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Intergovernmental Review Meeting of  
Mediterranean Coastal States on the  
Mediterranean Action Plan

Barcelona, 11-13 February 1980

REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVIEW MEETING  
OF MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL STATES ON THE  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

## Table of Contents

	<u>Pages</u>
Main body of Report	1 - 12
Annex I : List of participants	
Annex II : Statement of the Deputy Executive Director of UNEP	
Annex III : Statement of the Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan	
Annex IV : Agenda	
Annex V : List of documents before the meeting	
Annex VI : Expected dates of contributions	
Annex VII : Revised 1979/1980 budget.	
Annex VIII : Total assistance to the participants in MED POL for training, equipment, material and experts	

### Introduction

1. At the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States and the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols, held in Geneva from 5 to 10 February 1979, the Executive Director of UNEP was invited to convene a short (2-3 days) Intergovernmental Meeting of the Mediterranean States invited to the above-mentioned Meeting, and the European Economic Community (EEC), in the period between the regular biennial intergovernmental meetings, to review the progress of the Mediterranean Action Plan, including its institutional and budgetary implications (UNEP/IG.14/9, annex XIII, resolution No. 2).
2. In accordance with this resolution, and at the kind invitation of the Government of Spain, the Executive Director of UNEP convened an Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States on the Mediterranean Action Plan in Barcelona from 11 to 13 February 1980.

### Attendance

3. Delegations from 13 Mediterranean Coastal States and the European Economic Community participated in the Meeting.
4. Representatives from three United Nations bodies, five specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency, and five intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as observers. A complete list of participants is attached as annex I to this report.

### Agenda item 1 - Opening of the Meeting

5. H.E. Mr. Ridha Echi Eloueb, President of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea and its related protocols, declared the Meeting open, and expressed his thanks on behalf of all participants to the Government of Spain for their hospitality in hosting the Meeting and for the excellent facilities they had provided. In his opening statement, the President also pointed out the most important achievements of the Mediterranean Action Plan since it was adopted in Barcelona in 1975. He called on all Governments to continue their very much needed support to the common endeavour to protect and develop the Mediterranean Region.
6. H.E. Mr. Juan DIEZ NICOLAS, Under-Secretary for Physical Planning and Environment, welcomed all delegations to Barcelona on behalf of the Government of Spain. He remarked on the sense of continuity provided by convening the meeting in Barcelona, since the city had also been the venue for the first Intergovernmental Meeting of Mediterranean States on the Protection of the Mediterranean, as well as for the Conference of Plenipotentiaries, during which the Convention for the Protection of the

Mediterranean Sea and the first protocols were signed. He recalled the words of Mr. Maurice Strong, Executive Director of UNEP at the time of the First Meeting on the Mediterranean Action Plan that such a meeting marked a new era in the history of Mediterranean co-operation. In wishing success to the Meeting, he expressed the hope that the Mediterranean Action Plan would produce a solution to the problems currently facing the Mediterranean particularly those caused by sewage, chemical effluents, pesticides, and oil pollution. The Mediterranean States were faced with a challenge to preserve their common environment heritage, and he hoped that the fruits of that joint venture, in which Spain was playing an active role both at the regional and at the national level in co-operation with autonomous regions and local governments, would be enjoyed by the population of the Mediterranean basin, which was predicted to reach the figure of 200 million by the year 2000.

7. Mr. Peter S. Thacher, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP welcomed participants to the Meeting on behalf of Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, Executive Director, and thanked the Government of Spain for hosting the Meeting, the third to be held in Barcelona. The Review Meeting marked another important stage in the progress of the Mediterranean Action Plan - a stage either of promise, or of crisis. In terms of accomplishment, much had been achieved since the last Intergovernmental Meeting in Geneva in February 1979, but in terms of finance, the Mediterranean Trust Fund had, to date, received only 35 per cent of States Members' contributions. In such circumstances, unless a dramatic increase in cash contributions was forthcoming, a number of ongoing activities would have to be stopped within seven weeks. Mr. Thacher explained the inability of the Fund of UNEP to continue to overcommit financial resources to the Mediterranean, particularly in view of the requirements of other regional programmes. He stressed the fact that the Mediterranean Trust Fund, unlike the Fund of UNEP had no provisions for the committal of monies beyond cash actually received into it.
8. Mr. Thacher outlined the main developments which had occurred during the last 12 months, and the threat to ongoing programmes, including all the main components of the Action Plan, caused by the current financial situation. He expressed the hope that the Meeting would find a solution that would ensure continuity of work. The full text of Mr. Thacher's statement is attached as annex II to this report.
9. Mr. Aldo Manos, newly-appointed Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan, was formally introduced to the Meeting by Mr. Thacher. Mr. Manos expressed his thanks for the confidence placed in him by the Executive Director of UNEP, and assured all participants of his full contribution to the Mediterranean Action Plan. He pledged to work hard and diligently to achieve the goals of the programme, and expressed his hope to be able to visit each individual Mediterranean State to establish close working relations with the relevant national authorities and institutions involved in the Action Plan. Mr. Manos affirmed that support from the United Nations agencies could also be relied on. While stressing the importance of the Plan being realistic, action-oriented, and inclusive of both remedial and preventive elements, he made a plea for increased availability of resources, and hoped that other sources of assistance could also be tapped. The text of the Co-ordinator's statement is attached as annex III.

Agenda item 2 - Rules of procedure

10. As the Meeting had been convened by the Executive Director at the request of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related protocols, the Meeting adopted, mutatis mutandis, the rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties as provided for in rule 49 (UNEP/IG.14/9, annex VII).

Agenda item 3 - Adoption of the agenda

11. The Meeting adopted the agenda contained in annex IV to this report.

Agenda item 4 - Organization of work

12. The Meeting agreed to carry out the majority of its work in plenary and to convene a working group to discuss financial matters.

Agenda item 5 - Review of progress achieved in 1979 and the work programme for 1980

13. Mr. Manos presented the main working document before the Meeting, (UNEP/IG.18/3) as well as documents UNEP/IG.18/4, UNEP/IG.18/4/Add.1, UNEP/IG.18/5, and UNEP/IG.18/5/Add.1. Mr. Manos reviewed progress in the Environmental Assessment, Environmental Management and legal components of the Action Plan, as outlined in the above-mentioned documents. A complete list of documents is attached as annex V to this report.
14. Mr. Roger Booth, Co-ordinator of the Joint UNDP/UNEP Co-operative Projects in the Mediterranean, described activities in the Priority Actions Programme (PAP), as presented to the Meeting in document UNEP/IG.18/INF.5. Mr. Booth gave a resumé of progress achieved in the six areas of the PAP, namely Renewable Energy Sources, Aquaculture, Human Settlements, Water Resources Management, Soil Conservation, and Tourism.
15. Mr. Philippe Le Lourd, Director of the Regional Oil Combating Centre for the Mediterranean Sea, described progress in the work of the Centre since the last intergovernmental meeting, contained in document UNEP/IG.18/INF.6. He also informed the Meeting that the Centre was preparing a proposal on contingency planning at subregional level.
16. The meeting then discussed the progress achieved in the Action Plan, as outlined in document UNEP/IG.18/3, sector by sector. Dr. S. Keckes, Director of the Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre of UNEP, explained the rationale of the Environmental Assessment component of the Action Plan.
17. The total direct assistance to institutions in connexion with MED PGL amounted to 1,421,357 US dollars. An outline break-up of that assistance was made available to the Meeting, and is attached as Annex VIII to this report. In addition, a substantial amount of indirect assistance in the form of administrative and co-ordination services, provision of experts on request,

financing of participation at meetings, etc. had also been provided. A meeting of Government-nominated experts scheduled for September 1980 would prepare recommendations for the long-term research and monitoring programme for submission to the Contracting Parties at their second meeting in 1981. The Meeting underlined the need to undertake rapidly a critical analysis of the work being done in the framework of MED PCL and the results obtained by each of the national research laboratories. It was only on the basis of such an analysis that the state of the marine environment of the Mediterranean could be arrived at and the scientific basis of the continued research and monitoring network defined. It was understood that such an analysis would be made before the meeting to take place in September.

