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**UNITED NATIONS
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

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English only

Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices

(Jointly organized with the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy)

Seville, Spain, 8-10 April 2019

Report of the Meeting

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Introduction

1. In accordance with the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Programme of Work 2018-2019 adopted by the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Tirana, Albania, 17-21 December 2017); in line with the objectives of the EU funded Marine Litter MED Project and the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS); and following the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices held in Izmir, Turkey (9-10 October 2018); the MAP Secretariat organized the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Management Best Practices, jointly organized with the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy, during 8-10 April 2019 at the Aquarium of Seville, Spain.

2. The main objectives of the Meeting were to review:

- a) The final versions of four Regional Guidelines addressing key marine litter prevention and reduction measures stipulated from the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean;
- b) The implementation progress of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, including main elements for its evaluation; and
- c) The status and progress achieved in the implementation of several selected pilot projects on marine litter management supported by the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Bilateral Cooperation Agreement with the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection.

Participation

3. The Meeting was attended by representatives from the following Contracting Parties: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, and the European Union.

4. The UN Environment/MAP Secretariat was represented by the MAP Coordinating Unit and the MED POL Programme, as well as by the Mediterranean Pollution Assessment and Control Programme (MED POL), the Sustainable Consumption and Production Regional Activity Centre (SCP/RAC), the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), and the Plan. The full list of participants is attached to the present report as Annex I.

5. The full list of participants is attached as Annex I to the present report.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

6. The Meeting was opened by Mr Gaetano Leone, Coordinator of UN Environment/MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat. The MAP Coordinator, after expressing his gratitude to the Spanish authorities and in particular to the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition for the support they provided in the organization of the Meeting, stressed the important progress that has been achieved in the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and the need to have a coordinated and coherent approach in the implementation of key marine litter reduction and prevention measures around the region. The MAP Coordinator linked the work undertaken by MAP Secretariat on marine litter to the global context and particularly in relevance to with the UNEA-4 resolution on marine litter and plastics. He also stressed the fact that the jointly organized Meetings (i.e. the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices and the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy) will allow a larger interaction with other actors and regions for more visibility of the work of MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

7. Mrs Pilar Zorzo Gallego, representing the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition, welcomed the Meeting participants and highlighted the important linkage of the UN Environment/MAP Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, with the work implemented at national level with regards to the effective management of marine litter. She also stressed the importance of the jointly organized Meetings (i.e. the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices and the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy), towards offering the possibility for sharing of the best practices and lessons learnt among the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, and UN Environment/MAP experience with other regions.

Agenda items 2: Organizational Matters

a) Rules of Procedure for the Meeting on IMAP Implementation: Best Practices, Gaps and Common Challenges

8. The rules of procedure for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean and its Protocols applied *mutatis mutandis* to the present Meeting (UNEP/IG.43/6, Annex XI).

b) Election of officers

9. Subject to Rule 20 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a) for meetings and conferences of the Contracting Parties, the Meeting elected one (1) President, three (3) Vice Presidents and one (1) Rapporteur from among the participants, as follows:

Chair	: Mr Tomaso Fortibuoni, Italy;
Vice-Chair	: Mrs Khadija Rhayour, Morocco;
Vice-Chair	: Mrs Aleksandra Ivanovic, Montenegro;
Vice-Chair	: Mrs Özlem Özer, Turkey;
Rapporteur	: Mrs Samia Grimida, Libya.

c) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda

10. Subject to Rule 14 of the rules of procedure mentioned at para. 2(a), the proposed agenda appearing in document UNEP/MED WG.464/1 and annotated in document UNEP/MED WG.464/2/Rev.1, was reviewed and adopted without changes. Under Agenda Item 5 “Any Other Business”, additional presentations were introduced as described under the section of Agenda Item 7 “*Any Other Business*” to the present report.

d) Organization of Work

11. Discussions were held in plenary sessions and break-out groups in line with the provisional agenda. Simultaneous interpretation into English and French was provided during the Meeting. The Meeting addressed all items of the Agenda during the first two days (8 and 9 April). On 10 April 2019, the Meeting conveyed jointly with the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy (10-12 April 2019), organized by the Spanish Marine Litter Association (AEBAM), with the support of UN Environment/MAP and its Regional Activity Center for Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP/RAC); in cooperation with the Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition.

