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**UNITED NATIONS  
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME  
MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

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33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel

Athens, Greece, 10 September 2017

**Report of the Meeting**

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

1. The 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP) was held on 10 September 2017, in Athens, Greece, back-to-back with the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group (Athens, Greece, 11 September 2017) and the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points (Athens, Greece, 12-15 September 2017). The meeting was chaired by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)/Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) Coordinator and attended by the Heads of MAP Components, the MAP Deputy Coordinator and the MAP Programme Officer responsible for governance issues. The list of participants is presented in Annex I to this report.
2. Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator opened the meeting at 16.00 and introduced the provisional agenda.

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

3. The Coordinator welcomed the ECP members and noted that the short ECP meeting will mainly focus on the preparation of the Meeting of the MAP Focal Points.
4. The meeting reviewed and adopted the Provisional Agenda prepared by the Secretariat, as in document UNEP(DEPI)/MED ECP.33/1. The participants agreed to briefly address under “Any other Matters” the issue of the Conference “Our Ocean, an ocean for life” (Malta, 5-6 October 2017), the use of acronyms, and the links of the work of MAP-Barcelona Convention with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## **III. Agenda item 3: Follow-up to the 32<sup>nd</sup> ECP meeting**

5. The Coordinator briefly introduced the item. The RACs presented the latest updates regarding the analysis of the status of their Host Country Agreements. The meeting also discussed the preparation of side events during COP 20, and the need for nomination of INFO/RAC Focal Points by the Contracting Parties. It was noted that the tasks and responsibilities of INFO/RAC Focal Points are described in Decision IG.17/5 “Governance paper” and are related to information and to communication issues.

## **IV. Agenda item 4: Implementation of the PoW 2016-2017**

6. The meeting briefly discussed the implementation of the Programme of Work in view of the MAP Focal Points meeting. It was noted that the regional activities of the biennium have been in general implemented, while some national activities are still ongoing. It was also highlighted that a large amount of implementation work has been done during the biennium.

## **V. Agenda item 5: Preparations for the upcoming MAP/Barcelona Convention bodies’ meetings**

7. Initially, participants discussed the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group, noting that it will focus mainly on the 2017 Mediterranean Quality Status Report, and that the comments provided during the meeting will feed into the MAP Focal Points meeting discussions. Participants agreed that the progress made in the implementation of the Ecosystem Approach roadmap was very positive, and that an inclusive consultative process has been used. Finally, it was highlighted that the conclusions and recommendations need to be agreed during the Ecosystem Approach Coordination Group meeting, so that they can be timely transmitted to the MAP Focal Points.
8. The Coordinator briefly highlighted the main elements of his opening speech for the MAP Focal Points meeting, which reflected the main advances in the work of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system during the current biennium. A detailed discussion followed on the MAP Focal Points meeting, looking both at the meeting modalities as well as at substantive issues of its specific

agenda items. The ECP agreed that the way forward is towards aggregated, straightforward decisions, and that the involvement of all is necessary to enhance the effectiveness of the system. The meeting also discussed the working and information documents prepared by the Secretariat with the support of the relevant MAP Components.

**VI. Agenda item 6: Outcome of the RACs' procurement capacity assessment conducted by UN Environment**

9. The Coordinator introduced the item, noting the successful outcome of the process for specific RACs, which resulted in an increase of the procurement ceiling, under the condition that a strict monitoring plan is to be applied.

**VII. Agenda item 7: Date and Venue of the 34th ECP meeting**

10. The ECP discussed the date and the venue of its next meeting and decided to hold an informal meeting in Tirana, Albania, on 16 December 2017, on the eve of COP 20, and a formal one in the beginning of 2018.

**VIII. Agenda item 8: Any Other Matters**

11. The meeting agreed on the importance of strengthening and making more visible the links of the work of MAP-Barcelona Convention with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Furthermore, in relation to the Conference "Our Ocean, an ocean for life" (Malta, 5-6 October 2017), the meeting stressed the importance of the Conference and the enhanced role of UNEP/MAP.

12. Finally, regarding the use of abbreviations in the UNEP/MAP documents, the Coordinator noted that, according to the latest information from Headquarters, for formal communications the acronym UNEP will continue to be used, while for more informal purposes, UN Environment is to be used. The latter reflects more clearly what UNEP is and it can be better understood by the general public.

**Annex I**  
**List of participants**

**MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COORDINATION PANEL**

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**Annex II**  
**Agenda**



## **Agenda**

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