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**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN**

Fifth Meeting of the Mediterranean Commission  
on Sustainable Development (MCSD)

Rome, 1-3 July 1999

**REPORT BY THE SECRETARIAT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE  
MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
(November 1998 - July 1999)**

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## **Introduction and opening:**

The present progress report is submitted by the Secretariat of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development in compliance with the Terms of Reference of the MCSD. It covers progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the various decisions taken during previous meetings of the Commission (Rabat, 16-18 December 1996, Palma de Majorca, 6-8 May 1997, Sophia Antipolis, 28-30 October 1997 and Monaco, 20-22 October 1998).

Moreover, this progress report is largely based on discussions and conclusions of the second meeting of the Steering Committee (Tunis, 8-9 March 1999), mainly for agenda items 6, 7 and 8. The report of this Steering Committee meeting was distributed to all MCSD members in April 1999.

In this context, the following points should be noted:

- the mandate of the present members of the MCSD will run until the next meeting of the Contracting Parties (Malta, October 1999)
- according to its Rules of Procedure, a new Steering Committee is to be elected at the beginning of the fifth meeting of the MCSD. Its mandate will run until the next MCSD meeting.

## **I. BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MCSD**

1. The post-Rio era was an important period in the history of the Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP) during which the Governments of the Mediterranean region and the European Community started the process of translating and adapting UNCED principles to the Mediterranean context through the preparation of Agenda MED 21, reorientation of MAP, the Barcelona Convention and its protocols and the creation of the Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD).
2. The MCSD was established in 1995 within the framework of MAP, as an advisory body with the following mandate<sup>1</sup>:
  - to identify, evaluate and examine major economic, ecological and social problems set out in Agenda MED 21, make appropriate proposals thereon to the meetings of the Contracting Parties, evaluate the effectiveness of the implementation of decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and facilitate the exchange of information among institutions implementing activities related to sustainable development in the Mediterranean;
  - to enhance regional cooperation and rationalize the inter-governmental decision-making capacity in the Mediterranean basin for the integration of environment and development issues.

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<sup>1</sup>UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.5/16, annex XIII (IV-a)

3. At their Extraordinary Meeting (Montpellier, 1-4 July 1996), the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention adopted the Terms of Reference and the Composition of the Commission<sup>2</sup>. According to the Terms of Reference, the Commission is composed of 36 members, consisting of high-level representatives from each of the Contracting Parties (21), representatives of local authorities, socio-economic actors and non-governmental organizations (15), working in the fields of environment and sustainable development. Strongly believing that the role of the local authorities, socio-economic actors and NGOs is very important during this new era of MAP, the meeting of the Contracting Parties approved a new dimension in MAP relations with these three groups by accepting that they shall participate in the work of the Commission as fully-fledged members on an equal footing with representatives of the Contracting Parties.

**A) First Meeting of the Commission**

4. During its first meeting (Rabat, 16-18 December 1996), the Commission agreed on a programme built around short-term (sustainable management of coastal regions and management of water demand as sufficient work had already been undertaken) and medium-term (sustainable development indicators, tourism, information, awareness and participation, free trade and environment, industry and sustainable development, management of urban and rural development) activities corresponding to some of the priority needs of the Mediterranean region.
5. In order to implement efficiently and usefully these activities and to ensure greater participation, the Commission designated Task Managers and Thematic Working Groups to deal with each selected theme. The MAP funds allocated to the MCSD will be considered as seed money since the task managers and support centres are expected to look for the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise for the activities of the thematic working groups.

**B) Second Meeting of the Commission**

6. The second meeting of the Commission was held in Palma de Majorca, Spain, from 6-8 May 1997. The Commission reviewed progress achieved and problems encountered since its first meeting.
7. The Meeting also reviewed the composition of the Thematic Working Groups, and decided to add a few other members upon their request.
8. With regard to the draft rules of procedure of the Commission, after a brief discussion and due to time limitation, the meeting decided to defer the decision on the draft Rules of Procedure to its third meeting.

**C) Third Meeting of the Commission**

9. The third meeting of the Commission was held in Sophia Antipolis, France, from 28-30 October 1997. The Commission examined the progress made by the eight working groups, as well as at the MCSD's draft rules of procedure.
10. On the short-term themes, i.e. water demand management and the sustainable management of coastal zones, the Commission examined the analyses drawn up and the recommendations proposed for submission to the Contracting Parties at their tenth ordinary meeting in Tunis in November 1997. As for the other working groups, the Commission examined progress made and noted the various planned experts meetings and workshops.

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<sup>2</sup>UNEP(OCA)/MED IG.8/7, annexes V and VI

11. The discussions about the other activities of the various groups provided the opportunity to review the working method, underlining the fact that the MCSD risked becoming a “research institute” rather than a “consultative task force”; furthermore, it was the duty of the task managers to draft in experts in their respective themes as well as representatives of the public and private sectors. It was, however, noted that the MCSD, which allows MAP’s activities to be extended into the field of sustainable development, works with a marginal additional budget, to be used more like seed capital, additional funding needing to be drummed up elsewhere.
12. An ad hoc group was set up in order to complete the preparation of the MCSD’s rules of procedure, and its proposal was adopted by the members of the Commission before submitting it to the Contracting Parties.

**D) Contracting Parties Meeting**

13. The Contracting Parties held their Tenth Ordinary Meeting from 18 to 21 November 1997 in Tunis and approved the recommendations concerning the management of water demand and the sustainable management of Coastal Zones. The Rules of Procedure of the MCSD, with a Steering Committee, of seven members, four representing the Contracting Parties, including ex officio the President of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and one from each of the three categories foreseen by the Terms of Reference of the MCSD.
14. The meeting considered that the Task Managers and their Working Groups as well as the Secretariat should induce countries to implement these recommendations and translate the strategical lines of action of the MCSD into proposals for concrete action, set within a time frame. It was also pointed out that major partners of the civil society should be involved in the implementation and follow-up of priority projects and activities. Moreover, it was decided to extend the present membership of the Commission until next meeting of the Contracting parties (Malta, October 1999).
15. Moreover, the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (Tunis, 28 March 1998) designated the remaining four MCSD members out of various proposed candidates.