Agenda item 3: Regional Guidelines for Selected Marine Litter Prevention and Reduction Measures

12. The MAP Secretariat, including MED POL, SCP/RAC and REMPEC, introduced documents UNEP/MED WG.466/4, UNEP/MED WG.466/5, UNEP/MED WG.466/6 and UNEP/MED WG.466/7, consisting of the final versions of the following regional guidelines for the:

- i. Implementation of the “Adopt-a-Beach “measures in the Mediterranean;
- ii. Phase out Single-Use Plastic Bags in the Mediterranean;
- iii. Operational Guidelines on the Provisions of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes in the Mediterranean; and
- iv. Guidance Document to Determine the Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities or, when Applicable, Application of No-Special-Fee System in the Mediterranean.

13. The participants were requested by the Chair of the Meeting to split in two break-out groups to review the proposed Regional Guidelines. This allowed for a more in-depth and thorough review of their contents; and thus, the delivery of the final version of the Guidelines towards their submission to the MED POL, SCP/RAC and REMPEC Focal Points Meetings.

14. The MED POL and SCP/RAC National Focal Points contributed to the first break-out group, during which the two guidelines associated with the land-based sources of marine litter (i.e. UNEP/MED WG.466/4; UNEP/MED WG.466/5), were reviewed. The REMPEC National Focal Points contributed to the second break-out group which reviewed the Guidelines associated with the sea-based sources of marine litter (i.e. UNEP/MED WG.466/6, UNEP/MED WG.466/7).

15. The Meeting reviewed the proposed Guidelines and provided input and guidance to MAP Secretariat towards the preparation of the final versions of the Guidelines and agreed for their submission to the respective MED POL, SCP/RAC and REMPEC Focal Points Meetings, planned in May-June 2019, after taking into consider Meetings’ recommendations.

16. The Meeting’s final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex III of this report.

Agenda item 4: Progress in Implementing the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and Related Best Practices

17. Under this agenda item, the Secretariat provided a comprehensive overview on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean. Furthermore, following the announcement of the MAP Secretariat during the Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices in Izmir, Turkey (9-10 Oct. 2018), the MAP Secretariat shared with the Meeting participants the preliminary elements for the evaluation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

18. MAP Secretariat presented the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Plan at national level, as well as the implementation of selected marine litter management pilots in the Mediterranean, executed in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/ MAP and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection. The gained experience and lessons learned from the implementation of selected marine litter management pilots (hereunder listed) at national level were presented by the beneficiary Contracting Parties¹ to the Barcelona Convention:

¹ Dedicated presentations were delivered from: Albania, Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Lebanon, Libya, Montenegro, Morocco, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, and the European Union.

- “Adopt-a-Beach” pilots;
- “Fishing-for-Litter” pilots;
- Pilots related to non-single-use of Plastic Bags and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR); and
- Better Management of Sea-Based Marine Litter in Ports and Marinas.

19. The Meeting’s final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex III of this report.

Agenda item 5: Socioeconomic analysis on marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles

20. The MAP Secretariat presented the main elements and preliminary results from the socioeconomic analysis on marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles. A short synthesis of the scoping study; a number of successful case studies; and the evaluation of relevant regional measures were presented by MAP Secretariat and its Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre.

21. The meeting provided input and recommendations towards the finalization of the report on the socioeconomic analysis on marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags.

22. The Meeting’s final conclusions related to this agenda item are presented in Annex III.

Agenda item 6: Any Other Business

23. Under this agenda item, the following presentation were delivered:

- a) The Tehran Convention provided an overview of the marine litter activities and relevant future activities planned in the Caspian Sea;
- b) The University of Sienna provided an overview of the Interreg-MED PlasticBusters MPA project;
- c) MIO-ECSDE presented an overview of their activities on marine litter in the Mediterranean.

Agenda item 8: Conclusions and Recommendations

24. The Meeting reviewed the draft Conclusions and Recommendations as well as the final elements of the Regional Plans prepared by the Rapporteur and adopted them as slightly revised as presented in Annex III to the present report.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting

25. After expressing the usual courtesies, the Chair declared the Meeting closed at 17:30 on Tuesday, 9 April 2019.

Closed Session with the MAP Secretariat for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the activities in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection.

26. On the side of Day 2 of the Meeting, a session was organized by MAP Secretariat dedicated to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia, in order to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the activities in the framework of the Cooperation Agreement between UN Environment/MAP and the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection. MED POL, SCP/RAC and REMPEC provided an overview of the ongoing and future activities and the beneficiary Countries had the opportunity to receive additional information, clarification and feedback towards the timely and effective implementation of the pilots.

MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy

27. On 10 April 2019, the Meeting jointly convened with the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy, to allow a larger interaction with other actors and regions for more visibility of the work of MAP and the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention.

