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15 June 1977

Original: ENGLISH

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REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL STATES ON  
THE BLUE PLAN

SPLIT, YUGOSLAVIA, 31 JANUARY-4 FEBRUARY 1977

CORRIGENDUM

1. Paragraph 3, add Cyprus in all texts
2. Paragraph 15, add Cyprus, in all texts
3. Paragraph 42, add "The United Nations" before "Conference on Desertification", in the English text only
4. Paragraph 48, replace (i) and (ii) by 47.1 and 47.2 in the English text only
5. Paragraph 52, delete the word "possibly" before marine living resources in all texts
6. Paragraph 54, replace "moyens techniques" by "moyens fonctionnels" in French text, and replace "institutional" by "funcional" in Spanish text



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UNEP/IG.5/7  
21 February 1977  
Original: ENGLISH

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REPORT OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF MEDITERRANEAN COASTAL  
STATES ON THE BLUE PLAN

Split, Yugoslavia, 31 January-4 February 1977

GE.77-3031



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Paragraphs
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1 - 2
II. ATTENDANCE .....	3
III. OPENING OF THE MEETING .....	4 - 3
IV. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN .....	9
V. ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE .....	10
VI. ELECTION OF OFFICERS .....	11 - 12
VII. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA .....	13
VIII. APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE .....	14 - 16
IX. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE MEETING .....	17 - 25
X. THE BLUE PLAN .....	26 - 39
General Principles .....	26 - 27
Organizational Principles .....	28
Objectives .....	29 - 31
- Long-term objectives	
- Immediate objectives	
Methods of implementation .....	32
Phases of the project .....	33 - 38
Geographical coverage .....	39
XI. PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME .....	40 - 52
Identification of fields for priority actions ....	40 - 48
Methods of implementation .....	49 - 52
XII. INSTITUTIONAL AID FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS .....	53 - 66
XIII. OTHER BUSINESS .....	67
XIV. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT .....	68
XV. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING .....	69 - 70
ANNEX I : Chart of priority actions	
ANNEX II : Agenda	
ANNEX III: List of participants	

## I. INTRODUCTION

1. At the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean, held at Barcelona from 20 January to 4 February 1975, the Governments of the region declared themselves ready to consider proposals aimed at reconciling the demands for development with the need to protect and improve the quality of the Mediterranean environment. The Intergovernmental Meeting adopted an Action Plan for the Protection and Development of the Mediterranean Region 1/ in which it requested the Executive Director of UNEP, in collaboration with the Governments of the region, the organizations of the United Nations system, and intergovernmental and regional organizations concerned, to draw up a co-ordinated programme aimed at a better utilization of resources in the interests of the countries of the region and their development in accordance with sound long-term environmental principles.

2. To give effect to those directives and to follow up the steps taken by Governments and international organizations in the Mediterranean region, the Executive Director of UNEP undertook to convene an Intergovernmental Meeting of Coastal States of the region in order to submit the "Blue Plan" project to them. The "Blue Plan", a co-ordinated programme of regional co-operation, is conceived as a continuous process of research and activity having as its foremost objective the economic and social development of the region on a sound ecological basis.

## II. ATTENDANCE<sup>2/</sup>

3. The following member States were represented: Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Republic, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia. 3/

Representatives of the following also attended:

United Nations bodies: Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO), United Nations Office for Inter-Agency Affairs and Co-ordination (IAAC), United Nations Information Centre (UNIC, Belgrade).

Specialized Agencies: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Intergovernmental Maritime Consultative Organization (IMCO).

Intergovernmental Organizations: Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization (ALECSO), Commission of the European Communities (CEC).

Non-Governmental Organization: Atelier Méditerranéen de Prospective (AIP).

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1/ See UNEP/WG.2/5. Annex.

2/ For the list of participants in the Meeting see Annex III to this Report.

3/ The Governments of Albania, Lebanon and Syrian Arab Republic had been invited but were not represented at the meeting.

### III. Agenda Item 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The meeting was preceded by an opening ceremony presided over by Dr. M. K. Tolba, the Executive Director of UNEP, and Mr. D. Kosovac, President of the Yugoslav Council for the Environment and Territorial Development representing the Government of Yugoslavia. Mr. D. Kosovac, in his opening speech, emphasized the importance Yugoslavia is attaching to the meeting and expressed his hope that the "Mediterranean region that has for thousands of years been the scene of wars, conquests, plunders, destruction and impoverishment may turn into an area of co-operation in jointly co-ordinated development". He expressed the view that environmental considerations cannot be separated from the issue of development. In its own development, each country should be responsible for the consequences that may jeopardize the environmental quality of its own territory as well as the territory of its neighbours now and in the future. The developing countries did not need to be persuaded, noted Mr. D. Kosovac, that investment in environmentally sound development would be repaid and returned many times over in the future.

