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Roadmap for the Evaluation of the Current Mid-Term Strategy and the Preparation of the Next Mid-Term Strategy

Note by the Secretariat

This document contains Annex V of Working Document UNEP/MED IG.24/5 “*Draft Decision IG.24/2: Governance*” submitted to the 21st Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (Naples, Italy, 2-5 December 2019).

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Roadmap for the evaluation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy (MTS) 2016-2021 and the preparation of the next MTS

1. Introduction and principles

This document puts forward a methodology for the evaluation/review of the current UNEP/MAP Medium Term Strategy (MTS) and the preparation of the next MTS. It is based on the following principles and requirements:

- The current MTS was adopted in COP 19 and it covers a period of six years until COP 22 (i.e. 2016-2021); the new MTS needs to be adopted at COP 22 in 2021, taking also into consideration the evaluation of the current MTS;
- The evaluation of the current MTS follows the request of Contracting Parties as in Decision IG.22/1: “*Requests* the Secretariat to launch an independent evaluation of the MTS implementation in 2020 for the consideration of COP 22 in 2021, with special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives.”;
- The new MTS needs to be aligned with the global context of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement, the relevant UNEA resolutions and the implementation of global Multilateral Environmental Agreements in the Mediterranean region;
- The new MTS will build on the following elements, among others:
 - the uniqueness of the MAP system’s mandate in the region;
 - the comparative advantages that the MAP-Barcelona Convention system has in its three dimensions (institutional, regulatory, implementation);
 - the experience, achievements, major processes and lessons learned of the past four decades and in particular of the most recent biennia;
 - the needs, policies and commitments of the Contracting Parties, at national, sub- regional and regional level;
 - the vision, key considerations, evaluation of the current MTS as well as lessons learned from its implementation;
 - the increasingly more accurate assessment work being undertaken on the Mediterranean;
 - the analysis of significant environmental challenges that the Mediterranean region will face in the coming years;
 - the analysis of emerging issues that are of particular relevance to the region;
 - the new paradigm required to achieve Agenda 2030, in which work on environment and sustainable development issues is not conducted in silos, but is intrinsically linked;
 - the implementation and enforcement of the comprehensive body of instruments of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the increasing interest demonstrated by actors in the Mediterranean and beyond in partnering with the MAP-Barcelona Convention system;
 - the opportunities presented in the region in terms of access to financial resources, to knowledge, and to stakeholders’ involvement; and
 - the advantages provided by being part of a global inter-governmental mechanism such as UNEP and the UN.

- Focus, integration and diversification of responses and approaches will drive the development of the MTS in order to reflect the diversity of the region (possibly by integrating the DPSIR approach in the development of the new MTS);
- The evaluation of the current MTS and the preparation of the next MTS need to take into account the relevant evaluation and assessment processes within the MAP-Barcelona Convention system (including the MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation, the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation, the 2017 MED QSR, the 2019 SoED and the MED 2050 foresight study preparation);
- The process needs to be conducted under the leadership of the Bureau; preparation of the new MTS needs to be Contracting Party-driven, to involve the Executive Coordination Panel (ECP), and to ensure stakeholder participation to the widest extent possible.

2. Methodology and roadmap

A. Evaluation of MTS 2016-2021

Description of the evaluation process of the current MTS

The evaluation of the current MTS will be conducted during the first year of the 2020-2021 biennium. It should be based on the performance indicators and respective targets, which were set within each biennial Programme of Work and Budget, to enable MAP to measure progress against these expected accomplishments. As noted in the text of the MTS, central to the performance framework are the strategic outcomes and outputs to be achieved. Therefore, it is proposed that performance is reported on outcome and output level. To this end, the steps to be followed are:

- Elaboration of baseline values
- Complete population of indicators (based on each biennial PoW)
- Assessment of the extent of achievement of targets (at the level of strategic output)
- Assessment of the financial implementation of the MTS

Following the request of Decision IG. 22/1, the evaluation process should also provide special emphasis on the interlinkages with the objectives of the MSSD 2016-2025 and the UNEP/MAP EcAp- based Ecological Objectives.

