of Work

- a) It is proposed that the Meeting be held in daily sessions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustments as necessary.
- b) It is expected that the Meeting address all items of the Agenda within the allotted sessions.
- c) No session is envisaged to be held on the morning of the last day (8 December 2023) to allow for the preparation of the Meeting Report. The afternoon session is proposed to start at 4 p.m. It is envisaged to close the Meeting at 7 p.m. after adopting its Report, including the Decisions.
- d) In accordance with Rule of Procedure 24, the Meeting may consider establishing such committees and other working groups as required for the transaction of its business. As per Decision IG.21/13 (Annex II), "*A Budget Contact Group should be set up during COPs in order to facilitate informed discussion among the Parties about its budget that can take account of draft decisions and the state of contributions and commitments in the ongoing biennium*". On the basis of the well-established practice and following the discussions at the MAP Focal Points Meeting, it is also expected to create an informal working group to prepare the draft Portoroz Ministerial Declaration, under the leadership of Slovenia as the Host Country of COP 23, for the consideration of the Plenary and for adoption during the Ministerial Session of COP 23.
- e) The Meeting will feature a Ministerial Session on Thursday, 7 December 2023. The Ministerial session will focus on the theme "*Green transition in the Mediterranean: From decisions to actions*".
- f) Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic, English, French and Spanish will be available in all plenary sessions throughout the meeting.

2.5 Verification of Credentials

11. Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure stipulates that each Contracting Party shall be represented by an accredited representative, who may be accompanied by such alternates and advisers as may be required.

12. Rule 19 stipulates that the credentials of the representatives and the names of the alternate representatives shall be submitted by the Contracting Parties before the opening session of the meeting which the representatives are to attend. It provides also that the Bureau shall examine the credentials of representatives and submit its report to the meeting.

13. Details for the submission of credentials in accordance with the above-mentioned Rules of Procedures have been provided to Contracting Parties with the invitation to COP 23 by the Executive Director of UNEP.

Agenda Item 3: Thematic Decisions

Working Documents: UNEP/MED IG.26/4-16

Information Documents: UNEP/MED IG.26/Inf. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16

14. Under this agenda item the Meeting will consider for possible adoption a number of draft decisions reviewed at the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-15 September 2023), addressing specific issues related to the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and including strategic and programming documents.

15. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator will briefly introduce each draft decision highlighting in particular the main points raised at the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-15 September 2023).

16. The Chairperson of the Compliance Committee will introduce Draft Decision IG.26/1 as well as the report of the Compliance Committee.

17. The President of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD), will present, in accordance with the Terms of Reference of the MCSDD (Decision IG.22/17, Section C. “Functioning”, paragraph 5), recommendations of the MCSDD “*for consideration to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, following discussion at the meeting of the MAP Focal Points with the aim of advising on making practical and effective use of the MSSD and on the implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols*”.

18. The Meeting may wish to consider and adopt the following draft decisions under this agenda item:

<i>Draft Decision Number</i>	Title of the Draft Decision	Working Document Number
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/1</i>	Compliance and Reporting	UNEP/MED IG.26/4
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/2</i>	Governance	UNEP/MED IG.26/5
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/3</i>	The 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and a Renewed Ecosystem Approach Policy in the Mediterranean	UNEP/MED IG.26/6
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/4</i>	Amendments to Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean	UNEP/MED IG.26/7
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/5</i>	Specially Protected Areas (SPAs), Specially Protected Areas of Mediterranean Importance (SPAMIs) and Ecosystem Restoration	UNEP/MED IG.26/8
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/6</i>	Regional Plan on Agriculture Management in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources and Activities Protocol	UNEP/MED IG.26/9
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/7</i>	Regional Plan on Aquaculture Management in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources and Activities Protocol	UNEP/MED IG.26/10
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/8</i>	Regional Plan on Stormwater Management in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources and Activities Protocol	UNEP/MED IG.26/11
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/9</i>	Updated Guidelines for the Dumping of Inert Uncontaminated Inorganic Geological Materials	UNEP/MED IG.26/12
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/10</i>	Conceptual Framework for Implementing Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean	UNEP/MED IG.26/13
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/11</i>	Regional Harmonised Procedures for the Uniform Implementation of the Ballast Water Management Convention in the Mediterranean Sea	UNEP/MED IG.26/14
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/12</i>	[Proposal by Türkiye on the Establishment of Regional Activity Centre on Climate Change hosted by Türkiye]	UNEP/MED IG.26/15

