



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



EP

5 June 2008
UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. 327/2
Original: ENGLISH



MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

12th Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee
Athens, Greece, 19 and 20 June 2008

**REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE 12th MEETING
OF THE MCSD STEERING COMMITTEE**

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Report by the Secretariat for the 12th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development

Introduction

In accordance with Rule 18 of the Rules of Procedure of the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD), a meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD will be held on 19-20th June, 2008 in the premises of the Secretariat of the Barcelona Convention, 48 Vassilleos Konstantinou Avenue, Athens Greece.

The objectives are to discuss the implications on MCSD of the recent developments within the MAP system and outside, and to initiate a process toward the organisation of the 13th MCSD Meeting in 2009. The expected results will include concrete actions, measures and activities that are deemed necessary to make MCSD more responsive to its changing political and institutional environment, as well as a set of strategic principles and criteria to guide and evaluate MCSD functioning and work programme.

With this meeting, the MCSD Secretariat would like to kick off closer and more continuous interactions with the Steering Committee, thus engaging the Committee beyond the mere preparation of MCSD meetings. Indeed a regular dialogue between the Steering Committee and the MCSD Secretariat is deemed necessary to improve the intersession work and to ensure that MCSD delivers according to the needs of the region and in synchronization with the international calendars and commitments.

As has been the practice in previous meetings of the Steering Committee, and if appropriate, a summary of conclusions will be presented at the end of the meeting for review and adoption. A report of the meeting will be prepared by the Secretariat and circulated among the members in the following weeks for review and comments before finalization.

The Steering Committee meeting will be conducted in French and English. Interpretation facilities will be provided. The report of the Secretariat offers some considerations on the relevant issues and proposes a number of questions to structure the discussions. Please note that directly relevant reference documents are annexed to the Secretariat Report. Important information documents are under separate cover. Please only print if necessary.

1. Progress Report

1.1. Support to policy process at the country level

1.1.1. Support to National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSD)

Background

Since 2005, UNEP MAP has been fostering the formulation of national strategies for sustainable development (NSSD). During the first phase (2005-2006), four countries - Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco, and the Syrian Arab Republic- have directly benefited from UNEP MAP technical and financial support, complemented by funding from Italy and Monaco.

The NSSD Review (2005) and the regional workshop (First Working Session on Challenges and Opportunities of NSSD Formulation 3-4 October 2006, Athens, Greece) carried out by UNEP MAP indicate that the impact of formulation process on the overall national policy framework varies significantly according to the countries circumstances. However there are some features common to the different country processes: NSSD largely draws upon MSSD orientations and priorities; most countries have used the MAP support catalytically and managed to mobilize additional financial resources; NSSD formulation itself proves as important as the resulting document because it has created opportunities to raise awareness, build consensus, develop partnerships and involve a variety of stakeholders in the SD process.

With additional funds received from the Spanish development organisation, AZAHAR, four other countries can be involved and a NSSD regional workshop organised. In 2007, applying the same criteria as during the first phase, UNEP MAP has identified candidate countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lebanon and Tunisia,. With eight countries following similar approaches¹, a significant experience will build up, stimulating synergies and cooperation.

Current situation

A brief review of the current situation shows the challenges of UNEP MAP support to NSSD.

Montenegro that just presented its strategy during the CSD meeting side event stands as an example of success story. Indeed, with the support of the highest authorities in the Government, the responsible team has demonstrated a continuing commitment to the process. Throughout the formulation, the team has managed to maintain the appropriate momentum and the NSSD has eventually influenced the national policy and legal frameworks, as well as the concerned institutions and stakeholders. It has to be noted that the creation of the new State of Montenegro offered a very conducive situation with

¹ The proposed steps are based on the UNCSD/DSA and OECD/DAC Guidelines for Strategies for Sustainable Development.

regard to such a process. Pending a thorough and systematic review of NSSD in the Region, -planned at the end of this year-, the NSSD situation in other countries is not yet fully appreciated.

As far as **Tunisia** is concerned, the standard MoU has been considerably adapted to the country specific situation in order to accommodate the long existing and substantial experience of Tunisia in terms of sustainable development. Indeed, as early as 1996, Tunisia has established a National Commission for Sustainable Development and adopted its national Agenda 21 that has influenced the national planning cycles (from the IX th Economic and Social Development Plan 1997-2001 onwards). More than one hundred municipalities have embarked in the formulation of local Agendas 21 and the regional authorities (24 Governorates) have been contributing to the formulation of national development plans. The MoU has been signed and will be effective by the end of May.

Concerning the other candidate countries, developments have been uneven and the MoUs still need to be signed. Delays are partly due to the lack of continuity in the SD Officer position -that will soon be ensured by the appointment of the new Deputy Director- and partly because of circumstances specific to each country. For instance, **Lebanon** does not have yet the required political and institutional stability, and the other countries are undergoing substantial re organisation with major changes in the mandates of the concerned institutions. For instance, the MAP Focal Point of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** indicated that the very complicated governance structure and the difficulties encountered during the transition period made it difficult to convince the Directorate for Economic Planning (of the Council of Ministers) that NSSD could be included in the Strategy of B&H Development 2008-2013.

Albania also is at a crucial stage of institutional strengthening of its reform process. Because the UNEP MAP support to the NSSD formulation has to build upon what already exists in the country, it is crucial that the proposed support streams into The *National Strategy for Socio economic Development* and its implementation. This can only be achieved when a dialogue is established with the governmental entities that are playing a major role in National Strategy for Socio-economic Development, in particular the Department of Strategy and Donors Coordination or perhaps the Department of Policy Development and Coordination that is involved in the Integrated Planning System. This entails involving other institutions other than the Ministry of the Environment. The proposed launching visit in Albania will be an opportunity to liaise with the community of donors and take advantage of the Country Assistance Programme of the World Bank that held various consultations with local government, civil society and youth representatives during the formulation. Interestingly, WB lending and non-lending operations take place in most sectors of relevance to MSSD i.e. agriculture and rural development, energy, environment, transport and water. UNDP Tirana will also be an important partner, particularly because Albania is a pilot country where the "One UN approach" is being pursued. Moreover UNDP Country Programme comprises integrated planning framework, increased participation and community driven development process aimed at achieving MDGs that are central to NSSD formulation. At the project level, quite a few UNDP projects concern domains that pertain to MSSD (responses to UNFCCC commitments, carbon finances, energy, etc.). With the view to factor UNEP MAP support into the UN coordinated effort, contacts have been established with UNEP Regional Office for Europe Geneva that is responsible for the environmental part of the One UN

Approach in Albania. The case of Albania shows how big is the challenge to channel the UNEP MAP limited support into a complex rapidly evolving situation.

1.1.2. Support to the formulation of Island Strategies of Sustainable Development (Pilot activities)

Background

As per the decisions of the Contracting Parties, UNEP MAP supports NSSD formulation thus contributing to MSSD implementation at the national level. The prospects for pilot actions that foster MSSD implementation also at the local levels have been explored. Since the islands of the Mediterranean region are often confronted to similar environment, social and economic issues and challenges, supporting local authorities in the formulation and implementation of Island Strategies for Sustainable Development (ISSD) appeared to be promising. The objectives are to integrate MSSD into policy frameworks and instruments at the local level; engage stakeholders; build capacity; manage and disseminate knowledge and information; and mobilize and allocate resources. Expected outputs comprise the following: ISSD documents; consultation mechanisms established; collaboration between UNEP/MAP and Universities in the Mediterranean region; and possibly, increased visibility of MSSD/NSSD through interactions with the CSD Small Island Countries group and the European Small Islands Network. Experience gained through pilot activities will eventually be shared throughout the region (e.g. on the occasion of the MCSD meeting) and become a showcase of how MSSD can translate into concrete activities at the local level.