**E) Technical consultation between MCSD Task Managers**

16. In order to coordinating and streamlining the works of the Task Managers and the Thematic Working Groups, based on the experience gained during the first year of work, a Consultation Meeting was held in Athens, on 5 February 1998 (the report of the meeting was issued as document UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 141/2) on Secretariat’s initiative, and with the participation of RAC’s directors.
17. Some major points were discussed including:
  - some coordination gap between the Task Managers and the Support Centers;
  - the need to regularly inform, and as far as possible involve, all members of the Thematic Group;
  - the need to exchange information and develop cooperation between the Thematic Groups;
  - the need to involve competent experts in the preparatory activities and in the meetings along with the officially designated ones.
  - the programme of activity of each working group with agenda of meetings and expected outputs.

**F) Fourth Meeting of the Commission**

18. The fourth meeting of the MCSD was held in Monaco from 20-22 October 1998. The Commission examined the progress made by the six "medium-term" thematic working groups, as well as issues related to follow-up of recommendations, new themes, method of work and cooperation with UN agencies and other partners.
19. In conformity with the MCSD's rules of procedure, a new Steering Committee was elected with Tunisia as President, Monaco as Rapporteur and EOAEN, Cyprus, MIO-ECSDE, Municipality of Silifke and Spain as Vice-Presidents.
20. In view of the fifth MCSD meeting and then the next Contracting Parties meeting (27-30 October 1999), the working groups concerned with "Indicators", "Tourism" and "Information" themes were generally requested to review their proposals by defining more realistic, feasible and practical recommendations and actions, whereas the other working groups were requested to set realistic objectives and define a practical programme of work in view of final proposals for the MCSD and Contracting Parties meetings in 2001.
21. Concerning the other important issues on the agenda, (follow-up, new themes, method of work and cooperation), the Secretariat was requested to analyze further related questions raised during the discussions and present its views and proposals to the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD, in addition to the preparatory steps for the Strategic review for the year 2000 as mentioned in the MCSD terms of reference.
22. The fourth MCSD meeting has been the occasion for a large participation of UN agencies and other partners that showed great interest in the work of the MCSD. The meeting requested the MCSD and its Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with concerned bodies, particularly UN-CSD.

**II. GENERAL INTERSESSIONAL ACTIVITIES SINCE THE FOURTH MCSD MEETING:**

**A) Second meeting of the Steering Committee**

23. The second meeting of the Steering Committee of the MCSD was held from 8 to 9 March 1999 in Tunis. As requested by the fourth meeting of the MCSD, the Secretariat prepared a report encompassing mainly issues related to the method of work and follow-up of recommendations, new subjects and selection criteria, preparation of the Strategic review for the year 2000, as well as cooperation with UN and National Commissions on Sustainable Development. These issues were examined by the Steering Committee that has finally agreed upon a series of conclusions to be considered for and by the fifth MCSD meeting ("Conclusions" attached as annex I)
24. The report of the Secretariat (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.155/2) and the report of the Steering Committee (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG 155/3) were both sent to all MCSD members by mail and/or electronic mail in April 1999.

25. In conformity with the conclusions of the Steering Committee, the Secretariat has reworked the matrix of proposed new subjects together with the set of criteria for their selection that were presented in a brief questionnaire through specific questions related to importance, appraisal, feasibility and methodology. Reviewed matrix and detailed questionnaire were sent to all MCSD members and Support Centres by mid May requesting their comments and inputs for mid-June, leaving then about a week for the Secretariat to analyze and synthesize collected information (Matrix and questionnaire on Selection criteria are attached as annex II)
26. As the Steering Committee met recently and reviewed important questions that are down on the agenda of the fifth MCSD meeting, related and relevant outcomes and conclusions will be taken again in appropriate sections of this report, mainly corresponding to agenda items 6, 7 and 8.
27. The MCSD members might wish to consider the inputs for and outputs from the Steering Committee meeting and advise for the preparation of further meetings of the Steering Committee.

#### **B) Intersessional Activities and Working Groups**

28. In order to improve information and ensure better participation to the various thematic Working Groups, a provisional agenda of meetings in the MCSD framework or of interest for MCSD in 1999 was prepared by the Secretariat and sent to all MCSD members and other partners in March 1999. The actual agenda of the MCSD working group meetings is attached as annex III. As it can be noticed in this table, three of the working groups were held between 7 and 4 weeks before the fifth MCSD meeting. The time left is obviously too short for preparing a consistent report by the Secretariat in two languages and sending it to the MCSD members and other participants to the meeting more than two weeks before the meeting.
29. All the meetings of the thematic working groups took place and their major conclusions/proposals are included in a separated report dedicated to the outputs of the Task Managers and Support Centres thematic activities. It should be recalled at this stage that for the "Indicators", "Tourism" and "Information" themes, recommendations/proposals for action are expected to be reviewed, finalized and adopted before their submission to the next Contracting Parties meeting, whereas for the "Free-Trade", "Industry" and "Urban" themes relevant programmes of work are expected to be reviewed, finalized and adopted in view of final proposals in 2001.
30. The MCSD members are requested to review and approve proposed recommendations/proposals for action and programme of work, as presented in respective thematic sections of the "task managers and support centres report" (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 156/4)