5. Mr. D. Kosovac referred to Yugoslav experience in planning for harmonious and environmentally sound development of the Yugoslav Adriatic region which started in 1962 and has been carried out through three UNDP-assisted projects culminating in the project on the "Protection of Human Environment in the Yugoslav Adriatic Region (1972-1977)". The experience gained through these projects could be used in actions and studies envisaged as part of the Integrated Planning Component of the Mediterranean Action Plan adopted in 1975 by Governments at the first Barcelona Conference.<sup>4/</sup> In connexion with this experience and in view of the keen interest of Yugoslavia to participate in further development of the Action Plan, Mr. D. Kosovac put forward the candidature of Yugoslavia, and the town of Split in particular, to host a Centre which might be created for the co-ordination of integrated planning and management of resources activities which will be adopted at this meeting.

6. Mr. Vjekoslav Vidak, Chairman of the Town Council of Split, warmly welcomed the participants and expressed his hope that the historic ambience of the town and its two thousand years of continuous development through history would serve to prove the vitality of the Mediterranean region.

7. At the beginning of his opening statement, the Executive Director of UNEP, Dr. M.K. Tolba, offered his condolences to the Yugoslav Government and people on the recent tragic death of the President of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia, Mr. Dzemal Bijedic. He then expressed his deep gratitude to the Government of Yugoslavia for hosting this meeting and to the United Nations bodies and the Specialized Agencies as well as experts and institutions which have worked long and hard to prepare for the meeting.

8. The Executive Director then recalled the Action Plan which Governments have approved for the Protection of the Mediterranean of which the Blue Plan is a part and outlined progress made in implementing its various components. He drew particular attention to the Integrated Planning component of the Action Plan which

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<sup>4/</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting on the Protection of the Mediterranean, Barcelona, 28 January to 4 February 1975. For the Report of this meeting see document UNEP/WG.2/5.

comprises not only the Blue Plan but other activities such as the survey of land-based sources of pollution undertaken jointly by seven United Nations agencies and the conservation and management of protected marine and coastal parks. He also informed the meeting of the preparations for the United Nations Desertification Conference including the forthcoming regional preparatory meeting in Portugal which will be attended by many of the Governments represented at Split. The Blue Plan, the subject of this meeting, represented another important undertaking within the Integrated Planning Component of the Action Plan. Dr. Tolba concluded by outlining what was expected from the meeting (this is described in more detail in paragraphs 19 to 25 of this report).

IV. Agenda Item 2: ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

9. Following the opening ceremony, the meeting proceeded with the election of the Chairman and unanimously elected Professor Petar Strohal, Director of the Centre for Marine Research, "Rudjer Boskovic" Institute, for that office.

V. Agenda Item 3: ADOPTION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

10. The Chairman announced that in accordance with rule 62 of the rules of procedure of the UNEP Governing Council, the rules of procedure of the Meeting would be, mutatis mutandis, those of the Governing Council as set forth in document UNEP/GC/3/Rev.1.

VI. Agenda Item 4: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

11. The meeting elected Mr. Mohamed Ali Elwaer, the Chief of the Delegation of the Libyan Arab Republic and Sr. D. Francisco Monforte, Chief of the Delegation of Spain as Vice-Chairmen of the Meeting.

12. The Meeting also elected Mr. Claude Truchot, Ingénieur au Ministère de la Qualité de la Vie, member of the French delegation, as Rapporteur.

VII. Agenda Item 5: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

13. The Meeting approved its Agenda as given in Annex II to this report.

VIII. Agenda Item 6: APPOINTMENT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

14. The Meeting agreed that the Bureau of the Meeting, composed of the Chairman, the two Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur, would also serve as the Credentials Committee.

15. The Credentials Committee found the credentials submitted by the representatives of Algeria, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libyan Arab Republic, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey and Yugoslavia to be in order.

16. The Meeting approved the report of the Credentials Committee. A List of Participants is given in Annex III of this report.

IX. Agenda Item 7: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

17. The Meeting approved its work programme given in UNEP/IG.5/2 Rev.1.

18. Before passing on to the substantive items of the agenda, Dr. H.K. Tolba, Executive Director of UNEP, made the following explanation of the purpose of the meeting and what is expected of it.

19. The Executive Director of UNEP pointed out that the Action Plan adopted by the Mediterranean Coastal States at Barcelona in 1975 had four principal components: legal, scientific, integrated planning, and institutional. Work on studies involving surveys and projections of trends and general methodology, broadly coming under the label of the "Blue Plan" was an important element in the ongoing and future work under the Integrated Planning Component of the Mediterranean Action Plan. Two years had passed since the adoption of the Action Plan, and, understandably, the Mediterranean Coastal States as well as the member countries of UNEP's Governing Council now expected concrete recommendations leading to action in respect of the integrated planning component.

20. On the basis of the preparatory work done so far, it was clear that two lines of approach to implementation of the Integrated Planning Component of the Action Plan were necessary and feasible.