Current situation

After preliminary discussions with the concerned local authorities and universities, progress has been made in Elba (Italy) and Mytilini (Greece), while Gozo (Malta) is still at the exploratory stage. A MoU has recently been signed with the local authorities of the Tuscany Archipelago (Elba) for revisiting of the Local Agenda 21 of the island. In Mytilini, the University of the Aegean - that has a MoU with UNEP MAP- is currently discussing with the local authorities the ways and means to initiate a similar process in the island. Close collaboration is being sought with relevant national universities -e.g. the Pisa University, the Aegean University and the Malta University-with the possible involvement of Local Agendas 21 and the collaboration of the Ministries of Environment. The universities, involved as resource institutions, would thus have the opportunity to: progressively establish a regional network of universities for sustainable development; involve their students in concrete field activities; strengthen research and teaching activities on sustainable development; develop collaboration with experts of the MAP components as well as decision-makers and local authorities; and, exchange and build up knowledge, including with MAP components.

Some considerations and challenging issues for the SC

The support provided by UNEP MAP to NSSD is directly related to the implementation of the MSSD. This support goes to a limited number of countries that eventually share their experience with a broader audience during working sessions or on the occasion of

MCSD meetings. Consequently, this can be viewed as pilot actions as advocated in MSSD and in the programme of work and budget approved by the Contracting Parties.

As will be seen in the proposed elements for a road map to the next MCSD meeting, these activities are essential to substantiate the MCSD programme of work and anchor it in the national realities. Additionally since they have been designed on the basis of the work of UN DESA and the OECD they pave the way for closer cooperation and synergies with these agencies on the implementation and monitoring of NSSD.

Recognizing the role of NSSDs as vehicles to integrate climate change consideration into national policies, UNDESA strives to foster climate change mainstreaming through NSSD. Whereas the nesting of NSSD support into other policy processes is indispensable, it is also essential to mainstream national commitments and efforts such as climate change mitigation and adaptation into NSSD. This concern has been also factored into the Work Programme 2008-2009 and Road Map (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.10: Element of a Road Map to MCSD) that will be presented and discussed later in this meeting.

Considering the limited resources available, all efforts have to be made to establish the appropriate momentum in the concerned countries, to convince the Ministries of the Environment of the values of MSSD and NSSD so that they can advocate them in Government circles, sector institutions and among stakeholders. This will be all the more possible as the coordination is improved with the donors and different RACs operating in the target countries. As described in the Road Map document, launching visits organised in conjunction with the relevant RACs would certainly contribute to increase the visibility of MAP as a coordinated system as well as the perception that sustainable development is not an isolated concern of MEDU but a shared endeavour of all MAP components.

Another way to ground support to NSSD more firmly in the reality of the country would be to show the added value of NSSD to implement the regional and international commitments (e.g. Kyoto Protocol) and the decisions of the Contracting Parties (e.g. Almeria decisions, Almeria Declaration). This is also provided for in the Road map.

Proposed points for discussions

In addition to the issues identified previously, the Steering Committee may want to explore the following questions:

- *How could national level activities such as support to NSSD and ISSD be supported by MCSD and more broadly the other elements of the MAP system?*
- *How can the MCSD members and the Steering Committee contribute to raise the profile of NSSD in the concerned countries?*
- *What other pilot activities could be considered at the country level and what could be the implementation modalities?*

Referring to the latter question, the MCSD recommendations on energy and water management could for instance easily translate into pilot activities in selected countries. These activities could aim at mainstreaming climate change into national context by

increasing consistency and coherence of the SD related policies, legal frameworks, economic instruments and institutional set ups. Further to a consistency/coherence analysis different recommendations could be made to improve coherence and convergence and measures of improvement would be identified (e.g. with regard to policy reforms, improved legal framework and utilisation of promising economic instruments, and capacity building). Experience gained in the pilot countries would be disseminated throughout the region.

1.2. Progress on MCSD related activities by MAP components

In addition to the support provided by the Secretariat to the policy process at the country level, the other MAP components support the implementation of the MCSD work programme by organising and facilitating thematic working groups and/or providing direct support to MSSD implementation in their domains of competence. Through this support - that in most cases comprise elements of: knowledge management and information; capacity building; stakeholders participation; policy dialogue and partnership building- all RACs contribute substantially to address cross sector issues of the MSSD and the MCSD Work Programme.

1.2.1. Indicators of Sustainable Development

Since the 12th meeting of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development, held in Istanbul on 30th May 2007, BP/RAC has pursued its work on indicators. Additional efforts have been put into the so-called priority ones on water and energy, both to enhance their quality and to enable work to begin on assessing the progress made by riparian states towards implementing the corresponding chapters of the MSSD. Moreover, various additional indicators have also been defined- 21 for tourism and 22 for the rural sector- in order to better account for the contribution made by these sectors to the sustainable development of the region. They have been given a detailed description in the standardised data sheets and documented for certain countries.

In addition, research has begun aimed at visualising and comparing the performance of the Mediterranean countries in implementing the MSSD, using its 34 priority indicators. The preliminary results will be presented in during the Steering Committee meeting.

1.2.2. Sustainable Tourism

The programme of work on tourism has consisted of undertaking six national studies in Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Croatia, Turkey and Malta to assess what account has been taken of relevant MSSD provisions in national tourist development policies and strategies, to measure the progress made since 1999 and the adoption of recommendations on « tourism and sustainable development, and to identify good practices. Four regional studies were also launched in parallel on tourism and climate change, tourist numbers and biodiversity, the state and prospects of yachting and cruising in the Mediterranean, and jobs and salaries in the tourism sector. All this work

will be presented and discussed at a regional workshop scheduled for 2nd and 3rd July 2008 in Sophia Antipolis.

1.2.3. Sustainable Agriculture

As regards the rural areas, in partnership with the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies, 11 national studies (Albania, Algeria, Egypt, Spain, Greece, France, Italy, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey) have been undertaken to determine the sustainable or non-sustainable nature of agricultural and rural development policies and strategies adopted, to assess their cost, and to identify good practices and prevailing trends. At the same time, four regional studies were launched on taking local areas into account in rural development policies in the Mediterranean, agriculture and climate change in the Maghreb, collective pasturage management in the Mashreq/Magreb, and the economic aspects of desertification. The results were shared at a regional workshop held at the Bari Agronomic Institute from 8th to 10th May 2008, and gave rise to some recommendations which will be submitted to the next MCSD meeting.

1.2.4. Sustainable Transports

As far as urban mobility is concerned and to pick up on a recommendation addressed to BP/RAC to set up a platform for good urban mobility practices, six case studies (Istanbul, Tunis, Cairo, Algiers, Aleppo and Tangiers) have been initiated on the one hand to document specific indicators on the environmental impact and socio-economic characterisation of mobility and, on the other, to build up more knowledge about what determines urban and peri-urban mobility. This work will be the subject of a workshop to exchange views in 2009, which will follow on from the one held in conjunction with the World Bank and Cooperation for Urban Mobility in the Developing World (CODATU) in Morocco in January 2008.