### **III. METHOD OF WORK AND FOLLOW-UP OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

31. Well aware of the importance of this issue, for the revitalization of the MCSD and enhancement of its efficiency, the Secretariat prepared a rather critical analysis that was presented to the Steering Committee meeting (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG.155/2). It mainly refers to :
  - lack of consistency in the MCSD meetings and discussions, partly due to the various subjects considered and the short time allocated, thus some important issues are just skimmed over;
  - lack of sufficiently practical recommendations and programme of actions with a clear operational dimension;

- unclear implementation and follow-up process of adopted recommendations/proposals for action;
  - need for a more systematic approach when handling a theme with due consideration to terms of reference, organization of activities, partners, working period and funding.
  - need for better visibility, more political support and adequate information and communication strategy.
32. Sharing the concerns of the Secretariat, throughout an intense discussion, the members of the Steering Committee agreed upon a series of conclusions to be submitted to the fifth MCSD meeting for review and adoption of a final set of relevant proposals. Conclusions referred to are attached as annex I section 1.
33. Meanwhile, one of the MCSD members, namely APNEK, provided the Secretariat with a series of comments related to this issue where were mainly highlighted the need for a cost/benefit analysis of proposed actions, the integration of the recommendations in the programme of work of MAP that would then ensure and report on the follow-up and evaluation of their implementation, as well as the need for a regular reporting mechanism by the Contracting Parties.
34. The MCSD members are expected to discuss the conclusions agreed upon by the Steering Committee and adopt a final set of relevant proposals. They might also advise the Secretariat on the best approach to follow related issues.

#### **IV. NEW SUBJECTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

35. Considering the progress made in activities of the eight thematic working groups and that on-going related activities are expected to be completed in 2001, it was necessary to initiate preparations for new subjects; in order to improve feasibility and implementation, lessons should be drawn from experiences in previous and actual MCSD activities.
36. By cross-checking MAP priority activities together with partners programmes for the Mediterranean, a dozen of themes were identified for the next three bienniums, until 2005, and were proposed for the Steering Committee's consideration. Moreover, to ensure satisfactory and realistic preparation with relevant technical and financial support, a series of criteria were identified for proper selection.
37. The matrix for themes' selection together with the criteria were reviewed by the Steering Committee that proposed to present the themes in 7 clusters and the selection criteria in 4 sub-groups related to importance of the theme, appraisal, feasibility and methodology, as shown in annex II.
38. The members of the Steering Committee agreed also on a series of conclusions to be submitted for MCSD members' consideration. Such conclusions are attached in annex I section 2.



39. However, it should be noted that, in principle, the MCSD will still have to complete the activities related to "Free-trade", "Industry" and "Urban" themes in the next biennium (2000-2001) together with the preparation of the "Strategic Review for the year 2000" in conformity with the MCSD terms of reference. Therefore, we should avoid overloading the MCSD programme and mainly Support Centres in relation to technical and financial support, unless partners could take a substantial responsibility for implementation. Otherwise, only some preliminary work could be planned for a couple of new themes in the next bienniums, giving more time for a better preparation.
40. The revised matrix was sent to all MCSD members together with a detailed questionnaire on the selection criteria. Collected information will then be analyzed and synthesized and results presented by the Secretariat at the MCSD meeting, if a reasonable number of questionnaires are filled in and sent back by mid-June 1999. A sample of this questionnaire is also attached in annex II.
41. The MCSD members are expected to review related conclusions from the Steering Committee and approve a list of new themes to be considered over the next three bienniums. They might also wish to plan related activities over this period and identify task managers, support centres, major outputs and financial support.

## **V. STRATEGIC REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2000**

42. As agreed upon at the fourth MCSD meeting and in conformity with the Commission's terms of reference, it is proposed to "undertake a four-year strategic assessment and evaluation of the implementation by the Contracting Parties of Agenda MED 21 and decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties and of actions by the Contracting Parties relevant to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and propose relevant recommendations thereon; the first strategic review should be undertaken for the year 2000 (with ministerial participation), with the objective of achieving an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda MED 21, examining emerging policy issues and providing the necessary political impetus." (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 140/Inf.4 page 8, (g)).
43. To that end, the Secretariat, in consultation with some experts, has prepared draft terms of reference for undertaking this strategic review. Proposed terms of reference submitted for the fifth MCSD consideration are attached in annex IV.
44. Considering the dates of the next Contracting Parties meetings (October 1999 and 2001), it is proposed to undertake the first Strategic Review for the year 2001, with a draft to be presented and reviewed at the sixth MCSD meeting, foreseen for June/July 2000. This would leave some time for necessary fund harvesting.

As the Strategic Review concerns the Mediterranean region as a whole, it will not be limited to the activities of MAP and MCSD; it will also include a brief assessment of the activities of other regional partners and programmes such as Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, METAP, CEDARE, etc. in view of identifying complementarities, limiting duplication and promoting synergy. This review will also assess the activities at national and local levels, in order to identify the progress towards Sustainable Development together with the germs of change.
45. It is expected that this Strategic review, in addition to assessment and evaluation of progress of activities in the framework of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean region, will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the Mediterranean system, notably of MAP, the gaps and constraints that affect its efficiency; it will also suggest a set of relevant recommendations and proposals for action for promoting, improving and strengthening:

- preparation of programmes of activities;
- implementation of related activities by concerned institutions (regional and national);
- implementation of recommendations and proposals for actions;
- synergy among regional and national partners;
- strategic actions towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

46. The Strategic review would be undertaken by a task force under the coordination of the Secretariat and with the support of 3 to 5 MCSD members and 3 independent experts. Throughout the period of work (September 1999-April 2001), the task force would hold three technical meeting (launching, mid-term review/follow-up, finalization) and a regional workshop would be useful, even necessary, in early 2001. The budget for this Strategic review, including regional and national experts fees and costs of meetings, would amount for US \$ 150,000 to 200,000.
47. The MCSD members are requested to discuss proposed terms of reference for this Strategic review, advise the Secretariat on the best approach to be followed in relation with coordination, implementation and fund raising.