20.1. The conduct of surveys and in-depth studies in the broad area of environment and development, involving an assessment of what is being done, where, by whom and how and what are the imminent environmental problems accompanying the processes of development. This work of research and studies was the subject matter of what is called the "Blue Plan". It was expected that these studies would ultimately lead to recommendations on how to integrate environmental considerations in development plans, policies and decisions.

20.2. Initiation of co-operative efforts by the coastal States in respect to the adoption of appropriate environmental management practices in selected, priority action areas on the basis of available knowledge.

21. Obviously, work along these two lines, though analytically distinct, was mutually reinforcing. By the end of 1978, it would be especially appropriate to review and examine the linkages between work under the Blue Plan and that under selected actions aimed at promoting sound environmental management on the basis of present knowledge. The three phases of implementation mentioned in document UNEP/IG.5/3 should, in total, take approximately four years.

22. The Executive Director stated that in order to make further progress on the implementation of the integrated planning component of the Mediterranean Action Plan, it was important that the meeting provide concrete guidance on the kind of studies that should be carried out, on the areas in which specific co-operative action, including demonstration and pilot projects, might be undertaken, on the



institutional structures necessary for implementation, and on the allocation of responsibility for financial support of the work planned. It was obviously important that the recommendations of the meeting remained fully in line with the overall recommendations, policies and plans developed by Governments at the various fora of the United Nations and that these recommendations did not prejudge the results of forthcoming United Nations conferences, notably those on Water and Desertification.

23. With respect to institutional implications, the Executive Director suggested that it might be very useful to establish a single national focal point in each coastal State to co-ordinate work within each country relevant to Integrated Planning, both in respect of in-depth studies coming under the Blue Plan, and in respect of priority action areas. This national focal point should also carry out continuous liaison with the units entrusted with the task of overall co-ordination of the work involved in the implementation of the in-depth studies on the one hand and in the agreed priority action on the other. Moreover, work relating to the studies, as well as that relating to priority actions, should be carried out with full participation of national institutions and concerned bodies especially in the United Nations system. The Executive Director further suggested that at the international level, it might be desirable to set up two separate units to co-ordinate work on implementation of in-depth studies, and in respect of priority action areas involving promotion of sound environmental management.

24. The Executive Director emphasized that UNEP's role in the implementation of the Mediterranean Action Plan, as well as in the implementation of all other aspects of the United Nations Environment Programme, was catalytic and co-ordinating. The operational responsibility for the implementation of the Integrated Planning component as also for the rest of the Mediterranean Action Plan rested primarily with the Governments of the Coastal States, United Nations specialized agencies and other competent institutions. The Executive Director further emphasized that, just as it was important for the meeting to make concrete recommendations for studies and actions, it was also important that Governments agreed on how to finance the implementation of all the recommendations and decisions arising from this meeting. He stressed that UNEP, in particular, would not be in a position to release money from its Fund in support of additional work unless Governments first agreed on how the whole set of recommendations coming out of the meeting was to be financed by the countries of the region.

25. The Executive Director urged the delegates to approach the subject matter of the meeting with care and deliberation, and to be modest in the selection of areas for immediate priority actions, as well as in specifying the scope of the work to be done within each of the selected priority action areas.

#### X. Agenda Item 3: THE BLUE PLAN

##### General principles

26. The Meeting agreed to ask the Executive Director to initiate the first phase of the "Blue Plan" in accordance with the following principles:

- 26.1 Absolute respect for national sovereignty;
- 26.2 Co-operation with national institutions and national experts;

- 26.3 Co-operation with organizations of the United Nations system and regional intergovernmental organizations concerned. The Executive Director may also enlist the co-operation of competent and concerned non-governmental organizations.
- 26.4 Account should be taken of activities in progress in various countries including those undertaken in co-operation with UNDP and through multilateral and bilateral programmes.
27. In elaboration of these general principles the following comments were made during the discussion:
- 27.1 Priorities should be limited in the first phase to a few areas so that the impact might not be diluted.
- 27.2 The Blue Plan should address itself to problems that are common to Mediterranean countries or groups of Mediterranean countries. Problems specific to one country should also be taken into account.
- 27.3 A central concern of the Blue Plan should be to undertake research on the interrelationship between socio-economic developments and ecological evolutions.
- 27.4 Priority activities should be conceived within the context of overall development activities of the various countries.
- 27.5 The principle of equity among the Mediterranean States in matters of participation in, organization of, and benefiting from activities, should be respected.

#### Organizational principles

28. The Meeting agreed to ask the Executive Director to follow the following principles in organizing the work of the Blue Plan:
- 28.1 The designation by each Government of a national focal point will help to ensure that Governments effectively control national contributions, and Governments are therefore invited to designate focal points. Blue Plan activities should be carried out through the network of such focal points.
- 28.2 National Focal Points designated by Governments will facilitate co-operation with national institutions and experts.
- 28.3 Governments' review and direction of the implementation of the "Blue Plan" will be facilitated by regular intergovernmental meetings to be convened for this purpose. Such meetings would be prepared, as appropriate, by expert consultations.
- 28.4 Constant links with international and other organizations should be maintained by UNEP, who will make full use of the expertise, experience and data which they can contribute.