1.2.5. Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity

This thematic area falls within the priority domains of MSSD implementation as well as under the UN Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD). Accordingly, RAC/SPA supports the Contracting Parties to meet their international and regional commitments concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biodiversity conservation while contributing directly to the MCSD work programme.

With the view to protect high sea areas, the EC Division that is involved in Water and Marine Environment issues (DG ENV D2) is fostering a programme of work for promoting the creation of protected areas on the high seas. Accordingly, a meeting concerning the high sea governance in the Western Basin was organised in association with IUCN on the establishment of SPAs partly or entirely beyond the areas under national jurisdiction. The first phase of the programme of work, initiated on 1st January 2008, entails the assessment of knowledge on biodiversity in deep-sea and high sea habitats and the identification of priority locations. At the same time, PAP/RAC is pursuing collaboration with FAO and GFCM through a Memorandum of Cooperation to

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design a survey to identify fishery reserves or restricted fishery zones in the Mediterranean and to assess their potential contribution to marine resources management and biodiversity conservation.

In the context of the UNCBD global programme of work on protected areas and the creation of a representative network of Specially Protected Areas, RAC/SPA co-organised with WWF-France, the MedPAN Network, the Port-Cros National Park, the Network of Natural Protected Areas of Andalusia and the IUCN Centre for Mediterranean Cooperation, the 1st Conference of the Mediterranean Marine Protected areas network. The objective of the Conference was to promote the development of a comprehensive, ecologically representative and effectively managed marine protected areas network in the Mediterranean. The managers of marine protected areas and the competent institutions and organisations had the opportunity to share their experiences and thus contributed to re-establishing the MedPAN network while extending it to the entire Mediterranean. A common declaration of the 110 experts from 18 countries urges to: promote collaboration for the creation of a coherent, representative and effectively managed ecological network of MPAs in the Mediterranean Sea by 2012; halt the loss of biodiversity; and, achieve a series of conservation objectives. RAC/SPA with the support of ACCOBAMS, IUCN, MedPAN and WWF-MedPo has been instrumental in the communication of the Conference results.

Capacity building is an essential cross cutting issue recognised both in MSSD and the MCSD Programme of Work. Accordingly, specific training sessions have been organised to enhance institutional and human capacities for the conservation of endangered species. Training domains included: the establishment of national Clearing House Mechanisms (CHM) in the context of the Mediterranean Biodiversity CHM; tools developed by MAP for National Inventories of Natural Sites of Conservation Interest; mapping and monitoring of Posidonia meadows; rehabilitation of marine turtles; and, marine and coastal invasive species management.

1.2.6. Reduction of pollution of the marine environment

Since the last Meeting of the MCSD, the MED POL Programme has contributed with a number of actions to the process of achieving progress in one of the seven priority field of action “**sustainable management of the sea, coastal areas and marine resources**” according to chapter 2.7 of the Strategy.

MED POL has continued to assign full priority to the process of implementation of the actions listed in the National Action Plans (NAPs) to address pollution from land-based activities. To this end, a database was prepared to facilitate the monitoring and follow up of the implementation of the listed actions. The database includes the status of the implementation, sources of funding, difficulties and barriers, the depollution index and calculates the contribution of the individual actions to the overall pollution reduction.

MED POL has been actively involved in the EU Initiative Horizon 2020 since its inception. In particular, one of the components of the Initiative, on pollution reduction, based its activities on the work carried out by MED POL and developed a programme that is expected to substantially contribute on the long-term to the implementation of the NAPs. The pollution reduction component of the H2020 Initiative, coordinated by the

European Investment Bank (EIB), has selected 44 “bankable” projects out of the overall NAPs priority actions, to be implemented in the framework of a project entitled Mediterranean Hot Spots Investment Project (MeHSIP). The Project includes Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan and foresees the preparation of an investment portfolio for the 44 projects through a technical assistance programme implemented by EIB and other donors such as KfW, GTZ, FFEM, GEF, WB and the provision of soft loans to the countries to facilitate the implementation of the relevant projects.

In addition, MED POL is also attached to the component on monitoring and evaluation. This component of the Initiative H2020 is expected to develop an indicator-based reporting system to report on the status of implementation of the Initiative.

In the field of municipal wastewater management, MED POL has prepared through WHO/MED POL a number of technical documents with the contribution of country experts. They were all included in a CD entitled “Guidance for safe sewage treatment in the Mediterranean”, with the view to be used within the framework of the municipal wastewater management-related actions of their NAPs.

A national training course on wastewater recycling and reuse was also held in Aydin, Kusadasi, Turkey, from 22 to 24 October 2007 and was attended by thirty six participants.

1.2.7. Sustainable consumption and production

Change of unsustainable patterns of consumption and production is central to the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD). In this context, CP/RAC promotes mechanisms leading to Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) in the Mediterranean. Since the last MCSD, activities have dealt invariably with several Thematic Issues, based on the countries needs identified through the Focal Points and several organizations for sustainable development. With regard to "Biodiversity", a national seminar on Aquaculture organized in Malta brought together interested stakeholders to review, discuss and put forward recommendations on how to lessen any adverse impacts on the environment from aquaculture.

Concerning “Sustainable urban development”, CP/RAC co-organized with UNEP/GPA a seminar on sustainable management of municipal effluents in Syria and participated, in cooperation with MED Cities and with the support of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development, in the application of a SMAP Plan for improving the air quality in urban areas of Tripoli (Lebanon) and Larnaca (Cyprus). One of the main objectives included in the Plan consisted in raising awareness of owners of small establishments developing their activities within the urban area (furniture manufacturers, repair shops of vehicles, painting of boats, petrol stations, dry cleaners, etc.) on measures for reducing atmospheric pollutant emissions. Special focus was made on good environmental practices in the use of solvents.

As regards “Marine Pollution: LBS Protocol”, activities have included technical assistance and training activities on the IPPC (Banja-Luka, Sarajevo), hazardous waste (Syria) and pollution prevention in industrial sectors as olive oil production (Lebanon, Syria and Jordan) structural ceramics (Libya), meat industry (Banja-Luka, Sarajevo) and textile industry (Syria). Likewise, in cooperation with GTZ, a project for capacity building

on sustainable management of industrial areas in Tunisia has been initiated and once completed will be replicated in Algeria and Morocco. With respect to pollution prevention CP/RAC has put a special focus on sustainable management of chemicals, in line with its candidature to become the Centre for the application of the Stockholm Convention in the Mediterranean and its support to the application of SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) in the region. In this respect, the Centre has supported Spain in the development of a National Strategy on Mercury and it is preparing SAICM National profiles for some Mediterranean countries. Likewise, CP/RAC plays a main role in the component "Environmentally sound management of equipment containing PCBs", within the GEF Project Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Large Marine Ecosystem that contributes to the application of SAP and the NAPs.