## **VI. COOPERATION AND FUND RAISING**

48. In conformity with its terms of reference, the MCSD has developed and strengthened its relations and cooperation with UNEP and other UN Agencies, in particular UN-CSD, through its Secretariat as well as several of its members.
49. In relation with the fourth MCSD request addressed to UNEP to encourage the exchange of information and direct cooperation between MCSD and other Secretariats as well as the UN-CSD, the twentieth Governing Council of UNEP has recognized the originality and importance of the MCSD and recommended the development of similar initiatives in other regions. During this important meeting, information on the MCSD was given and support to this experience and activities was requested by several representatives of the Mediterranean Countries and partners (Tunisia, Monaco, Turkey, Spain, European Commission, etc.)
50. Moreover, the MAP-MCSD Secretariat has participated, as member of UNEP's delegation, to the ad-hoc Intersessional Working Group of the UN-CSD with a presentation on Regional Seas and MCSD at a side event. The Secretariat has also participated to the Seventh UN-CSD session where the report of Antalya Workshop on "MCSD Tourism and Sustainable Development" was widely distributed, together with a presentation at a side event.
51. Regarding the proposed joint UN-CSD/MCSD meeting on national sustainable development strategies in the Mediterranean, it seems preferable to connect it to the preparation of the "Strategic review for the year 2000" by organizing such a meeting briefly after launching this review. It would be a good opportunity to collect useful information for the strategic review and provide the participants with methodological issues and results from success stories so as to promote and induce elaboration of national sustainable strategies at national and local levels.
52. Information on MCSD experience and activities were also disseminated at several Mediterranean and European meetings not only by the Secretariat but also by various MCSD members (country and EC representatives and other partners, EOAE, MIO-ECSDE, Ecomediterranea, APNEK, WWF, according to our information).

53. Concerning the thematic activities and related meetings, the task managers, the working groups and support centres have benefitted from various technical and financial supports, MAP limited budget being generally considered as seed money. However, there has not been a systematic strategy for fund raising enough in advance, and related activities were mainly undertaken with MAP limited budget. Such deficiency will be and is being, overcome as specific projects have been prepared and others will follow soon and be submitted to fund raising from partners (mainly the European Commission, by far the main supporting body) and countries (mainly regarding organization of meetings).

54. As a matter of fact, support for the following activities since the fourth MCSD meeting was provided mainly from :

- “Indicators”: MAP (BP/RAC-other indicators projects), France and Tunisia (national test).
- “Information”: MAP(MEDU), CREE and MIO-ECSDE (who devoted a lot of their time with limited financial support from MAP).
- “Free-Trade”: MAP (MEDU,BP/RAC and CP/RAC), Lebanon (national case study) France
- “Industry”: MAP (MEDPOL, CP/RAC), UNIDO-ICS, UNEP-DTIE.
- “Urban”: MAP (PAP/RAC, BP/RAC), MEDCITIES.

In broad terms and without including the cost of time spent for related activities by MAP staff and partners experts (from MCSD members and other regional partners), the annual average cost for a MCSD thematic activity is about US\$ 30,000-40,000 (obviously more availability of funds would certainly extend the work, get more in depth analysis and result in more realistic proposals); a group of experts would cost about US\$ 15,000, a meeting of the working group US\$ 20,000-30,000, a workshop extended to all MCSD members US\$ 50,000 and a MCSD meeting needs for US\$ 80,000 to 100,000. And the actual one, the fifth MCSD meeting, is fully covered by the City of Rome.

55. It is important to recall here that, as agreed upon in the first meeting of the MCSD, “the task managers would be responsible for obtaining the necessary additional human and financial resources and expertise for the activities of the thematic working groups”, obviously in cooperation with the Secretariat and concerned Support Centres.

56. In the short and medium term, a more systematic cooperation will be looked for and built up between MCSD and European Commission, UNEP concerned divisions and regional offices, UN-CSD, METAP, CEDARE as well as other institutions concerned with the new themes to be selected (FAO, UNDP/CAP 21, UNCCD, WHO, etc.)

57. Finally, considering MAP available limited budget and the increasing interesting and challenging MCSD related coordination duties, it would be very helpful if qualified junior persons could be seconded to the MCSD Secretariat for periods of 1 to 2 years, either directly from the countries or through a specific funding mechanism that would allow for 1 to 2 years appointment of junior qualified persons from third countries that cannot afford covering their expenses in seconding them. This would provide inspiration, boost and support to the Secretariat and MCSD activities as well as on-the-job training for concerned staff. This question of required additional support and secondments was considered by the last meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties (29-30 April 1999) where views were expressed but without coming up with a final proposal.

58. The MCSD members are expected to discuss issues related to cooperation and fund raising; they might wish to advise the Secretariat on the best way to strengthen cooperation and improve fund raising; they might also wish to request the task managers and other MCSD members and partners to look for and provide more support to MCSD activities.