- 28.5 Basic information which is required must be clearly defined to ensure useful collection and exchange. National focal points can facilitate access to this information. An information system co-ordinated with existing international plans is an essential part of the Blue Plan activity in order to ensure the compatibility of information.

Agenda Item 8.1: OBJECTIVES

Long-term objectives

29. The Meeting approved the following statement of long-term objectives of the "Blue Plan":

- 29.1 The fundamental long-term objective of the "Blue Plan" is to initiate a continuous process of concerted co-operation among the Mediterranean coastal States. The term "Plan" should not, therefore, give rise to misunderstandings: the objectives of the "Blue Plan" are not to concentrate the decision-making process or to promote the establishment of a body that would define in technical terms what should be the rational management of natural resources and optimum socio-economic development for all the Mediterranean countries. By ensuring exchange of experiences in all relevant fields among the Mediterranean countries, the "Blue Plan" should create a pool of knowledge to which each of the countries concerned would have immediate access.
- 29.2 More specifically, the objective of the "Blue Plan" is to place at the disposal of decision-makers and planners in the different countries of the Mediterranean region information enabling them to formulate plans for optimum socio-economic development on a sustainable basis without environmental degradation.
- 29.3 The "Blue Plan", while promoting co-operative efforts to solve common problems, would take existing socio-economic development styles into consideration and facilitate the formulation of alternative environmentally sound development styles by each country in accordance with its own options and conditions.
- 29.4 The other long-term objectives of the Blue Plan are:
- (a) To assist the Governments of the coastal States of the Mediterranean to gain a more accurate insight into the common problems they face both in the Mediterranean Sea and in its coastal zones;
  - (b) To assist these Governments in reaching appropriate decisions that would promote rational management of resources and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

30. Furthermore:

- 30.1 From the operational point of view, the "Blue Plan" would comprise three phases, each of which would make provision for sets of successive or simultaneous studies. These studies may cover fields as varied as soils protection, water resources, food and agriculture, industrialization and urbanization processes, energy production

and consumption, tourism, coastal zone management, and education and training with choices to be made by Governments concerned at intergovernmental meetings. The studies would be interdisciplinary, intersectoral and integrated, and would take into account the social and cultural characteristics and diversities of the countries concerned. In each of the fields to be examined, long-term trends would be identified and their effects on the environment analysed. In the lights of that analysis, alternative development strategies and policies would be formulated wherever possible and brought to the attention of Governments for their consideration.

30.2 The "Blue Plan" should lead to a continuous increase of co-operation among various countries in the Mediterranean region. It is through such co-operation and mutual assistance, with full respect for national sovereignty, that economic imbalances within the region might be progressively eradicated. One of the essential conditions to reach these ends is a due appreciation of the socio-economic situation of the Mediterranean region. It is hoped that insight into the social and economic factors underlying development will lead to a progressive strengthening of international co-operation and to sectoral and general agreements, as well as appropriate juridical provisions on environmental matters. It is also hoped that activities under the "Blue Plan" will contribute to the consolidation of peace, which is a basic condition for the development and protection of the Mediterranean environment.

30.3 To sum up, the programme envisaged under the "Blue Plan" should contribute to the promotion of economic and social development of the whole Mediterranean region in a manner which will safeguard the natural systems on which sustained development depends. To achieve this purpose, the studies and activities to be undertaken under the "Blue Plan" will be conceived and implemented in such a way as to contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Second United Nations Development Decade. The Declaration on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order and the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States <sup>4/</sup> will also influence the nature and scope of studies to be undertaken in the context of the "Blue Plan".

#### IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVES

31. The meeting approved the immediate objectives of the Blue Plan comprising the following activities:

31.1 A systematic survey of the main development activities being carried out in the Mediterranean region and their consequences for the environment. The data concerning these activities should be compiled on the basis of a common methodology with a view to facilitating their comparability and assessment, as well as the transfer and exchange of data.

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<sup>4/</sup> The delegations of France and Italy expressed reservations with regard to some aspects of these two texts.

- 31.2 The preparation and up-dating of a directory of institutions and experts available in the region to participate in the studies and activities of the "Blue Plan".
- 31.3 The launching of a number of interdisciplinary intersectoral studies in the priority fields indicated by Governments at the Intergovernmental Meeting on the "Blue Plan". Some of these areas are described in information documents UNEP/IG.5/INF.5 and following numbers.
- 31.4 The identification and analysis of the most significant of various existing and planned activities in the Mediterranean region that have a clearly beneficial impact on the environment.
- 31.5 The identification and analysis of a number of national or internationally supported projects aimed at satisfying basic human needs on a sustainable basis.
- 31.6 The progressive elaboration, on the basis of the data and experience gathered through the studies and activities to be undertaken, of conceptual frameworks and methodologies for long-term environmentally sound development planning.
- 31.7 The provision of technical assistance and training in the fields mentioned in sub-paragraph 30.1, with priority for developing countries.