The assessment of the extent of achievement of targets and of the financial implementation will be complete/final for the first two biennia and anticipated for the third one, since this exercise will take place at the first year of the third biennium of the implementation of the current MTS.

The assessment will also include a comparison between adopted and achieved deliverables, and will examine whether the structure and outputs of the MTS are still adequate, taking also into account the ongoing processes at the global level.

The financial implementation of the MTS will examine both MTF and external funds which supported each strategic outcome and will be linked to the implementation of the Resource Mobilization Strategy.

A call for consultants could be launched in the beginning of 2020 for the independent evaluation. The strategic part of the assessment is proposed to be conducted by a pool of experts with different skills and expertise, due to the complexity of the process and the multi-dimensional nature of the MTS.

Timeline of the evaluation process of the current MTS

The main steps of the process can be set as follows:

- December 2019/January 2020: Launch of the MTS evaluation process and finalization of

consultant ToRs

- March 2020: Preliminary findings of evaluation
- April 2020: Review of preliminary findings by the Bureau (first Bureau meeting of the biennium)
- June 2020: Zero draft of evaluation prepared and disseminated for consultation with Contracting Parties and stakeholders (2 weeks online consultation, possibly in English only due to strict deadlines)
- October 2020: Draft evaluation report (including financial implementation) and set of recommendations addressing gaps and future orientations (from an evaluation perspective)
- November 2020: Consultation of draft report with the Bureau (second Bureau meeting)
- December 2020: Second draft evaluation report prepared and disseminated for consultation with Contracting Parties (2 weeks online consultation, possibly in English only due to strict deadlines)
- February 2021: Finalized report delivered for submission to the first MAP Focal Points Meeting of the 2020-2021 biennium (spring 2021).

B. Preparation of MTS 2022-2027

Description of the preparation process of the new MTS

Following the principles and requirements referred to in the introductory part of this concept note, the preparation of the new MTS should be based on a number of key documents and processes. The main ones are listed below:

- Evaluation of MTS 2016-2021;
- MSSD 2016-2025 mid-term evaluation (performed in parallel, during the 2020-2021 biennium)
- Results of the main MAP assessment studies: 2017 MED QSR (which will also provide interlinkages with UNEP/MAP EcAp-based Ecological Objectives) and 2019 SoED; as well as results of global assessment studies, such as the Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) and the Special Report on the Ocean and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate (SROCC) of IPCC;
- Global processes or relevance, such as the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the CBD post-2020 Biodiversity Framework, the implementation of the Paris Agreement including the outcome of the 2019 UNFCCC COP25 “The Blue COP”, the relevant UNEA resolutions, and the global Multilateral Environmental Agreements;
- Other relevant evaluation and assessment processes performed during the 2020-2021 biennium, such as the SCP Action Plan mid-term evaluation and the preparation of the MED 2050 foresight study.

The new MTS will be built on the basis of the structure of the current one and will take into account relevant global processes and initiatives, reflecting also the strategic guidance provided through the Naples Ministerial Declaration.

The process of preparation of the new MTS will provide the opportunity to reconsider and, if necessary, revise and modernize the vision included in the current MTS, and reflect the strategic role of the MAP-Barcelona Convention system and its positioning in the Mediterranean region.

Furthermore, the preparation of the new MTS should be accompanied with a general systemic analysis of the structure and needs of the secretariat and all MAP components, to ensure its efficient delivery, through the possible strengthening of the secretariat and MAP components.

It is proposed that the new MTS follows the same timeline of the current MTS, covering the period

of three biennial PoWs.

The preparation of the new MTS should start during the process of the evaluation of the current MTS, to benefit from it but also to allow a timely development of the first draft of the new MTS.

Consultations with Contracting Parties

The process will be transparent, participatory and Contracting Party driven, and will be conducted under the guidance of the Bureau.