## **SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS OF THE WORK OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.**

### **1. Method of work and follow-up of recommendations**

The Steering Committee praised the quality of the Commission's work. These achievements should be used as a basis for further progress, with the emphasis in future work being placed on the three following areas, without bringing the basic structure into question (working group, task managers):

- a) clearer identification and preparation of themes (approach based on participation, specific nature of the Mediterranean, added value, etc.);
  - b) improved planning of thematic activities by objectives;
  - c) implementation and follow-up of recommendations (execution, valorization, information/communication, financing).
- It shall be the duty of each working group to take due account of these three areas in carrying out their activities.
  - On implementation, it could give rise to strategic actions programmes (SAPs), with certain themes being particularly suited to this approach because of the importance of the issue they raise for the Mediterranean.
  - The Secretariat in conjunction with the task managers shall work to finalise recommendations to render them more operational before they are presented to the Contracting Parties.
  - More effective follow-up shall be achieved by using demonstration programmes, amongst others.
  - Greater visibility for the Commission and broader circulation of its results amongst all the actors involved are a crucial objective which means that the emphasis must be placed on using all available channels to circulate recommendations and information to all partners. The best possible use shall also be made of new communication technologies. In this context, the work and activities of the MCSD shall be presented on the MAP website, which should be made easily accessible via the UNEP site and vice versa, both sites being regularly updated.

### **II. New Themes and their Selection Criteria**

- The matrix presented by the Secretariat for selecting new themes needs to be rationalised to make it more operational:
  - a) by tightening up criteria (on notions of priority, squaring with regional/international programmes, and feasibility) and by defining them more clearly;

b) by regrouping themes, even if it entails clarifying their characteristics and sub-themes. The new themes put forward would then cover:

1. Local management and sustainable development (with the emphasis on the specific points of wetlands, islands, mountainous or desert regions);
  2. Sustainable management of natural marine resources (including fisheries);
  3. Energy and transport and sustainable development;
  4. Employment and training;
  5. Agriculture and the rural environment (including land use, erosion and desertification);
  6. Consumption patterns and waste management;
  7. Health and the environment.
- The Secretariat shall rework the matrix to take account of comments made by the meeting and shall send out the new version to all MCSD members for them to fill in as far as possible. A synthesis shall be presented to the forthcoming MCSD meeting so that the new themes may be selected.

### **III. Strategic Review for the year 2000**

- The strategic review foreseen by the Commission's terms of reference is crucially important in that it will provide the opportunity for drawing up an "inventory" of sustainable development in the Mediterranean, five years after the Contracting Parties adopted the Agenda MED 21 Programme.
- In the interests of clarity and objectivity, this assessment shall preferably be drawn up by a team of seven members made up of: three independent experts, three members of the Commission (one representing a State, one for the "NGO/socio-economic" actors, and one "local authority" representative), and a representative of the Coordinating Unit.
- The Secretariat shall prepare a specific remit for this review to be drawn up, for presentation to the forthcoming MCSD meeting.
- With an eye to this review, Tunisia reiterated its proposal to host the 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MCSD in the year 2000, which will be the opportunity for a "MED 21+5" and should also involve a ministerial component. Funds will have to be mobilised for this event.

### **IV. Cooperation with the United Nations and national CSDs**

- The Secretariat shall draw up of list of all existing national CSDs or similar bodies; it shall then seek a mutual exchange of information and, if needs be, shall establish cooperation with them. The increasing number of activities (Agenda 21s) at both national and local level could act as an incentive for other countries or regions.

- A joint meeting co-financed by the MCSD and the UN/CSD on national sustainable development strategies shall be organised in late 1999 in a Mediterranean country.
- As far as cooperation with the UN/CSD is concerned, it shall be the responsibility of MCSD member countries taking part in CSD sessions, and particularly the Commission President, to make known the Commission's work and achievements, to underscore its exemplary nature, one of the objectives being in the long term to open the way for the MCSD's accreditation as an autonomous observer, to be requested by the President. An informal meeting of Mediterranean delegations on the sidelines of each session would usefully assist this "alliance" of riparian states.
- As well as a panel on the regional seas to be held during CSD 7, it is foreseen that a specific panel for the presentation of the MCSD shall be organised during CSD 8.
- Furthermore, it is foreseen that a major conference on sustainable development in the Mediterranean be organised, to which competent international agencies, universities and other interested parties shall be invited. This conference, to coincide with "Rio+10"(2002), would provide the opportunity to take stock of "MCSD+5".

#### **V. Intersession MCSD thematic activities**

- MCSD members should play a more dynamic and effective role in the working groups.
- The agenda of meetings, which is deemed to be very useful, should be completed and regularly updated in order to keep MCSD members informed, and encourage their participation. It would also be useful to indicate meetings which have already been organised, which would be of great interest to ongoing work.

#### **VI. Provisional agenda for the 5<sup>th</sup> MCSD.**

- In the interests of clarity, the "Rules of Procedure" should not be included as an agenda item. The "Remit for preparing the strategic assessment for the year 2000" should, however, be added.
- Concerning the organisation of work, drafting committees should be set up for all working groups rounding off their activities at the 5<sup>th</sup> MCSD, particularly for the "Tourism and sustainable development" and "Indicators of sustainable development" themes.
- With an eye to the financing of MCSD meetings, it is proposed that the host country should bear a substantial share of the costs, without ruling out external contributions.
- Finally, the NGOs should be encouraged to take part in the organisation of MCSD meetings, a role which the Secretariat will work to boost.

**Criteria for selection of new themes for MCSD programme of work  
over the next 2 or 3 bienniums (until 2005)**

**PROPOSED THEME:** .....

<b>CRITERIA AND RELATED QUESTIONS</b>	<b>BRIEF RESPONSES</b>
<b>IMPORTANCE</b> <i>Is the theme and/or its components considered as:</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>MED 21/MAP Priority</u> : (to be done by the Secretariat but any input is welcome) <i>a priority in MED 21 and/or MAP?</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>MED 21/Partners Priority:</u> (to be done by the Secretariat but any input is welcome) <i>a priority in partners programmes (METAP, CEDARE, SMAP, NGO networks, etc.)</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>National / local Priority:</u> <i>a priority in your national/local, organisation strategies and action plans?</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>UN-CSD programme:</u> <i>a priority in UN-CSD programme of work (past, present, future)?</i></li> </ul>	
<b>APPRAISAL</b> <i>For this theme and/or its components, what is/are, in your opinion :</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Stakes and Risks:</u> <i>the major stakes and main short, medium and long term risks at local, national and Mediterranean levels.</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Added value by MCSD:</u> <i>the specific added value you would expect from the MCSD?</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Sustainable Development Dimension:</u> <i>the sustainable development dimension(s) the MCSD should focus on? aspects of long term strategy, inter-relation and integration with other themes, etc.</i></li> </ul>	

