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UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

29 January 2016  
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19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016

**Agenda item 6.1: Progress Report on Activities Carried Out during the 2014 - 2015 Biennium**

**Report of the 81<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Bureau**

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UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN

27 January 2016  
Original: English

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81<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the  
Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment  
and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols

Extraordinary Meeting  
Teleconference, 18 January 2016

**Report: Conclusions and Recommendations**

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## **Introduction**

1. In accordance with rule 13 of the Rules of Procedures and in agreement with the President of the Bureau, the extraordinary 81<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols was held by teleconference on 18 January 2016 from 15:30 – 17:30 (Athens time). Consecutive interpretation in English and French was available to the meeting.

## **Participation**

2. The President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar (Turkey); the Vice-Presidents H.E. Ambassador Xavier Sticker (France); Mr. Ilias Mavroidis (Greece); Mr. Mohamed Benyahia (Morocco); and the Rapporteur, Mr. Senad Oprasic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) attended the Bureau meeting. The Secretariat was represented by the Coordinating Unit (Coordinator, Deputy Coordinator and Programme Officer) and the Senior Programme Officer/Legal from UNEP Headquarters. The list of participants is attached as Annex I to this report.

### **Agenda item 1:           Opening of the Meeting**

3. The meeting was opened by the President of the Bureau, Prof. Dr. Mehmet Emin Birpinar. He welcomed the Bureau members and other participants.

4. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator, welcomed the Bureau Members. As requested by the President, he provided the Bureau with an overview of the action that had led to calling the 81<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Bureau.

### **Agenda item 2:           Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work**

5. The Bureau reviewed and adopted the agenda as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED BUR.81/1 (Annex II).

### **Agenda item 3:           Request from the British Permanent Representative to the UN in Nairobi of adding the item “Accession of the United Kingdom to the Barcelona Convention” in a supplementary provisional agenda of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols**

6. The Bureau discussed the above-mentioned item and agreed on the following: “The Bureau, at its extraordinary 81<sup>st</sup> meeting held by teleconference on 18 January 2016, keeping in mind rules 12 and 13 of the Rules of Procedure for Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the need for additional information and for further legal analysis and consultations, the lack of time for such consultations before COP 19, the apparent gaps in the procedures, the ambitious agenda of COP 19, and the spirit and substantive focus of the Barcelona Convention, agreed not to add a supplementary item “Accession of the United Kingdom to the Barcelona Convention” in the Agenda of COP 19 (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016).”

**Agenda item 4: Conclusions and recommendations**

7. The Bureau adopted the conclusions listed in paragraph 6.

**Agenda item 5: Any Other Matters**

8. There was no other matter raised by Members of the Bureau.

**Agenda item 6: Closure of the Meeting**

9. The meeting was closed by the President of the Bureau at 17:30.

## **Annex I**

### **List of participants**

**MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU**

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## **Annex II**

### **Agenda**

## **Agenda**

- Agenda item 1**            Opening of the Meeting (15:30)
- Agenda item 2**            Adoption of the Agenda and Organization of Work (15:45-16:00)
- Agenda item 3**            Request from the British Permanent Representative to the UN in Nairobi to include the item “Accession of the United Kingdom to the Barcelona Convention” in a supplementary provisional agenda of the 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (16:00-17:00)
- Agenda item 4**            Conclusions and Recommendations (17:00-17:30)
- Agenda item 5**            Any Other Matters (17:30-18:00)
- Agenda item 6**            Closure of the Meeting (18:00)