The establishment of a Steering Committee (SC), which will include not only the Bureau Members but also other Contracting Parties, with a balanced geographical representation, may be an option. If this is the case, the Members of this Steering Committee should be agreed as soon as possible after COP 21. If this option is preferred, then the Bureau meetings of the 2020-2021 biennium can be followed by a meeting of the Steering Committee (1-2 days).

An alternative option is the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group of the Contracting Parties, chaired by a coordinator from among the Members of the Group and agreed by the Group itself. If this is the preferred option, the Open-Ended Working Group (OWG) can meet back-to-back with the Bureau or at different time through physical meetings or online consultations, if deemed appropriate. Contracting Parties will be consulted at all stages, including with regard to identifying the future priorities and vision for the new MTS.

Consultations with MAP Components

The process will also include early involvement of all the MAP Components, through the Executive Coordination Panel, both at the phase of evaluation of the current situation/state of play, as well as at the phase of the preparation of the themes and strategic outcomes/key outputs of the new MTS.

Consultations with Stakeholders

Furthermore, it will involve consultations with stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations/MAP Partners, youth and gender related organizations, private sector organizations and possible donors, as well as intergovernmental organizations, other UN bodies and MEAs. Consultations with the civil society will take place through electronic means (for example through an online consultation of 2-3 weeks) while a physical open-ended meeting could be arranged, depending on the availability of resources.

Timeline of preparation process of the new MTS

The main steps of the process can be set as follows:

- March/April 2020: Finalization of ToRs for the preparation of the new MTS (based on the guidance provided by the Ministerial declaration of COP 21 and the preliminary findings of the evaluation of the MTS 2016-2021)
- May/June 2020: Launch of the new MTS preparation process, following the first Bureau meeting of the biennium
- June/August 2020: Evaluation of the current situation/state of play (global and regional processes)
- October 2020: Set of recommendations addressing gaps and future orientations from current MTS evaluation process
- November 2020: Elaboration of main directions of new MTS, during the meeting of the Steering Committee or the Open-Ended Working Group if such options are chosen (back-to-back with the second Bureau meeting of the biennium)
- February 2021: Online consultation with Contracting Parties and stakeholders on the main directions of the new MTS

- Spring 2021: Dedicated MAP Focal Points meeting to discuss and endorse the main directions and strategic outcomes of new MTS, following the inputs of the online consultation
- June/July 2021: Last Bureau meeting of the biennium, followed by a meeting of the Steering Committee or the Open-Ended Working Group, if such options are chosen, to revise the document for submission to the second MAP Focal Points Meeting of the Biennium
- July 2021: Finalization of draft MTS and submission to the MAP Focal Points
- September 2021: Examination of draft MTS at the second MAP Focal Points Meeting of the biennium
- December 2021: Endorsement of new MTS by COP 22

This process will require adequate financial resources under the MTF, which are reflected in the proposed Programme of Work and Budget for the 2020-2021 biennium, under Key Output 1.1.2.

Schematic overview of the process:

Figure 1: Phases of MTS strategic planning

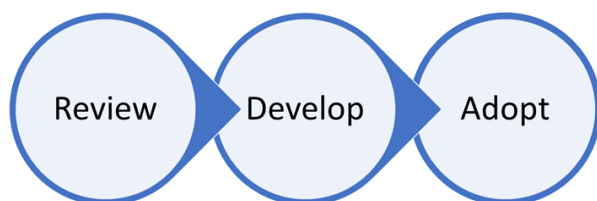


Figure 2: Roadmap of MTS strategic planning

	2019	2020				2021		
REVIEW		Evaluation of current MTS: December 2019 – February 2021						
			1 st Bureau Meeting	Online Consultation	2 nd Bureau Meeting & SC/OWG	Online Consultation		
DEVELOP		Preparation of new MTS: March 2020 – July 2021						
			1 st Bureau Meeting		2 nd Bureau Meeting & SC/OWG	Online Consultation	1 st MAP Focal Points Meeting	2 nd MAP Focal Points Meeting
							3 rd Bureau Meeting & SC/OWG	
ADOPT							1 st MAP Focal Points Meeting (endorsement of evaluation report)	COP 22 (adoption of the new MTS)