18. A large number of delegations expressed their appreciation of the work performed and the results achieved by the UNEP Secretariat and the other United Nations specialized agencies. At the same time, delegations stressed the importance of the September meeting of experts, emphasizing the need for that meeting to have all the possible detailed information at its disposal.
19. In discussions on progress achieved in the Blue Plan, several delegations confirmed their active interest in that part of the Environmental Management component of the Action Plan, and expressed their regrets at the further delay in the start of the programme. Some delegations indicated that they had encountered difficulties in finding candidates owing to the complex qualifications required. A number of delegations also stressed the importance of achieving regional equity in the composition of the Group of Co-ordination and Synthesis for the Blue Plan.
20. Mr. P.S. Thacher, Deputy Executive Director of UNEP, informed the meeting of the position regarding the appointment of the Group of Co-ordination and Synthesis (GCS). The original deadline date for nominations had been extended from 15 December 1979 to 15 January 1980, and seven nominations had been received. The nominations received, in relation to the personal profiles agreed on at the second meeting of National Focal points of the Blue Plan in Cannes in October 1979, only partially covered the range of membership required. Among the solutions proposed by various delegations to this problem were (a) possible consultations between UNEP and Mediterranean States in order to seek more appropriate candidates, and (b) the recruitment of generalists, rather than specialists, in view of the difficulties involved in finding Mediterranean candidates to cover the whole range of areas keeping in view the principle of equitable distribution. The Meeting was informed of the readiness of the Executive Director of UNEP to appoint Mr. Ismail Sabri Abdalla as Co-ordinator of the Blue Plan, and the opportunity was provided for delegations to have informal consultations with Mr. Abdalla on the Blue Plan, including possible solutions to current problems.
21. One delegation stressed the importance of selecting members for the GCS who had similar levels of qualifications. On the basis of the informal consultations which had taken place, the Meeting set the end of February at the latest date for submitting additional and new candidates, and the first week of March 1980 for the designation of members for the GCS.

22. In discussing developments on the Priority Actions Programme, most delegates expressed their satisfaction with the work done so far by the joint UNDP/UNEP unit. Several delegations stressed the importance of the planned collaborative projects in the areas of Management of Water Resources, Soil Conservation and Tourism, including the need for adequate funding within the availability of current resources. In discussing the area of Renewable Energy Sources, the delegation of Turkey repeated its offer to host a Centre in Marmaris, which could perform a regional role in research. One delegation recalled the close links which, by their very nature, existed between the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme. Several delegations stressed the need for taking into consideration similar PAP work being carried out at the national and international levels.
23. During the discussion on Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas, the delegation of Tunisia reiterated its country's offer to host a Centre for this activity. The meeting discussed the implications of the possible postponement, owing to budgetary restrictions, of the Intergovernmental Meeting on Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas, scheduled to be held in Athens between 22 and 26 September 1980. The Meeting agreed that the projected meeting should be included in the revised budget of the Action Plan. The Meeting stressed the interest of delegations in having the appropriate documents as early as possible.
24. During the discussion on the Regional Oil Combating Centre, some delegations advocated the enlargement of the Centre's functions to enable it to intervene in cases of emergency, as a number of countries were not in a position to purchase the relatively costly equipment required. Other delegations felt that in view of the nature of the problem, it was not currently possible to allocate such functions to the Centre. While note of the matter was taken by the Meeting, it was made clear by the Representative of the Executive Director of UNEP that the objectives and functions of the Centre were those defined in resolution 7 of the Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries of the Coastal States of the Mediterranean held in Barcelona in February 1976, and that such objectives and functions could not be amended in any way by the Meeting. Other delegations pointed out that at the Intergovernmental Meeting held in Geneva in February 1979, the Executive Director of UNEP had been requested to submit to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties a report on the activities and organization of the Regional Centre, taking account of the lessons learnt from its activities since its establishment (UNEP/IG.14/9, annex V, para. 30). While therefore appreciating the difficulties encountered by those States who required facilities beyond those which the Centre was able to provide within its present terms of reference and available funds, it was recognized that the matter would require a comprehensive study in co-operation with all the bodies and parties concerned.
25. In reviewing developments in the legal component of the Action Plan, the Meeting first discussed the follow-up to the International Juridical Organization (IJO) Meeting of Experts on legal aspects of pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf, the seabed and

its subsoil in the Mediterranean held in Rome in December 1978. It was agreed that UNEP would make available the complete documentation of the IJC meeting and that the results of the UNEP meeting of experts on Environmental Law should be utilized in proceeding on the regional level in the Mediterranean.

26. The Meeting then discussed the results of the Meetings of Legal and Technical Experts on the draft protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources, held concurrently in Geneva between 25 and 29 June 1979. In view of the proximity of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on that protocol, scheduled for 12-17 May 1980 in Athens, at which signature of the protocol was the aim in view, a number of delegations expressed concern at the fact that certain reservations still existed and the wish to avoid a situation of controversy at the Athens Conference as a result of which signature might not be possible. It was agreed that UNEP should contact those Governments which had made reservations during the expert meeting as to their current attitude to the existing draft text, and the over-all position should be notified to all Mediterranean States, in order to facilitate agreement on, and the adoption and signature of, a final text during the Athens Conference.
27. The Meeting also discussed the results of the meeting of experts on the protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft (Geneva, 2-6 July 1979). It was agreed that the report of the meeting of experts would be submitted to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties in 1981.
28. The proposed Committee of experts to study the establishment of an interstate guarantee fund for the Mediterranean Sea area and appropriate procedures for the determination of liability and compensation, scheduled to be convened in Geneva between 14 and 18 April 1980 was discussed. The Meeting agreed on the need to defer the convening of the Committee of experts to 1981 in the light of budgetary restrictions in 1980, although an appeal was made by delegations for the Committee meeting to be held as soon as practicably possible.

Agenda item 6 - Review of institutional and financial arrangements

29. The meeting agreed to discuss this item under four main aspects:
  - (a) The Co-ordinating Unit
  - (b) The enlarged Bureau
  - (c) Financial matters
  - (d) Financial prospects for 1981-1982.

Item 6(c) was first discussed in a working group convened for the purpose, thereafter in plenary.



Proceedings of Working Group

30. The financial situation was explained by Mr. Manos, who referred delegates to the position of the Mediterranean Trust Fund as detailed in documents UNEP/IG.18/4 and UNEP/IG.18/4/Add.1. He stated that UNEP had already assumed commitments to an extent beyond the authority given to it by the Governing Council, and although the Executive Director had felt that he could authorize such an excess in the light of the specific situation in the Mediterranean, the actual figures presented in the proposed budget would have to prevail.
31. A number of delegations provided information as to the stage reached in their internal procedures prior to payment of contributions, and indicated the approximate period during which the Mediterranean Trust Fund could expect to secure those contributions. That information also included contributions in transit. It was agreed that all the information provided, in addition to any further details delegations could add, should be compiled together in tabular form, to enable a more accurate assessment of the over-all situation to be carried out. This information is reproduced in annex VI to the present report.
32. It was explained by the secretariat of UNEP that owing to the fact that only 35 per cent of the contributions of Mediterranean States to the Trust Fund had been received, several commitments to programmes could only be made up to 31 March 1980, and that unless a significant increase in payment of contributions was forthcoming by that date, those programmes would be severely jeopardized. It was similarly explained that the Mediterranean Trust Fund could only make commitments on the basis of cash in hand. In the circumstances, therefore, the only alternatives possible were either the receipt of contributions, or the delays and/or sacrifices in programmes.
33. A comprehensive discussion was held by the Working Group, during which a number of delegations queried the differences in budgetary allocations between the amounts originally approved by the Contracting Parties in Geneva in February 1979, and those given in the revised budget. Explanations as to those variations were provided by the secretariat. Several delegations pointed out that unliquidated commitments were carried over from 1978 to 1979. The secretariat explained that those represented items committed in late 1978, but payable in 1979.
34. The Working Group agreed that the situation was serious and that a solution had to be found. In that context, it was stressed by many delegations that, apart from the immediate problem, steps would have to be taken to prevent the recurrence of the same problem in future years. It was also suggested that the cash requirements should be phased over a longer period, even though it was acknowledged that that would involve a succession of short-term contracts, which would increase the administrative workload, and seriously affect the staff involved.
35. The Working Group agreed to refer the positions to the Meeting in plenary, for further discussion and for the drawing of the necessary conclusions.