#### Agenda Item 8.2: METHODS OF IMPLEMENTATION

32. The Meeting approved the following methods of implementation:
  - 32.1 Systems analysis and methodologies involving prospective research were considered to be among the best means of dealing with the problems involved. To ensure that all those concerned in the carrying out of the studies under the Blue Plan use the same approach, a common methodology will be worked out before the initiation of the studies. The view was expressed that the first step in this direction would be to establish appropriate procedures for the collection and dissemination of the necessary data keeping in mind the need for their comparability. However, it would be difficult to obtain the required data from national sources in the absence of a coherent presentation of the conceptual framework, and of the establishment of appropriate institutional structure for continuous co-operation. Informal consultations are urgently required in order to obtain the views of Governments concerning the selection of institutions and groups of experts to be entrusted with the scientific responsibility for the conduct of the studies. At the same time these consultations should allow a thorough exchange of views concerning the conceptual framework. In this respect it was felt that the eco-development and systems analysis approaches would serve as important components in the establishment of the conceptual framework.

Many delegations considered it indispensable that collection of information be made through focal points designated by each Government.

32.2 Plans and reports on all studies and activities carried out in the context of the "Blue Plan" will conform to the following outline:

- (i) Define the problems encountered in a situation affecting the development and/or environment of the region;
- (ii) Establish the present status of those problems and their relationships with the environment;
- (iii) Identify the long-term trends of those problems and their implications for the environment;
- (iv) Identify the most significant aspects of those problems for the environment, and propose practical actions to solve or forestall them;
- (v) Formulate proposals aimed at securing long-term development with the least adverse effect on the environment.

32.3 In order to deal adequately with the questions raised in the preceding paragraph, the studies and activities will be interdisciplinary and intersectoral. Furthermore, to make sure that local conditions and social and cultural characteristics are fully taken into consideration, the teams concerned will include institutions and experts from all parts of the Mediterranean.

### 33. PHASES OF THE PROJECT

The Project should be carried out in three phases.

34. The first phase should comprise the broadest possible exploratory work in all the fields selected by Governments. Institutions and experts from all Mediterranean countries, preferably grouped in pairs (with an equitable geographical North-South representation) should actively participate in the exploration and study of data and practices of development and environment management in order to identify, in particular, new priority actions which should be considered and decided upon at intergovernmental meetings.

35. During the second phase of the project, a more thorough investigation would be made of the most critical problems brought to light in the first phase and of the sectors affected. The results of this phase should lead to a number of more consolidated surveys of development trends from which it would be possible to determine what activities should be provided for in order to deal with problems that risk becoming serious during the coming decades.

36. In the third phase, reports should be produced synthesizing all the activities previously undertaken, and which, above all, derive from those activities, conclusions and appropriate recommendations that would assist the Governments of the coastal States of the Mediterranean in the planning and execution of continuous socio-economic development of their countries without environmental degradation.

37. Completion of the three phases of the project would require about four years from the date of its approval at the Intergovernmental Meeting on the "Blue Plan".

38. The institutional machinery to be devised for carrying out the "Blue Plan" should make provision for the receipt of a steady stream of information about the progress of activities. It should also make provision for ways of communicating this information to the Governments concerned. In addition, the results of each phase should be reviewed by periodic meetings of the Mediterranean coastal States at the intergovernmental level. A progress report on the first phase will be submitted to the intergovernmental meeting of the Mediterranean coastal States scheduled to take place in Monaco late in 1977. This report should include proposals for subsequent actions, particularly in the areas of information exchange and training.

#### 39. GEOGRAPHICAL COVERAGE

The Meeting agreed that the "Blue Plan" should cover the entire Mediterranean basin, namely the Mediterranean Sea, as defined in the Barcelona Convention, and the adjacent coastal zones. These coastal zones might vary in territorial depth from one area to another, depending on the problems to be considered and the nature of the disciplines involved. The Mediterranean region is recognized in this respect as constituting not a single ecosystem but, rather, a complex of ecosystems of varying dimensions, displaying certain comparable ecological and climatic features, but differing from one another according to latitude and altitude. In all cases, the States concerned are the 13 coastal States of the Mediterranean Region.

### XI. Agenda Item 9: PRIORITY ACTIONS PROGRAMME

#### 9.1 Identification of fields for priority actions

40. The Meeting considered the fields proposed for priority actions by the Executive Director in document UIEP/IG.5/5. The meeting felt that, in examining these fields and in determining priority activities within each field, it was important to take account of the relevant past, present and proposed activities in the region undertaken by the Governments and regional and international organizations. For this purpose, therefore, it would be valuable to have an "inventory" of major projects aimed at sound environmental management in individual areas being carried out by Governments and international agencies in the region. Moreover, surveys and in-depth studies to be conducted under the "Blue Plan" should progressively help to identify the nature and scope of activities that may be usefully undertaken in each of the agreed priority action areas.