Apart from the technical activities on SCP, CP/RAC has developed others that are cross-cutting and aim at creating synergies and partnerships with international institutions and representatives from the private sector and civil society with the objective of involving them in the application of SCP as major objective of the MSSD. This is the case for example of the Cooperation Agreement signed with BussinesMed, in the framework of which a Seminar Towards Sustainable Development was held in Egypt to present the CP/RAC's GRECO initiative (Green Competitiveness), or the project for introducing Cleaner Production in the curricula of Mediterranean Universities whose implementation started with a seminar held last April in the Middle east Technical University of Ankara. On the other hand, since the last MCSD Meeting, CP/RAC has established contacts and working relationships with prominent institutions in the field of SCP (OECD, EEA, UNEP) with a view to promoting the collaboration and development of joint initiatives. In this respect, the Centre has contributed to the dissemination in the Mediterranean of the SCP Resource Kit developed by UNEP/DTIE and it is coordinating with that institution, which leads the Marrakech Process on SCP, the organization of the first Mediterranean Workshop on SCP. This workshop will be the corner stone for the launching of a working Group on SCP that gives support to the MCSD in that major objective. Likewise, working in SCP is requiring CP/RAC to increase collaboration with NGOs and representatives of the civil society to promote SCP among Mediterranean population. In this respect, the Centre has developed a report on the main initiatives developed by local agencies, consumer associations and NGOs to promote the change to sustainable consumption and environmentally-sound lifestyles with a view to define the lines of a network of cooperation that reinforces existing projects on this field or supports new initiatives to increase the population's awareness.

Other CP/RAC activities to involve civil society in SCP and reinforce their role have included a seminar on sustainable consumption that CP/RAC has addressed to consumer organizations of Catalonia.

1.2.8. Information and Communication

On the communication front, all RACs habitually take every opportunity (seminars, workshops, international events...) to make known the work of the MCSD and the various priority areas of the MSSD. Indeed, Information and Communication are essential cross-cutting issues of the MSSD and the MCSD Work Programme that are supported by all MAP components, the RACs in particular. CoP 14 mandated INFO/RAC to develop the Information and Communication Strategy for the MSSD. The first draft document was submitted to the 12th Meeting of the MCSD in Istanbul (2007).

The strategy contained, among other actions, proposals for the implementation of a series of projects to support the MSSD in order to increase its visibility and promote consensus among categories of stakeholders identified among general public and decision makers at all levels. INFO/RAC is working on a revised IC strategy that takes into account the comments and suggestions received from the 12th MCSD meeting. The second draft of the IC MSSD Strategy will be submitted to the 13th Meeting of the MCSD in 2009.

Some considerations and challenging issues for the SC

Most of the following considerations are directly derived from the discussions and suggestions made on the occasion of the 12 th MCSD meeting in Istanbul (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.313/6, para.16 to 22).

As per the Rules of procedure, between two MCSD meetings, dedicated working groups explore and debate on specific sustainable development issues. MAP Coordination Unit coordinates the different working groups on a permanent basis. The MAP Regional Activity Centres and specialised programmes provide technical and organisational support to different working groups according to their respective domains of responsibility.

The role of the working groups has to be seen in the broader perspective of various implementation means that comprise: working and expert groups, pilot actions at national levels, regional capacity building or other activities, policy dialogues, targeted knowledge management activities; information and communication.

Largely due to financial resources limitation, the Working groups may not have been able to involve all countries that indicated their interest and the selection of participants may not have been sufficiently clear. Moreover, the results of the Working groups exclusively translate into recommendations that are then approved by the MCSD meeting and conveyed to the Contracting Parties for decisions. While the MCSD is by essence an advisory body, its mandate does not preclude advising on implementation beyond policy recommendations. The Steering Committee may want to reflect whether the working groups should not become also action oriented with the objective to directly support the different country and regional processes (i.e. MSSD and NSSD and also EuroMed Partnership and the related instruments such as Horizon 2020) through their results. Countries for instance may be interested in MCSD guidance on how to integrate climate change considerations and measures in the concerned sector and national policies

While focussing on thematic areas, most working groups do not exclusively address the technical aspects as they often touch upon cross cutting issues (capacity building, information, participation, mobilization of financial resources; etc.) that are duly recognised in the MSSD. Without necessarily considering the establishment of specific working groups on cross cutting issues, one should be able to systematically ensure that the implications of the recommendations made by different working groups on cross cutting issues are coherent, acceptable and feasible (i.e. not excessively demanding on the national institutions with regard to their human and financial resources). In this respect, essential linkages between different themes (e.g. energy and transport) have to be factored into the working group functioning.

Proposed points for discussions

- *How can the Working Groups concept, composition and functioning be improved to increase the effectiveness of the support provided by the MAP system to MSSD and its implementation?*
- *In particular how can Working Groups and pilot actions help increase the capacities of the countries to take policy measures and initiate actions with the view to implement their commitments at the regional (e.g. Barcelona Convention and its Protocols) and international levels (Commitments under various MAEs, UNCCC and UNCBD in particular)?*
- *How to foster interactions and synergies between MCSD work and the activities of the different MAP component?*

Note: On the first two points, (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.2): Concept note on working groups gives some elements to substantiate the discussion.

2. Developments since the last MCSD Meeting

The decisions taken in Almeria together with other regional initiatives that are gaining momentum such as the Union for the Mediterranean and Horizon 2020, offer a unique occasion to re-visit MCSD and consolidate its position in the evolving Mediterranean architecture.

2.1. Meeting of the Contracting Parties

Since the last MCSD meeting (Istanbul, Turkey. 30 – 31 May, 2007), the major developments in the MAP system as far as MCSD is concerned, have been the decisions of the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Almeria, Spain. 15 – 18 January, 2008) on:

- a new governance for the MAP system;
- the recommendations prepared by MCSD on: "Energy and Climate Change" and "Water demand management";
- the MSSD Implementation Plan.

These decisions as well as the Almeria Declaration -that emphasises the challenge of Climate Change impact in the Mediterranean- have a direct implication on the way MCSD should operate, deliver and interact with other entities, within the MAP system and outside.

2.1.1. Governance Paper (Annex I: part of the Decisions IG 17/4 relating to MCSD)

a) MCSD Mandate

As per the decisions, the MCSD missions are to: (i) assist in the adoption and implementation of SD policies; (ii) ensure follow-up of MSSD implementation; (iii) promote experience exchange on SD integration and implementation of international commitment; (iv) assessment of bottlenecks to implementation; (v) produce opinion on the MAP system functioning including its work programme and outputs.

Based on this MCSD mandate, the Steering Committee will discuss the possible working arrangements and activities that are necessary for the MCSD to perform its missions. The Steering Committee may address the following question:

- *How should the MCSD constituting documents (i.e. Rules of Procedures) be amended to reflect the new mandate?*

b) MCSD Composition: new categories and criteria for members selection

The MCSD is a forum for debate and exchange of experiences on sustainable development issues that concern all interested parties in the Mediterranean region. It would therefore be appropriate to involve the greatest possible variety of national actors in the work of the Commission, so as to take into account and discuss all the different perspectives on the issues at stake.

In addition to representatives of the Contracting Parties, local authorities, NGOs and socio-economic stakeholders, three new categories have been agreed that should represent:

- *the scientific community;*
- *intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development;*
- *eminent experts in fields that are relevant to MCSD work programme and meeting agenda.*

Proposed points for discussions

The Steering Committee will be invited to comment and make suggestions on the proposed selection criteria and method of nomination (Annex II part of ECP Report relating to MCSD members).