(a) Co-ordinating Unit

36. The meeting agreed that the Co-ordinating Unit could not be examined in isolation, but only in relation to the programme as a whole. In that regard, the original proposal as set out in document UNEP/IG.1E/5/Add.1 had been based on the assumption that funds would be available in full. In the light of the current budgetary situation, the Meeting came to the conclusion that existing staff should be retained for the rest of the year (i.e. up to 31 December 1980) and that only three additional members would be recruited, their appointment being delayed until the last quarter of 1980, namely:

One Senior Marine Scientist	P.4/5
One Data Processor	P.2/3
One Administrative Officer	P.2

That would reduce the original estimate for personnel by approximately 40,000 dollars.

37. The secretariat also stated that it would prepare a detailed, updated study of all aspects involved in locating the Co-ordinating Unit in the various States so far interested in hosting it. The study would include not only revised estimates of expenditure, but also the agreed legal status of the Unit. The comprehensive report would be presented to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties to enable a decision on the location of the Co-ordinating Unit to be reached in the light of complete, over-all information.
38. The Meeting discussed the proposals comprehensively, including the duties of the staff involved and the possibility of assistance being provided by the Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre. Agreement on those matters was unanimous except in connexion with the post of the Data Processor, in which case one delegation expressed a reservation indicating that the post of a data processor within the Co-ordinating Unit did not seem sufficiently justified. The delegation expressed the wish to receive detailed information on the duties of the data processor whose recruitment was foreseen for October 1980 and that the secretariat should submit a report on the use of data processing within some fields of the Mediterranean Action Plan.
39. It was also agreed by the Meeting that in the selection of candidates for the posts, the procedure as outlined by the secretariat was satisfactory. The procedure would consist, sequentially in (a) over-all approval of the budget, (b) approval of the post in question, (c) the invitation of nominations from the Governments of the region, and (d) selection of candidates, based on the criteria of individual suitability and geographical distribution.

(b) Enlarged Bureau

40. The Meeting discussed the proposal for the establishment of an enlarged bureau and its competence, which had been submitted by the delegations of France and Spain at the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties in Geneva in February 1979 (UNEP/IG.18/6, UNEP/IG.14/CRP.9). Since a decision on that matter could only be taken by the Contracting Parties, no more than an exchange of views was possible during the current meeting. The delegations of France and Spain explained the rationale underlying their proposal. Note was taken of suggestions that the bureau could be enlarged slightly; that ways and means would have to be found to provide for automatic replacements for members who could not, either permanently or temporarily, continue with their commitments, and that informal consultations between the Bureau and representatives of other States not currently represented on it could take place, on similar lines to those prevailing in the UNEP Governing Council. The financial implications of a significantly enlarged Bureau were also mentioned.
41. The Meeting was also presented with the current situation whereby a vacancy existed in the Bureau through the resignation of the First Vice-President, Mr. Daniel de Linos (Spain). It was proposed that the vacancy could be filled on an interim basis by an appropriate nominee of the Government of Spain, but after a thorough examination of the rules of procedure, the Meeting found that such a step would not be legally possible. It was therefore agreed that, when the whole question of an enlarged Bureau was decided upon at the next meeting of the Contracting Parties, the decision reached should include measures to ensure that similar future situations were covered in the rules of procedure.

(c) Financial matters

42. Mr. Thacher announced that revised budget proposals were being presented to the Meeting. The proposals were being made in the light of the latest information available on the status of contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund, and consisted in a phased budget requirement to coincide with receipt of contributions to the extent possible. The phasing would entail a larger volume of bureaucratic work, the introduction of short-term contracts, and the postponement of some meetings. The Meeting discussed the non-liquidated commitments from 1978. Mr. Thacher informed the Meeting that the Executive Director had agreed not to include the non-liquidated commitments from 1978 in the Mediterranean Trust Fund, thereby reducing the figure already committed by approximately US\$ 300,000. That could bring the level of commitments in connexion with the MED POL projects to the one originally agreed to by the Contracting Parties in 1979.
43. Mr. Thacher also reminded the Meeting that, constitutionally, the Executive Director of UNEP was required to report on the status of the Mediterranean Trust Fund to the Governing Council, and the figures would have to be submitted for processing by 31 March 1980.

44. The Meeting discussed the situation in the light of statements on expected contributions (annex VI) which still left financial difficulties during the immediate period (i.e. until March 1980) although the arrears would be made up during April. The delegation of France tabled a proposal whereby the biennial expenditure could be divided into its two annual components, thereby facilitating UNEP's uncommitted contribution to be utilized to confront the financial difficulties caused by the time-factor. That would enable a reimbursement to UNEP to release new commitment possibilities. It was explained by the secretariat, however, that while that method could be used in future years it could not be applied to the current biennium as the Mediterranean Trust Fund had been formally established on 24 July 1979, and therefore no commitments entered into by UNEP before that date could be transferred to it. Two delegations suggested that the method, if inapplicable for 1979, should be used for 1980.
45. The representative of WHO pointed out the consequences of uncertainty and delay in the availability of funds. United Nations agencies could only act on specific confirmation in time from UNEP that funds required for the execution of projects were available. Time was required to plan essential activities and the provision of funds at short notice and short intervals would have a detrimental effect on project management and results. The Meeting noted the difficulties and felt that all necessary efforts should be made to alleviate them. The representative of IMCC drew attention to the effect of the uncertainty and reduced level of funding on the ability of the Regional Oil Combating Centre to fulfil its functions.
46. After extensive discussions, during which possible avenues were investigated, the Meeting unanimously reaffirmed very strongly the commitments made by its individual States Members to the Mediterranean Trust Fund, and noted the expected date of receipt of the various contributions as given in annex VI to this report. In that context, the Meeting appealed to individual Governments to effect payment of their outstanding contributions at the earliest possible date compatible with their various internal laws and procedures.
47. The Meeting unanimously appealed to the Executive Director of UNEP to assist the Mediterranean Action Plan by the taking of all possible measures in the light of the prevailing situation, in the expectancy that the necessary contributions from Mediterranean States would be forthcoming.
48. The Meeting unanimously approved the work programme and budget for 1980, appearing in annex I of document UNEP/IG.1E/5/Add.1, as modified and amended. The final Programme and Budget approved is attached as annex VII to this report.
49. The Meeting noted that the expected payment of contributions, when compared with the minimum requirements for programme continuation in terms of time, would still result in temporary financial difficulties during some periods. It therefore requested the secretariat to effect the best possible management of the programme, taking into consideration the fact that payment of contributions could possibly be effected earlier than so far indicated.

(a) Financial prospects for 1981-82

50. Mr. Aldo Manos provided an approximate indication of the expected budgetary requirement for 1981. It was expected that it would be in the region of 4.5 million US dollars, composed of :

Section I

Co-ordination and meeting costs	1.0 million dollars
Environmental Assessment	1.0 million dollars
Regional Oil Combating Centre	0.5 million dollars

Section II

Blue Plan	1.0 million dollars
Priority Actions Programme	1.0 million dollars

Those only represented tentative figures based on information available currently, and the extent of the contribution by UNEP could not yet be made known, though the principle of progressive reduction would have to be observed. The Meeting noted the information provided by Mr. Manos, and that the detailed budget for the 1981-1982 biennium would be submitted for consideration at the second meeting of Contracting Parties scheduled for February 1981, at which time the necessary appraisal and decision on all aspects of the programme and budget would be made.