41. It was recognized that certain actions involving co-operation among countries could be undertaken in the near future on the basis of available knowledge of sound environmental management practices in selected priority action areas. In some cases, on-going projects and programmes in the Mediterranean region may serve as demonstration

projects. Programmes of interest being carried out elsewhere could be introduced in the Mediterranean with minor adjustments in their focus in order to meet particular regional needs. Studies under the Blue Plan should also benefit from relevant experiments being carried out outside the Mediterranean region.

42. For some areas it was considered advisable to await the recommendations of relevant pending international activities: e.g. Conference on Desertification, to be convened at Nairobi in August/September 1977, the United Nations and the United Nations Water Conference to be convened at Mar del Plata in March 1977.

43. All activities undertaken under the PAP should seek to demonstrate, through practical actions, alternatives for environmentally sound socio-economic development. Wherever possible, activities should include a training component and assist in the transfer of appropriate technology and experience. It was recommended that training activities should so far as possible make use of the existing national institutions in each State.

44. It was agreed that the implementation of the PAP would follow the same general principles as agreed to for the Blue Plan: that is,

- 44.1 absolute respect for national sovereignty;
- 44.2 co-operation with national institutions and national experts;
- 44.3 co-operation with organizations of the United Nations system and regional intergovernmental organizations concerned. The Executive Director may also enlist the co-operation of competent and concerned non-governmental organizations;
- 44.4 account should be taken of the relevant activities in progress in various countries, including those undertaken with UNDP assistance and through multilateral and bilateral programmes.

45. The Meeting recommended that the following criteria should be applied in selecting priority fields of action:

- 45.1 contribution to the reduction of existing socio-economic inequalities among the various Mediterranean States;
- 45.2 significance in terms of the protection and enhancement of the Mediterranean environment;
- 45.3 community of interest among the Mediterranean countries;
- 45.4 speed with which practical actions in each area could be implemented.

46. The Meeting noted with gratitude the paper submitted by the Yugoslav Delegation on the PAP and commends it to the attention of the Executive Director in his further elaboration of this programme. Although the Meeting felt that it was unable to elaborate plans for specific projects within the PAP, delegations did express



their views on the priority fields in which actions should be undertaken. Attached as annex I is a chart showing the indications by delegations of priorities for the PAP which the Executive Director should take into account in the further development of this portion of the integrated planning component of the Barcelona Action Plan. Some delegations emphasized that blanks in the chart should not be interpreted as a lack of governmental interest in these areas, since the chart only illustrates areas where immediate action should be considered. Areas not chosen at present as priority areas could be considered in a later phase.

47. Six such priority fields were recommended by a majority of delegations to the Executive Director as requiring immediate action:

- 47.1 Protection of soil;
- 47.2 Management of water resources;
- 47.3 Marine living resources: management of fisheries and aquaculture;
- 47.4 Human settlements;
- 47.5 Tourism;
- 47.6 Soft technologies for energy, including solar energy.

It is being understood that each field of priority should include training components.

48. This list should not be considered exhaustive, nor should the categories themselves be taken as final since some, for example (i) and (ii) concerned with soil and water, might best be treated under a single unifying concept such as physical planning or "aménagement du territoire", and in any case clear linkages between these categories must be observed.

## 9.2 Methods of implementation

49. It was agreed that the objective of the PAP should be to establish a permanent network of continuous co-operation among the Mediterranean coastal States concerning practical actions for progressive, inter-sectoral planning. The PAP should initiate this process by selecting specific actions in the priority fields identified in paragraph 47 above. Activities in other fields may be developed at a later stage as agreed by the Governments of the region. These activities should take account of the long-term prospective studies that are to be undertaken within the Blue Plan.

50. The Meeting felt that the PAP could also launch a number of interdisciplinary intersectoral studies in the priority fields indicated by Governments at the Intergovernmental Meeting on the Blue Plan. Some of these fields are described in information documents UNEP/IC.5/INF.5 and following numbers. UNEP Secretariat in exercising its co-ordinating role will see to it that duplication between studies is avoided and that the Blue Plan prospective studies give clear indications, as soon as possible, regarding the concrete actions to be undertaken.

51. Each Government of the Mediterranean region should decide in which activity or activities it wishes to participate. The results obtained through the implementation of the PAP should be made available to all States in the region.

52. The elaboration of specific projects within the priority areas should be undertaken through the national focal points in co-operation with the UNEP Secretariat and its unit of PAP. The delegation of Greece offered to use the Environmental Pollution Control Project in Athens as a demonstration and training site in urban environmental problems management for officials from other Mediterranean countries. The Greek delegation has also offered to convene before May, in consultation with UNEP, and other international organizations, particularly the FAO/GFCM, a meeting of experts to consider a detailed plan of action for one of the priority areas, possibly marine living resources: aquaculture and fisheries management. Other Mediterranean Countries may wish to consider accepting the responsibility for convening expert groups to discuss the other priority action areas some of which are described in the paper submitted by the Yugoslav delegation.

