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18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee

Athens, Greece, 18-19 January 2017

**Agenda Item 3: Work Plan of the MCSD Steering Committee and report on work carried out**

**Agenda Item 5: Preparations for the 17<sup>th</sup> MCSD Meeting and MCSD input into COP 20**

**Work Plan for the MCSD Steering Committee and MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation**

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## **Introduction**

1. This document aims at describing the work of the MCSD Steering Committee after the 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD (June 2015, Marrakech, Morocco) and until COP 20, to be held in December 2017, in Tirana, Albania, with a particular focus on the process of MSSD 2016-2025 implementation and monitoring. It is structured in two sections, as follows:

- a. MCSD and MCSD Steering Committee Report (July 2015-December 2016) and Work Plan (January 2017 to COP 20);
- b. Monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation Process (February 2016 to COP 20).

## **MCSD and MCSD Steering Committee Report (July 2015-December 2016) and Work Plan (January 2017 to COP 20)**

2. August 2015: The MCSD Reform and Simplified Peer Review Mechanism proposals finalized for inclusion in the MCSD Reform Draft Decision for consideration by the MAP NFPs at their meeting held in Athens in October 2015.

3. October 2015: Provision for the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism ensured in the draft Mid-Term Strategy.

4. November 2015: MCSD Reform Draft Decision Annexes amended, including the Simplified Peer Review Mechanism proposal, following feedback and comments from the MAP NFPs.

5. February 2016: COP 19, through its Decision IG.22/17, requested the Secretariat to consider the need for at least one face to face meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee in the intersessional period between Meetings of the MCSD, while it adopted the Composition and Terms of References of the MCSD and approved its Rules of Procedure (all contained in Annex I of Decision IG.22/17). In addition, it invites Contracting Parties to participate on a voluntary basis in a Simplified Peer Review Mechanism and requests the Secretariat to support this process (described in Annex II of Decision IG.22/17).

6. In the framework of COP 19 Decision IG.22/20 (Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017), under the Overarching Theme “Governance” and the Strategic Outcome 1.3 “Strengthened participation, engagement, synergies and complementarities among global and regional institutions”, the key output 1.3.3 is as follows: “MSSD implementation set in motion through actions on visibility and capacity building, and the preparation of an MSSD implementation plan, of a project portfolio, and of guidelines to assist countries adapt the Strategy to their national contexts”. The main activity under this key output plans to test a pilot of the proposed Simplified Peer Review Mechanism, as set in Annex II of Decision IG.22/17. The implementation of this activity is undertaken by Plan Bleu under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit and in close collaboration with the MCSD Steering Committee.

7. April-June 2016: First draft of the “Work Plan for the MCSD Steering Committee and MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation” prepared.

8. July 2016: Draft “Work Plan for the MCSD Steering Committee and MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation” sent by the Secretariat to the members of the MCSD Steering Committee for their perusal and comments.

9. 18 October 2016: Informal meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, Barcelona, Spain. Decision to hold the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee in January 2017.

10. 18 October 2016: Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER) First Technical Meeting, Barcelona, Spain, involving the three volunteer Contracting Parties (France, Montenegro, Morocco) and Members of the MCSD Steering Committee.

11. November-December 2016: Preparation of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, with the following main agenda items:

- a. Work plan of the MCSD Steering Committee and report on work carried out;

- b. Progress and next steps for the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation (including approval of the SIMPEER detailed methodology and roadmap, as well as follow-up on progress in relation to the monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation - the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard);
  - c. Preparations for the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD and MCSD input into COP 20.
12. 18-19 January 2017: 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee, Athens, Greece.
  13. February 2017: Deliver report of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee to the MCSD Members.
  14. February-April 2017: Preparations for the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD (venue and date to be defined with the Secretariat). A formal meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee may be organized through teleconference.
  15. April 2017 (back-to-back with the Meeting of the Plan Bleu NFPs, dates and venue tbc): SIMPEER Peer Review Meeting between the three Contracting Parties volunteer for its pilot test, organized by Plan Bleu, under the guidance of the Secretariat and in close collaboration with the MCSD Steering Committee – to invite MCSD Presidency.
  16. 13-16 June 2017: 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD and next (19<sup>th</sup>, if no formal teleconference meeting takes place before) Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee.
  17. Possible elements for the Agenda of the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD could include:
    - a. General items:
      - Exchange of good practices: Links between SDGs and MSSD 2016-2025 implementation at the national level
      - MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation and Monitoring Plan
      - Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard (Indicators to monitor MSSD 2016-2025 implementation)
      - Pilot test of the SIMPEER process and way forward
      - Follow up on MSSD 2016-2025 Flagship Initiatives
      - Inputs to COP 20
    - b. Substantive discussion on one central theme. Issues to be addressed in this respect could potentially include: (a) Linkages between MSSD 2016-2025 and the SDGs, (b) Green and blue economy, (c) Sustainable tourism.
  18. Although formal meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee are indicated in this work plan, informal teleconference meetings of the MCSD Steering Committee may be organized as the need arises.