51. The Meeting agreed that, in the long term, the necessary steps would have to be taken in order to ensure approval of future work programmes and budgetary implications sufficiently well in advance to allow payment of contributions in time. It was proposed by the delegation of Malta that insofar as 1981 was concerned, the situation occurring for 1980 could possibly be avoided by Mediterranean States initiating the necessary internal procedures to be able to effect at least part of their contributions early in 1981, without any commitment as to the final amount of their contribution. During the discussion that followed, a number of delegations indicated that their Governments could maintain at least their present level of contributions during the 1981-1982 biennium. Similarly a number of delegations stated that, while they reaffirmed their support for the MAP, their internal laws and procedures made it very difficult to commit themselves to even partial contributions before a detailed budget was made available to them.
52. It was generally agreed to by the Meeting that, within the limitations imposed by their various internal laws and procedures, Mediterranean Governments should attempt to initiate the necessary measures to enable the Mediterranean Trust Fund to have sufficient resources immediately available by the time the 1981-1982 budget was approved to be able to implement the work programme agreed on.

53. The delegation of France proposed the convening of a meeting of financial and programming experts prior to the next meeting of the Contracting Parties, possibly in December 1980, in order to prepare an accurate assessment of the preliminary programme and budget estimates for 1981, 1982 and 1983. The secretariat pointed out that such a meeting, if carried out on a two-language basis, would involve a cost of 18,000 US dollars and asked the delegation of France whether it was prepared to meet it. The delegation of France agreed to consider the matter with a view to finding a solution. The proposal was accepted by the Meeting, provided the cost was met as suggested above.

Agenda item 7 - Other Business

54. The delegation of Algeria informed the Meeting that its Government had formally acceded to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea from Pollution. The Chairman, on behalf of the Meeting, congratulated Algeria on becoming a Contracting Party to the Convention.

Agenda item 8 : Adoption of the Report

55. The meeting adopted its Report and invited the Executive Director to complete it in the working languages, to adjust the translation to conform to the original text and, to introduce editorial changes which would not affect the substance.

Agenda item 9 : Closure of the Meeting

56. Before closing the Meeting, the Chairman gave the floor to the Director of the Regional Seas Programme and to the Coordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan who thanked the participants for the work they had done and the spirit in which they had done it. The Chairman highlighted the positive achievements of the Meeting and expressed on behalf of all participants his deep appreciation and sincere gratitude to all those who had contributed to its success, and in particular to the Spanish Government and the Authorities of Barcelona for their kind and generous hospitality. The meeting was closed by the Chairman on 13 February 1980 at 19.30 hours.

Annex I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
LISTE DES PARTICIPANTS  
LISTA DE LOS PARTICIPANTES

ALGERIA  
ALGERIE  
ALGERIA

\* Liamine CHEBLI  
Directeur de la protection de la nature  
Secrétariat d'Etat aux Forêts et au  
Reboisement  
Bois de Boulogne  
Alger

Mohamed El-Hadi BENNADJI  
Responsable du Département de la  
pollution marine  
Secrétariat d'Etat aux Forêts et au  
Reboisement  
Bois de Boulogne  
Alger

CYPRUS  
CHYPRE  
CHIPRE

\* Andreas DEMETROPOULOS  
Director  
Department of Fisheries  
Ministry of Agriculture and Natural  
Resources  
Tagmatarchou Poulou 5-7  
Nicosia  
Tel: 40/3279  
Cable: Fisheries Minagri

EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY  
COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE EUROPEENNE  
COMUNIDAD ECONOMICA PARA EUROPA

\* Michel CARPENTIER  
Directeur Général, Chef du Service  
de l'Environnement et de la Protection  
des Consommateurs  
Commission des Communautés Européennes  
200, rue de la Loi  
1049 Bruxelles  
Tel: 735.80.40  
Telex: 21877 COMEUR

René-Christian BERAUD  
Conseiller Juridique  
Commission des Communautés Européennes  
200, rue de la Loi  
1049 Bruxelles  
Tel: 735.80.40  
Telex: 21877 COMEUR

---

\* Head of delegation/Chef de la délégation/Jefe de la delegacion

Erwan FOUERE  
Administrateur "Relations Internationales"  
Service de l'Environnement et de la  
Protection des Consommateurs  
Commission des Communautés Européennes  
200, rue de la Loi  
1049 Bruxelles  
Tel: 735.60.40  
Telex: 21677 COMEUR

FRANCE  
FRANCE  
FRANCIA

\* Jacques LECLERC  
Sous-Directeur  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères  
37, Quai d'Orsay  
75007 Paris  
Tel: 555.95.40

Henri J. CREPIN LEBLOND  
Conseiller des Affaires Etrangères  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères  
37, Quai d'Orsay  
75007 Paris  
Tel: 555.95.40

Louis DOMINICI  
Inspecteur général de l'Environnement  
chargé des Affaires Méditerranée  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères  
246, Bld. Saint-Germain  
75007 Paris  
Tel: 544.39.93

Hélène DUEGIS  
Secrétaire des Affaires Etrangères  
Ministère des Affaires Etrangères  
37, Quai d'Orsay  
75007 Paris  
Tel: 555.95.40

Philippe PIOTET  
Sous-Secrétaire des Eaux Marines  
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Cadre  
de Vie  
14, Bld. du Général Leclerc  
92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine  
Tel: 758.12.12  
Telex: 620602 DENVIR F

Pierre NGUNGU  
Chef du Service "Protection de  
l'Environnement" (CNEXC)  
66, ave. d'Iena  
75016 Paris  
Tel: 723.55.2E



Anne-Françoise MATHIEU  
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Cadre  
de Vie  
14, Bld. du Général Leclerc  
92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine  
Tel: 758.12.12  
Telex: 620602 DENVIR F

Patricia MAUGAIN  
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Cadre  
de Vie  
14, Bld. du Général Leclerc  
92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine  
Tel: 758.12.12.  
Telex: 620602 DENVIR F

Mireille JARDIN  
Ministère de l'Environnement et du Cadre  
de Vie  
34, rue de la Fédération  
75015 Paris  
Tel: 577.30.10

GREECE  
GRECE  
GRECIA

\* Marinos YERGULANOS  
Permanent Secretary  
Environment Secretariat  
Ministry of Co-ordination  
Athens  
Tel: 3624976/3609460  
Telex: 216372 or 216326

Athanase THEODORACPOULOS  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
1, rue Académias  
Athens  
Tel: 3634721

Aristarhos SALVANOS  
Director  
Marine Environment Protection Division  
Ministry of Mercantile Marine  
Athens  
Tel: 4171832

Miltiades VASSILCPOULOS  
Scientific Advisor  
National Council for Physical Planning  
and Environment  
Ministry of Co-ordination  
Athens  
Tel: 3609469

Panos LAGOS  
Scientific Collaborator  
National Council for Physical Planning  
and Environment  
Ministry of Co-ordination  
Athens  
Tel: 3619273

ISRAEL

\* Shmuel AMIR  
Acting Director  
Environmental Protection Service  
Ministry of the Interior  
Jerusalem  
Tel: (02) 669671

ITALY  
ITALIE  
ITALIA

\* Son Excellence  
Giovanni FALCHI  
Ambasciatore  
Ministero Affari Esteri  
Roma  
Tel (761) 520050

Gerarda D'AGOSTINO  
Ispettore Generale  
Ministero Marina Mercantile  
Direz. Generale Demanio Marittimo e Porti  
V. le Asia (EUR)  
Roma  
Tel: 5908.455

Giovanni ARMENTO  
Direttore Aggiunto di Divisione  
Ministero del Tesoro  
Via XX Settembre  
Roma  
Tel: 465738

Francesco ERCOLANO  
Primo Segretario di Legazione  
Ministero Affari Esteri  
Roma  
Tel: 36911 (2660)

Sandro BRUSCHI  
Urbanista Capo  
Ministero Lavori Pubblici  
Direzione Coordinamento Territoriale  
Piazza Porta Pia  
00100 Rome  
Tel: 8482 (6226)

Franco MAGI  
Rappresentante Ministero  
Partecipazioni Statali  
c/o ENI  
Piazzale E. Mattei, 1  
Roma  
Tel: 5900378

Norberto DELLA CROCE  
Coordinatore Nazionale UNEP  
Gruppo Ricerca Oceanologica  
Università di Genova  
Via Balbi, 5  
16126 Genova  
Tel: 260.955