28. The MED POL Programme Management Officer opened the MARLICE 2019 Conference by delivering welcoming remarks, highlighting the critical issue of marine litter in the Mediterranean.

29. The MAP System including the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, the Secretariat, and the Regional Activity Centres, actively contributed to the conference session on “Marine Litter Governance in the Mediterranean,” during which the important work that has been, and is being carried out, within the MAP system was showcased, focusing on synergies to maximize results towards achieving a marine litter-free Mediterranean.

Annex I
List of Participants

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**SECRETARIAT TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION AND COMPONENTS OF
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Annex II
Agenda of the Meeting

Agenda of the Meeting

Day 1

Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

Agenda Item 2: Organizational Matters:

- a) Election of Officers;
- b) Adoption of the Provisional Agenda;
- c) Organization of Work.

Agenda Item 3: Regional Guidelines for Selected Marine Litter Prevention and Reduction measures:

- a) Break Out Groups to Review the Adopt-a-beach and Single-Use Plastic Bags Guidelines;
- b) Break Out Groups to Review the Guidance Document and Operational Guidelines related to the Better Management of Sea-based Litter in Ports and Marinas in the Mediterranean.

Day 2

Agenda Item 4: Progress in Implementing the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and Related Best Practices:

- a) Implementation of the Regional Plan (*MAP Secretariat and Contracting Parties*);
- b) Marine Litter Management Pilots:
 - “Adopt-a-Beach”;
 - “Fishing-for-Litter”;
 - Non-single-use of Plastic Bags and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR);
 - Better Management of Sea-Based Litter in Ports and Marinas.

Agenda Item 5: Socioeconomic analysis on marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles

Agenda item 6: Conclusions and Recommendations

Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

Agenda item 8: Closure of the Meeting

Day 3

- Opening Session of the MARLICE 2019 Conference
- Contribution to the “Marine Litter Governance in the Mediterranean” Session of the MARLICE 2019 Conference: MAP system’s work on Marine Litter (Secretariat, MAP Components and Contracting Parties).

Annex III
Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions and Recommendations

On 8-10 April 2019, the Second Regional Meeting on Marine Litter Best Practices, jointly organized with the MARLICE 2019 International Forum on Marine Litter and Circular Economy, was held in Seville, Spain.

The Meeting highly appreciated the work that has been undertaken by the MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat and its Components with regards to the preparation of the regional guidelines addressing key marine litter prevention and reduction measures, and the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean.

Following the deliberations of agenda items, the Meeting agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations:

Agenda Item 3: Regional Guidelines for Selected Marine Litter Prevention and Reduction measures:

1. The Meeting reviewed the updated version of the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.466/5 “Guidelines to Phase out Single-Use Plastic Bags in the Mediterranean”, presented by SCP/RAC, and recommended the following main changes:

- a) Include an Annex to the document to provide definitions of the main technical terms;
- b) Stress the importance of awareness-raising to the public about reducing consumption of single-use plastic bags (SUPB);
- c) Stress the importance of the role of local authorities in the implementation of the measures;
- d) Further emphasize that taxes to be levied on the distribution of SUPB, should be allocated for specific actions: i) targeting awareness raising on the alternatives to SUPB; and ii) supporting industry to adapt to these alternatives;
- e) Include specific measures to support the informal/illegal sector towards the transition to sustainable alternatives; and
- f) Emphasize the negative impact of compostable bags to recycling schemes, when mixed with plastic packaging.

2. The Meeting agreed to submit the “Guidelines to Phase out Single-Use Plastic Bags in the Mediterranean”, to the upcoming Meeting of the SCP/RAC National Focal Points, to be held in 14-15 May 2019. The current draft of the document will be shared with the SCP/RAC National Focal Points by the 14th April 2019 (i.e. one month before the Meeting). It will include a Note by the Secretariat referring to the comments detailed under Paragraph 1. A revised version of the guidelines reflecting the comments presented under Paragraph 1 will be shared with the SCP/RAC National Focal Points, maximum two weeks before the Meeting (i.e. on 30th of April 2019).

3. The Meeting reviewed the updated version of the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.466/4 “Guidelines on the Implementation of the Adopt-a-Beach measures in the Mediterranean,” presented by MED POL, and recommended addressing the following points:

- a) Propose ways to enhance communication and coordination of relevant activities and initiatives under implementation at national level;
- b) Ensure that all civil society groups are welcomed to participate in the pilot projects, further to providing proper training;
- c) Further strengthen Quality Assurance and Quality Control of the generated data towards the integration of the Adopt-a-Beach pilots, to be incorporated into national IMAP-based monitoring programmes for beach marine litter;
- d) Further highlight the importance of selecting diverse beaches to ensure that discrepancy of data is minimized;

- e) Further elaborate and provide additional details on Section 3.2.2 “Collection, recording and disposal of beach litter”;
- f) Emphasize the potential for integration with the Blue Flag Programmes and other relevant initiatives; and
- g) Emphasize the potential of integration of the Adopt-a-Beach pilots, with pilots implemented in shallow waters by Scuba divers.