<i>Draft Decision Number</i>	Title of the Draft Decision	Working Document Number
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/13</i>	Assessment Studies: Summary for Policymakers of the MedECC Special Report on Climate and Environmental Coastal Risks	UNEP/MED IG.26/16

Agenda Item 4: Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025

Working Document: UNEP/MED IG.26/17

Information Documents: UNEP/MED IG.26/Inf.14

19. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator will present the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025, the mandate, the process of its elaboration under the guidance of the Bureau, its main directions and principles including budgets, as well as the changes introduced following the discussions held at the MAP Focal Points Meeting (Istanbul, Türkiye, 12-15 September 2023).

20. The Meeting may wish to consider and adopt the relevant draft decision under this agenda item, following the report of the Budget Contact Group mentioned under agenda item 2.4 (d) above.

<i>Draft Decision Number</i>	Title of the Draft Decision	Working Document Number
<i>Draft Decision IG.26/14</i>	Programme of Work and Budget for 2024-2025	UNEP/MED IG.26/17

Agenda Item 5: Ministerial Session

5.1 Opening of the session

21. Statements will be made as follows:

- a) Welcoming address and introductory remarks by H.E. Mr. Uroš Brežan, Minister of Natural Resources and Spatial Planning of Slovenia;
- b) Welcoming address by Ms. Inger Andersen, Executive Director of UNEP (Video Message).

5.2 Report on Activities carried out in the framework of UNEP/MAP since the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22)

Working Documents: UNEP/MED IG.26/3, IG.26/18,19

Information Documents: UNEP/MED IG.26/Inf. 3-11, 14-16

22. The Meeting has before it documents UNEP/MED IG.26/3 “Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2022-2023 Biennium”, UNEP/MED IG.26/18 “Statement of Account for the Financial Period, as per Procedure 5.2 of the Financial Rules and Procedures for the Funds of the Barcelona Convention” and UNEP/MED IG.26/19 “Overall Findings from the General Status of the Progress in the Implementation of the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols: Analysis of the Information Mentioned in the National Reports for the 2020-2021 Biennium”.

23. The UNEP/MAP Coordinator will introduce the three documents, highlighting the main achievements and challenges faced during the last biennium with regards to the implementation of the programme of work.

24. The Meeting may wish to comment as necessary on the progress achieved on the implementation of the Programme of Work and Budget adopted by COP 22.

5.3 Ministerial Session: “Green transition in the Mediterranean: From decisions into actions”.

Working Document: UNEP/MED IG.26/20

Information Document: UNEP/MED IG.26/Inf.10, 11, 15

25. To facilitate the discussion at the Ministerial session, the Meeting has before it document UNEP/MED IG.26/20 “Background Note for Ministerial Discussions at COP 23”.
26. Keynote statements will be delivered, followed by a panel discussion of relevance to the themes of the session. Following this, the Ministers and Heads of Delegations will be invited to make their interventions on the same theme, as presented in the background document UNEP/MED IG.26/20.
27. Additional information on the Ministerial Session will be provided at a later stage.

5.4 Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2020–2021

28. The fourth edition of the “Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award”, established through Decision IG.22/19 adopted at COP 19 (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016), will be conferred to the winning Mediterranean coastal city/town by the President of the Bureau and the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP.

5.5 Portoroz Ministerial Declaration

Working Document: UNEP/MED IG.26/21

Information Document: UNEP/MED IG.26/Inf.13

29. The Meeting has before it document UNEP/MED IG.26/21 “Draft Portoroz Ministerial Declaration”, which will be introduced by the representative of Slovenia as Host Country, who has led the process of its preparation.
30. The Ministers and Heads of Delegations will be invited to discuss and adopt the Portoroz Ministerial Declaration.

Agenda Item 6: Date and Place of the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties

31. The Meeting will be invited to consider the dates and place of the 24th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 24) to be convened in 2025. The Contracting Parties at COP 22 accepted with gratitude an offer by the Government of Egypt to host COP 24.