On more general issues, the Steering Committee may want to discuss:

- *What should be the role and responsibilities of individual MCSD member, in particular during inter session period?*
- *How to involve more and better the civil society and the business community in the different working groups and the MCSD work in general?*

c) MCSD functioning

Proposed points for discussions

Based on the previous MCSD Rules of Procedure (UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.3: MCSD Rules and Procedures) and the MCSD functioning as described in the Governance paper, the Steering Committee may want to discuss the following:

- *How the new frequency of MCSD Meeting, - that is now decided to be every two year- impact on the Working Groups and the entire MCSD programme of work and its cycle?*
- *What criteria could be used to identify the sectoral and inter sectoral issues and themes? (i.e. MCSD decision making process)*
- *What type of outputs can be expected from MCSD beyond Recommendations to the Contracting Parties?*
- *How to ensure synergies between MCSD and other MAP components, in particular what should be the role of the different RACS in the functioning of MCSD?*
- *How to organise the flow of information within MCSD and between MCSD and other actors?*
- *How can MCSD monitor and evaluate its functioning?*
- *What should be the role of the Steering Committee?*

2.1.2. MCSD Meeting Recommendations (Decisions IG 17/16: UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.4)

The Steering Committee will consider whether and how the MCSD can contribute further to the implementation of the CPs decisions on "Energy and Climate Change" and "Water demand management". A strategic question would be:

- *Once its recommendations are approved by the Contracting Parties, should MCSD continue its work on a given issue to support implementation or should it switch to another topic and leave implementation support to the other MAP components?*

2.1.3. MSSD Implementation Plan (Decisions IG 17/17: UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.5)

The MSSD Implementation Plan identifies different strategic directions: (i) integration into policy frameworks,(ii) stakeholders participation,(iii) knowledge management, (iv) mobilisation of financial resources. The Plan stresses the need for concrete, complementary and coordinated initiatives at the national and regional levels and emphasises the role of MAP Coordinating Unit in facilitating synergies with other initiatives and processes. The Plan also recognises that the MAP system cannot alone ensure MSSD implementation and that MCSD may help establishing interfaces with the

different actors that are involved in other sustainable development domains than the MAP specific domains of interventions.

Proposed points for discussions

Keeping in mind the new MCSD mandate decided in Almeria, the Steering Committee may discuss:

- *What are the comparative advantages of various MSSD implementation support tools and mechanisms (e.g. working and expert groups, pilot actions at national levels, regional capacity building, policy dialogues, targeted knowledge management; information and communication)?*
- *What could be the MCSD role in the different MSSD strategic directions)?*

2.1.4. Almeria Declaration (Annex III)

The Declaration emphasises the need to address Climate Change issues. In addition to re affirming the need to tackle the energy and water management issues in the Region as well as to spearhead integrated coastal zone management- that are the objects of specific COP decisions-, the Almeria Declaration takes a political stand directed at preventing or and mitigating the effects of climate change on marine ecosystems. This includes decisions: (i) to assess the climate change impact on coastal and marine species and habitats, on the economic value of products and services from the marine ecosystem; and, (ii) to promote carbon sinks.

The Steering Committee is invited to discuss how MCSD can best contribute to the implementation of the Almeria Declaration. In particular, the SC could explore the implication on MCSD Workprogramme and consider the opportunity to establish a continuing exchange between the MCSD members on climate change issues through e.g. the establishment of an open-ended Working Group on Climate Change.

Proposed points for discussions

- *How can MCSD support the implementation of the Almeria Declaration?*
- *Should MCSD be involved and how (e.g. by way of a working group) in the: (i) assessment of Climate Change impact on biodiversity; (ii) assessment of the economic value (product and services) of ecosystems; (iii) better management of energy demand and energy efficiency including alternative energy; (iv) water demand management; and, (v) carbon sinks?*

2.2. Developments outside the MAP system

2.2.1. Union for the Mediterranean (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.6&7)

The European Council of 13/14 March 2008 approved the principle of a Union for the Mediterranean and invited the Commission to present proposals defining the modalities of what will be called "Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean". A

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council was delivered May the 20th.

Environment and Sustainable Development are based on the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution & the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation for the environment, developed at the tenth anniversary of the Barcelona Conference in 2005.

France proposed five propositions linked to Environment and Sustainable Development, April 8th:

- Depollution of the Mediterranean Sea
- Water Strategy in the Mediterranean
- Mediterranean Solar Plan
- Transport & Sea highways
- Mediterranean coastline protection and reserves and marine protected areas development

Germany proposed, May 15th, a Mediterranean Solar Plan.

The European Commission proposed, May 20th:

- Sea highways & Arab Maghreb Highway Interconnection
- De-pollution of the Mediterranean and sound Environmental Governance
- Mediterranean Solar Plan

The Ministry for Environment and Sustainable Development of Tunisia, proposed:

- Non-conventional water use
- Preservation and sustainable use of coastal zones
- Promotion of maritime safety and pollution prevention
- Bioenergy waste valorization and biofuel production

The Ministry for Energy, Mines, Water and Environment of Morocco, May 16th, indicated his interest for the establishment of a Euro Mediterranean Centre for Risk and Environment.

May 15th and 16th, during the Tourism Ministers' meeting of the "5+5" (France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Malta on the European side, and Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco on the North African side), in Ajaccio, Corsica, France was adopted practical proposals for tourism cooperation which are presented to the heads of state or government Summit for the Mediterranean, in Paris, July 13th.

Proposed points for discussions

Considering that most proposed projects pertain to MCSD programme of work, the Steering Committee will explore the possible role of MCSD in the Union for the Mediterranean and discuss the linkages and synergies that could be developed.

2.2.2. Implementation of Horizon 2020

After a brief introduction on Horizon 2020 and the role played by MEDPOL, the SC could discuss whether and how the MCSD can contribute to the implementation of Horizon 2020.

2.2.3. GEF project: "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem"

The **GEF Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean LME**, implemented by UNEP and the World Bank aims at assisting Mediterranean basin countries in implementing reforms and investments in key sectors that address transboundary pollution reduction, biodiversity decline, habitat degradation and living resources protection priorities identified in the two Strategic Action Programmes: the Strategic Action Program to Address Pollution from Land-Based Activities (SAP MED) and the Strategic Action Program for the Conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity (SAP BIO).

The countries of the Mediterranean basin recognize that they need a more coordinated and innovative approach to the implementation of the SAPs that accelerates on-the-ground implementation of priority actions and removes the institutional, financial and technical barriers to investments.

The **Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem** is co-funded by GEF and involving other relevant international cooperation Agencies, International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and bilateral and multilateral donors. This Partnership will serve as a catalyst in leveraging policy/legal/institutional reforms as well as additional investments for reversing degradation of this damaged large marine ecosystem, its contributing freshwater basins, its habitats and coastal aquifers. It consists of two complementary components, the **Regional Component**: Implementation of agreed actions for the protection of the environmental resources of the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal areas (implemented by UNEP, executed by UNEP/MAP and approved by the GEF Council in June 2007

) and the **Investment Fund** for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem Partnership (implemented by World Bank and approved by the GEF Council in August 2006).

The project activities will be carried out in the following GEF eligible countries: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, and Turkey. Palestinian Authority also participates.

The partners of the project are the following: UNEP and World Bank (implementing agencies), the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP-MEDU) and its associated Regional Activity Centers (RACs): Cleaner Production (CP/RAC); Specially Protected Areas (SPA/RAC); Priority Actions Programme (PAP/RAC); and Information (INFO/RAC); General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM); United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization International Hydrological Programme (UNESCO/HP); World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); Global Water Partnership - Mediterranean (GWP-Med); Mediterranean Information Office for

Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE); Mediterranean Environmental Technical Assistance Program (METAP) and MEDPOL.

