





## **Elements for a Road Map to the 13<sup>th</sup> MCSD Meeting (Preliminary Draft)**

The following briefly introduces the activities of the MCSD Secretariat, as approved in the last COP meeting. Their results will feed into the 13th Meeting MCSD that will eventually make recommendations to the next COP meeting in Morocco (2009). They are building upon the previous work of the MCSD Secretariat and all converge to the implementation of the MSSD.

The timeline of the activities described in the document is available in annex 1.

### **Notes**

The content and preparation of the 13<sup>th</sup> MCSD Meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009) that will largely depend on the outputs of the activities described in this document will be described in due time.

It should be noted that this document focuses on the budget line 1.4 "Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development" approved in Almeria. It does not consider the activities of the working groups established under the MCSD nor the MCSD related information activities.

### **1. Second working session on NSSD (2nd Quarter 2008)**

#### *Objective*

The overall objective is to strengthen the capacity in SD policy formulation and implementation. At the end of the session, the participants would have developed a common understanding of the key components to prepare and implement a NSSD; have acquired a know-how based on good practices to establish these components and address the related challenges and constraints, including the organisation and management aspects. The working session will specifically address the achievement and shortcomings in mainstreaming energy and water demand management in the national policies.

#### *Preparation*

The preparation of the working session will entail sustained interactions with the concerned countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco, the Syrian Arab Republic, and Tunisia) and the formulation of a background paper " Mainstreaming energy and water demand management in the national policies ".

#### *Collaboration*

Interaction will be sought with CSD and OECD. In order to increase coherence and promote convergence, this activity -as most of the other activities- is based conceptually on the related work and achievements of these two institutions.

#### *Financial resources*

As approved in the budget 2008-2009.

Additional financial resources would help invite one or two representatives from other Mediterranean countries (e.g. Italy and Malta).

## **2. Regional workshop on NSSD (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009)**

### *Objective*

The NSSD workshop will discuss the relevant policy frameworks and processes as well as the arrangements to implement and monitor the change toward sustainable development. In particular, the workshop will highlight key conceptual linkages between climate change and sustainable development, explore practical approaches and good practices for integrating climate policy actions and measures into national sustainable development strategies, including as well as sector planning, budgeting and coordination. Promising practices will be highlighted and some orientations and principles for the formulation and implementation of strategic initiatives will be derived.

### *Preparation*

An **Assessment of subregional initiatives and opportunities (2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2008)** will be undertaken to review the linkages between MSSD and other frameworks at the international and regional levels pertaining to sustainable development (the study may also pay attention to relevant sub-regional or thematic initiatives). The overall objective is to contribute to overall coherence and foster collaboration at the operational level (i.e. essentially the country level where decisions and action take place). More specifically, entry points and elements of joint action programming (e.g. capacity building, knowledge management, financial strategies, monitoring achievements, etc.) will be identified - thus contributing to effective implementation of existing MoU and joint programmes or developing new ones-. The following framework, initiatives or process could be considered: Horizon 2020 (EU), Marrakech Process (UN and UNEP), Marine Strategy Directive (EU), Water Initiative (EU, MIO/ECSED), International Water Resources Management (Mediterranean component, MIO/ECSED), GEF Project "Strategic Partnership for the Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem". The assessment will be an opportunity to strengthen cooperation with international and regional institutions including in particular UNCSD, OECD, European Environment Agency (Mediterranean Area Cooperation) with the view to spearhead the implementation of the MSSD. The scope of this work will be limited to a comparison between MSSD and Horizon 2020.

A **Review of NSSD Status (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008)** will take stock of the different strategic approaches followed by the countries to foster sustainable development. The Review will assemble information on different frameworks and processes, then compile and analyse it. Based on the variety of experience in the countries of the Region, the Review will strive to distil promising practices that support the preparation and implementation of strategic and coordinated approaches to sustainable development.

### *Collaboration*

Close collaboration will be sought with OECD and CSD/UNDESA, - who organised expert group meeting or workshops in 2007 on related issues- and the European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN). Specific expertise will be resorted to within the MAP system and outside. (e.g. Blue Plan/Regional Activity Center who provided technical and organisational support to the MCSD working group on Energy and Climate Change as well as key resource persons in other institutions such as OECD or UNDP).

*Financial resources*

The regional workshop should involve participants from the entire region, including stakeholders representing different interest groups and UNEP MAP partners. Consequently, the provision in the approved budget is not sufficient to give this workshop the desired impact and visibility. The necessary additional funding (approx. 65, 000 euros) has to be leveraged from external sources still to be identified.

### **3. Support to NSSD formulation and implementation (Continuing)**

*Objective*

The activity aims at encouraging and supporting MAP countries to develop and implement their NSSDs.

*Preparation*

**Launching visits (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2008)** will be organized in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Tunisia. The purpose is to meet the concerned institutions and stakeholders including the donor community in order to inform them on NSSD formulation process and obtain their support. On this occasion, a national information workshop could be organized and complementary funding identified from the donor community active in the domain. Developing collaboration with donors (as was the case in Montenegro with Italy) will prove essential to coherence, coordination as well as increased MAP visibility.

With respect to the countries that already prepared their NSSD (e.g. Egypt, Montenegro, Morocco and the Syrian Arab Republic), MAP support should be continued. Several directions will be pursued: i) organize peer reviews or technical support activities involving those countries in the newcomer countries; ii) formalize a Med Network on NSSD and liaise it with the EU SD Network and OECD work on NSSD.