#### **Monitoring of the MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation Process (February 2016 to COP 20)**

19. February 2016: COP 19 through Decision IG.22/2 (Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 – MSSD 2016-2025) requests the Secretariat to support the implementation of the MSSD 2016-2025. Furthermore, at COP 19 the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (Decision IG.22/1) was adopted: its priority themes reflect legal commitments and major needs at the regional and national levels, they contribute to the MSSD 2016-2025 Objectives and they are part of the global efforts for sustainable development.
20. In the framework of COP 19 Decision IG.22/20 (Programme of Work and Budget 2016-2017), under the Overarching Theme “Governance” and the Strategic Outcome 1.4 “Knowledge and understanding of the state of the Mediterranean Sea and coast enhanced through mandated assessments for informed policy-making”, the key output 1.4.2 is as follows: “MSSD implementation monitored, as appropriate and evaluated, as appropriate on periodic basis through the agreed set of indicators in

line with SDG and the sustainability dashboard”. The main activity under this key output plans to establish and populate with data the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard. The implementation of this activity during the biennium 2016-2017 is undertaken by Plan Bleu under the guidance of the Coordinating Unit, in close collaboration with the MCSD Steering Committee, with the support of the MAP Components. Synergies exist with the work of the Regional Seas Indicator Working Group, which aims at developing a set of common indicators amongst the Regional Seas in line with the SDGs (with UNEP/MAP as Chair of this Working Group).

21. January-February 2016: Organize and announce the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard workshop (March 2016).
22. 30-31 March 2016: Regional Workshop on “How to monitor the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation?”, organized by Plan Bleu in Saint Laurent du Var, France. Meeting report, selection of a core set of priority indicators.
23. February-June 2016: Publication of the MSSD 2016-2025 in a user-friendly format and updating the MSSD 2016-2025 webpage in the Plan Bleu website.
24. April-June 2016: Preparation the draft MSSD Implementation and Monitoring Plan.
25. April-October 2016: Assessment of the first core set of indicators, data collection and update, population of the indicators, elaboration of a first version of the indicators factsheets to be presented in the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard. Work on Blue Economy Indicators in the framework of the MAVA project (Plan Bleu, SCP/RAC and PAP/RAC), which supports the development of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard and SCP Indicators.
26. July 2016: Draft “Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 (MSSD 2016-2025) Implementation and Monitoring Plan” sent by the Secretariat to the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee for their perusal and comments.
27. 17 October 2016: Technical Workshop on “How to monitor the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016-2025 and the Regional Action Plan on Sustainable Consumption and Production in the Mediterranean?”, co-organized by Plan Bleu and SCP/RAC in Barcelona, Spain. First draft of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard.
28. October 2016-March 2017: Revision of the first version of the indicator factsheets, completion of the core set of indicators, synergy with SCP/RAC on the SCP Action Plan indicators in order to have a better coordination on indicator related activities within the MAP system.
29. 18-19 January 2017: Revised draft of the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard presented to and discussed by the Members of the MCSD Steering Committee during their 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting, Athens, Greece.
30. End of February 2017 (dates and venue tbc): Workshop on socio-economy indicators for the MSSD 2016-2025.
31. 25-26 April 2017 (venue tbc): Revised draft Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard presented to the Plan Bleu NFPs during their meeting.
32. 13-16 June 2017 (17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the MCSD, venue tbc): Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard submitted to the Members of the MCSD for discussion and endorsement, exchange of views on the MSSD 2016-2025 implementation and monitoring, including the outputs of the SIMPEER, and exchange of good practices (see also point 17 above).
33. September 2017 (Meeting of the MAP NFPs): A draft decision on MSSD 2016-2025 Implementation and Monitoring to be submitted to the Meeting of the MAP NFPs. This decision will include the Mediterranean Sustainable Development Dashboard (MSSD 2016-2025 indicators) as well as the outputs and follow-up to the pilot phase of the SIMPEER process. Further elements, such as the Guidelines for Sustainable Tourism may also be linked to this decision (such elements can be presented as information documents, with relevant paragraphs within the decision text as/if appropriate). Moreover, activities to be undertaken on MSSD 2016-2025 implementation during the next biennium, following also the implementation of the UNEP/MAP Mid-Term Strategy 2016-2021,

will be included as appropriate under the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (which will also be submitted to the MAP NFPs).

34. December 2017: Draft decision on MSSD 2016-2025 implementation and monitoring submitted to the Contracting Parties for approval during their 20<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting (COP 20) in Tirana, Albania. Activities on the implementation of the Strategy will also be included as appropriate under the Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 2018-2019.