Franco FIORELLI  
Istituto Studi per la Programmazione  
Economica (ISPE)  
Via Dalisario, 15  
Roma  
Tel: 483531

Gregorio CATRAMBONE  
Assessore Municipale di Genova  
per la Tutela Dell'Ambiente  
Genova  
Tel: 203683

MALTA  
MALTE  
MALTA

\* Louis J. SALIBA  
Principal Environment Officer  
Ministry of Health and Environment  
Valletta  
Tel: 24071  
Telex: 100 MCDMLT MT

Carmel L. VASSALLO  
Acting Registrar-General of Shipping  
and Seamen  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Castille, Valletta  
Tel: 28997  
Telex: 100 MCDMLT MT

MONACO

\* Son Excellence  
César C. R. SOLAMITO  
Ministre Plénipotentiaire  
Délégué permanent auprès des Organismes  
internationaux  
Villa Girasole  
16, Bld. de Suisse  
Monte Carlo  
Tel: (93) 30.33.71; 30.36.79  
Telex: 469796 MC GENTEL

Alein VATRICAN  
Secrétaire Général  
Centre Scientifique de Monaco  
16, Blo. de Suisse  
Monte Carlo  
Tel: (93) 30.33.71  
Telex: 469796 MC GENTEL

SPAIN  
ESPAGNE  
ESPANA

\* Maria-Teresa ESTEVAN BOLEA  
Directora General del Medio Ambiente  
Ministerio de Obras Publicas y Urbanismo  
Nuevos Ministerios  
Madrid  
Tel: 233.20.20

José A. ERREJON  
Subdirector General de Coordinacion Ambiental  
Ministerio de Obras Publicas y Urbanismo  
Paseo de Castellana  
Madrid

Angel MATO  
Subdirector General de Seguridad Maritima y  
Contaminacion  
Subsecretaria de Pesca y Marina Mercante  
Ministerio de Transportes y Comunicaciones  
Madrid  
Tel: 231.57.80

Alvaro FERNANDEZ VILLAVERDE y SILVA  
Consejero de Embejada  
Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores  
Madrid

Juan LOWY  
Jefe del Servicio de Relaciones  
Internacionales  
Ministerio de Obras Publicas y Urbanismo  
Madrid  
Tel: 253.16.00

Rodolfo GARCIA-PABLO  
Jefe de Servicio del Centro de Estudios  
de Ordenacion del Territorio y Medio  
Ambiente - C.E.C.T.M.A.  
Madrid  
Tel: 253.16.00

Julian MINGO MAGRO  
Ingeniero Jefe de la Seccion de Proteccion  
de Calidad de Aguas  
Ministerio de Obras Publicas y Urbanismo  
Madrid  
Tel: 253.16.00

Francisco GONZALEZ AMO  
 Jefe de la Seccion de Contaminacion Industria  
 de las Aguas  
 Ministerio de Industria y Energia  
 Madrid  
 Tel: 248.70.76

Antonio NADAL AMAT  
 Director Centro Regional de Cataluna  
 I.N.I.A.  
 Ministerio de Agricultura  
 Cabrils (Barcelona)  
 Tel: 7593100

Fernando ALVARGONZALEZ  
 Secretario Embajada  
 Direccion General Organismos  
 y Conferencias Internacionales  
 Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores  
 Madrid

Joaquin ROS  
 Jefe del Departamento Contaminacion Mar  
 Instituto Espanol de Oceanografia  
 Alcala 27-40  
 Madrid

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
 REPUBLIQUE ARABE SYRIENNE  
 REPUBLICA ARABE SIRIA

\* Adel HAMWI  
 Chairman  
 National Oceanographic Committee  
 Supreme Council of Sciences  
 P.O. Box 4762  
 Damascus  
 Tel: 33.97.54

TUNISIA  
 TUNISIE  
 TUNISIA

\* Son Excellence  
 Ridhe BACH BAQUAB  
 Directeur des Organisations et  
 Conférences internationales  
 Ministère des Affaires Etrangères  
 Tunis  
 Tel: 266.355

Mohamed Mouldi MARSIT  
 Sous-Directeur au Premier Ministère  
 La Kasbah  
 Tunis  
 Tel: 260.600

Moncef RIAHI  
 Chef de la Division des Institutions  
 specialisées  
 Ministère des Affaires Etrangères  
 Tunis  
 Tel: 286.355

Hassen BOUSSOFFARA  
Chef de Cabinet du  
Ministre de l'Industrie des  
Mines et de l'Energie  
Tunis  
Tel: 262.547

Hedia BACCAR  
Attaché de Cabinet  
Ministère de l'Agriculture  
Tunis  
Tel: 89.08.63 / 89.09.26  
Telex: MINAGR 3378 TN

Abderrehman ENNAFTI  
Directeur Marine Marchande p.i.  
Ministère des Transports et des  
Communications  
Tunis  
Tel: 25.66.00 / 25.51.47 (direct)

Salah BOUSSATA  
Chef de Service Contentieux  
Ministère de l'Intérieur  
Tunis  
Tel: 24.300 (2612)

Mohamed HADJ ALI SALEM  
Directeur de l'Institut Océanographique  
de Salammbou  
Salammbou  
Tel: 27.63.64

TURKEY  
TURQUIE  
TURQUIA

\* Ugur SUMER  
Under-Secretary of State for Environment  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Karanfil sok. No.8  
Ankara  
Tel: 186.439 / 161.861

Firuz Demir YASAMIS  
Assistant Under-Secretary of State  
for Environment  
Office of the Prime Minister  
Karanfil sok. No. 8  
Ankara  
Tel: 186.439 / 183.825

Yigit ALPOGAN  
Counsellor  
Turkish Permanent Mission to the  
United Nations at Geneva  
Geneva  
Tel: (022) 34.39.30

YUGOSLAVIA  
YUGOSLAVIE  
YUGOSLAVIA

\* Bosko PETRIK  
Senior Adviser  
Republic Secretariat for Water Engineering  
of the SR of Croatia  
Proleterskih brigada 220  
41000 Zagreb  
Tel: 510.522

Franjo GASPARDVIC  
Counsellor  
Committee of Building Housing and  
and Environment of Croatia  
Marulicev Trg 16  
41000 Zagreb  
Tel: (41) 47.811

Ljubomir JEFTIC  
Centre for Marine Research  
"Rudjer Boskovic" Institute  
P.O. Box 1016  
41001 Zagreb  
Tel: 424.355

\*\*\*\*\*

REPRESENTATIVES OF UNITED NATIONS, SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS  
REPRESENTANTS DES NATIONS UNIES, INSTITUTIONS SPECIALISEES ET AUTRES ORGANISATIONS  
REPRESENTANTES DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS, ORGANISMOS ESPECIALIZADOS Y OTRAS ORGANIZACION

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Henri DIRICKX  
Chief of the Water Section  
Environment and Human Settlements Division  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Tel: 34.60.11

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WEST ASIA

Kamal RIAD  
Chief, Environmental Co-ordination Unit  
Beirut  
Tel: 278.227  
Telex: UNATIONS ECWA BEIRUT

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME

L. CAPPELLETTI  
Co-ordinator  
Programme Operations  
Regional Bureau for Arab States  
New York, N.Y. 10017  
Tel: 212.754.4838

Rolf G. KNUTSSON  
Liaison Officer  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Tel: 98.58.50

UNEP/UNEP  
CO-ORDINATING UNIT

Roger BOOTH  
PAP Co-ordinator  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Tel: 98.58.50  
Telex: 28877 UNEP-CH

SPECIALIZED AGENCIES

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE  
ORGANIZATION

Miroslav NIKOLIC  
Project Co-ordinator (FIRI-UNEP)  
Via delle Terme di Caracalla  
00100 Rome  
Tel: (537) 57.971  
Telex: 610181 FAO I  
Cables: FOODAGRI ROME

UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,  
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANIZATION

Michel BATISSE  
Deputy Assistant Director General  
for Science  
(Environment and Natural Resources)  
UNESCO  
7, Place de Fontenoy  
75700 Paris  
Tel: 577.16.10  
Telex: 270.602