*Collaboration*

The possibility to organize these missions in conjunction with the relevant RACs will be explored systematically. Joint missions 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 endeavor of all MAP components. A good coordination at the country level would also: allow the MAP components to speak with one voice; decrease the burden and workload on government structures; stimulate collaboration between the MAP Focal Point and the different RACs Focal Points; allow economy of scale; contribute to streamlining all MAP activities into the country overall policy framework.

*Financial resources*

As approved in the budget 2008-2009. Considering the limited funding available for each country exercise (approx. 40,000 euros), additional financial resources (as was the case in Montenegro who received substantial additional support from Italy) would help giving a convincing impetus and visibility to the process. The necessary additional funding has to be leveraged from external sources still to be identified.

#### **4. Support to pilot activities: formulation of Island Strategy for Sustainable Development-ISSD- (continuing)**

In MSSD implementation, support to NSSD formulation contributes to increasing the coherence between regional agreement and policy making and action at the country level. Encouraging pilot activities that foster synergies between national and local levels appear equally important.

Considering that the islands of the Mediterranean region are often confronted to similar environment, social and economic issues and challenges, the prospects for pilot activities providing support to local authorities in the formulation and implementation of Island Strategies for Sustainable Development (ISSD) have been considered.

##### *Objective*

The objectives of these pilot activities are to integrate MSSD objectives, orientations and proposed actions into policy frameworks and instruments at the local level; engage stakeholders and forge partnerships; build capacity; manage and disseminate knowledge and information; and mobilize and allocate resources. Expected outputs comprise the following: ISSD documents prepared; consultation mechanisms established; collaboration between UNEP/MAP and Universities in the Mediterranean region; the basis of a regional network of Universities established; improved synergies and coordination between MAP components; increase visibility of MSSD/NSSD through interactions with the CSD Small Island Countries group and programme. Experience gained through pilot activities could 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.

##### *Preparation*

At their request, the authorities and stakeholders of these islands would benefit from MAP support to formulate/implement their ISSD. Preliminary contacts have been established in three islands: Mytilini (Greece), Gozo (Malta) and Elba (Italy).

##### *Collaboration*

Close collaboration will be developed with interested national universities e.g. the Aegean University, the Malta University and Firenze University, with the possible involvement of the association of Local Agendas 21, in collaboration with the Ministries of Environment. The universities involved as supporting institutions would thus have the opportunity to progressively establish a regional network of universities for SD, involve their students in concrete field activities, strengthen research and teaching activities on SD, develop collaboration with experts of the MAP components as well as decision-makers and local authorities, exchange and build up knowledge including with MAP components.

##### *Financial resources*

As approved in the budget 2008-2009. Considering the limited funding available for each country exercise (approx. 5,000 euros), necessary additional funding (approx. 40, 000 euros per Island) has to be leveraged from external sources (e.g. concerned local authorities and national Ministries of Environment) still to be identified.

## **5. Support to pilot activities: mainstreaming climate change in national policies (before 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009)**

### *Objective*

The Contracting Parties decision on the MCSD recommendations relating to energy and climate change can conveniently translate into pilot activities in 2 selected countries. These activities would aim at increasing consistency and coherence of the SD related policies, legal frameworks, economic instruments and institutional set up. More specifically, the objective is to demonstrate how the Contracting Parties decisions can be effectively implemented at the country level.

### *Preparation and implementation*

Further to a consistency analysis of the relevant policies and instruments, different measures of improvement could be identified (e.g. with regard to policy reforms, improved legal and institutional frameworks, resorting to appropriate economic instruments, as well as capacity building) and guidelines formulated to improve coherence and convergence. The experience gained in the pilot countries would be disseminated throughout the region. The next MCSD meeting would be an opportunity to validate the convergence process and monitor the effectiveness of MSSD implementation in the domain of energy and water demand management.

### *Collaboration*

Close collaboration will be sought with CSD, OECD. Specific expertise could be resorted to within the MAP system and outside. (e.g. Blue Plan/Regional Activity Center who provided technical and organisational support to the MCSD working group on Energy and Climate Change as well as key resource persons in other institutions such as OECD or UNDP).

### *Financial resources*

While there is no provision in the approved budget 2008-2009, the possibility for full external funding (approx. 10,000 euros per country) could be explored.

## **6. Targeted MSSD/NSSD information and communication (Continuing)**

**To be formulated on the basis of planned discussion with possible collaborating institutions and partners.**

## Annex 2. Revisiting the role and functions of the Working Groups

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 extent to which the results of the working groups will influence country policy processes (i.e. translate into effective impact in the countries through policy reforms, measures and action leading to increase coherence and convergence) and foster MSSD implementation highly depends on concrete initiatives and increased coordination. Consequently, working groups have to become more action oriented with the objective to insert their results into the different country and regional processes (i.e. MSSD and NSSD but also EuroMed Partnership and the related instruments such as Horizon 2020).

Given the importance of the cross cutting issues in the MSSD, the working groups cannot operate in isolation one from the other and cannot exclusively focus on the technical aspects. In order to provide for coordination between working groups, increase effectiveness and achieve impact, the MCSD Secretariat has to ensure that the working groups have similar structure and modus operandi. The use of a common format would help monitor quality performance and increase synergies, particularly on cross cutting issues.

The role of the working groups has to be seen in the broader perspective of other implementation means such as pilot actions at national levels, regional capacity building, policy dialogues, targeted knowledge management activities-including information and communication.