CRITERIA AND RELATED QUESTIONS	BRIEF RESPONSES
<p><b>FEASIBILITY</b> For this theme and/or its components</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>MAP Capacity/Expertise:</u> (to be done by the Secretariat but any input is welcome) <i>Does MAP, through its Coordinating Unit and Regional Activity Centres and Programmes, has the capacity and expertise to work on this subject;</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Knowledge:</u> <i>Do you think that the subject is rather extensively studied (not only within MAP) or intensive assessment preparatory work would be required?</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Co Partners:</u> <i>Which partners (non-MCSD members) would you associate considering expertise, synergy, support and impact parameters?</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Funding Opportunities:</u> <i>Identify some potential and accessible funding sources (local, national, euro-mediterranean, private, civil society, etc.) for related activities and meetings?</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>METHODOLOGY</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Working Group or Group of experts:</u> <i>Do you think that this theme should be dealt with by a classical working group of some MCSD designated experts or by a small group of "independent" experts?</i></li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Period of work:</u> <i>Considering the already available knowledge on this subject and the expected added value, do you consider that this theme should be dealt with in one, two or four years period?</i></li> </ul>	



**MCS D THEMATIC SELECTION MATRIX**

CRITERIA	Importance				Appraisal			Feasibility				Methodology			
	MED21/MAP priority	MED partners priority	National / local priority	UN-CSD programme	Stakes and risks	Added value by MCS D	SD dimension	M/AP capacity/expertise	Knowledge	Co-partners	Funding opportunities	Working Groups or Group of Experts	Period of work	M/AP support centre or partners co-support centre	
Themes to be considered by MCS D															
Local Management and Sustainable Development (Wetlands, islands, mountain and desert areas, etc.)															
Sustainable management of maritime natural resources (fishing, etc)															
Energy, transport and sustainable development															
Employment, training and environment															
Agriculture and rural environment (agricultural policies, land use, erosion, desertification, etc)															
Consumption patterns and waste management															
Health and environment															

N.B. Themes handled by the MCS D with adoption dates and recommendations :

-Sustainable management of Coastal Regions (completed in 1997)

-Sustainable development indicators (to be completed in 1999)

-Free trade and environment (to be completed in 2001)

-Management of Water Demand (completed in 1997)

-Tourism and Sustainable Development (to be completed in 1999)

-Industry and sustainable development (to be completed in 2001)

-Information, awareness and participation

-Management of urban development (to be completed in 2001)

<b>MCS D INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUPS</b>		
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Dates and venue</b>	<b>Responsible persons/bodies and support</b>
Group of Experts meeting MCS D Free Trade and Environment	3 February Geneva	Lebanon, BP/MEDU
Management of Urban Development	Experts meeting , 26-27 April 1999 Split	Egypt-Med Cities- Turkey- PAP-BP-ERS
Tourism and Sustainable Development,	Working Group, 6-7 May 1999, Split	Spain-EOAEN-Egypt- BP-PAP
Sustainable Development Indicators	Workshop, 10 -11May 1999, Sophia Antipolis	France-Tunisia-BP
Industry and Sustainable Development	Working Group 16-17 May 1999 Masa Carrara	Italy-Algeria-FID-MED POL-CP/RAC
Information, Awareness and Participation	Working Group, 24-25 May 1999, Athens	MIO-ECSDE - CREE - Med Unit
Free Trade and Environment	Working Group, 4-5 June 1999 Barcelona	Lebanon-BP-Med Unit-CP/RAC

<b>Agenda of Meetings in the MCSD framework or of interest for MAP and MCSD 1999</b>		
<b>Item and organisers</b>	<b>Dates and venue</b>	<b>Concerned persons/bodies</b>
Euro-Mediterranean Conference on Sustainable Cities. World Federation of United Cities and the Municipality of Seville.	21-23 January, Seville	MEDU/PAP/BP MCSD members
High level policy dialogue: "Trade Policy and Sustainability the Regional Approach". ICTSD	1-2 February, Geneva	MEDU/BP
20 <sup>th</sup> Session of UNEP Governing Council. UNEP	1-5 February, Nairobi	MAP/Contracting Parties
UN - CSD Ad-Hoc Intersessional Working Groups (22-27 February - Tourism and Consumption Patterns 1-5 March Oceans and SIDS) UN-CSD Secretariat	22 Febr. - 5 March, New York	MCSD members MAP/MED Unit
MCSD Steering Committee MAP- Med Unit/ MCSD Secretariat	8-9 March, Tunis	Committee members MAP/MED Unit
Environmental Civil Forum Integration of the Environment in the Euro-Med Process Heinrich Boll Foundation ,EC/DGI	13- 15 April, Stuttgart	BP/MED Unit/ NGOs
UN - CSD - 7 - 19-21/4 - Tourism 21-23/4 - High level Segment 26/4 - National presentations 27-30/4 - Drafting groups. UN-CSD Secretariat	19-30 April, New York	MCSD members MAP/MED Unit
Bureau of the Contracting Parties MAP-Med Unit	29-30 April, Athens	Bureau members MAP/MED Unit
5 th MCSD MAP-Med Unit/MCSD Secretariat	1-3 July, Rome	MCSD members MAP/Others
MAP National Focal Points MAP-Med Unit	6-9 September, Athens	Contracting Parties /MAP/Observers
11th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties MAP-Med Unit	27-30 October, Malta	Contracting Parties /MAP/Observers