4. The Meeting agreed to submit the “Guidelines on the Implementation of the Adopt-a-Beach measures in the Mediterranean,” to the upcoming Meeting of the MED POL National Focal Points to be held in 29-31 May 2019, after taking into consideration the proposed changes included in Paragraph 3.

5. The Meeting reviewed the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.466/6 “Operational Guidelines on the Provision of Reception Facilities in Ports and the Delivery of Ship-Generated Wastes in the Mediterranean,” hereinafter referred to as the Operational Guidelines, as well as the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.466/7 “Guidance Document to Determine the Application of Charges at Reasonable Costs for the Use of Port Reception Facilities or, when Applicable, Application of No-Special-Fee System, in the Mediterranean,” hereinafter referred to as the Guidance Document, presented by REMPEC, and recommended amongst others addressing the following issues:

- a) Highlighting the issue of “marine litter” in both documents by introducing a sub-section specifically addressing the interlinkages between ship-generated waste and marine litter; and
- b) Reflecting the requirements of the new EU Directive on port reception facilities for the delivery of waste from ships, which apply to the EU-Member Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, with regard to, for instance, adequacy of port reception facilities, incentives and enforcement.

6. The Meeting took note of the proposal to explore the possibility to reduce or ban single-use plastics on-board ships and was of the opinion that this could be considered at regional level when updating the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean, or at the global level when discussing follow-up work emanating from the IMO Action Plan to address marine plastic litter from ships.

7. The Meeting agreed to submit the Operational Guidelines and the Guidance Document to the upcoming Thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC to be held in Malta in June 2019, after taking into consideration the proposed changes, presented under Paragraph 5.

Agenda Item 4: Progress in Implementing the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean and Related Best Practices:

8. The Meeting took note of the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.466/3 “Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management in the Mediterranean: Progress in the Implementation and Main Elements for its Evaluation”, appreciated the work undertaken by the MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat and its Components to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Plan on Marine Litter Management, and requested the MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat and its Components to evaluate the effectiveness of implementation of its provisions.

9. The Meeting acknowledged the progress achieved in the implementation of the Regional Plan at national level, as well as the implementation of selected marine litter management best practices in the Mediterranean, executed, amongst others, in the framework of the EU-funded Marine Litter MED project and the Cooperation Agreement with the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea Protection. The Meeting requested the MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat and its Components to support the countries comply with its provisions.

10. The Meeting welcomed the efforts of the MAP Barcelona Convention Secretariat to exchange experiences and lessons learnt of the Mediterranean on responses to marine litter, to other Regional Seas that may be interested as a contribution to the effective management of marine litter at global level.

Agenda Item 5: Socioeconomic analysis on marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles

11. The Meeting welcomed the Working Document UNEP/MED WG.466/8 “Socioeconomic analysis on marine litter key best practices to prevent/reduce single-use plastic bags and bottles”, presenting the preliminary results of the socioeconomic analysis for the implementation of key marine litter best practices to prevent/reduce single use of plastic bags and bottles, and requested Plan Bleu to advance the corresponding work. The Meeting requested the support of Plan Bleu to undertake socioeconomic assessment prior to adopting legal provisions to achieve reduction in use of SUPB and plastic bottles.

12. The Meeting reviewed the updated version of the UNEP/MAP WG.466/8 “Socioeconomic Analysis on Marine Litter Best Practices to Prevent/Reduce Single Use of Plastic Bags and Bottles” presented by Plan Bleu, and recommended addressing the following points:

- a) Ensure that the legislative framework that Greece has in place is well reflected inside the document which erroneously refers to voluntary agreements;
- b) Ensure that good examples from Northern Europe are incorporated into the report to showcase deposit refund systems;
- c) Ensure that the informal sector for production of plastic bags is accounted for in the socioeconomic analysis; and
- d) Address the different patterns of consumption and production around the Mediterranean to better mitigate their impact.

13. The Meeting agreed to submit the “Socioeconomic Analysis on Marine Litter Best Practices to Prevent/Reduce Single Use of Plastic Bags and Bottles” to the Meetings of MED POL and Plan Bleu National Focal Points to be held in May 2019, after taking into consideration the proposed changes included in Paragraph 12.