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

32. Participants will be invited to discuss other matters that may require attention of the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties that were raised and agreed upon during the adoption of the provisional agenda.

Agenda Item 8: Adoption of the Report

Working Document: UNEP/MED IG.26/22

33. At its final session, the Meeting will be invited to consider and adopt its Report including the Decisions, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

Agenda Item 9: Closure of the Meeting

It is expected that the Meeting will be closed by the President at 7 p.m. on Friday, 8 December 2023.

TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 5 December 2023			
Time	Agenda item		Working Documents
8:30 – 10:00	<i>Registration</i>		
9:00 – 10:00	<i>Informal Meeting of Heads of Delegations</i>		
10:00 – 10:30	1. Opening of the Meeting 2. Organizational Matters	President of the Bureau Host Country Minister ED UNEP UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.26/1; 26/2
10:30 – 11:00	5.5 Portoroz Ministerial Declaration	Host Country UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.26/21
11:00 – 12:00	4. Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025	UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.26/17
12:00 – 13:00	3. Thematic Decisions: IG.26/1 (Compliance and Reporting) IG.26/2 (Governance) IG.26/3 (The 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report and a Renewed Ecosystem Approach Policy in the Mediterranean)	UNEP/MAP Coordinator Compliance Committee Chair	UNEP/MED IG.26/4; 26/5; 26/6
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch Break and Side Events</i>		
15:00 – 18:00	3. Thematic Decisions: IG.26/4 (Amendments to Annexes II and III to the Protocol concerning SPA and Biological Diversity) IG.26/5 (SPAs, SPAMIs and Ecosystem Restoration) IG.26/6 (Agriculture Management - LBS and Activities Protocol) IG.26/7 (Aquaculture Management - LBS and Activities Protocol) IG.26/8 (Stormwater Management - LBS and Activities Protocol)	UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.26/7-26/11
Wednesday, 6 December 2023			
10:00 – 12:30	3. Thematic Decisions: IG.26/9 (Dumping of Inert Uncontaminated Inorganic Geological Materials) IG.26/10 (Marine Spatial Planning in the Mediterranean) IG.26/11 (Ballast Water Management) IG.26/12 (Proposal on CC/RAC) IG.26/13 (MedECC Special Report)	UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.26/12-26/16

12:30 – 13:00	5.5 Portoroz Ministerial Declaration	Host Country UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.26/21
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch Break and Side Events</i>		
15:00 – 18:00	4. Programme of Work and Budget 2024-2025	Budget Contact Group Chair UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.26/17
19:30	<i>Standing reception for all participants, hosted by the Government of Slovenia</i>		
Thursday, 7 December 2023 Ministerial Session			
10:00 – 11:00	5.1 Opening of the Session	Host Country Minister ED UNEP	
11:00 – 11:30	5.2 Report on Activities carried out in the framework of UNEP/MAP since the 22 nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 22)	UNEP/MAP Coordinator	UNEP/MED IG.26/3, IG.18, IG.19
11:30 – 13:00	5.3 Ministerial Session: “ <i>Green transition in the Mediterranean: From decisions into actions</i> ”.	Keynote Speaker(s)/Panelists Ministers/Heads of Delegation	UNEP/MED IG.26/20
13:00 – 15:00	<i>Lunch Break and Side Events</i>		
	<i>Lunch for Ministers and Heads of Delegations, hosted by the Government of Slovenia</i>		
15:00 – 16:30	5.3 Ministerial Session: “ <i>Green transition in the Mediterranean: From decisions into actions</i> ” - <i>Continued</i>	Ministers/Heads of Delegation	UNEP/MED IG.26/20
16:30 – 17:00	5.4 Istanbul Environment Friendly City Award 2022–2023	President of the Bureau UNEP/MAP Coordinator	
17:00 – 18:00	5.5 Portoroz Ministerial Declaration	Ministers/Heads of Delegation	UNEP/MED IG.26/21
Friday, 8 December 2023			
16:00 – 16:15	6. Date and place of COP 24 7. Any Other Business	UNEP/MAP Coordinator	
16:15 – 18:45	8. Adoption of the Report	President of the Bureau Rapporteur	UNEP/MED IG.26/22
18:45 – 19:00	9. Closure of COP 23	President of the Bureau	