**“STRATEGIC REVIEW FOR THE YEAR 2000”**  
**Draft terms of reference**

**A. Introduction and rationale**

According to the terms of reference of the MCSD, it is proposed to: “undertake a four-year strategic assessment and evaluation of the implementation by the Contracting Parties of Agenda MED 21 and decisions of the meetings of the Contracting Parties and of actions by the Contracting Parties relevant to sustainable development in the Mediterranean region and propose relevant recommendations thereon; the first strategic review should be undertaken for the year 2000 (with ministerial participation), with the objective of achieving an integrated overview of the implementation of Agenda MED 21, examining emerging policy issues and providing the necessary political impetus.” (UNEP(OCA)/MED WG. 140/Inf.4 page 8, (g)).

Considering the dates of the next Contracting Parties meetings (October 1999 and 2001), it is proposed to undertake the first Strategic Review for the year 2001, with a draft to be presented and reviewed at the sixth MCSD meeting, foreseen for June/July 2000. This would leave some time for necessary fund harvesting.

As the Strategic review concerns the Mediterranean region as a whole, it will not be limited to the activities of MAP and MCSD; it will also include a brief assessment of the activities of other regional partners and programmes such as Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, METAP, CEDARE, etc. in view of identifying complementarities, limiting duplication and promoting synergy. This review will also assess the activities at national and local levels, in order to identify the progress towards Sustainable Development together with the germs of change.

It is expected that this Strategic review, in addition to assessment and evaluation of progress of activities in the framework of Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean region, will highlight the strengths and weaknesses of the Mediterranean system, notably of MAP, the gaps and constraints that affect its efficiency; it will also suggest a set of relevant recommendations and proposals for action for promoting, improving and strengthening:

- preparation of programmes of activities;
- implementation of related activities by concerned institutions (regional and national);
- implementation of recommendations and proposals for actions;
- synergy among regional and national partners;
- strategic actions towards sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

**B. Background and objective**

Microcosm of the world, the Mediterranean is an eco-region that could be considered as an excellent regional case as bridge between global and national levels for sustainable development concerns. Aware of their specific context, bordering countries have decided to cooperate and join efforts in caring about their common future and tackling related issues at regional, national and local levels.

Following the Rio Conference on Environment and Development in 1992, the Mediterranean partners have decided to give more and better consideration to sustainable development by adapting Agenda 21 to the Mediterranean context. As a result, an Agenda 21 for the Mediterranean was prepared (Agenda MED 21), MAP programme was reviewed and updated, and Barcelona Convention was revised accordingly. It was also decided to establish a Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development to prepare and propose to the Contracting Parties and Mediterranean Partners strategic recommendations and proposals for action for a more coherent integration of environment and development, a better management of environmental resources and problems in conformity with sustainable development, a strengthening of regional cooperation and re-enforcement of intergovernmental decision making capacities. In order to get more realistic results, all concerned actors are involved in MCSD activities (government representatives, local authorities, private sectors and civil society/NGOs).

Various initiatives related to major economic, environmental and social issues and stakes have been taken since 1995 at local and national levels as well as regional and euro-mediterranean levels. It would be important to assess those initiatives (mainly concerning MAP, MED 21 and MCSD), their implementation process, related activities, outputs and impacts, five years after; then relevant recommendations and proposals for actions will be elaborated in relation with gaps, constraints and efficiency for a satisfactory management and integration of environment and development towards the building up of sustainable development in the Mediterranean region, as well as for MAP and MCSD strengthening and visibility.

This strategic assessment would encompass the review of relevant ministerial general policy issues and actions so as to address the decision making process and insufflate to MAP and MCSD the necessary and required political boost.

Finally, the objective of this Strategic review will be to assess the steps undertaken by the Mediterranean Community and relevant partners towards sustainable development, with reference to mainly the recommendations and decisions taken by the Contracting Parties and related activities. This strategic review concerns the assessment of implementation and effectiveness of recommendations and decisions. It will not provide, directly, a view of the state of the environment and development in the region. It concerns primarily the decision making process, capacity and governance.

### **C. Specific objectives and related activities**

#### Euro-Mediterranean Level

- brief assessment of euro-Mediterranean partnership, notably in MAP II and MCSD priority areas, including scope of projects funding by MEDA;

#### Regional Mediterranean Level/partners

- brief assessment of METAP programme, particularly in relation with capacity building;
- brief assessment of CEDARE programme, notably in relation with capacity building and information;

Regional Mediterranean Level/MAP

- assessment of MAP II actions, in particular the ones related to priority fields that take into account Agenda MED 21:
  - < integration of environment and development;
  - < integrated management of natural resources;
  - < integrated management of coastal zones;
  - < waste management;
  - < agriculture;
  - < industry and energy;
  - < transport;
  - < tourism;
  - < urban development and environment;
  - < information;
  - < marine pollution assessment and control;
  - < conservation of nature, landscapes and sites.

This review will mainly concern the activities undertaken by MAP components (RACs and Programmes) and their impact on the decision making process:

- assessment of the activity of MAP, Coordinating Unit, Programmes and RACs in the legal field regarding preparation, revision and follow-up of Barcelona Convention and protocols.
- assessment of MAP actions in relation with the implementation of recommendations as proposed for the regional level in Agenda MED 21.

Regional Mediterranean Level/MCSD:

- assessment of MCSD activities, in particular as related to selected eight priority themes:
  - < management of water demand;
  - < sustainable management of coastal regions;
  - < sustainable development indicators;
  - < tourism;
  - < information, awareness, environmental education and participation;
  - < free trade and environment;
  - < industry;
  - < urban development;

This review will mainly look for the capacity of MCSD to catalyse team work and to collect ad hoc financial means and expertise with MAP support centres, and propose to the Contracting Parties strategic practical recommendations and realistic and feasible proposals for action.