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

J. Ian WADDINGTON  
Director  
Environmental Health Service  
WHO Regional Office for Europe  
Scherfigsvej 8  
Copenhagen  
Tel: (01) 29.01.11  
Telex: 15346 UNISANTE DK

Hans J. SCHLENZKA  
Senior Legal Officer  
Avenue Appia  
Geneva  
Tel: 91.21.11

George PCNGHIS  
Consultant  
EURC/WHO  
Palais des Nations  
CH-1211 Geneva 10  
Tel: 98.58.50  
Telex: 28877 UNITERRA CH



INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MARITIME  
CONSULTATIVE ORGANIZATION

David T. EDWARDS  
Senior Officer  
Marine Environment Division  
101-104 Piccadilly  
London W.1  
Tel: 499.9040  
Telex: 23588

Philippe LE LOURD  
Regional Oil Combating Centre  
Manoel Island  
Malta  
Tel: 40.818  
Telex: 464 MW

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY  
AGENCY

Alan WALTON  
Director  
International Laboratory of Marine  
Radioactivity  
Musée Océanographique  
MC Monte Carlo  
Tel: 30.21.54  
Cable: remona mc

Rinosuke FUKAI  
International Laboratory of Marine  
Radioactivity  
c/o Musée Océanographique  
MC Monte Carlo  
Tel: 30.21.54  
Cable: remona mc

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION

M. Jean-Claude NEYRET  
Administrateur  
Service des Relations  
Generalísimo 59  
Madrid 16  
Tel: 279.28.04  
Telex: 42188 OMT E

ARAB LEAGUE EDUCATIONAL,  
CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC  
ORGANIZATION (ALECSO)

Hedia BACCAR  
Avenue Mohamed V  
Tunis

COMMISSION INTERNATIONALE POUR  
L'EXPLORATION SCIENTIFIQUE DE LA  
MEDITERRANEE

Son Excellence  
César C. R. Solemito  
Ministre Plénipotentiaire  
16, Bld. de Suisse  
MC Monte Carlo  
Tel: (93) 30.38.79

INTERIM BALTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT  
PROTECTION COMMISSION

Raimo PEKKANEN  
Justice  
Supreme Administrative Court  
P. Explanaadi 3  
00170 Helsinki 17  
Tel: 651.600

INTERNATIONAL JURIDICAL  
ORGANIZATION

Mario GUTTIERES  
President  
Via Barberini 3  
00187 Rome  
Tel: 4742-117  
Telex: 514046 IJG I

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION  
OF NATURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

David A. MUNRO  
Director-General  
1196 Gland  
CH-Switzerland  
Tel: (022) 64.32.54

MEDEAS

René BOURNE  
President  
MEDEAS  
Centre d'activités développement  
environnement en Méditerranée  
Château Font de Veyre 70  
Avenue du Dr. Picaut  
06150 Cannes  
France  
Tel: 47.38.56

Annex II

OPENING REMARKS BY PETER S. THACHER  
DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

Mr. Chairmen, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that on behalf of the Executive Director and on my own behalf, I welcome you to this Intergovernmental Review Meeting on the Mediterranean Action Plan.

Thanks to the generous hospitality of the Government of Spain we meet again, for the third time, here in Barcelona. Like the previous two meetings, this meeting is of great significance for the United Nations Environment Programme and for the future of your, and our, common endeavour, in the words of the Barcelona Convention, to preserve the Mediterranean Sea Area, this "common heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

In 1975 you approved here the Action Plan for the Mediterranean which will inspire our joint activities together with the entire United Nations system and many other organizations for years to come.

In 1976 you signed the Barcelona Convention and two protocols which fifteen Governments and the EEC have since ratified.

This review meeting, though more limited in duration, is another important stage in our progress, and comes at a moment of promise, or of crisis, on which your views will be vital.

Since we met one year ago in Geneva a number of developments have taken place on which you have detailed reports, and more information will shortly be presented. Much of it is very positive in terms of accomplishments in the programme on which you agreed only 12 months ago. But in spite of the generosity of a number of States who have contributed in whole or in part their agreed contributions to the Mediterranean Trust Fund, we have received only 35% of what is required. Without a dramatic increase in cash contributions we have today only seven weeks remaining before we must stop a number of ongoing activities. The facts in the documents before you make it clear that financial resources are insufficient to carry out the programme and its management. This review meeting must, therefore, face the unpleasant facts and review the broad range of activities and meetings to identify those that can be postponed or, if necessary, sacrificed. The choices are difficult and painful but must be made. Dr. Tolbe and I need your views.

Mr. President, in Nairobi we are preparing for the 8th session of UNEP's Governing Council which meets in mid-April. At its last session the Council decided to continue support for the Mediterranean Action Plan from the United Nations Environment Fund for the biennium 1979-80 up to a level of \$1.64 million. As you can see from documents before you the Environment Fund commitment for this period has been brought down from about \$2 million in October to the current, 31 January figure of \$1,833,552. This must now be reduced by a further \$194,000 to comply with the Governing Council's decision.

While the United Nations Environment Fund remains over committed, your Trust Fund, with a target you set of \$3.2 million to carry 50 percent of the burden, is under supplied; only \$1.1 million has been received; virtually all of it has been committed.

This crisis is made more severe by the fact that the Trust Fund, unlike the United Nations Environment Fund, has no provision to allow us to commit any money beyond cash actually received in the Fund. We had, of course, intended to strengthen the staffing of the Coordination Unit in anticipation of next year's decision on its new location, but financial constraints force choices between activities, meetings and staffing. I must tell you that a number of critical posts are filled by people who are working on your behalf very diligently and whose contracts must expire at the end of March, 49 days from today, unless new cash contributions are received.

In these circumstances you will understand why it may not be possible to take some of the planned steps to carry out the Council's decision to strengthen the Coordination Unit and ensure the continuity of the Programme. The Executive Director has appointed Mr. Aldo Manos Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan. Under the general supervision of the Executive Director - which as a practical matter will be exercised through the Regional Seas Director - he will be rapidly taking over day to day responsibility for our work in this region, and I trust and I am sure you will give him all the support he needs to serve you well.

In your documentation you can see our intentions with regard to further staffing of this unit if funds are available. The unit continues to depend heavily on the staff of the Regional Seas Programme Activity Centre, directed by Dr. Keckes, who are responsible for managing the Kuwait Action Plan and for developing comparable regional action plans for the Caribbean, West Africa, South-East Asia, South-East Pacific and South-West Pacific. These people are already over-extended, and they can not be asked to slow down work in other regions, simply because the Governments of this region have not honoured their pledges. You can see from documents before you that if three Governments who have generously pledged a total of \$1.3 million, but which have not yet paid anything, if these three Governments now pay in full, we can get through March. Otherwise certain parts of the programme must unavoidably come into jeopardy.

In the face of the significant progress being made, especially in the scientific research and monitoring activities, this would indeed be tragic.

Now Mr. President, there is another area which only four months ago was filled with promise, yet which today, despite adequate financial support, verges on a crisis. I refer to the Blue Plan which was extensively discussed, and broadly agreed in detail at the meeting in Cannes in early October.

We have thus far committed \$340 thousand to this activity in 1975-1980, including the initial commitment for administrative and financial arrangements with the supporting organization, MEDEAS, which is today ready for signature. We plan to commit up to an additional \$600,000 if funds are available. What then, you ask, is the nature of the problem?

The answer, Mr. President, is that the Executive Director and I are persuaded that many of your Governments are not serious about the Blue Plan. Under these conditions we must question whether further commitments to it, even if the money were available, would be justified.

On the basis of the agreed report of the October meeting in Cannes, the Executive Director on 24 October invited Governments to nominate candidates for membership in the Group of Co-ordination and Synthesis (GCS) as well as experts to undertake surveys and studies which had been carefully selected and fully described at the Cannes meeting. Because your representatives in Cannes had concluded that the first phase should begin in February, this month, we asked that nominations reach us by 15 December.

But by that date we had received nominations from only three Governments, and therefore, on 21 December we extended the deadline for nominations to 15 January.

As of today we have on hand varying amounts of information on candidates nominated by only nine Governments and the European Economic Community.