### XII. Agenda Items 8.5, 9.5: INSTITUTIONAL AND FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

53. The Meeting considered the institutional and financial implications of the Blue Plan and of the Priority Actions Programme in the light of Governing Council decision 50 (IV) "requesting the Executive Director further to develop work in the Mediterranean ... while taking steps towards the progressive transfer of executive responsibility to the Governments of the region".

54. The Meeting took note of the Executive Director's intention to discuss with the two Governments which had formally offered to contribute to the objectives of the Integrated Planning chapter adopted at Barcelona I by hosting and supporting such sub-units as he may decide to establish for the purpose of initiating activities relevant to this chapter. The Meeting welcomed these offers by France and Yugoslavia, which make it possible to carry out a useful experiment in the further strengthening of functional capabilities in the coastal regions of the Mediterranean Sea. Besides the two sub-units to be established in France and Yugoslavia, the Meeting felt that in order to achieve an equitable geographical distribution of institutions among the countries of the region, a sub-unit should be created in the countries of the southern Mediterranean. The Meeting requested the Executive Director to seek such further authority from the UNEP Governing Council as he may need to initiate activities in the Blue Plan and Priority Actions Programme within the context of the Mediterranean Action Plan.

55. The Meeting requested the Executive Director to inform the Mediterranean Governments of the status of these activities at the forthcoming Monaco meeting (28 November 1977), where all aspects of the Mediterranean Action Plan will be reviewed. With regard to the future structure at the international level for the Integrated Planning chapter, the Meeting requested the Executive Director to assess the experimental phase and prepare recommendations for consideration at a further meeting in late 1978, so that Governments may then decide on such further arrangements as may then appear desirable.

56. The importance of national focal points was made clear and it was agreed that each Government which had not yet done so would attempt by 29 April 1977 to inform UNEP of the name, title and address of the office which it designates to serve as a

focal point for activities relevant to both the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme. It would be most helpful if these could be located in or attached to the appropriate ministerial or inter-ministerial organ in each government, institutional structure, and could effectively carry co-ordination responsibilities for this programme between the national administrations and agencies involved in its implementation as well as co-ordination with other international organizations with similar objects. This office should normally be represented at intergovernmental meetings dealing with the Integrated Planning chapter, and is encouraged to correspond either directly with other national focal points (with copies if possible to UNEP) or indirectly through UNEP.

57. The indicative budget covering the first phase (1977-1978) of the Blue Plan (UNEP/IG.5/5, annex II) and the accompanying calendar of work (UNEP/IG.5/5, annex I) were considered. The total cost of \$1,490,000 was agreed to with the understanding that the breakdown was very tentative and would be developed with greater precision taking into account views expressed.

58. The sharing of costs among the international organizations (50 per cent) and the Mediterranean countries (50 per cent) was also accepted in the light of the clarifications provided by the representative of UNDP, who confirmed UNDP's willingness to act promptly on any request from a Government or group of Governments for the utilization of funds placed at their disposal by UNDP. In view of the method of operation of UNDP and the specialized agencies it is not possible to provide a definite figure or percentage in advance.

59. Since the activities under the Priority Actions Programme could not be defined with greater precision at this meeting, but require further development at the expert level, no estimate of costs is yet possible. Nonetheless the Meeting noted UNEP's willingness to bear its share once the resources necessary to carry out these activities have been mobilized. The Meeting welcomed the offer of Yugoslavia to join the Executive Director in his search for the resources required for the implementation of the PAP and requested him to take into account the views expressed in the Yugoslav paper in this matter.

60. The revised scale of assessments (UNEP/IG.5/6/Rev.1), which is merely a conversion of the current United Nations scale of assessments to apply to the 13 coastal States of the Mediterranean region, was generally accepted (except by one country) as an approximate basis for sharing costs of the Blue Plan among Mediterranean States, but one which should be treated with flexibility since it does not necessarily reflect these States' relative interest in or potential contributions to the Blue Plan. States were requested to consider making higher contributions, and one country indicated that it would consider contributing on a voluntary basis more than requested. The same country invited contributions to be made in cash, rather than in kind, so as to ensure that the best possible expertise was available to the Blue Plan activities.

61. The question how the various contributions from member States are co-ordinated within the Blue Plan was considered and will be brought before the Governing Council at its fifth session. The following delegations indicated the intention of their Governments to contribute at the approximate levels indicated, on condition that the general scheme of expenditures mentioned in paragraph 57 is respected: Algeria, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Spain, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The remaining delegations

agreed to request their Governments to inform the Executive Director not later than Friday, 29 April 1977, before the next session of the UNEP Governing Council, about their willingness to contribute to the cost of the Blue Plan.

62. Initiation of Blue Plan activities will be subject to the availability of the required resources, preferably in cash, or in a form which will contribute to the agreed objectives of the project.