The regional Component will receive USD 13 million GEF Grant and is composed of the following 4 components: (1) Integrated approaches for the implementation of the SAPs and NAPs: ICZM, IWRM and management of coastal aquifer; (2) Pollution from land based activities, including Persistent Organic Pollutants: implementation of SAP MED and related NAPs; (3) Conservation of biological diversity: implementation of SAP BIO and related NAPs; and (4) Project Co-ordination, Replication and Communication Strategies, Management and M&E.

The Investment Fund for the Mediterranean has proposed an envelope to GEF for USD 80 million and the following five projects are under consideration: 1. The Neretva and Trebisnjica River Basin Management as a vehicle for reducing water pollution (Bosnia & Herzegovina/Croatia); 2. the Alexandria Integrated Coastal Zone Management (Egypt); 3. Water re-use as a tool to reduce the pressure on the Med ecosystem (Tunisia); 4. Municipal waste water in Bar and Ulcinj (Montenegro); 5. Waste water in small and medium cities along the coast (Croatia).

This will be the largest regional project ever implemented in the Mediterranean. Its budget, including co-financing, is expected to exceed USD 250 million.

Three basic management and coordination structures will be created for the duration of the project: a Project Management Unit (PMU), a Strategic Partnership Project Steering Committee (SPSC), and a Coordination Group (SPCG). All three structures have specific responsibilities and tasks within the project with important linkages between them. The Coordination Group will ensure that the Regional Component and the Investment Fund will work in close collaboration and interaction.

Proposed points for discussions

Following the presentation, the SC will explore the possible interaction between the GEF project and MCSD:

- *How can synergies be created between the GEF Project and MCSD and what linkages could be established with the GEF Project Steering Committee and the Coordination Group?*

3. Work programme 2008-2009 and Roadmap to MCSD meeting

On the basis of the item 1.4. *Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development* approved in the Workprogramme 2008-2009 ((UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.8), a roadmap (UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.10) to the next MCSD meeting has been prepared. This Roadmap takes into account the emphasis on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The document does not consider the other activities under different budget lines that also pertain to MCSD functioning, in particular the different working groups established under the MCSD.

Proposed points for discussions

After the presentation, the SC will discuss how best to integrate the different parts of the approved Work programme and Budget that concern MCSD. The following questions could be addressed:

- *How can the overall MAP work programme better reflect the role of the MCSD?*
- *Should not the MCSD work programme be revisited and the proposed cycles adjusted more often to better reflect the dynamics of the programmes and institutions within and outside the MAP system?*

4. Considerations for the preparation of the next MCSD meeting (2009)

The meeting should take advantage of the following suggestions made during the last MCSD meetings in Nicosia and Istanbul:

- Revise the meeting format and take full advantage of the Steering Committee in the preparation of the next meeting
- Address a limited number of issues or themes related to MSSD implementation, allowing for more time for discussions possibly during breakout sessions. Strive to have the socio-cultural dimensions featuring throughout the discussions
- Limit the number of focused presentations and resort to non-MAP actors/institutions when appropriate
- Discuss sustainable development solutions or alternatives elaborated by the coordinated RACs
- Coordinate RACs presentations into an unique presentation giving a sense of the entire MAP system strategizing and synergizing towards addressing implementation issues and solutions
- Invite UN agencies or regional institutions that are well positioned on the key issues thus promoting the establishment of an interagency platform
- Strive to involve more local actors and the business

In addition to reporting on the implementation of the work programme, the content of the next MCSD meeting could focus on Climate change. In this eventuality, the document UNEP (DEPI)/MED WG.327/Inf.11 offers possible elements to structure a focussed discussion on climate change issues. However, the programme should be flexible enough to accommodate other sustainable development issues that may emerge prominently which could well be the case for instance for food security. Moreover, the

MCSD meeting should probably open opportunities to touch upon issues that are not purely environmental but essential to sustainable development in the Region such as migration.

Proposed points for discussions

The purpose is to discuss the possible elements and structure of the next MCSD meeting including a specific focus on Mainstreaming Climate Change in national policies. On this occasion a more general discussion could take place on:

- *What criteria could be used to identify emerging issues and themes for the MCSD meetings?*
- *What could be the structuring elements (key note presentation, group work and dynamics)?*
- *What should be the balance between substantive work and MCSD operational aspects (MCSD self evaluation, linkages with other MAP components, etc.)?*
- *How can the Steering Committee be closely involved in the preparation of the meeting?*

ANNEX I

Decision IG 17/5: Governance paper

The Meeting of the Contracting parties,

Recalling Articles 18 (vi) of the Barcelona Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean as amended in Barcelona in 1995, herein after referred to as the Barcelona Convention,

Recalling also its decisions adopted at its 13th Meeting held in Catania, Italy in 2003, and its 14th meeting held in Portoroz, Slovenia in 2005, on the external evaluation of MAP, and on the future orientations of MAP respectively,

Noting with appreciation the work undertaken by the Drafting Committee established by the Extraordinary meeting of the MAP Focal Points held in Catania, November 2006 led by Italy,

Aiming at ensuring an effective MAP governance based on stronger cooperation and integration among MAP components, result oriented programming and planning, increased ownership of the Contracting Parties and higher visibility of MAP and the Barcelona Convention in the region,

Reaffirming the importance of the MCSD and its role in the implementation of the MSSD and *recognizing* its important place in the MAP governance system,

Recognizing the need for MAP and MCSD to increase their visibility on the international scene and contribute effectively to the international and regional processes on sustainable development;

Decides to approve the Governance paper as contained in the Annex to this Decision;

Requests the Secretariat to report to the Bureau of the Contracting parties on measures taken, and ways and means for the implementation of the Governance paper and in particular of the proposed actions, as contained in the Annex to this Decision;

Also requests the Secretariat to propose to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties for approval, with prior consultation with the MAP focal points and MCSD members, the criteria and procedure for the selection of the MCSD members from the academic and scientific community, the intergovernmental organizations and eminent experts as provided for in the Governance paper contained as Annex to this Decision;

Requests the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to nominate the members of the MCSD members from the scientific and academic community, the inter-governmental organisations, the eminent experts according to the agreed criteria and procedures as referred to in the preceding paragraph, with a view to convening the 2009 meeting of the MCSD with the composition as provided for in the Governance paper.

GOVERNANCE PAPER

CONTENTS

1. Governance goals and principles
2. Coordination and coherence mechanisms
3. Mandate for the Coordinating Unit
4. Mandate for Regional Activity Centres and programmes
5. Institutional status of the RACs
6. Work Programme and long-term planning
7. Monitoring of progress towards a goal-oriented vision, and implementation of the Work Programme
8. Role of Focal Points
9. Visibility
10. New terms of reference for the MCSD

Attached document: Actions needed to bring the MAP system into line with the Governance Paper

10. NEW TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE MCSD

The Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development (MCSD) was established in 1995 in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) as an advisory body to the Contracting Parties to assist them in their efforts to integrate environmental issues in their socioeconomic programmes and, in so doing, promote sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean region. The Commission is unique in its composition, in as much as government representatives, local communities, socioeconomic actors, IGOs and NGOs participate on an equal footing. During the first decade of its existence, the MCSD has carried out high-quality undertakings, mobilising work on priority themes for the Mediterranean, notably, water resources, integrated coastal zone management, tourism, industry etc., and developing the MSSD.