Because of the importance of the Blue Plan and the need to secure broad, highly-qualified participation in it, the Executive Director personally reviewed all information submitted on each of those nominated, and he compared this information with the indicative terms of reference that were set forth in annex V of the Cannes Report. His conclusion from this review is, as I said, that Governments are not serious about the Blue Plan. Very very few of those nominated have sufficient academic qualifications, or experience, in fields relevant to the terms of reference. And whereas we specifically asked all Governments to nominate more than one candidate for the Group of Co-ordination and Synthesis, we have a total of only seven candidates from only seven countries for the six posts available. As to experts we have 28 candidates, but they come from only nine countries.

In these circumstances the Executive Director is in touch with the principal consultant whose report was the basis for discussion at the Cannes meeting and is prepared, if you desire, and if you so signify at this meeting, to ask him, Dr. Sabri Abdalla, to take charge of this activity by serving as the Co-ordinator of the Group of Co-ordination and Synthesis and to consult Governments as necessary to secure the services of people of quality whom Governments would agree to designate. Naturally,

under these circumstances the first phase of the Blue Plan will not start, as had been hoped, in February this year. Even to start this process we need your confirmation that you have a strong interest in the programme and are willing to find qualified experts who can take part in it.

Mr. President, I have stressed the difficulties we face in common, at a time when significant progress is being made on which you will have as much information as you desire in addition to what is already before you.

Great strides have been taken in the "Assessment" area; the moment is approaching when the pilot projects, which are already producing new, substantive information you need to carry out the action plan, can be converted to the long-term monitoring and research programme; the manual on reference methods, the bibliography, the Report on the State of Pollution in this sea, and the full analysis of the results of the pilot phase, including its impact on your own national pollution monitoring capabilities, all of these are approaching publication, and you have today before you 660 pages of detailed Summary Reports by the 105 Principal Investigators who are active in the area.

All of this material will be reviewed by an expert meeting in September in preparation for next year's second meeting of Contracting Parties. A great deal has been accomplished in the five years since Governments approved this portion of the Action Plan in Barcelona. I hope seriously there will be no loss of momentum or break in continuity.

In the "Management", I have mentioned the Blue Plan but want to call your attention to document UNEP/IG.16/INF.5 of 7 February on the Priority Actions Programme (PAP). Here, as you will see, with significant leadership and support by our colleagues in UNCP, considerable progress has been made in the fields of energy, aquaculture and settlements, and a start has been made on water, soils and, to a lesser degree, tourism. I want to record our very real gratitude to the high-level backing given by the United Nations Development Programme to the work of the joint UNDP/UNEP unit established in Geneva, and I know you will be closely interested in the information which will be presented to this meeting by the United Nations Development Programme.

In the area of International Agreements your Governments continue the extraordinary progress that was accomplished by the agreement and signature of three agreements here in Barcelona four years ago this week. There are now 16 Contracting Parties. The next protocol, on land-based sources, is well advanced, materially assisted by the results of the research and monitoring activities, as well as by the work of the World Health Organization and UNEP's International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals, but we need the funds necessary to convene a diplomatic conference in Athens in May at which we are confident of agreement on this new treaty. Work is also under way in other aspects, such as a protocol on protected areas, and on guidelines for offshore activities. You will also be informed by the Director (whom I welcome here) of the Regional Oil Combating Centre of the status and activities under way there in Malta.

From the provisional list of documents before you for the second meeting of the Contracting Parties, which will be hosted next year by France, you can see a catalogue of work under way which, with your continued support, can be significantly advanced before that meeting. We will also wish this week to discuss with you the future scheduling of meetings of the Contracting Parties so that we may avoid the problem of deciding on a budget several months after the actual start of the work.

But our principal challenge is to increase financial resources available in the Mediterranean Trust Fund dramatically and immediately. Unless this can be assured now, we need your urgent advice on where to economize. We will of course supplement the information already before you to illuminate various options that are available, as well as to identify those actions where delays can be tolerated less painfully. We look forward to the results of your review over the coming three days.

Mr. President, I am quite confident that, as has always happened in the past, and with the continued leadership of you, Sir, Ambassador Bach Baouab, representatives here assembled will be able to overcome today's difficulties.

In the spirit of Mediterranean co-operation that was so clearly expressed in 1975 and affirmed in 1976 in this beautiful city of Barcelona, you will, I am sure, find a solution which will ensure continued progress of the Mediterranean Action Plan. This will serve in the future, as it has in the past, as an inspiration - as what his excellency Sr. Juan Diez Nicolas referred to just now as a model - for many other regions throughout the world.

Annex III

STATEMENT BY ALDO MANDS,  
CO-ORDINATOR OF THE MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN  
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE BARCELONA REVIEW MEETING

Mr. Chairmen,  
Distinguished Representative of the Government of Spain,  
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to address you today for the first time since I was appointed Co-ordinator of the Mediterranean Action Plan. Allow me to say a few words as an opportunity for you to know me better and perhaps respond to some of my views in your interventions.

I wish to thank the Executive Director, Dr. Mostafa K. Tolba, for the confidence he has shown in me by appointing me to this post. I hope to demonstrate that his confidence was not misplaced and I wish to review my loyalty to him and to the Organization we serve. I trust that he will continue to give the Mediterranean programme the support he always has, never forgetting among his heavy responsibilities which are world-wide, that he is a Mediterranean himself.

I wish to extend the same sentiments to the Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Thacher, who has done more than any other single person to promote the concept and establish the mechanisms of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

From Dr. Keckes who has given such great impulse to the Mediterranean programme we shall expect to receive continued guidance in the framework of his global responsibilities for the regional seas.

Mr. Chairman, to you and to the other elected members of the Bureau as well as to the distinguished delegates I pledge that I and the future members of the unit shall work hard and diligently in the full respect of the convention and protocols, of your decisions and your collective wishes.

I hope to visit each Contracting Party and Mediterranean coastal State to promote the objective of the Mediterranean Action Plan to meet those responsible for its various aspects, and to become better acquainted with your problems and capabilities.

Apart from such visits, which are in any case subject to an invitation on your part, I wish to establish and maintain the most open and cordial relations with you and will use the channels that you have designated.



Mr. Chairman, the programme before us is among the most ambitious, most exciting and potentially most fruitful intergovernmental endeavours today. At the same time the Mediterranean countries have the technological know-how, the intellectual capacity, the financial means to ensure its full success.

You can rely also on the technical support of the United Nations and its specialized agencies. To their representatives here - my colleagues and my friends - I renew our grateful thanks and look forward to continued close co-operation.

Mr. Chairman, by way of conclusion I believe that our programme should be realistic, action-oriented, and aim at overall coordination of environmental activities in the Mediterranean Sea area. A programme that is realistic is one that is sober in the expectation of what can be achieved and how soon it can be achieved, but is generous in providing all the means that are necessary.

A programme that is action-oriented recognizes that to identify the sources of pollution, pathways and effects is only a means to an end: the end is the elimination of those sources, the interruption of the pathways, the reduction of the effects of pollution and this can only be achieved by action that will encourage alternatives, promote the application of appropriate technologies and assist member countries in establishing contacts with suitable sources of financing.

Finally, I believe that the future plans, based on full knowledge of what is being done in the Mediterranean Sea area, should contain a complete programme of what needs to be done, even beyond the resources which are known to be available to us. Only thus will it be possible for us to mobilize additional support from other programmes, foundations, local communities that are committed to the protection of the Mediterranean, and ensure that the meetings of the Contracting Parties of the Barcelona Convention provide the overall direction for all environmental activities in our region and be recognized as the supreme environmental forum of the Mediterranean Sea area.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Annex IV

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Rules of procedure
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Organization of work
5. Review of progress achieved in 1979 and the work programme for 1980
6. Review of institutional and financial arrangements
  - (a) The co-ordinating unit
  - (b) The enlarged Bureau
  - (c) Financial matters
  - (d) Financial prospects for 1981-1982
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report
9. Closure of the meeting.