It could also review the method of work and follow-up of recommendations.

National Level:

- assessment of legal and regulatory institutional reforms and actions undertaken by the Governments in view of integrating environment and development, notably as related to :
  - < creation of institution (ministry, agency, department) and necessary structures in charge of environmental issues;
  - < National Commissions for sustainable development or similar catalysing /coordinating institutions;
  - < ratification of global and relevant Conventions;
  - < ratification of the Barcelona Convention and protocols;
  - < promulgation of legal documents for the protection of the environment.
  
- assessment of national actions towards sustainable development:
  - < preparation and adoption of a national strategy for sustainable development;
  - < preparation of national Agenda 21;
  - < preparation and implementation of National Environmental Action Plan;
  - < integration of environmental education in primary and general education programmes;
  - < elaboration of national programmes of action for the sustainable management of natural resources, desertification and pollution;
  - < incentive to and mobilisation of civil society for environment and sustainable development.
  
- assessment of Contracting Parties participation to Mediterranean programmes:
  - < institutional support to MAP II priority fields in national plans;
  - < consideration given to MCSD recommendations and proposals for action;
  - < implementation of Agenda MED 21 recommendations at national level;
  - < coordination between various regional programmes (MAP, SMAP, METAP, CEDARE, etc.).

Local Level:

- assessment of actions related to preparation and implementation of local Agenda 21 and practical activities towards sustainable development

Civil Society/NGOs:

- assessment of actions towards sustainable development.

#### **D. Methodology**

Referring to background documents (Convention, MAP II, MCSD, etc.) and their guiding principles, this strategic review would be undertaken by a task force under the coordination of the Secretariat and with the support of 3 to 5 MCSD members and 3 independent experts. Throughout the period of work (September 1999-April 2001), the task force would hold three technical meetings (launching, mid-term review/follow-up, finalization) and a regional workshop would be useful, even necessary, in early 2001. The budget for this Strategic review, including regional and national experts fees and costs of meetings, would amount for US \$ 150,000 to 200,000.

Using all relevant reports from MAP, UNCSD (national reports), local/national Agenda 21, action plans, partners (METAP, SMAP/Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, CEDARE, etc.), Civil Society and NGOs, the knowledge and analytical phase could be completed by a brief questionnaire addressed to government bodies and other partners. This complementary information, if it turns out to be necessary, could be collected and analyzed by national/local consultants.

The final output would consist of :

- a critical, exhaustive and retrospective assessment of actions mainly undertaken in the framework of MAP since 1995;
- a set of gaps and deficiencies detrimental to MAP efficiency;
- a set of relevant recommendations to overcome those deficiencies, improve efficiency and strengthen the strategic aspects of their implementation by MAP, the Contracting Parties and all concerned partners.



## THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS

Themes	Task managers	Members of the group	Support from MAP*
Short-term (over about a one-year period)			
- Sustainable management of coastal zones (completed)	Morocco and MEDCITIES	CREE, European Community, Greece, City of Rome, Spain, EcoMediterrania, Monaco, WWF, Italy, EOAEN, Cyprus, France, Tunisia, MIO-ECSDE, Egypt, Malta, Albania, Lebanon, Algeria, FIS	RAC/PAP, RAC/BP, RAC/ERS and RAC/SPA
- Management of water demand (completed)	Tunisia and Morocco	Libya, WWF, APNEK, European Community, Egypt, Italy, France, CEFIC, MIO-ECSDE, Malta, Spain, EcoMediterrania, CEDARE, Cyprus, Israel, Algeria, Turkey, Bosnia & Herzegovina	RAC/BP and RAC/PAP
Medium-term (until 1999 Contracting Parties meeting and beyond)			
- Sustainable development indicators (to be completed in 1999)	France and Tunisia	European Community, Morocco, EcoMediterranean, Greece, Israel, Spain, Slovenia, Turkey, Lebanon, Algeria, Municipality of Silifke	RAC/BP
- Tourism and Sustainable Development (to be completed in 1999)	Spain, EOAEN and Egypt	Malta, Monaco, Cyprus, Croatia, European Community, Greece, EcoMediterrania, WWF MIO-ECSDE, ASCAME, Slovenia, Libya, Turkey, Lebanon	RAC/BP and RAC/PAP
- Information, awareness and participation (to be completed in 1999)	MIO-ECSDE and CREE	European Community, WWF, France, APNEK, Croatia, Egypt, Morocco, MEDCITIES, EcoMediterrania, Albania, Algeria, Libya, Lebanon	MED Coordinating Unit
- Free trade and environment in the Euromediterranean context (strategic impact assessment) (to be completed in 2001)	Lebanon	Tunisia, France, European Community, APNEK, Morocco, MIO-ECSDE, Algeria, ASCAME, FIS, Bosnia & Herzegovina, WWF	RAC/ BP MED Coordinating Unit
- Industry and sustainable development (cultural, economic, technical and financial aspects of progressive elimination of land-based pollution) (to be completed in 2001)	Italy, Algeria, F.I.D	WWF, Israel, EOAEN, ASCAME, CEFIC, Spain, European Community, Turkey, Tunisia, RME MIO-ECSDE	MED POL, RAC/CP
- Management of urban development (to be completed in 2001)	Egypt, MEDCITIES, Turkey	FIS, MIO-ECSDE, Spain, Morocco, France, Malta, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Algeria, CEDARE, EC, Slovenia, Cyprus, RME	RAC/PAP and RAC/BP

\* The Coordinating Unit and the Regional Activity Centres will each provide the necessary support to the different working groups according to their respective expertise.