Ten years after its founding, the MCSD needs to be reformed, taking into account new international and regional developments (the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Development Goals, the MSSD, etc.). Whatever the option chosen, better interaction should be sought between the MCSD and the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), for instance regarding the choice of themes, which should bring a breath of fresh air to the MCSD and allow its fuller integration into the international actions being carried out in favour of sustainable development. Furthermore, the composition of the Commission should be reviewed to ensure it achieves greater representativeness and fosters a sense of ownership by the entire Mediterranean community. Furthermore, the role of the Commission should be better clarified in relation to the overall MAP system and to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols.

1- Mandate

The MCSD is an advisory body and represents a forum for debate with essentially the following missions:

- Assist Mediterranean countries and other stakeholders active in the region in the adoption and implementation of sustainable development policies, including the integration of environmental considerations into other policies
- Ensure the follow-up of MSSD implementation through appropriate tools, mechanisms and criteria that would better enhance an efficient follow-up function
- Promote the exchange of experience and good practices regarding the integration of environmental and socioeconomic policies, as well as examples which show the application of international sustainable development commitments at suitable scales in different countries
- Identify the obstacles encountered and support regional and subregional cooperation for the effective implementation of the sustainable development principle
- Coordinate the periodical drafting of the report on the state of implementation of the MCSD recommendations

- Produce opinions of the overall MAP Work Programme and the functioning of the Coordinating Unit and the RACs, with the aim of integrating sustainability considerations into the MAP / Barcelona Convention system as a whole.

2- Composition

The MCSD is a forum for debate and exchange of experiences on sustainable development issues that concern all interested parties in the Mediterranean region. It would therefore be appropriate to involve the greatest possible variety of national actors in the work of the Commission, so as to ensure the greatest possible dissemination of the concepts promoted by the MCSD. For this to be achieved the composition of the Commission should be expanded as follows:

- 22 representatives designated by the competent bodies of the Contracting Parties
- 3 representatives of local authorities
- 3 representatives of NGOs
- 3 representatives of socio- economic stakeholders
- 3 representatives of the scientific community
- 3 representatives of intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development
- 3 eminent experts in the field of the topics of the MCSD meeting agenda

Efforts should be made to ensure participation of representatives from both environmental and development sector related to the topics of the agenda of each meeting of the MCSD.

Appropriate geographical representation, and media participation, should be ensured.

3- Periodicity of meetings

The Commission will hold an ordinary meeting on a biannual basis and extraordinary sessions on a need-be basis.

4 – Steering Committee

A Steering Committee, meeting annually, will oversee the work of the MCSD between sessions.

5- Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Commission will be under the authority of the MAP Coordinating Unit.

6- Functioning

The Commission will hold an ordinary meeting on a biannual basis with a multi-annual planning programme. Each session will focus on sectoral issues (MSSD and CSD

themes) and on cross-sectoral issues (education, public access to information, financing and cooperation, technology transfer etc.). MCSD recommendations will be presented for consideration to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties, following discussion at the meeting of the MAP Focal Points. The conclusions of the meetings should influence the Work Programme of the MAP system, and the implementation of the Barcelona Convention in the Contracting Parties.

7- Reports

Before each session, each member should provide a concise report focusing on the implementation of MCSD recommendations, following a basic draft prepared by the Secretariat. The Secretariat will then prepare a summary report to be presented at the beginning of each session. The Regional Activity Centres (RACs) should also provide a report on the implementation of MCSD recommendations relevant to their line of work.

ANNEX II

DRAFT SELECTION CRITERIA AND METHOD OF NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES REPRESENTING NEW CATEGORIES OF MCSD MEMBERS (Report of the First Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel Athens, Greece, 26-27 February 2008)

Background

This document is guided by the decisions made by the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Almeria, Spain, 15-18 January 2008), particularly those contained in the Governance Paper that concern the MCSD composition (Decision IG 17/4).

The MCSD is a forum for debate and exchange of experience on sustainable development issues that concern all interested parties in the Mediterranean region. It would therefore be appropriate to involve the greatest possible variety of national actors in the work of the Commission, so as to ensure the widest possible dissemination of the concepts promoted by the MCSD.

In addition to representatives of the Contracting Parties, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and socio-economic stakeholders, three new categories have been agreed upon, representing:

- the scientific community;
- intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development;
- eminent experts specializing in the topics on the MCSD meeting agenda.

In order to implement the decision, the Contracting Parties requested the Secretariat to propose to the Bureau of the Contracting Parties for approval, following prior consultation with the MAP Focal Points and MCSD members, the criteria and procedures for the selection of the MCSD members from the academic and scientific community, the intergovernmental organizations and eminent experts as provided for in the Governance Paper.

As indicated in the Almeria report, in determining the proposed criteria and procedures for the selection of representatives of the new categories, efforts should be made to ensure participation of representatives from both the environmental and the development sectors related to the topics on the agenda of each meeting of the MCSD, and also to ensure appropriate geographical representation, and media participation, as requested by the Contracting Parties.

1. Criteria

General criteria

- *Have a broad vision and a Mediterranean focus;*
- *Represent or be an active member of a national or Mediterranean network or knowledge community;*
- *Have relevant expertise in issues of importance to the MCSD, including priority areas and cross-cutting issues;*
- *Be active in the field of sustainable development;*
- *Be willing to share and exchange with other members their expertise and experience, on the occasion of MCSD meetings and during intersessional periods (e.g. through contribution to specific working groups);*
- *Be willing to engage in MSSD implementation in their domain of influence;*
- *Have an explicit interest and effective involvement in Mediterranean activities.*

Specific criteria for the scientific community

- *Be the author of a significant list of publications in domains that are relevant to the MCSD work programme and MSSD priority areas of action: energy and climate change; information and communication; integrated coastal management; management of water demand, marine pollution; sustainable development indicators; sustainable tourism; sustainable agriculture; urban development;*
- *Be familiar with the MAP programme of work and activities;*
- *Be familiar with the Barcelona system;*
- *Have contributed or contribute consistently to increased understanding of environmental, social or economic issues at stake in the region through collaborative action-oriented research or teaching.*

Specific criteria for intergovernmental organizations working in the field of sustainable development

- *Be engaged in significant regional or country-level programmes of relevance to the MCSD work programme and MSSD priority areas of action;*
- *Be involved in regional or subregional cooperation frameworks, facilities, policies or financial mechanisms.*

Specific criteria for eminent experts

- *be distinguished Mediterranean personalities recognized in the environmental, social or economic domains;*
- *have recognized policy influence at the regional or country level;*
- *entertain connections with decision makers and policy leaders.*

2. Methods of nomination

In the selection process for the categories "scientific community" and "eminent expert", the principle of balanced geographical representation between the North, South, East and West will be carefully respected.

Scientific community

The representatives of the scientific community will be selected on the basis of proposals made by the MAP components and partners that transmit the candidatures to the Secretariat of MAP. Spontaneous candidatures may also be solicited and considered by the Secretariat.

Intergovernmental organizations

The representatives of the intergovernmental organizations will be selected through proposals made by the Secretariat of MAP that will solicit candidatures directly.

Eminent experts

Cooptation will be encouraged among the Contracting Parties. Expressions of interest will be solicited directly by the MAP Secretariat.