Annex V

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE MEETING

## A. Working documents

UNEP/IG.18/1	Agenda
UNEP/IG.18/2	Annotated agenda
UNEP/IG.18/3	Progress report on activities of the Mediterranean Action Plan in 1979
UNEP/IG.18/4	Financial report on the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan and on the Management of the Mediterranean Trust Fund in 1979
UNEP/IG.18/4/Add.1	Financial report on the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan and on the Management of the Mediterranean Trust Fund in 1979
UNEP/IG.18/5	Mediterranean Action Plan 1980 work programme and related budget including staffing of co-ordinating unit
UNEP/IG.18/5/Add.1	Mediterranean Action Plan 1980 work programme and related budget including staffing of co-ordinating unit
UNEP/IG.18/6	Proposal for establishment of enlarged Bureau and its competence

## B. Information documents

UNEP/IG.18/INF.1	List of documents
UNEP/IG.18/INF.2	Provisional list of participants
UNEP/IG.18/INF.3	Summary reports on the scientific results of MED POL. (In the original languages in which they were submitted)
UNEP/IG.18/INF.4	Comments received from Governments on the report of the meeting of experts on legal aspects of pollution from offshore exploration and exploitation. (In the original languages in which they were submitted)

- UNEP/IG.16/INF.5            The Priority Actions Programme
- UNEP/IG.16/INF.6            Outline of the activities of the Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC) in 1979 and proposed work programme for 1980
- UNEP/WG.17/6                Report of the meeting of legal experts on the preliminary draft protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean from land-based sources, Geneva, 25-29 June 1979. (English and French only)
- UNEP/WG.18/4                Report of the meeting of technical experts on the draft protocol for the protection of the Mediterranean Sea against pollution from land-based sources, Geneva, 25-29 June 1979. (English and French only)
- UNEP/WG.26/3                Report of the meeting of experts on the protocol for the prevention of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by dumping from ships and aircraft, Geneva, 2-6 July 1979. (English and French only)
- UNEP/WG.29/4                Report of the Second Meeting of Blue Plan National Focal Points, Cannes, 1-5 October 1979. (English and French only)

Annex VI

EXPECTED CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE BASIS OF STATEMENTS  
MADE AT THE WORKING GROUP MEETING ON FINANCIAL MATTERS  
11 FEBRUARY 1980

	Paid but not yet received	Promised for		
		April	May - July	August - December
Albania	--	--	--	--
Egypt	--	--	--	21,530
France	--	--	--	573,736
Israel	30,000	--	16,910	--
Italy	--	744,610	--	--
Lebanon	--	--	--	6,070
Libya	--	--	--	32,720
Monaco	2,690	--	--	--
Morocco	--	--	--	10,277
Spain	--	--	--	412,200
Syria	--	5,380	--	--
Turkey	18,225	62,535	--	--
Yugoslavia	22,000	--	--	85,680
EEC	40,000	--	40,000	--
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 112,915</b>	<b>812,525</b>	<b>56,910</b>	<b>1,144,215</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>: \$ 2,126,565</b>			

ANNEX VII

Revised 1979/1980 budget (US \$)

SECTION I	Approved 1979 and 1980 (in 1000s)	1979	1980 Committed	New Commitment 1980	Total 1980	1979 and 1980
Chapter 1: Co-ordination	1,030.00	655,837	280,506	512,448	792,954	1,448,791
Chapter 2: Meetings	366.20					
Chapter 3: Baseline Studies	603.00	707,696	61,504	300,000	381,504	1,089,400
Chapter 4: River-borne Pollution	106.00	--	--	--	--	--
Chapter 5: Land-based Pollution	17.00	19,456	--	--	--	19,456
Chapter 6: Intercalibration	154.00	196,872	14,000	50,000	64,000	260,872
Chapter 7: Air-borne pollution	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chapter 8: Modelling	--	--	--	--	--	--
Chapter 9: Civil Combating Centre	672.10	210,646	69,000	230,000	299,000	509,646
Chapter 10: Env. Quality Criteria	176.00	--	--	--	--	--
Sub-Total						
Section I	\$ 3,146.30	1,790,707	445,010	1,092,448	1,537,458	3,328,165

SECTION II	Approved 1979 and 1980 (in 1000s)	1979	1980 Committed	New Commitment 1980	Total 1980	1979 and 1980
Chapter 1: Blue Plan	1,040.00	114,000	322,500	600,000	922,500	1,036,500
Chapter 2: Marine Living Resources	30.00	89,200	49,700	--	49,700	138,900
Chapter 3: Water	30.00	--	--	25,000	25,000	25,000
Chapter 4: Energy	20.50	--	--	--	--	--
Chapter 5: Human Settlements	119.50	--	25,000	--	25,000	25,000
Chapter 6: Soil	119.50	--	--	25,000	25,000	25,000
Chapter 7: Tourism	119.50	--	--	25,000	25,000	25,000
Chapter 8: Protected Areas	95.00	46,235	--	--	--	46,235
Sub-Total						
Section II	\$ 1,574.50	249,435	397,200	675,000	1,072,200	1,321,635

	Approved 1979 and 1980 (in 1000e)	1979	1980 Committed	New Commitment 1980	Total 1980	1979 and 1980
Section I	3,146.30	1,790,707	445,010	1,092,448	1,537,458	3,328,165
Section II	1,574.50	249,435	397,200	675,000	1,072,200	1,321,635
Sections I and II	4,720.80	2,040,142	842,210	1,767,448	2,609,658	4,649,800
Programme Support Cost	--	--	71,000	--	71,000	71,000
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 4,720.80</b>	<b>2,040,142</b>	<b>913,210</b>	<b>1,767,448</b>	<b>2,680,658</b>	<b>4,720,800</b>



Annex VIII

Total Assistance to the Participants in MEL PLL for Training, Equipment, Material and Experts  
(in US \$)

Country	MEL I	MEL II	MEL III	MEL IV	MEL V	MEL VI	MEL VII	MEL VIII	RAC	OTHER**	TOTAL
ALBANIA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ALGERIA	-	26 125	-	-	22 500	-	-	-	-	-	-
CYPRUS	10 000	30 225	19 500	n d	6 500	9 700	-	-	50 000	-	100 625
EEC	n d	n d	n d	n d	n d	n d	n d	-	-	-	77 925+
EGYPT	11 500+	62 625	33 925	12 700	15 700	16 200+	4 500	-	-	-	200 751+
FRANCE	2 000+	no cost	1 000	no cost	no cost	n d	3 400	6 000	40 000	1 401	200 751+
GREECE	12 000	19 800	4 500+	6 500+	6 300	11 000+	9 783	9 200	10 000	-	24 400+
ISRAEL	30 000*	30 525	1 000	24 300	n d	7 000	20 463+	9 000	-	561	79 644+
ITALY	2 500+	19 600	6 000	3 000+	n d	14 100	21 233	-	10 000	-	122 306+
LEBANON	9 500	6 100	14 500	n d	n d	-	4 740	-	-	1 370	76 633+
LIBYA	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38 210
MALTA	6 000	24 525	21 676	15 000	-	12 500	7 773+	10 000	10 000	-	107 676+
MGNACC	-	-	-	-	-	no cost	5 000	-	-	-	5 000
MOROCCO	n d	29 525+	17 000+	3 500+	n d	2 500	3 660	-	-	-	56 365+
SPAIN	2 500+	4 500	10 053+	4 500+	n d	n d	8 366+	10 000	-	-	47 919+
SYRIA	n d	n d	n d	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TUNISIA	13 500	30 725	5 500	n d	n d	n d	1 700+	-	-	-	51 425+
TURKEY	10 000	75 970	46 350	10 900	11 200	10 500	10 000	-	10 000	837	185 757
YUGOSLAVIA	6 000+	67 050	34 156	32 200	41 100	16 000	35 418	-	10 000	775	245 699+
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>115 500+</b>	<b>431 695+</b>	<b>223 362+</b>	<b>115 600+</b>	<b>105 300+</b>	<b>101 500+</b>	<b>13 256+</b>	<b>46 200</b>	<b>140 000</b>	<b>4 944</b>	<b>1 421 357+</b>

n d = not determined  
+20,000 for shipment  
\*direct contribution from UNEP  
+additional contribution expected