63. The Priority Actions Programme will be developed within the fields identified by the Meeting. PAP will involve on-going activities, supported by UNDP and others and executed by the specialized agencies, which could be adapted for Mediterranean purposes by providing additional facilities for training, observation, study tours and exchange of information. The additional elements or new activities may be financed by UNDP from the countries' Indicative Planning Figures, through the regional planning figure for Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East, co-operative programmes, multilateral, bilateral and cost-sharing projects. In addition these actions can be carried out as indirect or concerted actions using procedures developed in other international organizations and institutions.

64. Several activities financed by the Fund of UNEP may provide limited support for fellowships and study travel and other sources of financial support should be sought.

65. In the field of information exchange to serve both the Blue Plan and the Priority Action Programme, UNEP/IRS together with National Focal Points should play useful roles.

66. It was agreed that training in connexion with Integrated Planning or with the operation of National Focal Points could usefully be provided, particularly by those with experience in these fields who are prepared to make it available to others on request either directly or through UNEP.

#### XIII. Agenda Item 10: OTHER BUSINESS

67. It was agreed that, within the framework of the Blue Plan and the Priority Actions Programme, campaigns for general public awareness of environmental protection and enhancement should be undertaken.

#### XIV. Agenda Item 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

68. The Meeting adopted the report and authorized the Executive Director to complete it in all languages, and

- (a) to adjust the translation of all languages to conform to the original texts;
- (b) to introduce minor editorial changes which would not affect the substance.

XV. Agenda Item 12: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

69. Before its closure the Meeting as well as the representative of the Executive Director expressed their gratitude to the Government of Yugoslavia and the civic authorities of Split for the hospitality they extended to the members of delegations, observers and the Secretariat attending the Meeting.

70. On 4 February the Chairman declared the Meeting closed.

## ANNEX I

## INDICATIONS OF DESIRABLE PRIORITIES OF VARIOUS FIELDS OF ACTIVITIES AS EXPRESSED BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

	SOIL	WATER	FISH	AQUA- CULTURE	FOOD	ENERGY, SOFT TECHNOLOG.	HEALTH	SETTLE- MENTS	TOURISM	NAT. DISAST.	MISCELLANEOUS
ALGERIA	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	X		X <sub>4</sub>		X <sub>5</sub>			Coastal zones parks
CYPRUS	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X	X				X <sub>4</sub>		X <sub>5</sub>	
EGYPT	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>			X <sub>5</sub>			X <sub>4</sub>		
FRANCE	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>			X <sub>4</sub>					
GREECE		X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>1</sub>		X <sub>4</sub>	X	X <sub>3</sub>			
ISRAEL	X	X		X <sub>3</sub>		X		X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>1</sub>		Land Use Planning Impact Assessment Ecosyst. Protection
ITALY				X <sub>3</sub>				X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>1</sub>	X	
LIBYA	X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>1</sub>		X <sub>3</sub>		X <sub>5</sub>		X <sub>4</sub>			
MALTA		X <sub>3</sub>	X	X <sub>2</sub>		X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>5</sub>		X <sub>4</sub>		
MONACO			X <sub>1</sub>	X		X <sub>3</sub>			X <sub>2</sub>		Marine Parks
MOROCCO	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X	X		X <sub>3</sub>		X <sub>4</sub>	X		
SPAIN	X <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>4</sub>		X <sub>6</sub>		X <sub>5</sub>		X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>1</sub>		Historical Monuments
TUNISIA	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X	X		X <sub>1</sub>		X	X <sub>5</sub>		Marine Parks
TURKEY	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>	X <sub>3</sub>			X <sub>4</sub>	X <sub>4</sub>		X <sub>6</sub>	Pollution of one area of the Mediterranean by pollutants originat- ing in another area of the Mediterranean
YUGOSLAVIA	X <sub>1</sub>	X <sub>2</sub>	X	X	X				X <sub>5</sub>		Historical Monuments

N.B. It has been emphasized that all the activities indicated in the above table must include training components.

ANNEX II

PROVISIONAL AGENDA  
FOR THE MEETING

PROVISIONAL AGENDA:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of the Chairman
3. Adoption of the rules of procedure
4. Election of officers
5. Adoption of the agenda
6. Appointment of the Credentials Committee
7. Organization of work of the meeting
8. The "Blue Plan"
  - 8.1 Objectives
  - 8.2 Methods of implementation
  - 8.3 Institutional and financial implications
  - 8.4 Recommendations
9. Priority Actions Programme
  - 9.1 Identification of fields for priority actions
  - 9.2 Methods of implementation
  - 9.3 Institutional and financial implications
  - 9.4 Recommendations
10. Other business
11. Adoption of the report
12. Closure of the meeting

ANNEX III

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS  
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LISTA DE LOS PARTICIPANTES

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CHYPRE  
CHYPRUS

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EGYPT  
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- \*\* M. Serge ANTOINE  
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Ministère de la Qualité de la Vie

- 
- \* Head of Delegation/Chef de la Délégation/Jefe de la delegacion
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GRECE  
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