ANNEX III

ALMERIA DECLARATION

We, the Environment Ministers and Heads of Delegations of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols, meeting in Almeria, Spain, from 15 to 18 January 2008,

Aware that a healthy environment in the Mediterranean Sea area contributes to human well-being, and constitutes an indispensable resource whose protection, preservation and rational planning and management, in accordance with the principle of sustainable development, is therefore of paramount importance,

Taking note, however, that the environmental priorities of the Mediterranean have changed over the decades and that environmental awareness has not been sufficiently translated into practical action,

Observing with alarm that environmental protection and preservation have not yet been sufficiently integrated into other policies,

Recalling the adverse effects of climate change on coastal and marine ecosystems and on the environment in general and the negative consequences for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries in the Mediterranean basin,

Aware of the many and interlocking challenges that must be addressed in order to effectively mitigate, reduce and combat environmental degradation and to promote sustainable development in the Mediterranean region taking into account new threats, including the high levels of pollution which persist in our sea, water, air, soil and subsoil; the continued overexploitation of natural resources; unplanned and insufficiently integrated coastal development; disproportionate expansion of aquaculture; the introduction of invasive alien species; increase of maritime traffic; continued degradation of unique landscapes; loss of biodiversity; desertification; accelerated coastal erosion and negative effects of climate change,

Further acknowledging their underlying causes which include poverty; socio-economic inequality; inadequate valuing of natural resources; inappropriate macroeconomic policies, insufficient de-coupling of economic growth from environmental degradation; and unsustainable production and consumption patterns,

Reaffirming our commitment to ensuring a viable future for the Mediterranean, by promoting the implementation of the ecosystem approach as a key tool for achieving our obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols to prevent, abate, combat and, to the fullest extent possible, eliminate all forms of pollution of the Mediterranean Sea area and to protect and enhance the quality of its marine and coastal environment,

Convinced that the effective implementation of a good governance scheme for the MAP system further promotes the effective and efficient use of human and financial resources, whereby the various components of MAP work in synergy,

Affirming that the principles and targets for protection of the Mediterranean have already been established in the Barcelona Convention, its Protocols and the strategies adopted by the Contracting Parties, including the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development

(MSSD) and that these principles and targets enable us to address the challenges at hand. The seriousness of these challenges requires us to strengthen our action in the Mediterranean,

Welcoming the agreement on the new European Union Marine Strategy Directive, which calls for close cooperation among all countries sharing a marine region to achieve its good environmental status by 2020 and highlights the important role of regional sea conventions including the Barcelona Convention,

Welcoming the work of the 13th meeting of the Contracting Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fourth report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and in particular the adoption of the Bali Action Plan which launches a comprehensive process, to be completed by 2009, to enable the full effective and sustained implementation of the climate change convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012,

Seriously aware, on the basis of the most recent work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, of the implications for the marine environment of climate change and ocean acidification due to elevated concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and in particular of their significant effects on the Mediterranean coastal zone, its ecosystems and biodiversity and the extreme sensitivity of the region to alterations in climate,

Considering the recommendations of the International Solidarity Conference on Climate Change Strategies for the African and Mediterranean Regions held in Tunis from 18 to 20 November 2007, with the participation of several Mediterranean countries, institutions and NGOs and the Mediterranean Action Plan,

Taking note of the Rome Declaration of 20 December 2007 concerning the Union for the Mediterranean initiative, which should build upon the Barcelona Convention/Mediterranean Action Plan, the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, including its Horizon 2020 initiative, and the Mediterranean Component of the European Union Water Initiative,

Stressing the adaptation effort that all countries are required to make in order to reduce the impact of climate change,

Highlighting the importance of capacity building, technology transfer and mobilization of financial resources to enable developing countries, in particular, to meet such challenges as recommended in the Tunis Declaration and Action Plan,

Recalling the principle of common but differentiated responsibility in the area of climate change and the need to strengthen regional and international cooperation, in accordance with the spirit and the provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Aware of the rapid rates of loss of biodiversity and of continuing degradation of the marine and coastal environment, and of the importance of the geographical specificity of the genetic heritage in the Mediterranean Sea and its coastal area,

Recalling the objectives of the strategic plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Millennium Development Goals with regard to the protection of biodiversity and the creation of marine protected areas, approved and adopted in 2002, and also the recommendations adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention on implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development and of the

Strategic Action Programme for the Conservation of Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean,

Noting that, since the adoption of the Barcelona Convention, developments in technology have made it possible to capture carbon dioxide from industrial and energy-related sources, transport it and inject it into sub-seabed geological formations for long-term isolation from the atmosphere and the sea,

Considering further recent developments under several international instruments in relation to carbon dioxide streams from capture processes for sequestration in sub-seabed geological formations,

Concerned by the potential risks arising from carbon dioxide storage in marine geological formations, mostly due to the nature, temporal and spatial scales and duration of potential impacts, and aware of the need to protect the marine and coastal Mediterranean environment and its biodiversity from the potential impacts of carbon storage,

Convinced that

- (a) The problem of climate change should be seriously addressed, in order to reduce as rapidly as possible its effects on the Mediterranean coastal and marine environment,
- (b) Promoting the implementation of early measures in the Mediterranean region to mitigate climate change is vital to the preservation of resources, biodiversity and protection of the coastal areas in the Mediterranean region,
- (c) Strategies to mitigate climate change should include methods such as the ecosystem approach, risk management, strategic environmental assessment and integrated marine and coastal zone management,
- (d) The adoption of the new Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management constitutes a relevant legal tool that lays down binding regulations that are required to contribute to the sustainable development of the coastal zones of the Mediterranean Sea and to address the effects of climate change on these sensitive zones,
- (e) There is a need to further develop renewable and low- and non-carbon forms of energy generation and use, and to promote energy efficiency and more sustainable production and consumption patterns,

Decide

1. To initiate rapid ratification of the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management with a view to applying appropriate effective measures aimed at reconciling coastal preservation and sustainable development with the implementation of economic activities in the coastal zones and to triggering an immediate practical response to the impact of climate change on Mediterranean coastal ecosystems,
2. To identify by 2011 the coastal and marine species and habitats that are most sensitive to the changes that will result from the various scenarios described by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and to promote measures for the establishment of a comprehensive and coherent Mediterranean network of coastal and marine protected areas by 2012,

3. To undertake cooperative studies to estimate the economic value of the products currently derived from and the services rendered by the marine and coastal ecosystems and how that value will be affected by the disruptions that will result from climate change, and to report on those studies to each Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention,
4. To prepare for each Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and to the Convention on Biological Diversity a report on the situation of biodiversity in the Mediterranean and the observed impact of climate change,
5. To strengthen cooperation and seek synergies with initiatives pursuing similar environmental objectives, including the European Union Marine Strategy Directive, with a view to achieving our shared vision of a healthy Mediterranean with marine and coastal ecosystems that are productive and biologically diverse for the benefit of present and future generations,
6. To promote better management of energy demand and increase energy efficiency; to capitalize on the significant potential of the region for solar and wind energy development; to encourage management and restoration of forests and appropriate use of cultivations as carbon dioxide sinks; to promote better water demand management including improved water savings and consider, where appropriate, the use of non-conventional water resources such as treated waste waters in combination with renewable energy sources,
7. To prepare a risk assessment framework and adequately address liability issues for storage of carbon dioxide streams in Mediterranean sub-seabed geological formations as well as for any other mitigation measures with a potential impact on the marine environment to ensure that there is no significant risk to the marine environment, prior to future consideration of amending the legal instruments of the Barcelona Convention including the 1995 Dumping Protocol,
8. To take the Tunis Declaration and Action Plan and the Rabat Declaration on Climate Change: Impacts, Preparedness and Adaptation Measures into consideration within the Mediterranean priorities for better adaptation and response to climate change.