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Meeting for developing the preliminary elements for new National Action Plans (NAPs) and sharing Best Practices for application of the Guidelines for estimating pollutants loads from agriculture and aquaculture sectors.

## **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, as adopted in Decision IG.25/19 by COP 22 (Antalya, Türkiye, 7-10 December 2021), the Secretariat (MED POL) is organizing the “Meeting for developing the preliminary elements for new National Action Plans (NAPs ) and sharing Best Practices for application of the Guidelines for estimating pollutants loads from agriculture and aquaculture”. This meeting is organized with the kind support from and in close collaboration with the EU-funded project on “Water and Environment Support (WES) in the Southern Neighborhood Region”, on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, in Athens, Greece.

2. The objective of the Meeting is to generally review the progress achieved in implementing the NAPs (2015-2025); and define possible new elements for updating the National Action Plans in order to meet the obligations stemming from the recent regional binding measures and timetables for different sectors approved by the Meetings of the Contracting Parties in 2013, 2021 and hopefully in 2023. The meeting will offer an opportunity for training and better application of guidelines on estimating pollution loads from Agriculture and Aquaculture.

3. 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

4. The Meeting will be opened at 9:30 AM on Tuesday 24 October 2023 by the Coordinator of UNEP/MAP Barcelona Convention, Ms. Tatjana Hema, and by the Chairman of MIO- ECSDE, Prof. Michael Scoullou.

### Agenda items 2: Organizational Matters

<i>Working Documents</i>	UNEP/MED WG.576/1 UNEP/MED WG.576/2
<i>Information Documents</i>	UNEP/MED WG.576/Inf.1

#### a) *Rules of Procedure*

5. 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*

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

#### c) *Adoption of the Provisional Agenda*

7. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned in para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.540/1 and annotated in the present document UNEP/MED WG.540/2 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*

8. The discussions are planned to be held over two days with two three-hour plenary sessions opening daily at 9:30 and closing at 17:30 as per the Meeting Timetable included at the end of the annotated agenda.

9. Simultaneous interpretation in English and French will be available for all sessions. All documentation will be 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.

10. It is envisaged to close the Meeting at 17:30 on 25 October 2023 after adopting its Conclusions and Recommendations.

**Agenda item 3: Implementation of current NAPs (2015-2025)**

11. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will present lessons learned from the Mid-term Evaluation of the NAPs implementation (2015-2025).

12. Meeting participants will be invited to provide information on the implementation of current NAPs and/or Programme of Measures from a country perspective and address potential issues to be considered for the preparation of new NAPs/POMs (2025-2035).

**Agenda item 4: Regulatory and policy framework on marine pollution, prevention and reduction from land-based sources and activities**

13. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide information on the mandatory recent legally binding measures approved or to be approved by the Contracting parties under LBS Protocol.

- The Regional Plan on Urban Wastewater Treatment and Sewage Sludge Management in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol;
- The Amendments to the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean in the Framework of Article 15 of the Land Based Sources Protocol;
- The Draft Regional Plan on Agriculture Management in the framework of Article 15 of the Land-Based Sources and Activities Protocol;
- The Draft Regional Plan on Aquaculture Management in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol;
- The Draft Regional Plan on Urban Stormwater Management in the framework of Article 15 of the LBS Protocol;

14. In this context information will be shared on global developments such as the “Zero draft text of the international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment” and “Sustainable Nitrogen Management” as well as “QSR 2023 Mediterranean Quality Status Report” recommendations on measures, EU MSFD implementation and review process and other related directives/initiatives.

15. Meeting participants are encouraged in this context to recommend the main directions of the NAPs update.

**Agenda item 5: Main elements for the preparation of the new NAPs (2025-2035)**

16. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat will provide a presentation on the main elements and the process of developing the new NAPs, including the timetable, the methodology, and the modality of support. INFO-RAC will make a presentation on the development of the NBB Information System that will be launched for the collection of data under the 6<sup>th</sup> Cycle of NBB Update;

17. The meeting is expected to advise on the need for further development of methodology considering the existing best practices in the region.

**Agenda item 6: Best Practices and Techniques for Estimating Pollution Loads from Aquaculture and Agriculture Sectors**

18. Representatives of two pilot countries will provide presentations showcasing the implementation of the “Guideline for estimating techniques and applied methodologies for non-point source releases from agriculture” and “Guideline for estimating techniques and applied methodologies for point source releases from aquaculture”. These presentations will serve as demonstrations to estimate the pollution loads originating from agriculture and aquaculture respectively.

19. Meeting participants are invited to provide details regarding the challenges encountered on a national level in addressing data and information gaps related to the application of estimation techniques.

**Agenda item 7: Conclusions and Recommendations**

20. Under this Agenda item, the meeting will review, amend as appropriate, and adopt draft conclusions and recommendations, as prepared by the Rapporteur.

**Agenda item 8: Any Other Business**

21. Under this Agenda item, the participants will be able to raise any other business related to the agenda items under each of the three guidelines.

22. At this point of time, the Secretariat under this agenda item will invite representatives of MAP partners to make a demonstration on sustainable Desalination in small islands, considering the importance and expansion desalination has taken in the region and the necessity to minimize to the extent possible any negative impact to marine and coastal environment.

**Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting**

23. The Chair will close the Meeting at 17:30 hours on 25 October 2023.

**Proposed Timetable for the Meeting and Related Documents**

<b>Tuesday 24 October 2023</b>		<b>Related documents</b>
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.576/1</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.576/2</i> <i>UNEP/MED WG.576/Inf.1</i>
10:00 – 12:30	Agenda Item 3: Implementation of NAPs (2015-2025)	
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 15:30	Agenda Item 4: Regulatory and policy framework on marine pollution, prevention and reduction from land-based sources and activities	
15:30 – 17:30	Agenda Item 8: Any other business: Demonstration on the sustainable desalination for small islands.	
<b>Wednesday 25 October 2024</b>		
09:30 – 12:30	Agenda Item 5: Main elements for the preparation of the new NAPs (2025-2035)	
12:30 – 14:30	Lunch break	
14:30 – 16:00	Agenda Item 6: Best Practices and Techniques for Estimating Pollution Loads from Aquaculture and Agriculture Sectors	
16:00 – 17:15	Agenda Item 7: Conclusions and Recommendations	
17:15 – 17:30	Agenda Item 8: Any other business	
17:30	Agenda Item 9: Closure of the Meeting	